



Analays and Solution

**ANALYSING SECURITY DYNAMICS, GOVERNANCE
STRUCTURES, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN
HARARDHERE: IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND
DEVELOPMENT**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|-------|--|
| FGDs | Focus Group Discussions |
| KIIs | Key Informant Interviews |
| DRs | Desk Reviews |
| R2P | Road to Sustainable Peace |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| SIDA | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency |
| PDRC | Puntland Development & Research Centre |
| APD | Academy for Peace and Development |
| HC | Horncenter Dialogue |
| AS | Alshabaab |
| ACLED | Armed Conflict Location & Event Data |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Harardhere, located in the Galmudug region of Somalia, has endured prolonged instability due to insecurity, weak governance, and socio-economic hardships, especially following the period of Al-Shabab's control. Although the district has made strides toward recovery, it still grapples with critical challenges, such as the lack of a functional local police force, inadequate infrastructure, environmental degradation, and ongoing tribal conflicts. These issues continue to hinder the full recovery of the district, impeding peacebuilding efforts and sustainable development. This paper explores the intertwined dynamics of security, governance, and conflict resolution in Harardhere and highlights key opportunities for fostering community resilience, development, and long-lasting peace.

The security situation in Harardhere remains precarious, with Al-Shabab and other armed groups continuing to pose significant risks. The absence of a local police force exacerbates the insecurity, leaving the community dependent on militias and the national army to maintain order. This creates a fragmented security environment, where informal forces and national institutions struggle to protect the population comprehensively. As a result, criminal activities, including land disputes and illegal resource exploitation, remain rampant, undermining peacebuilding efforts and economic development.

Governance in Harardhere is similarly weak, characterised by limited local autonomy and a lack of resources to address pressing community needs. This fragility contributes to ineffective governance, poor public service delivery, and widespread dissatisfaction among the population. The district's leadership faces accountability and transparency challenges, further eroding public trust in government institutions. The lack of coordination between formal and traditional governance structures also leads to confusion and inefficiency in resolving disputes. The community's reliance on conventional justice mechanisms—often led by elders and religious scholars—compounds this issue, as these systems are frequently disconnected from formal legal structures and can lack consistency in their resolutions.

In Harardhere, the justice system operates through traditional and formal mechanisms. While the role of elders and religious leaders in settling disputes is widely acknowledged, the lack of integration with the formal legal system has resulted in fragmented and inconsistent justice outcomes. The district's formal justice system, which includes the police and courts, suffers from underdevelopment, with insufficient resources and inadequate legal infrastructure. This gap in the justice system is particularly noticeable in the absence of a local police force, leaving the community vulnerable to unchecked criminal behaviour and unresolved conflicts.

To address these challenges, a multifaceted approach is necessary—one that integrates security reforms, governance decentralisation, and strengthening the justice system. The first critical step is establishing a locally based police force capable of enforcing the rule of law and responding to crime. Empowering the local police with adequate training, resources, and authority would be vital to establishing peace and order in Harardhere and protecting citizens from criminal and extremist threats.

Equally important is integrating traditional justice mechanisms with formal legal structures. This integration would ensure that both systems complement each other, reducing confusion and promoting more consistent dispute resolution. By fostering cooperation between traditional leaders and the formal legal system, Harardhere can offer equitable access to justice for all residents, regardless of their background or affiliations. This cooperation will also enhance the justice system's legitimacy, as it would reflect the community's values and traditions while aligning with modern legal principles.

Another key recommendation for improving governance in Harardhere is decentralising it. By giving local authorities more autonomy, decision-making can become more responsive to the unique needs of the district's communities. This process would improve service delivery and encourage greater public participation in governance, increasing transparency and accountability. Decentralisation would enable local leaders to take ownership of recovery efforts, making governance more effective and more closely aligned with the priorities of Harardhere's residents.

In addition to governance reforms, empowering marginalised groups, particularly women and youth, is essential for fostering social cohesion and promoting peacebuilding. Targeted educational programs, vocational training, and leadership development initiatives can equip these groups with the tools they need to contribute actively to the community's recovery and stability. By empowering women and youth, Harardhere can tap into an underutilised source of talent and energy, helping to drive economic development and social change.

Furthermore, addressing environmental issues such as illegal resource exploitation and promoting sustainable development practices is essential for reducing resource tensions and fostering economic stability. This includes promoting environmentally friendly farming practices, regulating the use of natural resources, and facilitating community-based environmental management programs. These measures will mitigate the negative impact of environmental degradation and provide opportunities for economic growth, such as in the agricultural and energy sectors.

Infrastructure development also plays a crucial role in Harardhere's recovery. Road, healthcare, education, and energy investments will significantly improve residents' quality of life, laying the foundation for long-term economic stability. By improving connectivity and access to services, these infrastructure projects can create an enabling environment for investment, trade, and community development. Moreover, they will help restore trust in government institutions, demonstrating the government's commitment to meeting the people's needs.

An essential component of this comprehensive strategy is promoting inclusive dialogue and engagement at all levels of society. Ensuring that marginalised groups—particularly women, youth, and minority communities—are actively involved in decision-making is essential for achieving lasting peace and social cohesion. This inclusivity will help ensure that all voices are heard and that decisions reflect the diverse needs of Harardhere's population. Truth and reconciliation mechanisms will also be necessary to address historical grievances, promote healing, and build trust in the justice system. These mechanisms can help to heal the divisions caused by years of violence and Al-Shabab's rule, allowing the community to move forward in a more unified and peaceful manner.

Harardhere's recovery journey offers valuable lessons for other liberated areas of Somalia and the Horn of Africa. By focusing on security sector reforms, governance decentralisation, the integration of traditional and formal justice systems, environmental sustainability, and the empowerment of marginalised groups, Harardhere can become a model for resilience and development. The success of this approach will require sustained collaboration among local authorities, community leaders, international partners, and civil society. With a coordinated effort, Harardhere can transform its challenges into opportunities, creating a foundation for lasting peace, stability, and prosperity for its residents. This approach emphasises the need for continued dialogue, collective action, and inclusive decision-making to ensure the recovery process is inclusive, sustainable, and effective.

INTRODUCTION

Harardhere District in Somalia's Galmudug region has undergone significant changes recently. After prolonged conflict and instability, the district now stands at a critical point where communities have the chance to rebuild and foster a more stable future. This opportunity follows a major military operation by the Somali Federal Government in early 2023, which successfully liberated Harardhere from Al-Shabab and other destabilising forces. This liberation opens doors for renewed governance, sustainable development, and social cohesion, setting an example for similar liberated areas across Somalia¹.

With Harardhere emerging from years of conflict, analysing its security dynamics, governance structures, and conflict resolution efforts is crucial to support the district's path toward stability and growth. Although the challenges of post-conflict recovery are considerable—including the threat of renewed violence, possible resurgence of militant groups, and ongoing clan tensions—this transitional period also offers a unique opportunity to build resilience and promote sustainable community development.

The primary objective of this assessment is to evaluate current conditions in Harardhere, focusing on security, governance, and development needs. The study will provide a comprehensive view of community dynamics through a mixed methods approach that combines quantitative data with qualitative insights. By engaging a diverse group of stakeholders—residents, community leaders, and government officials—this research aims to identify critical factors impacting the district's peacebuilding and social cohesion.

This assessment aims to identify Harardhere's challenges and chart viable pathways for recovery and long-term growth. Emphasising local voices and perspectives is vital for developing actionable insights to strengthen governance and promote lasting stability.

Ultimately, this assessment's findings will lay a foundation for evidence-based policymaking and resource allocation, enhancing the district's quality of life and supporting stability and prosperity. By identifying priority areas for targeted interventions, this study will also provide valuable insights for local, national, and international authorities and partners as they address the needs of other liberated regions of Somalia.

This research is aligned with the broader **Road to Sustainable Peace and Good Governance (R2P) program**, which promotes peace and sustainable development across liberated regions in Somalia. By supporting this strategic initiative, the study will contribute to a cohesive framework for governance and development, ensuring that efforts are coordinated and responsive to Harardhere's unique challenges. This approach aims to mitigate the impacts of past conflicts while laying the groundwork for a stable and prosperous future for Harardhere's residents and potentially inspiring similar efforts in other liberated areas.

