

Somalia

Weekly Situation Report

28th September – 04th October 2021

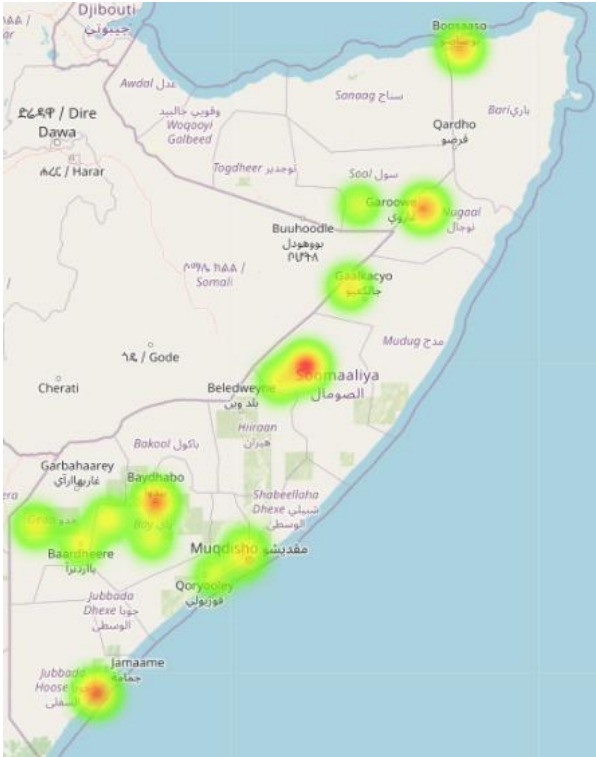


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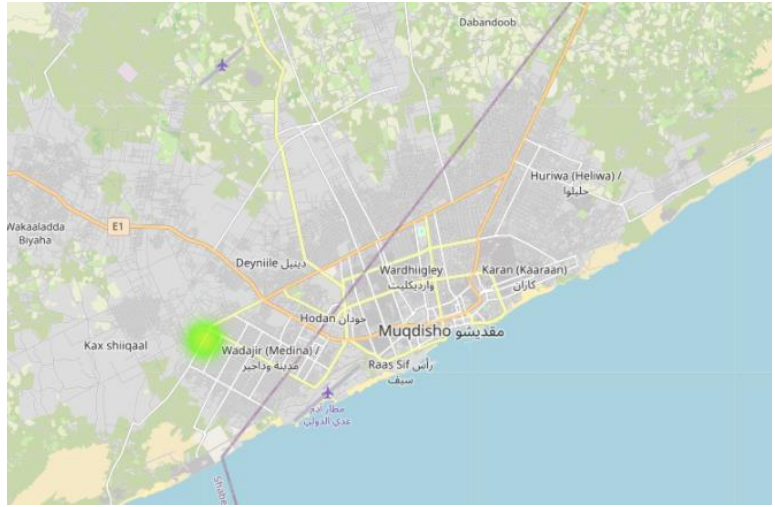


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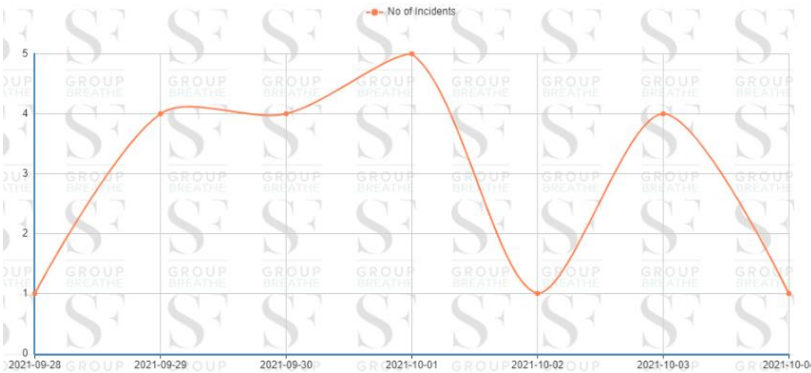
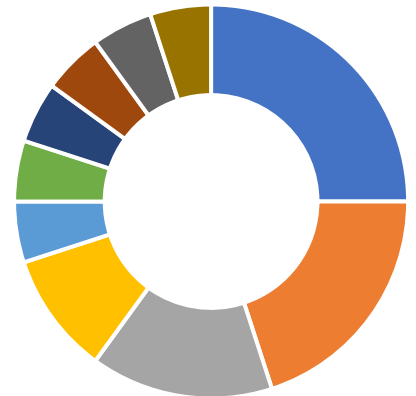
Weekly Overview



