

Somalia Minority and Marginalized Settlements Inclusion Sites Assessment Report - 2024



Prepared
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1.0 Foreward Message

Despite this attention, widespread discrimination and human rights abuses continue at an alarming rate. At least 90% of Minority and Marginalized Groups in the developing world are denied the right to education and are disproportionately likely to live in poverty.

Discrimination on the basis of minority concerning education, food, security, the right to play and the right to participation as well as sexual, emotional and physical violence against marginalized groups remains largely undisclosed and unseen in Somalia. Looking through the results of this study, we can see that this is a large, pervasive issue in Somalia.

In more humanitarian and emergency contexts within Somalia, abuses against minority groups could be exacerbated and compounded. Whether through conflict or natural disaster, abandonment and increased risk of death are very real possibilities for all minority and marginalized groups. Every organization working with Minority Groups in Somalia has a responsibility to ensure their facilities and services cater for the group. The discrimination and violence which people with minorities face are too great to be ignored, as is the potential percentage of the population facing these abuses. Therefore, programs need to follow the principle of universal design, ensuring accessibility to all minority and marginalized groups, rather than viewing working with the group as a wholly specialized skill-set. By viewing the group as needing only specialized support, actors are excluding the minority and marginalized groups further and ignoring/exacerbating their protection concerns. Besides extreme exclusions, the group is often denied protection and accessibility to their rights on par with other people in less visible ways. Programs and policies focusing on the group, rarely include them either implicitly or explicitly. However, they will be found in any such groupings. Although there are various international standards that recognize the rights of Minority Groups, they remain a group that seems largely forgotten or overlooked, and therefore excluded, from general developmental and humanitarian work.

In Somalia more needs to be done. MRDO hope that through this report, we can inspire more action from partners and the government to ensure that minority groups no longer remain invisible but rather their protection and equal recognition become a core component of working on any program or policy addressing Minority and Marginalized groups, with a particular focus on their protection.

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2.0 Report Executive Summary

Minority groups face acute protection issues in Somalia. These issues range from lack of education to high incidence of sexual violence, lack of funding opportunities, poverty and high illiteracy levels, lack of comprehensive research, absence of awareness programs, etc. Despite the critical nature of the situation, little research has been performed on the needs and vulnerabilities of the minority and marginalized group in Somalia. This report by MRDO aims to highlight some of the existing gaps.

The objective of this report is to promote the inclusion of members of minority groups in decision-making and implementation structures in Somalia.

Minorities have been shown to benefit less from aid interventions and participate less in decisions. Many minorities are now entirely dependent on casual labor for income. No census has been carried out in Somalia for decades and data is lacking about total population numbers, let alone any break down by clan or by minority group. However, there is strong anecdotal evidence that minorities are under-represented in politics and governance. Under the 4.5 power sharing formula minorities are allocated 50% of the opportunities to major clans. And many minority analysts consider that even this half of what others are allocated is not achieved in reality. This is widely perceived by minorities as treating them as worth half of any other Somali citizen. Even the 1/9th of posts are reported as being captured by individuals who are closely aligned with major clans who wield all the power locally and do not truly represent or speak for minorities.

3.0 MRDO Brief Background

MRDO is a legally registered organization based in Somalia focusing on improving the lives and livelihoods of marginalized and minority groups and promoting respect for their dignity and fundamental rights while working as a platform on matters humanitarian, human rights and development utilizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other human rights instruments.

MRDO is endeavoring to help marginalized and minority groups, women, children and other vulnerable groups who have suffered injustices, hardship and neglect due to war, natural disasters or poverty by offering them the opportunity to develop their independence and protect their dignity for a socially, economically and politically empowered society free of gender inequalities.

The organization is founded on the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law with a strong focus on the vulnerable, marginalized and minority groups in all the regions of Somalia and beyond that have been subjects of oppression, discrimination and marginalization for years.

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4.0 Report Introduction and Background

4.1 Overview

The Somali minorities collectively and minority members individually suffer denial and abuse of the whole range of basic human rights set out in international and regional conventions including the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention Against Torture (CAT), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, all of which are legally binding on Somalia. Many of the abuses Somali minorities have experienced in conflict situations are also violations of the Geneva Conventions and other provisions of international humanitarian law.

The HCT Centrality of Protection (CoP) strategy identifies three priority areas where protection is lacking in different parts of Somalia and poses a significant challenge to the entire humanitarian response as identified by the Protection Cluster's analysis in consultation with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG).