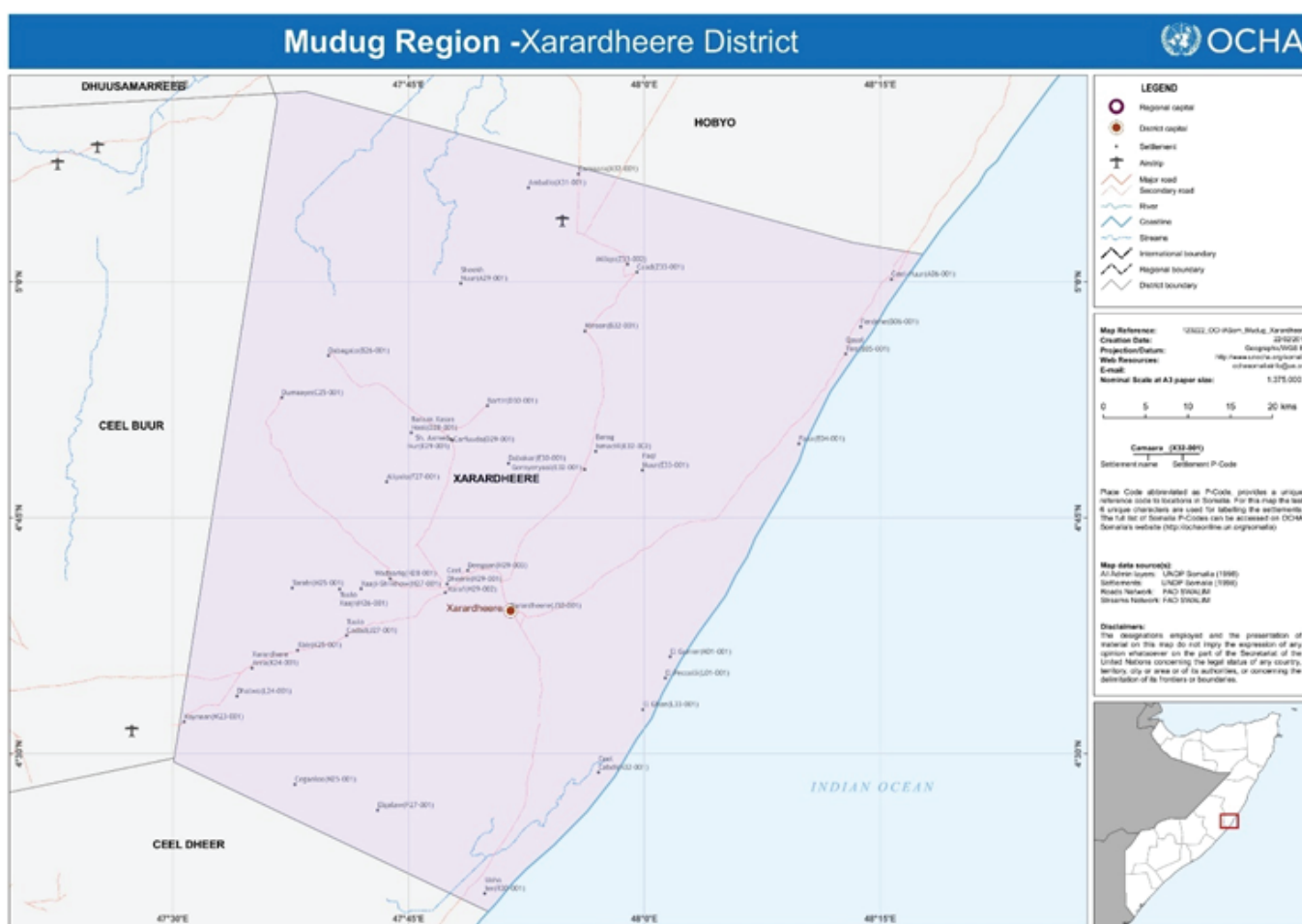


Figure 1 Harardhere Map

Source:

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/120222_OCHASom_Administrative_Map_Mudug_Xarardheere_A3.pdf

OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The Assessment of Security Dynamics, Governance Structures, and Conflict Resolution in Harardhere aims to provide targeted insights that support community resilience and sustainable development in this newly liberated district. Focusing on Harardhere's unique challenges and opportunities, the assessment's key objectives include:

● The objectives include:

- Evaluate the security conditions and community fears regarding al-Shabab's potential return to Harardhere.
- Examine existing governance structures and leadership and identify opportunities for improving local institutions and supporting community-driven development initiatives.
- Investigate the prevalence of tribal conflicts and assess the effectiveness of current peacebuilding and conflict-resolution mechanisms, providing recommendations to foster sustainable peace and social cohesion.

These objectives will guide policymakers, development agencies, and stakeholders in implementing strategies that enhance security, governance, and conflict resolution, laying a foundation for resilience and development in Harardhere and similar contexts.

BACKGROUND

Harardhere District in Somalia's Mudug region has a rich history of resilience, cultural diversity, and economic vibrancy. As a commercial hub, it was a vital link in Somalia's trade networks and a beacon of cooperation among its diverse communities. The town's social fabric is defined by tribal structures, traditional governance systems, and religious institutions, with elders and spiritual leaders playing significant roles in resolving disputes and maintaining social cohesion¹.

The Somali Civil War in the late 1980s and early 1990s deeply affected Harardhere, leading to political fragmentation, economic disruption, and social dislocation. However, its relative isolation from the main conflict theatres allowed it to avoid some of the worst violence. This geographic advantage later positioned Harardhere as a haven for various actors, including piracy networks.

The absence of effective governance created a vacuum filled by informal systems and non-state actors, leaving the town vulnerable to exploitation by criminal enterprises and armed groups. By the early 2000s, Harardhere emerged as a pivotal base for Somali piracy, driven by local grievances, economic desperation, and strategic geographic factors. The 2004 tsunami

further exacerbated the financial challenges faced by Harardhere's residents, and illegal fishing by foreign vessels further depleted local resources.

Piracy initially emerged as a form of self-defence but quickly became a lucrative criminal enterprise. Harardhere became a hub for ransom piracy, where hijacked vessels were anchored and negotiations conducted. Figures like Mohamed Abdi Hassan, or "Afweyne," capitalised on the town's isolation from the civil war and access to major maritime routes, turning piracy into a highly organised and profitable business¹.

For years, Harardhere has been a battleground for competing forces, with Al-Shabab's oppressive control exacerbating existing clan rivalries and community divisions. This has left a legacy of violence, mistrust, and weakened governance¹.

The district's infrastructure and essential services have suffered devastating damage. Recent assessments reveal that healthcare facilities are non-functional, depriving thousands of people of access to life-saving medical services. Educational infrastructure has similarly deteriorated; more than half of school-aged children cannot attend school, leaving an entire generation without the skills and knowledge needed for the future¹.

Harardhere, once a prosperous agricultural and fishing district, is grappling with poverty, high unemployment rates, and stagnation due to insecurity and infrastructure erosion. Residents rely on humanitarian aid, perpetuating cycles of poverty and vulnerability¹.

The Somali Federal Government's liberation of Harardhere on January 16, 2023, marked a watershed moment in the district's history. This decisive military victory against Al-Shabab dismantled years of extremist control, offering a glimmer of hope to the local population. However, the liberation has also revealed the monumental challenges of rebuilding the district. Security remains fragile, and the persistent threat of extremist resurgence looms large. Deeply entrenched in Harardhere's social fabric, clan rivalries continue challenging efforts toward unity and effective governance¹.

Moreover, the district's governance structures are underdeveloped, limiting their capacity to foster cohesion and provide essential services. Without robust institutions and mechanisms to address grievances and mediate disputes, Harardhere risks falling back into cycles of conflict.

This critical juncture presents both an opportunity and a risk: the potential to rebuild stronger versus the danger of relapsing into instability¹.

Adding to these socio-political complexities are environmental challenges that have compounded Harardhere's vulnerabilities. Climate change has led to increasingly severe and frequent droughts, decimating agricultural yields and undermining food security¹. The fishing industry, once a cornerstone of the local economy, has also been impacted by environmental degradation and reduced access to coastal areas due to insecurity. These ecological pressures exacerbate existing hardships, pushing struggling communities further into poverty².

Limited access to clean water and arable land, vital for livelihoods, also tests the district's resilience. Addressing these environmental challenges will require innovative, sustainable solutions that integrate broader recovery and development strategies.

Recognising these multifaceted challenges, the **Road to Sustainable Peace and Good Governance (R2P)** program, in collaboration with international partners and regional stakeholders, offers a framework for advancing peace and development in Harardhere. This initiative addresses immediate security concerns while laying the groundwork for long-term governance, economic recovery, and environmental sustainability.

Through extensive community engagement and research, R2P seeks to provide a nuanced understanding of local needs and dynamics. This approach emphasises the importance of inclusive governance structures that reflect the district's diverse communities and foster a sense of ownership among residents. By strengthening institutions, promoting dialogue, and investing in infrastructure, the program aims to rebuild trust and resilience at the community level.

Furthermore, integrating environmental sustainability into recovery efforts is critical. Climate-adaptive solutions, such as drought-resistant agriculture and sustainable fishing practices, can help revitalise the local economy while mitigating future risks. These strategies must be accompanied by investments in education and healthcare to address the underlying socio-economic disparities that fuel instability.

This research, titled **“Analyzing Security Dynamics, Governance Structures, and Conflict Resolution in Harardhere: Identifying Opportunities for Community Resilience and Development,”** aims to contribute actionable insights to support Harardhere’s recovery and transformation. By examining the interplay of security dynamics, governance structures, and conflict resolution mechanisms, the study seeks to identify pathways toward sustainable peace and resilience. The research will also highlight opportunities to strengthen community cohesion and empower local actors, ensuring that recovery efforts are inclusive and effective.

Ultimately, this analysis aspires to inform policy decisions and development strategies, enabling Harardhere to transcend its challenges and rebuild stronger. The district’s journey toward recovery is not just a local endeavour but a vital piece in Somalia’s broader pursuit of peace, stability, and prosperity.

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The methodology used for this assessment was designed to provide a thorough and nuanced understanding of the local communities in Harardhere. It focused on identifying gaps and opportunities for development. The methodology combined qualitative and quantitative research methods, including Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and comprehensive desk reviews (DRs).

1. QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

The assessment utilised FGDs and KIIs to gather in-depth insights from diverse stakeholders, including government officials, security personnel, NGOs, academics, local business owners, religious leaders, clan elders, women, youth, politicians, and marginalised groups. The selection of these stakeholders was purposeful, ensuring a comprehensive representation of perspectives from all community segments.

● FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDS):

FGDs facilitated open dialogue among participants, allowing for exploring collective views and shared experiences. This method encouraged interaction, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and enabling participants to build on each other’s insights. Through these discussions, the research aimed to uncover existing gaps in community services and identify opportunities for improvement. These discussions were designed to ensure diverse representation, including the voices of women, youth, and marginalised groups, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of the community's needs.

● KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS (KIIS):

KIIs were conducted to obtain detailed qualitative information from key individuals with significant knowledge of community dynamics and security issues. These interviews provided valuable context and depth, highlighting specific concerns and opportunities for enhancing local governance and security mechanisms. The selection of key informants was guided by their expertise and roles within the local context, ensuring that their insights would help inform actionable recommendations for community development.

2. QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Quantitative research methods were employed to capture measurable data from a broader population segment. This approach complemented the qualitative techniques, enabling a more comprehensive analysis of community needs, service gaps, and development opportunities. Integrating quantitative data helped substantiate findings from the qualitative research, offering a more well-rounded perspective on the community's challenges and potential solutions.

3. DESK REVIEWS (DRS)

In addition to primary data collection, thorough desk reviews were conducted to compile existing literature and contextual information. This involved analysing previous studies, reports, and relevant documentation to provide a solid foundation for the assessment. The desk reviews informed the research design and helped identify gaps in knowledge that the current evaluation aimed to address. Reviewing existing literature and reports ensured that the study was grounded in the most up-to-date and relevant data.

4. Rationale for Methodological Choices

Integrating both qualitative and quantitative approaches was intentional and aimed at providing a well-rounded understanding of the complexities within the community. By engaging a diverse range of stakeholders and employing multiple data collection methods, the research team sought to ensure that all voices were heard and that the findings reflected the multifaceted nature of community dynamics, governance structures, security concerns, and identifying existing gaps and opportunities in Harardhere.

This robust methodological approach enhanced the reliability and validity of the findings and fostered a participatory environment that encouraged community engagement and ownership of the research process. Ultimately, this assessment aimed to inform actionable recommendations for enhancing community resilience, addressing identified gaps, and supporting sustainable development in Harardhere.

| Research Method | Number | Participants per FGD | Total N0. of participants | Target Category |
|-----------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| FGD | 24 | 9 | 216 | Government officials, security forces, religious leaders, clan elders, women, youth, politicians, NGOs, academics, business owners, marginalized groups |
| KII | 21 | 1 | 21 | Ministry officials, Harardhere Administration, local business owners, youth, religious leaders, elders, marginalized groups |

Table 1 Table Research methods utilised by the study

| Gender | Frequency |
|--------|-----------|
| Male | 128 |
| Female | 109 |
| Total | 237 |

Table 1 Participants by Gender

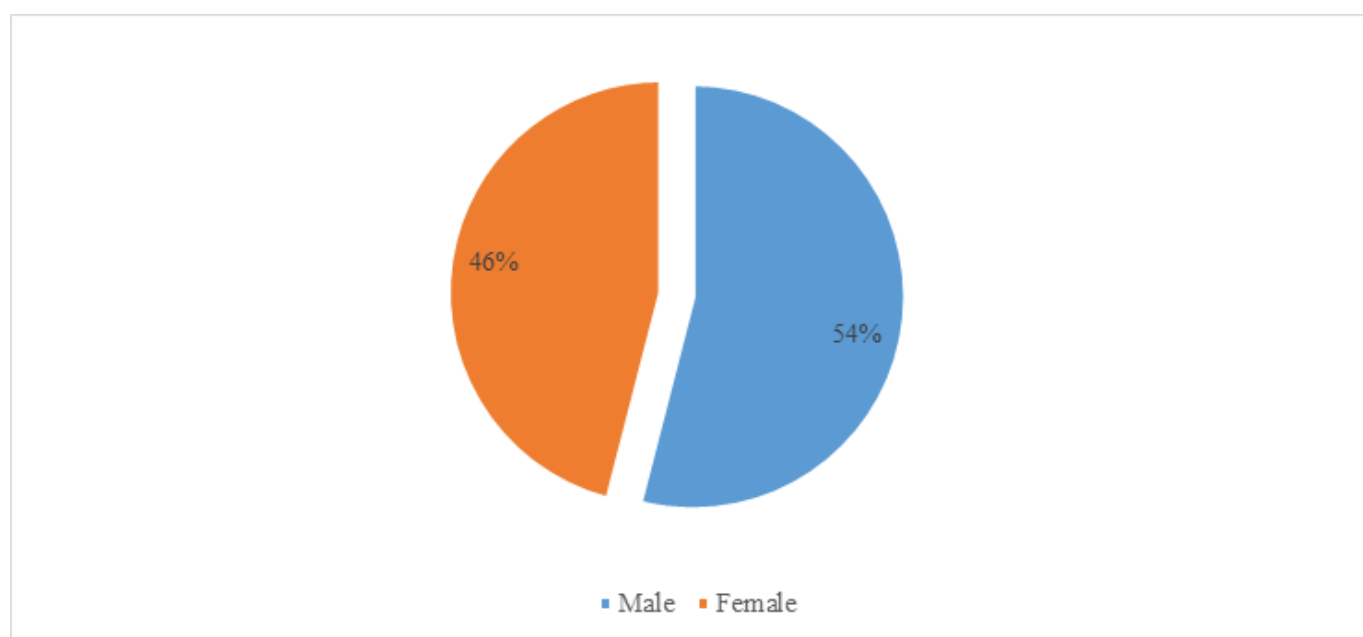


Figure 1 Figure 1. Participants by Gender

Table 1 and Figure 1 above illustrate the gender distribution of the study participants, revealing 237 individuals comprised of 128 males and 109 females. This data indicates a significant skew toward male representation, with males constituting 54% of the overall sample while females represent 46%.

| Gender | Total participants | Minority group participants |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Male | 148 | 2 |
| Female | 52 | 3 |
| Total | 232 | 5 |

Table 1 Participants by Gender and Minority Group Disaggregation

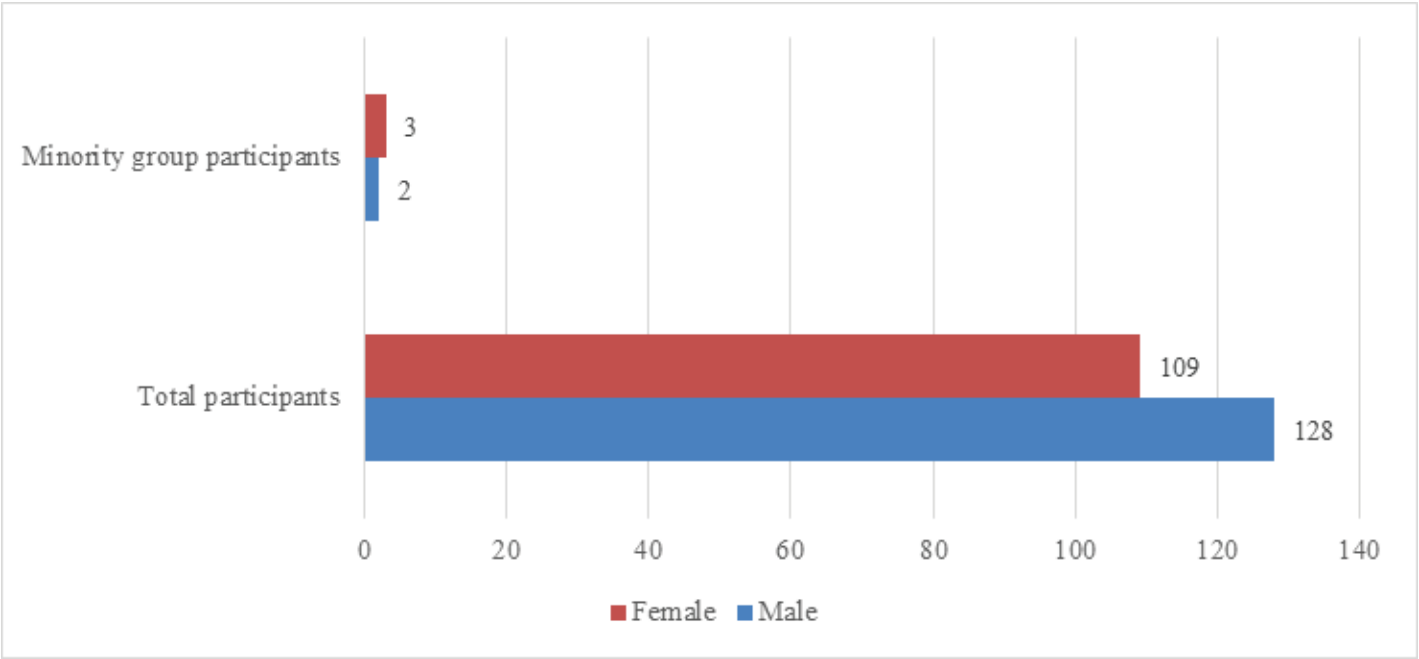


Figure 1 Participants by Gender and Minority Group Disaggregation

Table 2 and Figure 2 above summarise the participants based on minority group involvement. Among the 128 males and 109 females, two males and three females are identified as belonging to minority groups. This indicates that minority group representation among participants is relatively low, with only 5 out of 237 individuals classified as minority group members. This represents just approximately 2.1% of the total sample.