Somalia



Mogadishu



- Armed Attack (5)
- Armed Clashes (4)
- Gov. Sec. Response (3)
- Killing (2)
- Rebel Activity (1)
- Protest (1)
- VBIED (1)
- IED (1)
- Other (1)
- Air Strike (1)



x7

...al Shabaab killed in 'Danab' Special Forces operations near Janale.



x10

...killed and 20 injured in armed clashes between Ahlu Sunna Waljama and Galmudug forces.



x854

...new COVID-19 cases recorded.

Executive Summary



Mogadishu

- On 01st October, a fire erupted in a business area of a market in Dharkeneley district, Banadiir region. Emergency response services were deployed to the scene.

Elsewhere

- Up to ten fatalities and 20 injuries were reported on 30th September when heavy fighting broke out between Galmudug forces and Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a (ASWJ) – a paramilitary group fighting in opposition to jihadist organisations – in Dhusamareb, Galguduud region.
- The Somali National Army (SNA) conducted security operations against al Shabaab near Janale, Lower Shabeelle region on 04th October. Seven fatalities were recorded, and several others wounded, during the operations. The commander of the 'Danab' Special Forces unit announced that the operations would continue until stability is restored in the region.
- On 28th September, two individuals were killed, and five others were injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack targeting a restaurant outside Kismayo Hospital, Lower Jubba region. Following the blast, armed clashes took place, and Jubbaland security forces conducted search operations to find the perpetrators, in which 20 suspects were arrested.

Politics & Miscellany

- Over the reporting period, 854 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) were confirmed by the Federal Ministry of Health, with the total number of confirmed cases standing at 20,577, and the recorded fatalities at 1,137.
- On 03rd and 04th October, over 700 residents, primarily traders but including women and children, were evicted from their homes in Las Anod, Sool region, after allegations that they were 'promoting insecurity'.
- During the reporting period, both President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed ("Farmaajo") and Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble travelled separately abroad in their capacities as diplomats in the backdrop of the ongoing political feud between them.
- With the sharp surge in COVID-19 cases in the last few weeks, the Health Ministry has been implementing multiple new measures in order to tackle these challenges.

