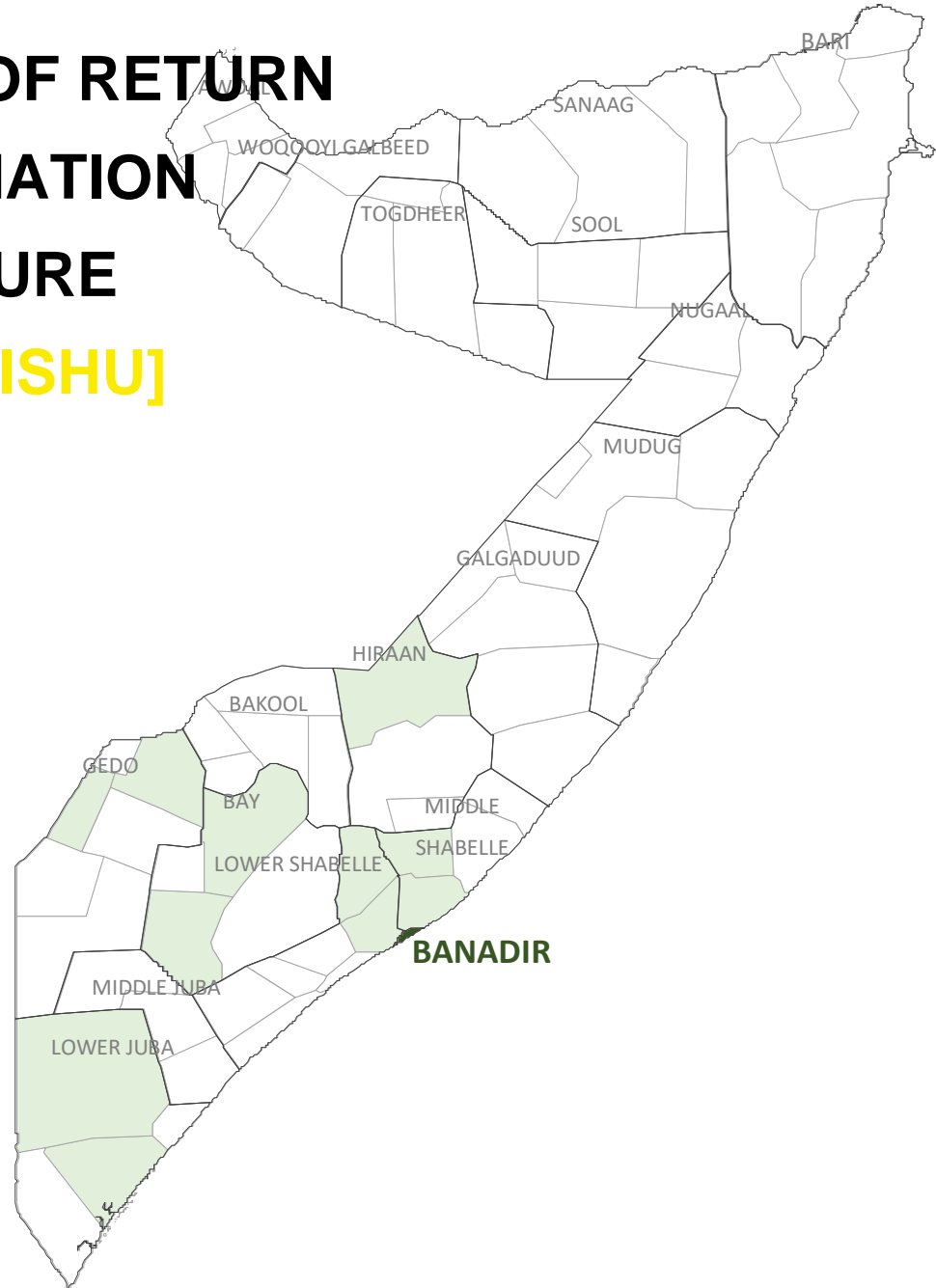


[AREA OF RETURN INFORMATION BROCHURE MOGADISHU]

2020



This brochure is provided by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in coordination with partners in Somalia. The information is to provide a general overview of situation in areas of return, access to assistance and services, livelihoods and protection for Somali refugees considering voluntary repatriation.