| age group | Total participants |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Below 20 years | 0 |
| 20–35 years | 127 |
| 36–46 years | 65 |
| Above 46 years | 45 |
| Total | 237 |

Table 1 Participants by Age Group

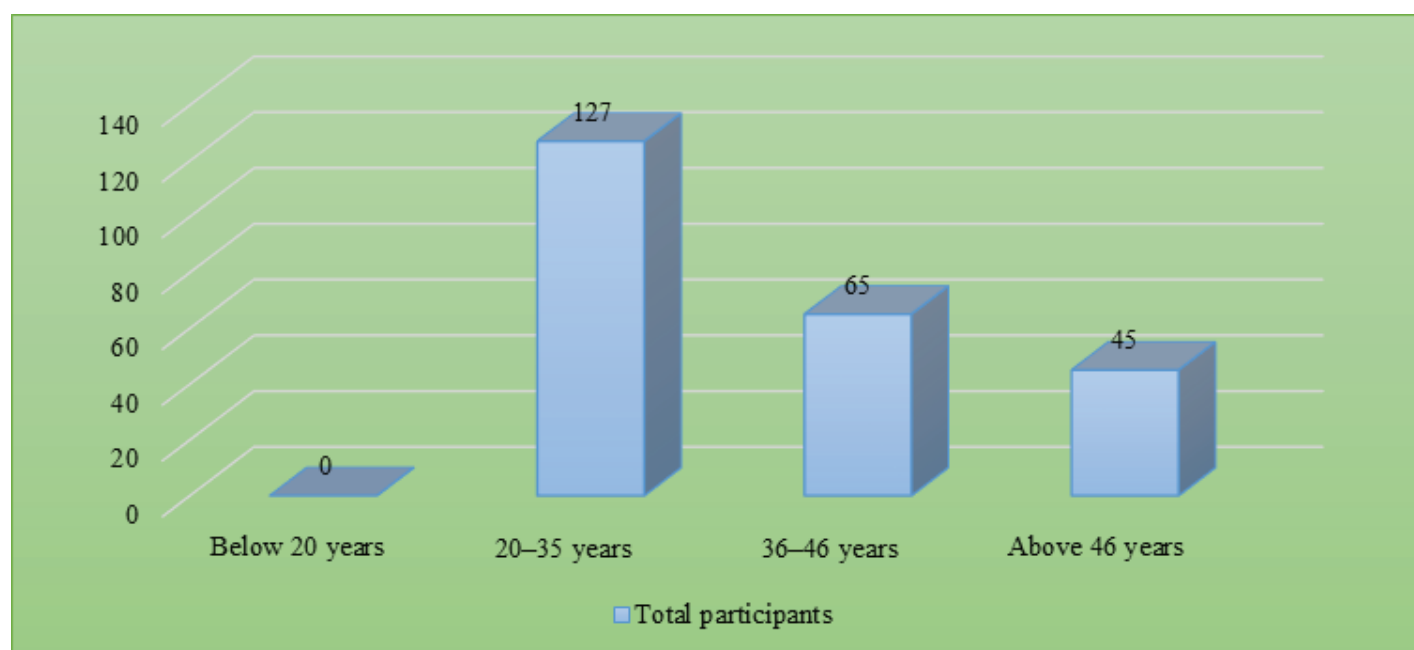


Figure 1 Participants by Age Group

This study's participants are divided into four age groups. Notably, no participants are under 20 years of age. The largest group comprises individuals aged 20-35, with 127 participants. This is followed by the 36-45 age group, which includes 65 participants, and finally, those aged 46 and above, with 45 participants. The data indicate a concentration of participants within the 20-35 age group, suggesting that the study predominantly reflects the viewpoints of younger to middle-aged adults.

| age group | Total participants | Minority group participants |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Below 20 years | 0 | 0 |
| 20–35 years | 100 | 10 |
| 36–46 years | 60 | 6 |
| Above 46 years | 40 | 4 |
| Total | 200 | 20 |

Table 1 Participants by Age Group and Minority Group Disaggregation

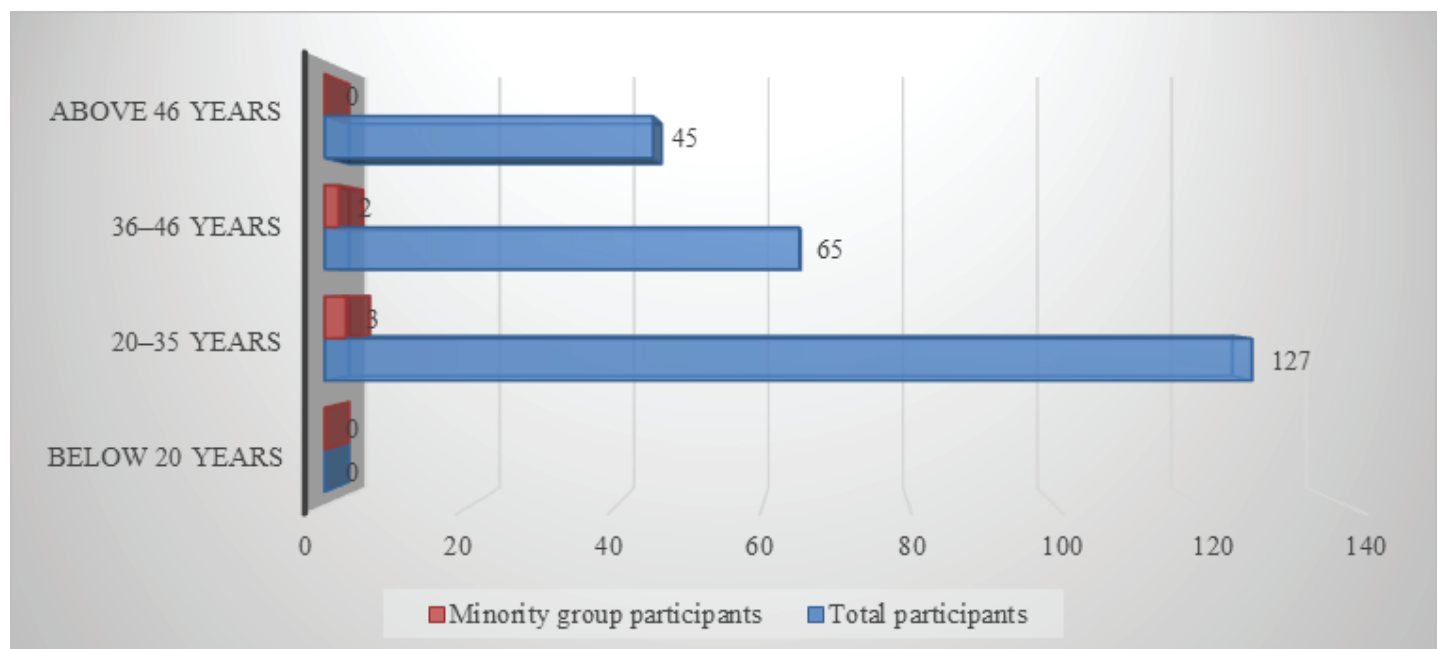


Figure 1 Participants by Age Group and Minority Group Disaggregation

This data set provides an age-wise breakdown of minority groups. The younger age group (20-35 years) includes three minority participants, the 36-46 years group contains 2, and the oldest group (above 46 years) includes zero minority participants. The distribution of minority participants across age groups further highlights the dominance of the younger group in the study sample. It indicates that while minority representation is relatively consistent across the older age groups, it remains low overall, as illustrated in Table Four and Figure Four above.

5. CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING PARTICIPANTS FOR FGDS AND KIIS

A) FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDS)

Participants for FGDS were selected based on the following criteria:

- **Representation:** Ensuring diverse representation from various stakeholder groups was essential. This included government officials, security forces, religious leaders, clan elders, women, youth, politicians, and marginalised groups. Engaging a wide array of perspectives allows the discussions to reflect the complexities of community dynamics and promotes a more comprehensive understanding of the issues.
- **Gender Balance:** Striving for gender balance within each FGD was critical for capturing both male and female perspectives. This approach enriched the discussions and fostered equitable participation, ensuring that the voices of all genders were heard and considered in the decision-making processes.
- **Inclusivity:** The selection process prioritised including community members with direct experience or knowledge relevant to the discussions. Individuals who are affected by the issues being examined provided invaluable insights that enhanced the understanding of the context and challenges faced within the community.

B) KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS (KIIS)

Key informants for KIIs were identified based on their expertise, experience, and roles within the local context. These individuals were recognised for their in-depth knowledge of security dynamics, governance structures, and conflict resolution in the Harardhere district. The selection process emphasised the need for diverse representation, considering factors such as age, gender, and professional background to ensure a holistic understanding of the issues under study.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR KEY INFORMANTS:

- **Expertise and Experience:** Key informants were selected for their recognised knowledge in relevant fields, ensuring that the insights gathered were informed and contextually appropriate.
- **Diversity:** The selection process actively considered diversity in terms of age, gender, and professional background, which was crucial for obtaining a well-rounded understanding of the complexities surrounding security and governance.