Last Week's Status



This Week's Status

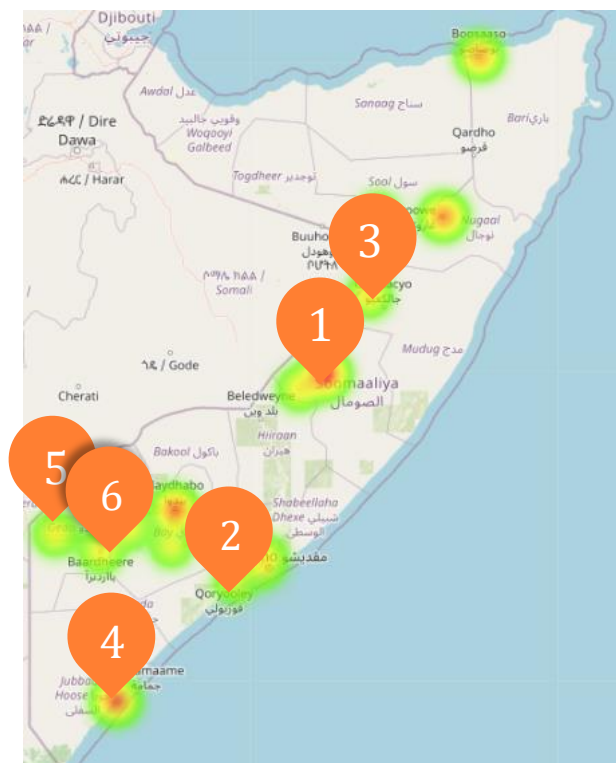


Next Week's Status

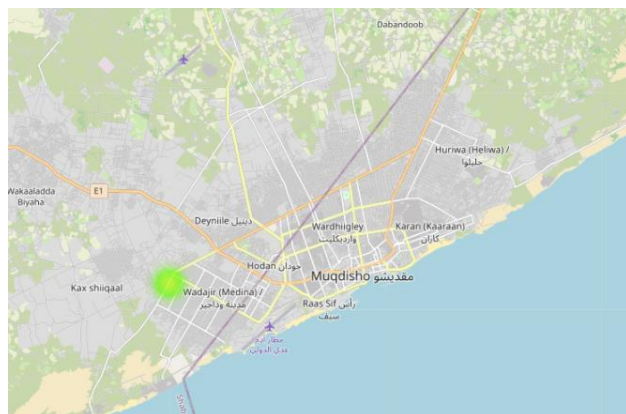




Significant Incidents Summary



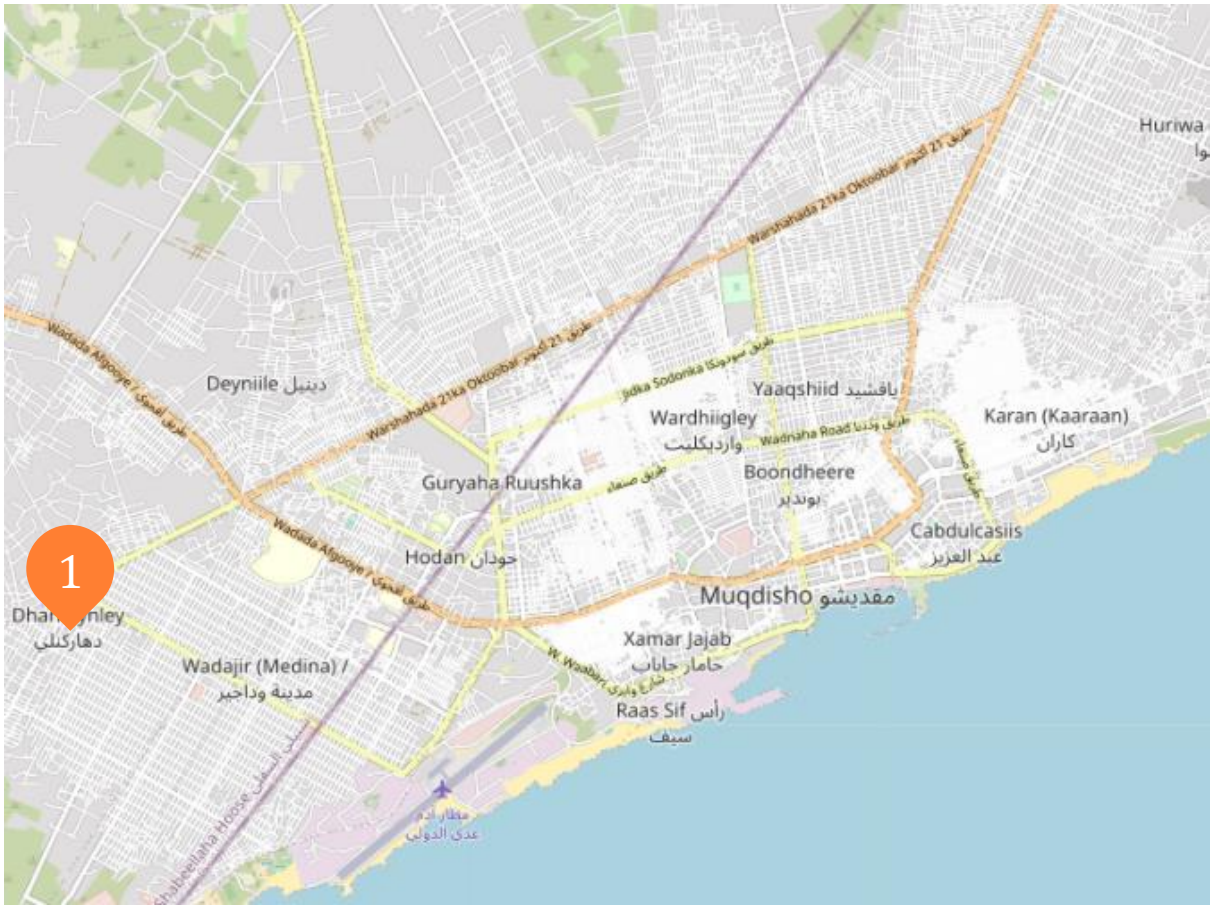
Somalia



Mogadishu

1. 30/09/2021 – Ten killed and 20 injured in armed clashes between Galmudug forces and ASWJ, Dhusamareb, Galguduud region
2. 04/10/2021 – SNA operation against al Shabaab, seven insurgents killed, IVO Janale, Lower Shabeelle region
3. 29/09/2021 – Armed assailants attack vehicle killing three and injuring two, Galdogab, Mudug region
4. 28/09/2021 – Two killed and five injured in IED attack, IVO Kismayo Hospital, Lower Jubba region
5. 29/09/2021 – Kenyan AMISOM forces conduct air strikes, El Waq, Gedo region
6. 03/10/2021 – Casualties reported after VBIED targets airport manager, Baardheere, Gedo region

Significant Incidents Banadiir



Banadiir

1. 01/10/2021 – Fire erupts in business area of local market, Dharkenley district

Significant Incidents Bay



Bay region

1. 03/10/2021 – Explosions reported, followed by armed clashes between al Shabaab and SNA, Baidoa
2. 03/10/2021 – Al Shabaab attack SNA checkpoint, Mursal - Idaadsa,
3. 30/09/2021 – Al Shabaab target security forces' position at Airport, Shatigadud International Airport (BIB), Baidoa
4. 29/09/2021 – Al Shabaab launch armed attack on SNA military base, Qansahdhere district



Analysis

- **Up to ten fatalities and 20 injuries were reported on 30th September when heavy fighting broke out between Galmudug forces and in Dhusamareb, Galguduud region.**
- **The SNA conducted security operations against al Shabaab near Janale, Lower Shabeelle region on 04th October. Seven fatalities were recorded, and several others wounded, during the operations.**

Mogadishu