The information contained in this brochure is subject to change due to operational complexities including insecurity, accessibility and funding for services and activities in Somalia. Numbers may vary from other reports due to retroactive changes being made, based on new data provided.

Refugees considering return or already in the repatriation process are encouraged to follow up on information in this brochure at Return Help Desks and Transit Centres in the camps and at Reception Centres in Somalia.

Overview

Mogadishu is the nation’s capital and the biggest city in Somalia, known locally as ‘Hamar’. It is in the Banadir Region on the coast of the Horn of Africa with dry climate classified as hot and semi-arid. The average temperature throughout the year is 27°C and the estimated population is 2.5 million. Mogadishu is administratively divided into 17 districts. The Hawiye and its sub-clans can be considered the majority in Mogadishu.

Security

There is a police station in each district, as well as an extra office that is meant to coordinate security provision. The number of police officers, however, is insufficient in proportion to the population (1 police officer to approximate 417 persons)¹. Night patrols sometimes result in the arrest of civilians; therefore, returnees should be registered in the district office upon their arrival in Mogadishu to avoid any unnecessary conflict. At a community level, representatives from different groups (i.e., youth, women, traditional elders, religious leaders and business communities) also contribute to security and peaceful coexistence through District Peace Committees, acting as neighbourhood watches.

The security situation in Mogadishu remains volatile as it continues to be a focus of targeted attacks and assassinations by Al-Shabaab, primarily against the authorities and the militaries. The highest risk to civilians is being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Incidents involving vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and small arms and light weapons are often reported to occur in the city, mostly against government and AMISOM check points. The recent large-scale incident (claimed by Al-Shabaab) involved a truck filled with explosives took place on 28 December 2019 at the Ex- Control Afgoye police checkpoint, resulted in some 200 casualties (some 80 killed, over 140 wounded). Apart from acts of terrorism, land disputes are also sometimes led to violent incidents.

Locations of major security incidents (May-Dec 2019)



(Google map)

¹ The number of police officers in Mogadishu is estimated between 5,000 and 6,000 according to the report “Somalia: Security challenges in Mogadishu” published by LANDINFO in 2018. It is noted that there is a presence of other government agencies for the provision of security, namely, National Intelligence and Security Agency and Somali National Army, as well as forces from the African Union (AMISOM).

Displacement

There are an estimated 850,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the city living in around 800 informal sites and settlements on the outskirts as well as within the urban centre.

During 2019 more than 350,000 individuals were forced to flee their homes across Somalia due to interlinked drivers such as conflict and insecurity as well as drought (and related lack of livelihoods). An additional 416,000 were temporarily displaced by riverine flooding and localised flash flooding during that year.

Mogadishu is primarily a destination for those fleeing conflict and climate disasters in surrounding regions. During 2019, more than 100,000 individuals were monitored arriving in Mogadishu, predominantly driven by conflict and insecurity in Lower Shabelle (94,000). This compares to more than close to 200,000 in 2018 where some 173,000 people fled to Mogadishu from Lower Shabelle and 17,000 from Middle Shabelle.

There is also a continuing risk of evictions of households residing in informal IDP sites and settlements in the city, with more than 230,000 people forcibly evicted in 2019 (compared to 314,000 in the previous year). These evictions arise most often when landowners want to free their land for development or sale so move the residents of informal sites from their land, often forcibly.

Administration

Administrative Structures

There are 17 districts recognised by the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA) with the composition of each respective district commissioner under the Banadir Mayor/Governor. The Mayor of Mogadishu makes an effort to consolidate security sector operations for an improved security.