This structured approach to participant selection for FGDs and KIIs aligns with international research and community engagement standards. It aims to facilitate meaningful dialogue, yield insightful data, and contribute to a deeper understanding of the security dynamics, governance structures, and conflict resolution processes in the Harardhere district.

6.GEOGRAPHICAL AND TIME SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study was conducted from August 20 to September 30, 2024, in the Harardhere district in the Mudug region of Galmudug State, Somalia. Harardhere is strategically situated along the coast, making it a critical area for understanding local socio-economic and political dynamics.

The chosen timeframe facilitated a comprehensive examination of pertinent issues related to the district's security dynamics, governance structures, and conflict resolution; by focusing specifically on Harardhere, the study aimed to provide detailed insights into the community's unique challenges and opportunities. This approach aligns with international research standards, ensuring that the findings are relevant and actionable for stakeholders and policymakers engaged in the region.

SECURITY DYNAMICS AND AL-SHABAB INFLUENCE

SECURITY DYNAMICS OF HARARDHERE DISTRICT

The security landscape of the Harardhere district in Somalia has undergone significant shifts over the past two decades, primarily driven by armed groups, clan tensions, and the actions of Somali security forces. In the Mudug region, Harardheere has been a key area of operations for Al-Shabaab, especially in the southeastern parts. By late 2022, Al-Shabaab was reported to control large portions of Harardheere, significantly contributing to the ongoing violence and instability in the region¹.

Since 2021, Somali security forces have intensified military operations against Al-Shabaab in Harardheere and surrounding areas. Local pro-government militias and specialised units, including the Danab and Daraawish brigades, have supported these operations. Findings from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) reveal the critical security challenges in Mudug, with frequent occurrences of confrontations, explosions, and targeted violence against civilians. Between July 2021 and November 2022, these incidents led to 358 fatalities, reflecting the severity of the conflict¹.

The humanitarian impact has been substantial, with thousands of people displaced due to the violence. Reports indicate that more than 16,000 people were newly displaced from Mudug, seeking refuge in other regions during this period. This situation has continued into early 2023 as anti-Al-Shabaab operations escalated.

The security of Harardheere is protected by military forces, which ensure the city's safety from 25 to 28 kilometres away, establishing a defensive perimeter around it. Harardheere is accessible via three primary roads: one from Hobyo, another from Mogadishu, and a third from Caad, though the latter is rarely used due to security concerns. These routes converge at Bohol Sheik/Ceel Abgalow, the main entry point to the city. Despite the efforts of Somali security forces to safeguard Harardheere, challenges persist due to the proximity of militant groups and the strategic significance of these roads for trade and movement¹.

CHANGES IN SECURITY DYNAMICS AND THE ROLE OF SECURITY FORCES IN HARARDHEERE

The security environment in Harardheere underwent a transformative shift after its liberation from Al-Shabaab in January 2023. This significant event marked a turning point in the district's stability and governance, driven by community engagement, the establishment of local security forces, and the evolving socio-political landscape. The removal of Al-Shabaab not only represented a military achievement but also enabled the community to reclaim control and initiate the reconstruction of their society. However, the initial post-liberation period has been uncertain, as the community faces the challenge of establishing a secure and functional environment.

Since the liberation, security forces have played an indispensable role in maintaining peace within Harardheere. The national army, supported by local militias, has filled the security vacuum left by Al-Shabaab. Their presence has been bolstered by active participation from the community, with residents taking responsibility for their security. Citizens have formed vigilante groups collaborating closely with security personnel to monitor activities and report suspicious behaviour. This partnership has fostered a collective sense of responsibility for security, contributing to the community's overall resilience¹.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGES IN HARARDHEERE: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AHEAD

Community involvement has been crucial in strengthening local security in Harardheere. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) revealed that collaboration between the military and community members has significantly enhanced residents' sense of safety. This proactive engagement amplifies surveillance efforts and cultivates trust between the community and security forces, essential for effective crime prevention and conflict resolution¹.

The liberation has also sparked significant social changes within Harardheere. The community has prioritised social integration and reconciliation, actively working to heal divisions exacerbated by the conflict. Leaders from various sectors, including women's organisations and youth groups, have emerged as key figures in promoting dialogue and cooperation among residents. This inclusive approach has empowered marginalised groups, particularly women, to play an active role in security and governance discussions. Studies indicate that involving women in security efforts leads to more comprehensive and effective community safety strategies, as highlighted in FGDs.

Despite these positive developments, the security situation remains volatile. The presence of Al-Shabaab in nearby areas continues to threaten stability, requiring ongoing vigilance from the community. Furthermore, frontline troops are notable for their lack of motivation, which is influenced by political factors that hinder opportunities for advancement. The absence of a formal police force further complicates security efforts, prompting local leaders to advocate for establishing a dedicated police structure to ensure long-term stability in Harardhere.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN HARARDHEERE

Harardheere's economy has suffered significantly due to ongoing conflict, insecurity, and heavy dependence on external aid. Despite the region's wealth in natural resources and agricultural potential, the district's economic activity remains stunted. Many local businesses, particularly in the informal sector, face severe disruptions. This section outlines the key impacts of prolonged insecurity on the local economy and explores potential pathways to recovery.

1. THE DISRUPTION OF TRADE AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

The district of Harardheere, strategically located as a trade hub, has been heavily impacted by the destruction and disruption of key trade routes, especially those linking Harardheere to other parts of Somalia and international markets. The control exerted by Al-Shabaab, coupled with ongoing insecurity, has not only blocked transportation routes but has also made trade a risky venture. As a result, the flow of goods and services has been impeded, which, in turn, has driven up the costs of goods and transportation. This has discouraged business activities and stifled Harardheere's economic potential. Local businesses, particularly those engaged in trade, face challenges in sourcing affordable goods, and small-scale entrepreneurs cannot compete with inflated costs, contributing to a broader economic stagnation.

2. IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture has historically been the backbone of Harardheere's economy, with most of the population relying on farming and livestock herding for their livelihoods. However, the conflict has severely disrupted agricultural activities. Insecurity and displacement, particularly in rural areas, have forced many farmers to abandon their land, dramatically reducing food production. Agricultural workers, including herders and farmers, have fled or lost access to their traditional lands, resulting in a significant drop in agricultural output.

The consequences of this disruption are far-reaching. Beyond affecting food security, this decline in agriculture has led to widespread unemployment, as the sector is one of the primary employers in the region. Without agriculture as a stable source of income, many individuals are left with limited economic opportunities, contributing to a difficult-to-break cycle of poverty.

3. DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL AID AND THE STAGNATION OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE

Harardheere's heavy reliance on external aid has compounded its economic woes. While assistance is critical for addressing immediate needs, it has created a dependency that undermines the development of sustainable local economic activities. Local markets are flooded with cheap imported goods, often subsidised by international aid programs or imported by external actors. This influx of cheap imports has made it difficult for local producers and businesses to compete, collapsing many small-scale industries and enterprises.

The dominance of imported goods has weakened local entrepreneurship and stifled potential growth in the manufacturing and service sectors. As local businesses struggle to compete with the flood of foreign products, Harardheere has seen stagnation in the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), leading to a lack of job creation and increased unemployment, especially among the youth. A lack of investment and entrepreneurial activity further hinders the local economy, as potential investors are deterred by the uncertainty and risks of operating in a post-conflict zone¹.

GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL WEAKNESS IN HARARDHEERE

● CONTEXT AND PROGRESS

The role of the district administration in Harardheere has been pivotal in shaping the region's security dynamics and governance trajectory. Historically, Harardheere was marked by a severe weakness in infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and markets, which deepened social despair and hindered development. Years of neglect left the district vulnerable to exploitation by hostile forces, further entrenching governance and security challenges.

Since its liberation, the district has witnessed notable progress. Key sectors that were once dormant are beginning to function effectively. Direct support and awareness programs led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Galmudug have played a transformative role in fostering community resilience and rebuilding trust in governance. This revitalisation is particularly evident in the economic sphere, where indicators such as the price of livestock—specifically goats—have shown significant improvement, rising from \$20 to between \$25 and \$40. This economic uplift reflects growing confidence in the administration's ability to deliver on its mandate.

Maslax Macalin Cilmi, Secretary of Harardheere District, emphasised this transformation during an interview:

"Before liberation, our people were trapped in hopelessness. Schools and hospitals were mere dreams. With improved security, schools reopen, markets flourish, and the community takes charge of its future. The rise in goat prices is just one example of the positive changes happening under our administration¹."

Establishing a community centre, a collaborative effort between the district administration and local stakeholders has been a significant milestone. This centre, built after improved security conditions, has become a focal point for community engagement and awareness initiatives. Reflecting on this achievement, Maslax stated, "The community centre is not just a building but a symbol of hope and unity. It shows what we can achieve together when there is trust between the administration and the people."

The community centre now serves as a platform for fostering dialogue, raising awareness, and building social cohesion. It symbolises the strengthening bond between the administration and its citizens, laying the groundwork for enhanced governance and sustainable development.