The capital saw a decline in security-related incidents during the reporting period. Only one incident was recorded, which was on 01st October, when a fire erupted in the business area of a local market in Dharkeneley district. Emergency response services were deployed to the scene. The cause of the fire remains unknown, but no evidence linking the incident to al Shabaab or other actors with malicious intent was reported.

Elsewhere

As was expected in the previous reporting period, and following a surge in al Shabaab activity in Lower Shabeelle region, the week saw an intensification of Somali National Army (SNA) operations in Lower Shabeelle region, particularly along the Shabeelle River. Operations of note include the 04th October SNA offensive against al Shabaab near Janale, which resulted in seven militant fatalities and additional casualties. The commander of the 'Danab' Special Forces unit announced that the operations would continue until stability had been restored in the region. Likewise, on 30th September, SNA forces conducted security operations in villages located

along the Shabeelle River, including in Laanqeerta, Tokyo, Ceel Jaale, Ali Mahdi, and Bolo Foliyo in Shamambood, in the Lower and Middle Shabeelle regions. Sources suggested that the operations follow reports of harassment from al Shabaab towards people living in the areas.

Meanwhile, the heightened security operations conducted by SNA over the previous week and which continued into this week, resulted in a shift in attacks to neighbouring Bay region by al Shabaab. Four incidents of armed clashes occurred between the SNA and militants, although casualty figures varied between each of the incidents. Of note, on 30th September, al Shabaab conducted an armed attack against security forces' positions at Shatigadud International Airport (BIB) in Baidoa, prompting armed clashes between the two groups. Two soldiers were killed and one other injured as a result. BIB is often targeted by militants as it hosts a regional United Nations (UN) office, and a large contingent of Ethiopian African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces.