In Mogadishu there are national, regional and district authorities. Both BRA and the Federal Government of Somalia provide security, certain level of legal services, as well as coordinate different services including land dispute settlements.

Transport Options

Both air and land transport options are available in Mogadishu. Mini-bus, taxi, motorcycle taxi (bajaj), donkey carts and commercial trucks are mainly used for land transport. Average cost for minibus is USD 0.5, for taxi USD 10-15, for Bajaj USD 2, respectively. Al-Shabaab presence on the roads outside Mogadishu reduces freedom of movement by travel on roads. Air transport is also available through Aden Adde International Airport (AAIA). Domestic transport by air costs between USD 100-180, depending on the regions of travel.

Banking Services

Dahabshil, AMAL, Salam Bank of Somalia and Premier Bank are the main service providers and may also provide micro-credit with a guarantor. Hawala system is also available through Western Union, Taj, Hormud, Dahabshil, Amal, Amano Online, Huda Express, Bakalm, Tawakal Express and KAAH money transfer services.

Reintegration Assistance²

Assisted returnees are briefed on the current return and reintegration assistance at Integrated Return Help Desks in Kenya, in the transit facilities and at the Reception Centres in Somalia.

Assistance upon arrival and return protection package

At the way station/transit facilities in Somalia, UNHCR and partners support the following services:

- Verification and registration;
- Initial 3-day accommodation and 3 meals per day with possibility of extension if need be on case-by-case basis;
- Issuance of mobile phones with pre-registered SIM card;
- Primary medical care/screening/referrals;
- Security update;
- Information sharing on the available services, how to access them including the return package, and hotlines for further information/clarification if needed.

Returnees receive reinstallation grants and subsistence allowance through UNHCR and benefit from livelihood/reintegration activities through partners in Somalia based on needs assessments. The National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI) is the overall body responsible for return and reintegration from the Federal Government side. UNHCR's partners providing assistance include National Commission for Refugees and IDPs (NCRI), Jubaland Refugee and IDP Agency (JRIA), South West State Commissioner for Refugees and IDPs (SWSCRI), Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee – ARC), Intersos, WFP, DRC, Coopi, and Mercy Corps. Return and reintegration assistance currently includes the following:

- One-time reinstallation cash grant of USD 200 per person on arrival³ (regardless of the age).
- Monthly subsistence allowance for 6 months, starting from the second month after arrival, to cater for other needs (including medical) will be delivered through AMAL bank existing in the area of return as follows:
 - HH size 1-5: to receive US\$200.00 per household;
 - HH size 6-10: US\$300.00 per household;
 - HH size: >10: US\$400.00 per household;
- Core relief item kit (blanket, plastic jerry cans, soap bars, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, cooking pot and kitchen utensils), depending on family size as per below breakdown. This assistance is either provided in cash through the bank or in-kind.
 - A family size of more than 5 persons gets one (1) additional NFI kit, and a family size of more than 10 gets additional one (1) more NFI kit
- 6-month food assistance (provided through WFP SCOPE card, USD 15 person/month).
- School fees/education grant for children at primary school age:

² Note that all return and reintegration support is subject to change and persons being supported to return will be briefed further on current return and reintegration assistance at Return Help Desks, Transit Centres and at Reception Centres in Somalia. In particular, due to funding limitations some of the reintegration support are not fully covered.

³ Kindly note that this may take from 7 to 10 days due to the verification and the processing through the payment cycle.

- Up to monthly USD 25 per child for the entire academic year (this is conditional upon the child being enrolled in school in the return area).⁴ The payment is made directly to the school of the child's attendance.
- One-time additional education assistance for scholastic material (currently \$30) per academic year per child attending school is provided directly through the UNHCR implementing partners to the parents.
- Specific vulnerabilities of returning HHs are addressed through the referral pathways (such as on SGBV, psycho-social support etc) in the various return locations using the local network of service providers. Available mobility devices can be given on needs basis after assessments. In addition, particularly vulnerable returnees can be included into community-based programmes and livelihood projects.
- Provision of information regarding services available, either through UNHCR or partners, as well as the additional livelihood & self-reliance activities as well as skills trainings provided by UNHCR partners. Examples: provision of agricultural seeds and tools; provision of donkey carts as an income-generating measure.