● CHALLENGES AND GOVERNANCE GAPS

Despite significant progress, Harardheere continues to face critical governance and institutional weaknesses. Among the most pressing concerns is the weak presence of an elected local council, which has created a substantial governance gap. This absence of democratic representation undermines the community's trust in governance and weakens the administration's ability to address pressing local issues effectively.

The district's lack of an elected local council has profoundly impacted its security and community resilience. Without a council to represent the people's interests and concerns, decisions regarding resource allocation, conflict resolution, and service delivery are often made by appointed officials with limited input from the community.

For instance, in an interview, a resident, Abdulkadir Ali Mohamed, explained:

"We feel disconnected from the administration. When no one is to represent us, our voices go unheard, and we cannot hold anyone accountable for what happens in our district¹."

This governance gap has contributed to mistrust in the administration, weakening community cohesion and cooperation. The weak presence of democratic representation also undermines conflict resolution efforts, as disputes over resources or tribal grievances often escalate without transparent and inclusive mechanisms to address them.

The governance void has led to significant lapses in service delivery. For example, the absence of an elected council means that infrastructure development projects, such as roads, schools, or healthcare facilities, are often delayed or inadequately planned. Residents frequently express frustration over the lack of communication and transparency in these decisions. Mohamed further highlighted these challenges:

This disconnect between governance structures and community needs exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, leaving residents feeling marginalised and insecure.

● WEAK RULE OF LAW

The weak rule of law in Harardheere further exacerbates governance challenges and undermines the district's stability. The district lacks a police station, which is essential for ensuring security and enforcing regulations. As a conflict zone, the only judicial authority is the Somali National Army Court, while no civilian court serves the people. This weakness in legal infrastructure undermines the administration's effectiveness and contributes to a pervasive climate of insecurity.

Community members have consistently emphasised the need for a dedicated local police force to establish long-term stability and security in Harardheere. While military support remains crucial for immediate safety, residents believe that a formalised policing structure is essential for effective governance and the sustainability of security efforts. This call for reform underscores the community's recognition of the need for enhanced local governance and security systems to foster resilience and peace.

A case study exemplifying the consequences of this weak rule of law occurred on September 27. Local tribal forces, known as the "Macawiisley," forcefully removed a soldier from prison who had previously threatened the city's security. The soldier was later detained by the national army forces stationed in Xaradhere. This incident highlights the growing reliance on tribal forces to maintain order without a formalised policing system. Such actions undermine the rule of law and demonstrate the risks associated with the weakness of a proper legal and security infrastructure.

● LIMITED ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN XARARDHEERE

A significant obstacle to Harardheere's development is the limited access to quality education. The current educational infrastructure is insufficient to meet the needs of the growing population. Harardheere School, the primary academic institution in the district, is operating at full capacity, with over 200 students enrolled across primary and secondary levels. However, the school only has 11 overcrowded classrooms, which makes it difficult to maintain effective teaching and learning conditions.

A resident said, *"Our children travel long distances to attend school, and the conditions are far from conducive to learning. The school lacks basic infrastructure, such as roofs, and our children are exposed to harsh conditions¹."*

A significant concern is that many classrooms in Xarardheere School are unusable due to the absence of roofs, exposing children to intense heat and making it difficult to concentrate. These conditions hinder learning and pose health risks as students live in extreme temperatures. A resident shared the sentiment: "Our children have to travel long distances to attend school, and even when they get there, the conditions are poor. Education is key to our future, but no one is paying attention." This highlights the deeper issue of educational inequality, where children from low-income families face even more significant challenges in accessing quality education.

●HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBILITY

Healthcare accessibility is another critical issue in Xarardheere. The district lacks a functional healthcare system, forcing residents to travel to neighbouring regions for medical treatment. This lack of healthcare infrastructure is compounded by a shortage of healthcare professionals and lacking essential medical equipment in local clinics.

A local health worker explained: *"We only have a few basic clinics here, and they are understaffed and underequipped. People who need urgent care often have to go elsewhere, and many can't afford it¹."* This reflects a broader trend in low-income individuals facing significant healthcare barriers, including financial limitations and inadequate transportation options.

Establishing a local healthcare system with well-equipped clinics and trained medical staff is essential to addressing the district's healthcare needs. A functional healthcare system would improve residents' quality of life and contribute to long-term community stability. The National Health Council highlights that enhancing healthcare access is crucial for improving overall health outcomes and reducing disparities marginalised communities face.

●POLITICAL STABILITY

The broader political shifts within Galmudug significantly influence Harardheere's political stability. These regional changes directly impact the district's administration, security structures, and social development sectors, including health and education. As a result, Harardheere is highly vulnerable to any political upheaval at the regional level. For instance, regional leadership changes often trigger shifts in district leadership, security strategies, and funding for essential services, undermining the district's stability.

A key challenge lies in the centralisation of political power, where decisions made at the Galmudug level can disrupt local governance in Harardheere. This interdependency between regional and district-level politics often leaves Harardheere at the mercy of larger political forces, with little autonomy or say in decisions that affect its security and development. In the past, when the political environment in Galmudug became unstable, Harardheere faced leadership vacuums, a lack of security coordination, and delays in the implementation of critical services. These instances have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and contributed to a broader sense of insecurity among residents.

●GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Harardheere faces significant challenges regarding government effectiveness. There is a critical need to improve the quality of public services and the formulation and implementation of policies. Local authorities have struggled to address the district's unique needs, and existing policies often fail to adequately respond to the most pressing issues faced by the community, such as inadequate healthcare, poor infrastructure, and limited educational resources.

Weak regulatory frameworks further hinder the district's ability to enforce sound policies. Although appointed, local officials cannot often address complex governance challenges, leaving many issues unresolved. For example, efforts to improve public health services have been largely unsuccessful due to insufficient budget allocation and a lack of clear policy direction.

Moreover, accountability mechanisms are almost nonexistent. Without systems to monitor the actions of public officials, citizens feel disconnected from governance processes, eroding trust in the administration. Public sector accountability is essential for preventing corruption and mismanagement, undermining both the efficacy of governance and public confidence.

●VOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A significant concern in Harardheere is the limited ability of citizens to engage with the political process and voice their concerns. The district's leadership often appears disconnected from the people it serves, leaving residents feeling marginalised and powerless. This lack of engagement leads to local officials acting without considering the population's needs and desires, further contributing to political instability.

The district's political and civil rights remain constrained. Fundamental freedoms such as the right to assembly, freedom of expression, and election participation are often restricted or overlooked. This lack of political rights exacerbates the public's disengagement from governance, as people feel their voices have little to no impact on political decisions.

● INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Harardheere's institutional capacity is critically weak, exacerbating governance challenges. The district's reliance on appointed officials rather than elected representatives undermines its ability to build a responsive and accountable administration. This lack of political legitimacy makes it harder for the government to command respect and trust from the people, further hindering its ability to address security, social services, and infrastructure development effectively.

The impeachment of the former district commissioner on August 27 further highlighted the fragility of Harardheere's administrative structure. This event underscored the political instability within the district's leadership, with competing factions and vested interests undermining officials' ability to work cohesively. While the impeachment was legally justified, it exposed deep fractures within the administration, further damaging the community's trust in its governance.

The district's institutional weakness is further compounded by political instability, where the influence of external factions often diverts attention from critical governance issues. Harardheere struggles to maintain basic order in such an environment, leaving its citizens vulnerable to insecurity and poor public service delivery.

● Case Study: The Weakness of the Police Force

A case in point that highlights the governance challenges in Harardheere is the recent incident on September 27, when local militia forces known as "Macawiisley" forcibly removed a soldier from prison who had threatened the security of the city. Although the soldier was later detained by national army forces stationed in Harardheere, this incident underscores the lack of a functional and practical local law enforcement system. In the absence of a dedicated local police force, the district has relied on military and militia groups to address security issues, which undermines the formal rule of law and creates instability. This case demonstrates the urgent need for Harardheere to establish a formal police force that can respond to security threats in a manner that respects legal frameworks and human rights.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACEBUILDING

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACEBUILDING: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HARADHEERE

Haradheere, a district in Somalia, faces numerous challenges in conflict resolution and peacebuilding due to entrenched conflicts, weak governance structures, and inadequate law enforcement. The district relies heavily on militias and the national army for security, undermining the rule of law and perpetuating political instability. Weak governance, limited resources, and uncoordinated administrative efforts exacerbate these issues. The complex nature of disputes, often involving land, resources, and inter-clan rivalries, further complicates the situation. Traditional and religious conflict resolution mechanisms frequently lack enforcement power, leading to recurring disputes and increased mistrust among communities.

A resident, Xaawo Abdullahi Osman, articulates this challenge: *"Many disputes over land, resources, and even personal conflicts escalate because there's no effective justice system to resolve them."*

Despite the challenges, Haradheere presents opportunities for innovative peacebuilding approaches. Integrating women into peacebuilding processes emerges as a particularly promising strategy. Women in the district often act as mediators in family and community disputes, leveraging their roles as caretakers and peacemakers to foster dialogue and reconciliation. As Xaawo Abdullahi Osman further explains: *"Involving women in peacebuilding is another opportunity—we are often mediators in family disputes and can contribute to community cohesion¹."*

● JUSTICE SYSTEMS IN HARADHEERE

RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS AND ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES

Religious scholars are crucial in resolving conflicts, especially those related to family, inheritance, and moral issues. Their decisions are based on Islamic law (Sharia), which aligns with the community's religious and cultural values. As trusted figures in the community, religious scholars are often called upon to mediate disputes, offering solutions that are seen as just and acceptable to all parties involved.