Finally, up to ten fatalities and 20 injuries were reported on 30th September when heavy fighting broke out between Galmudug forces and Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a (ASWJ) – a paramilitary group fighting in opposition to jihadist organisations – in Dhusamareb, Galguduud region. Later on 01st October, ASWJ forces gained control of the town following the withdrawal of the SNA, without any additional violence reported. ASWJ subsequently suspended all activity in the town. The group have not been active since 2015, when armed clashes occurred between the SNA and ASWJ, and again in 2018 when it merged its forces with regional security forces. Unconfirmed reports have suggested that the group's re-emergence is related to heightened political tensions and disagreements with the regional administration.

Politics & Miscellaneous



Somaliland evicts over 700 residents for 'insecurity reasons'

On 03rd and 04th October, over 700 residents, primarily traders, but including women and children, were evicted from their homes in Las Anod, Sool region, after allegations that they were 'promoting insecurity'. As tensions rise between Hargeisa and Mogadishu, the Somaliland Police Commander in Sool region explained that the evictions were of residents hailing from southern Somalia and were 'foreigners' to the area, without proper legal authorisation to stay in Somaliland. The Information Minister, Osman Dubbe, condemned the incident, calling on those in Las Anod to maintain their Somali identity, and continue the tradition of hospitality.

The 758 individuals who were evicted from the city have since moved east to Puntland State, arriving primarily on buses and trucks, and in need of humanitarian aid. As a result, Puntland officials have called on local agencies to help resettle the families.

The move follows Hargeisa's threat to arrest delegates from the north who had participated in the Senatorial elections for Somaliland in Mogadishu. These actions had been perceived as an affront to the Somaliland government and its claims of autonomy from the rest of the country.

Somalia leaders take state visits despite ongoing political crisis

During the reporting period, both President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed ("Farmaajo") and Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble travelled separately abroad in their capacities as diplomats in the backdrop of the ongoing political feud between them. Farmaajo, along with his delegation, met with Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed as well as intended the inauguration ceremony of the new Government of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia. As one of the few Heads of State

to attend the ceremony, the visit demonstrated the cooperation between the two nations.

Meanwhile, Roble travelled to Doha, Qatar, on 05th October, upon the invitation of Qatari emir Sheikh Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani in aims of strengthening bilateral relations. Topics set to be discussed include the ongoing Somalia elections and the political dispute between the two countries top leaders. Qatar has long been openly supportive of Farmaajo, and helped to fund his campaign in 2017.

COVID-19 updates

With the sharp surge in coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the last few weeks, the Ministry of Health has been implementing new measures in order to tackle these challenges. On 30th September, Mogadishu opened its first public oxygen plant in the Banadiir Maternity and Children Hospital. The plant cost USD 240,700, and was funded by Turkey via the Horumuud Salam Foundation, in order to assist with treatment for COVID-19 patients.

Likewise, the reporting period saw a donation of medical and pharmaceutical aid from Egypt under the directive of President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi. The move illustrates the continued cooperation and good relationship between the two nations in a time of crisis.

Image of the Week



President Farmaajo being welcomed by Ethiopian Minister of Finance Ahmed Shide and other government officials shortly after arriving to Addis Ababa on 04th October (Source: Twitter)



Threat Rating Key

“Last period’s status” provides a comparative from which this period’s status can be understood.

GREEN

The overall security situation underwent notable improvements during the previous reporting period.

AMBER

The security situation remained constant in the previous reporting period, undergoing little change.

RED

There was a decline in the situation over the previous reporting period.

‘This period’s status’ is decided by monitoring trends in comparison to the previous reporting period

GREEN

There has been an improvement in the overall security situation over the reporting period

AMBER

The overall security situation has remained broadly unchanged over the reporting period

RED

The overall security situation has worsened over the reporting period

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