Access to Services & Assistance

Shelter

The scarcity of the land in Mogadishu due to various reasons including its high urban population density has led to increasing rent/land prices in the city. In Mogadishu an one-room house measuring around 25m² made of stones/concrete costs approximately USD 50-100 to rent per month. The monthly rental of a house accommodating 3 to 5 rooms is USD 350-600 depending on its location. Other forms of structures such as corrugated iron sheet made up of box profile cost around USD 140 per month, also depending on its location.

Education

There are some over 100 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in Mogadishu. Registration fee is approximately USD 5-10 and monthly fee is USD 15-25 for half day and USD 40-50 for full day. There are approximately 250 primary schools in Mogadishu among which 222 are private and 28 are supported by organizations including Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Concern Worldwide and African Muslim Agency (AMA), Care International, Mercy corps, Save the Children International and ARC (American Refugee Committee). There is a registration fee of USD 5-7 and monthly fee of about USD 10-15, respectively. According to education actors, the quality of the schools varies. There are also some non-formal education opportunities run by NGOs in Mogadishu within IDP settlements with fees between USD 10-25 per month.

There are estimated to be 200 secondary schools in the area, most of which are private schools and 30 supported by agencies including the AMA. Most secondary schools charge fees between USD 15-40 per month. There are no public education secondary schools with the main reason being lack of funds for public education.

There are more than 100 tertiary institutions and most of them are run privately. The only public university is the Somali National University. Medicine, computer science and engineering are the most expensive subjects and the quality and fees depend on the

⁴ As for those children who never attend school coming in the middle or end of the academic year will have to wait until the beginning of the next academic year.

institution. Only a very limited number of international scholarships are available to neighbouring countries such as Canada, Ethiopia, Sudan, Qatar, Egypt and Turkey.

The majority of the schools use English and Arabic as the language of instruction; however, Mogadishu has different education umbrellas, which include the Formal Private Education Network in Somalia (FPENS), Somali Aid Foundation (SAF) and the Somali Education Development Association (SEDA). Each umbrella has its own rules and regulations, policy, curriculum, academic year, student uniform, education system and certificate. The Ministry of Education (MoE) is gradually assuming more responsibility from umbrella groups and successfully conducted unified national examinations in Banadir region in south-eastern Somalia to this date since 2015.

Vocational training in Mogadishu is available with support from KAASHIF, WARDI, SOCWE, SOMCET, KANAVA, GABALDAYE, Coopi International, Hano Academy and many others in Banadir region. Some support from NGOs is available including scholarships. UNHCR livelihoods partner Coopi International has a training centre with the provision of skills training which includes tailoring, henna dying, welding as well as mechanic, electricity, plumbing, computer literacy and tie and dye.

Health

In Mogadishu there are 61 referral hospitals in the district of which 50 are private and 11 are public including the Turkish Hospital (Erdogan) and ZAM-ZAM Hospital (Egyptian). Services offered by these two hospitals include reproductive health, nutrition and immunisations. Mogadishu generally has more health care centres compared to other parts of the country though nutrition services including Outpatient Therapeutic programme and supplementary feeding programmes are not easily accessible. In general, the healthcare system is largely private, unregulated and often expensive.

Water & Hygiene

The main source of water for human consumption is 126 privately owned boreholes. The price of water from these boreholes ranges from USD 0.8 to 1.5 per cubic metre. In addition, there are 12 shallow wells owned by private entities. Both boreholes and wells have water treatment processes in place. However, it is worth noting that more than half of the water points in Mogadishu are considered to pose a risk of diseases transmission due to the sanitary conditions around water point.