Abdullahi Halane Nur, a traditional elder, highlighted the importance of Islamic law in resolving conflicts: *"These laws are respected and understood by everyone, making it easier to reach agreements. However, modern legal complexities require us to expand our approach¹."*

TRADITIONAL ELDERS AND CUSTOMARY LAW

Traditional elders are vital in resolving conflicts related to land, resources, and inter-clan issues. Their mediation is grounded in customary law, passed down through generations. This provides a form of justice that is both accessible and culturally relevant. These mediation efforts are often effective in maintaining social harmony and preventing escalation within local communities.

However, while traditional resolutions are respected, they can sometimes conflict with national laws or fail to address more complex legal issues. For example, disputes involving external parties or modern concerns such as environmental regulations may not be quickly resolved through customary practices.

Another traditional elder, Ali Hassan Mohamud, emphasised the potential for peaceful conflict resolution: *“If supported by a functional local government and better security, we could resolve most disputes through peaceful means¹.”*

FAMILY AND TRIBAL LAW

In Haradheere, intra-clan disputes, such as those related to inheritance, land ownership, and marriage, are often settled through family and tribal law. These systems highly value maintaining unity within families and clans, which is crucial given the strong tribal affiliations in the area. However, while these resolutions help preserve social harmony, they can sometimes marginalise vulnerable groups, such as women or minority clans, due to deeply rooted societal norms that influence decision-making processes.

Muna Ahmed Ali, a resident, pointed out the difficulties caused by the coexistence of multiple legal systems: *“The coexistence of different legal systems—customary law, Sharia, and national law—creates confusion and sometimes even conflict over which rules to follow¹.”*

● CHALLENGES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY

ABSENCE OF A FORMAL POLICE FORCE

Haradheere's lack of a trained and professional police force has left the district heavily dependent on militias and the national army for security. This reliance on non-official security forces creates instability and undermines the rule of law, making it difficult to maintain peace and resolve conflicts effectively.

Abdi Hafid Mohamed Dirie, a local doctor, described the negative impact of insecurity on the community, stating: *"Insecurity undermines everything. When people feel unsafe, they are less likely to cooperate or engage in dialogue¹."*

MILITIAS AND THE NATIONAL ARMY

Without a trained police force, militias and the national army have maintained security in Haradheere. However, their involvement in law enforcement presents significant challenges. Militias often operate with little oversight and accountability, leading to abuses of power, arbitrary decisions, and a lack of legal due process. Their informal nature and potential for factional loyalty also contribute to instability.

Similarly, while the national army is professional in its military capacity, it is not equipped to handle civilian law enforcement. This mismatch results in frequent jurisdictional conflicts between the army and civilian authorities, leading to inefficiencies in maintaining public order and addressing local disputes. The army's focus on military objectives rather than community-based policing further undermines effective law enforcement and the protection of civilian rights.

● CASE STUDY: EROSION OF INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

A striking example of this governance breakdown occurred on September 27, when local tribal forces, known as "Macawiisley," forcibly released a soldier from detention after he had been accused of threatening district security. This incident highlighted the lack of clear, accountable legal channels and revealed the fragility of institutional authority in Haradheere. Such events deepen mistrust between the community and security forces, further complicating peacebuilding efforts.

● RECURRING SOURCES OF CONFLICT

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC DISPUTES

Land disputes in Xarardheere are relatively less frequent than in other regions, although territorial and clan-related conflicts occasionally arise. These disputes are often fueled by competition over territorial claims, with each clan asserting its demographic majority as justification for land ownership while rival clans make similar assertions. The lack of clear regulations or laws governing land disputes, the absence of a functioning civil court and a shortage of adequately trained local elders (Nabadoons) to mediate conflicts have aggravated the situation. Additionally, large land areas have been arbitrarily claimed and marked but remain unused, further intensifying regional tensions.

Harardheere's land disputes are primarily driven by competition for scarce resources and inadequate regulatory enforcement. Such conflicts frequently escalate into inter-clan disputes, eroding social cohesion and destabilising the region.

WEAK LAW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURES

The lack of a formal police force and effective legal frameworks forces the community to rely heavily on informal systems, such as traditional elders and militias. While these mechanisms address some disputes, they are ill-equipped to handle complex or large-scale issues, leaving many unresolved or inadequately addressed.

● BARRIERS TO PEACEBUILDING

TENSIONS BETWEEN LEGAL SYSTEMS

The coexistence of Islamic law, customary law (*Xeer*), and national legislation in Harardheere has led to overlapping jurisdictions and frequent conflicts. These multiple legal frameworks often confuse which rules should take precedence in resolving disputes, creating friction among community members and institutions.

A local leader, Ali Mohamud Ahmed (Ali Bishar) emphasised collaboration among various legal and governance actors, stating: “*We need traditional, religious, and governmental actors to work together. Without a united approach, peacebuilding efforts will remain fragmented and ineffective*¹. ”

POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Political instability remains a significant barrier to development and stability in Galmudug, where governance challenges are particularly acute in districts like Harardheere. The region suffers from a fragmented governance system characterised by overlapping legal frameworks—Islamic law, customary law, and national legislation—which create jurisdictional confusion and hinder conflict resolution. In many districts, including Harardheere, the lack of effective local government structures leaves communities dependent on external security forces, such as militias and the national army. This reliance undermines local conflict resolution mechanisms and erodes public trust in government institutions, perpetuating instability and hindering efforts to create a cohesive society.

Galmudug, comprised of 21 districts, faces significant governance challenges. Approximately 33% of the districts have functional district councils. Harardheere, notably lacking district councillors, suffers from weak local governance, making it challenging to manage community affairs effectively. The absence of a local governing body further complicates decision-making, representation, and the execution of governance strategies, reinforcing the district's dependence on external forces. This reliance weakens local authority, undermines trust in formal institutions, and obstructs sustainable peace and development efforts.

Additionally, women remain largely excluded from formal governance and peacebuilding processes in Galmudug despite their key role in mediating conflicts and advocating for marginalised groups. Saido Mohmud Elmi, Deputy Chairperson of the Harardheere Women's Association, pointed out: *"Women are rarely included in formal peacebuilding processes. If given the opportunity, we could mediate between clans, advocate for marginalised groups, and push for sustainable solutions¹."*

The lack of a functional governance system in Harardheere also makes it difficult to address critical issues such as security, resource management, and conflict resolution. Strengthening local governance structures, including establishing district councils, is essential to improving stability and promoting effective self-governance throughout Galmudug.

MARGINALISATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Peacebuilding efforts in Harardheere often overlook marginalised groups, such as women, youth, and minority clans. These groups face systemic barriers to participating in conflict resolution and governance processes, further entrenching inequalities and perpetuating cycles of conflict.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Harardheere is a microcosm of the challenges and opportunities associated with post-conflict recovery in Somalia. While the district's multifaceted justice systems are culturally rich, they remain fragmented without a functioning police force and integrated governance structures. Despite years of oppression and the deep scars left by Al-Shabab's rule, the resilience displayed by the community during the post-liberation dialogue offers hope for meaningful and sustainable change.

The dialogue sessions underscored the community's commitment to addressing long-standing grievances, strengthening governance, and promoting peace. However, achieving these goals requires addressing critical security, governance, resource management, and infrastructure gaps. Empowering the youth to shape Harardheere's future emerged as a promising avenue, given their potential to drive innovation, social cohesion, and economic development.

To transform Harardheere into a model of resilience and recovery, the following recommendations are proposed:

RECOMMENDATIONS

● Strengthening Security and Justice Systems

- **Decentralize Governance Structures:** Empower local councils with decision-making authority, allowing them to address community needs more effectively.
- **Establish District Councilors in Harardheere:** District councillors would strengthen governance in Harardheere, enhance local decision-making, and improve community representation.
- **Establish Transparent Governance Frameworks:** Ensure that governance is transparent, accountable, and resistant to corruption.
- **Capacity Building for Local Administrations:** Provide training and resources to enhance the capacity of district officials to manage resources, resolve disputes, and implement development programs.
- **Promote Inclusive Community Engagement:** Support regular town hall meetings and forums to ensure ongoing dialogue between the government, security forces, and community members.
- **Engage Marginalized Groups:** To foster inclusivity and build trust, ensure meaningful representation of minority clans, youth, and women in decision-making processes.
- **Address Historical Grievances:** Implement truth and reconciliation efforts to process past traumas and ensure justice and accountability for crimes committed during Al-Shabab's rule.

● Promoting Economic Stability and Social Cohesion

- **Promote Sustainable Resource Management:** Implement community-led initiatives to manage natural resources equitably, reducing tensions and promoting economic stability.
- **Invest in Youth Initiatives:** Create a vocation to engage youth in Harardheere's economic and social development, cl training programs, entrepreneurship grants, and mentorship opportunities to engage youth.
- **Participation:** Provide targeted support for women's education, leadership training, and economic activities. Empowering women strengthens families and communities, leading to broader societal progress.
- **Build Infrastructure for Sustainable Development:** Improve communication and transportation networks to connect remote areas with urban centres and expand access to essential services such as healthcare and education.
- **Promote Education and Awareness:** Civic education programs can raise awareness about governance, peacebuilding, environmental conservation, and conflict resolution. Youth can also be engaged in awareness campaigns about extremism and community resilience.