IDPs in settlements including KM13-15 Sarkust, Tabelaha Sheik Ibrahim, Jacadda Shabelle and Waydow water have access to water provided by humanitarian organisations for free. Organizations providing water include NRC, Concern Worldwide, ARC, DRC, Save the Children International (SCI), Islamic Relief (IR) and IOM.

Food Security & Livelihoods

Livelihood activities in Mogadishu are mostly small businesses in clothing and textile, consumable goods, drinking water, juice industries, hostels, fisheries, telecommunication, pottering, washing clothes for other Somalis (especially for women), teaching, clerk, home teaching and cashiers. Some people operate public transport such as motorcycles taxi (bajaj) and minibus (homey), as well as seek employment in the public sector. The daily wage for unskilled labour ranges approximately from USD 130 to 450 per month, depending on sectors of work.

Protection

Access to Justice & Judiciary

According to the Provisional Constitution of Somalia, the national court structure is composed of a constitutional court, Federal Government level courts and Federal Member State courts. The legal system in Somalia functions with a combination of formal law, customary law (*Xeer*⁵) and Sharia law. The formal court process regulates on the law and legislation enacted by the Federal Parliament. The informal system relies on traditional and religious frameworks such as and Islamic Sharia at the local Khadhi Courts.

Child Protection

The lack of protection and security mechanism for children often results in an inadequate protective environment where Unaccompanied Separated Children are easily exposed to exploitation, violence and abuse. In Mogadishu, there are 13 orphanages and 2 foster homes managed by local and international organisations in the district including AMA, Emirati Red Crescent, SOS Children's Villages (SOS) and ZAM-ZAM Foundation. ICRC and INTERSOS have family tracing services available in Mogadishu.

Access to education and health services for children in Somalia varies depending on the region and is often characterised incoherent and limited in general. Mogadishu has been relatively more and earlier supported by aid organizations in terms of the aforementioned services due to various reasons among whom its free from AS control.

GBV Prevention & Response

Sexual and gender-based violence (S/GBV) threats in the area include rape, domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual harassments. There are certain prevention and response services such as medical/psychosocial/medical support, counselling and legal aid provided by The Organization for Somalis Protection and Development (OSPAD), Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC), Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC), Hinna Women's Organization (HINNA) and SOS in Mogadishu.

Housing, Land & Property (HLP)

Returnees can try to reclaim property left behind in villages of origin and areas of return, especially if they have tenure documents proving ownership. Both formal and informal justice systems support dispute resolution, and the BRA has established land dispute committee. The committee reports to the Office of the Mayor and their primary responsibility is to resolve disputes related to land. The main actors involved in dispute resolution are elders, religious leaders as well as support from the civil society including NRC.

⁵ *Xeer*; is a traditional justice system which is still the most tool used to resolve customary domestic and clan disputes within the community. Religious and clan leaders remain custodian of the traditional justice system that seems still adequate to address disputes, It ends up in mediation and the exchange of compensation known as (*Xaal iyo Xumeen*).

The city has the highest housing, land & property prices in Somalia, determined by the geographic location, security, investment, road infrastructure and availability of basic facilities and services.

Returnees should note that evictions of IDPs has intensified and land tenure is highly insecure with most residents in IDP settlements not having title or lease agreements with landlords.

Civil Documentation

Returnees can obtain civil documentation which includes passports, national IDs, birth and marriage certificates in Mogadishu. Birth certificate is issued by BRA at a cost of USD 24 per certificate. BRA has started issuing ID cards for all citizens in Mogadishu and returnees can obtain ID cards from the BRA for a small fee. The cost of a passport is around USD 150. To obtain this, a person must go to the district where they live, obtain a clearance letter, and report to the Central Investigation Department (CID) office at K4 where they will get a letter of good conduct. From there they can go to the immigration office to get a passport application and apply. It takes approximately a month to get a passport and national ID.

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