CONCLUSION

Harardhere's journey toward peace and stability is a testament to its people's resilience and willingness to embrace change. While the challenges of insecurity, weak governance, and inadequate infrastructure persist, the opportunities for progress are vast. By investing in youth, integrating traditional and modern systems, and strengthening governance and security, Harardhere can chart a path toward a more secure, equitable, and prosperous future.

A critical success factor lies in sustained collaboration between the community, local authorities, and international partners. Together, these stakeholders can foster an environment where dialogue leads to action, action leads to results, and results inspire hope. The post-liberation dialogue is not just a step forward for Harardhere but a blueprint for recovery and development in other liberated areas of Somalia.

Empowering that is paramount to empower engaging women in ping this future is paramount to active participation; Harardhere can transform itself from a district burdened by its past into a beacon of resilience and innovation, offering a brighter and more promising tomorrow for all its residents.

ACTIVITIES IN PICTORIAL



Figure 1 Satellite Map of Harardhere, Somalia

Sources:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Harardhere/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!3m1!1s0x3d68cf3b132faf01:0x60781dbd1bb7d9fd?sa=X&ved=1t:242&ictx=111>



Figure 1 Key Informant Interview (KII) Session with the Secretary of the Harardhere Administration, Maslah Moalim Elmi, Discussing Security, Governance, and Clan Conflict Challenges in the District



Figure 1 A Building Reflecting the Evolution and Development of Harardhere City Over Time



Figure 1 The Harardhere City Centre



Figure 1 A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Facilitated by Adirizak Ibrahim, Highlighting Community Perspectives and Insights



Figure 1 A Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Dedicated to the Youth of Harardhere District, Featuring Participation from Both Men and Women



Figure 1 Elders of Harardhere District Engaging in a Focus Group Discussion (FGD)



Figure 1 A Pharmacy Located at the Heart of Harardhere District, Serving as a Vital Community Resource



Figure 1 Religious Leaders of Harardhere District and the Local Community Participating in a Focus Group Discussion (FGD)



Figure 1 Key Informant Interview (KII) Session with the Deputy District Commissioner, Mr. Mohamed Abshir Abdi



Figure 1 Elders and Youth of Harardhere District Engaged in a Focus Group Discussion (FGD)





Figure 1 Key Informant Interview (KII) Session with Ms. Horiyo Abdi Adan
Chairperson of the Harardhere Women Association



Figure 1 Key Informant Interview (KII) Session with Mr. Shafie Sholi
Deputy Chairman of the Harardhere Youth Association



Figure 1 The Laboratory of Harardhere Hospital Highlighting the Shortage of Examination Tools, Underscoring the Challenges
Facing the Health Sector in the District



Figure 1 Key Informant Interview (KII) Session with Abdullahi Mohamoud Kulan,
Businessman at His Business Center in Harardhere District



Figure 1 Key Informant Interview (KII) Session with Mr Hirsi Abdi Jim,ale
Headmaster of Harardere School, Discussing the Challenges Facing the Education Sector in the District

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: THE QUESTIONNAIRE

● KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (KIIS) QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Current Security Situation:

Key Informants (KIs) include the Local district authority, security official, political leader, clan elder, and religious leader. These KIs can discuss sensitive security issues that may not be appropriate for focus groups.

- *Can you describe the current security situation in your district in detail? How have things changed since the liberation from al-Shabab?*
- *How would you rate the effectiveness of local security forces in maintaining peace and security? What improvements do you think are necessary?*
- *In what ways are local communities actively involved in maintaining and improving security? How effective have they been, and what challenges do they face?*
- *Can you share any significant incidents or changes that illustrate the shift in the security environment post-liberation?*
- *What security and peace-building initiatives are currently being implemented in the community? What additional support or resources are needed to enhance these interventions?*

2. Strengthen Governance and Community Development:

The Informants included the local district authority, security official, political leader, clan elder, religious leader, women and youth representatives, and representatives of civil society groups.

- *How would you describe the effectiveness and efficiency of local governance structures in your district before and after al-Shabab?*
- *How inclusive are local governance structures, and what needs to be done to encourage public participation in decision-making processes?*
- *What are the district administration's key challenges in delivering public services and implementing local development, and how can these be improved?*
- *What are the priority needs of the Harardhere district administration's key development challenges (e.g., healthcare, education, infrastructure, economic opportunities)?*
- *Can you provide examples of successful community-led development initiatives? What strategies are in place to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives?*

3. Promote Conflict Resolution and Social Cohesion

Key Informants included the local district authority, security official, political leader, clan elder, religious leader, women and youth representatives, and representatives of civil society groups.

- *What are the primary security threats that the community currently faces? Are these threats internal or external?*
- *Can you describe the nature, causes and current status of tribal conflicts in the Harardhere district?*
- *What traditional and modern mechanisms exist for resolving tribal conflicts in Harardhere, and how effective are these efforts?*
- *What peace-building initiatives are currently being implemented in the district, and how can the processes be inclusive?*
- *What additional support or resources are required to enhance peace-building efforts and promote social cohesion in the Harardhere district?*

● FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDS) QUESTIONS

1. Current Security Situation:

Three (3) FGDs:

- i. 4 male community elders and two religious leaders.
 - ii. 6 female community representatives
 - iii. 5 youths (at least two female) and two representatives from civil society
- *Can you describe the current security situation in your district in detail? How have things changed since the liberation from al-Shabab?*
 - *How would you rate the effectiveness of local security forces in maintaining peace and security? What improvements do you think are necessary?*
 - *How safe do you feel in your community daily? Can you describe specific instances where you felt exceptionally safe or unsafe?*
 - *What actions have community members taken collectively to enhance security?*
 - *How effective do you think these actions have been, and what more can be done?*
 - *Are there any traditional practices or community customs that contribute to maintaining security?*

2. Strengthen Governance and Community Development:

Three (3) FGDs:

- i. 4 male community elders and two religious leaders.
 - ii. 6 female community representatives.
 - iii. 5 youths (at least two female) and two representatives from civil society
- How much trust do you have in your local leaders and government officials? Can you provide reasons for your level of trust or distrust?
 - Can you share examples of decisions or actions by local leaders that have affected your community positively or negatively?
 - What changes would you like to see in leadership to improve governance and community development?
 - What are the top three development needs in your community? Why are these needs critical?

- What is your vision for the future development of your community? What changes would you like to see in the next five to ten years?
- How can local leaders, government officials, and external organisations better support this vision?

3. Promote Conflict Resolution and Social Cohesion

Three (3) FGD:

- i. 4 male community elders and two religious leaders.
- ii. 6 female community representatives.

5 youth (at least two female) and two representatives from civil society

- What are the primary security threats that the community currently faces? Are these threats internal or external?
- Can you describe the nature, causes and current status of tribal conflicts in the Harardhere district?
- What traditional and modern mechanisms exist for resolving tribal conflicts in Harardhere, and how effective are these efforts?
- What peace-building initiatives are currently being implemented in the district, and how can the processes be inclusive?
- What additional support or resources are required to enhance peace-building efforts and promote social cohesion in the Harardhere district?

ANNEX 2: STUDY WORK PLAN

| Date | Activity | Location | Notes |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| 20 Aug 2024 | Travel to Harardhere | Dhusamareeb | Departure from Galkayo to Harardhere |
| 21 Aug 2024 | | Galkayo | Harardhere |
| 22 Aug 2024 | Initial Community Engagement | Harardhere | Meeting with local leaders and key stakeholders. |
| 23 Aug 2024 | Data Collection Begins | Harardhere | Start conducting surveys and interviews. |
| 24 Aug 2024 | Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) | Harardhere | Conduct FGDs with various community groups. |
| 25 Aug 2024 | Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) | Harardhere | Interviews with local leaders and officials. |
| 26 Aug 2024 | Observation and Documentation | Harardhere | Systematic observation of community infrastructure and services. |
| 27 Aug 2024 | Continued Data Collection | Harardhere | Ongoing surveys, FGDs, and KIIs. |
| 28 Aug 2024 | Follow-Up Interviews and Data Validation | Harardhere | Ongoing surveys, FGDs, and KIIs. |
| 29 Aug 2024 | Final Day of Data Collection | Harardhere | Ongoing surveys, FGDs, and KIIs. |
| 30 Aug 2024 | Preliminary Data Analysis | Harardhere | Ongoing surveys, FGDs, and KIIs. |
| 31 Aug 2024 | Preparation for Departure | Harardhere | Final preparations and packing for return. |
| 01 Sep 2024 | Return Travel | Harardhere to Dhusamareeb | Departure from Harardhere and return to base. |
| 02 Sep 2024 | | Galkayo | Dhusamareeb |

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This report reflects the shared vision of all involved parties. It aims to provide actionable insights to contribute to a more peaceful and resilient future for Harardhere and other liberated areas in Galmudug. We are proud to have been part of this initiative, and we hope that the findings and recommendations will serve as a foundation for future peacebuilding, governance, and community development efforts.

With sincere appreciation,



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Analays and Solution

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DEVELOPMENT**

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