The first of these priorities is to "identify and address differential risks of exclusion and discrimination, including those based on societal discrimination, power structures, vulnerability, age, and gender (and the need for inclusion of all relevant responders in order to prevent exclusion)." In particular the exclusion of persons with minority clan affiliations features prominently in the strategy as well as the accompanying action plan with the goal to expand the evidence-based on exclusion and discrimination faced by persons with minority clan affiliations in Somalia in order to effect change.

4.2 List of Minority and Marginalized IDP Sites in Hirshabelle

NO	IDP NAME	Districts	Type	Ethnic clan	latitude	long latitude	Household
1	Xamir-Gaab	Beletweyne	Minority	Eyle	4.754550	45.2053493	100
2	Cadiley	Beletweyne	Minority	Eyle	4.722387	45.2058969	150
3	Ala-Amin 2	Beletweyne	Minority	Reer Shabele	4.758358	45.1817116	100
4	Ala-suge	Beletweyne	Minority	Reer Shabele	4.753603	45.1880735	140
5	Ceynaba	Beletweyne	Minority	Gaboyo	4.736537	45.1825920	70
6	Iftin	Beletweyne	Minority	Makane	4.753906	45.1888083	110
7	Gaboyo2	Beletweyne	Minority	Gaboyo	4.737611	45.2142200	120
8	Bilan 1	Beletweyne	Minority	Elaay	4.736197	45.2102842	158
9	Ala-Bari	Beletweyne	Minority	Makane	4.735589	45.2110884	70
10	Bilan 2	Beletweyne	Minority	Mushunguli	4.754550	45.2167790	100
11	Danyeere	Beletweyne	Minority	Reer Shabele	4.757549	45.1873349	65

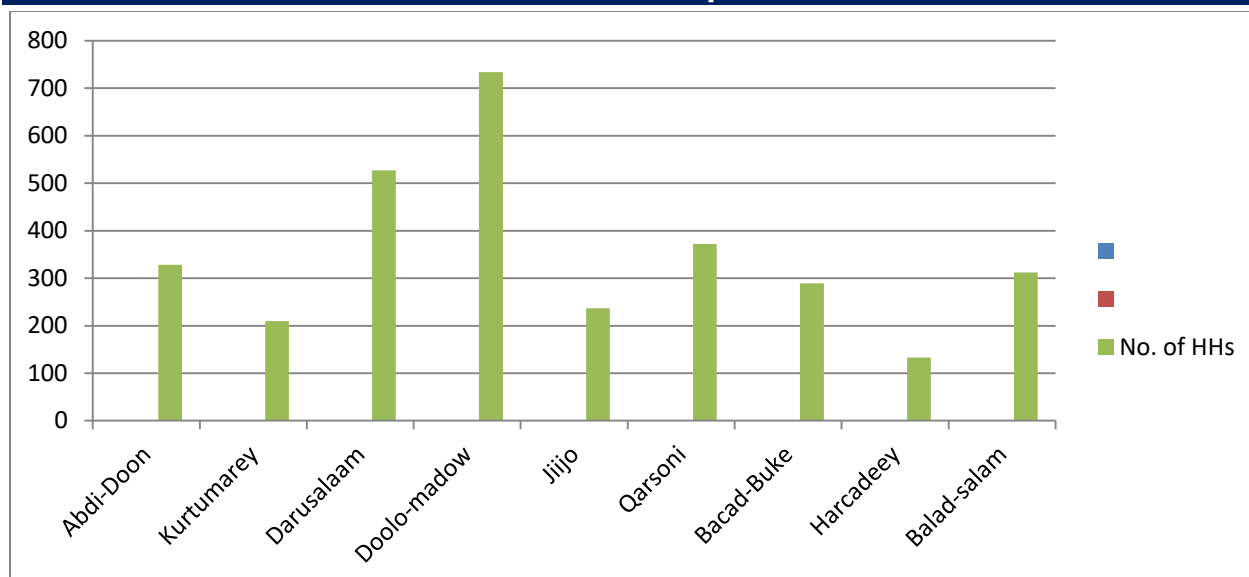
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12	Budul	Beletweyne	Minority	Reer Shabele	4.750979	45.2032361	118
13	Shilow	Beletweyne	Minority	Elaay	4.735003	45.1811702	80
14	Dayax Sigalow	Beletweyne	Minority	Makane	4.756215	45.1866632	127
15	Jiigle	Beletweyne	Minority	Makane	4.727591	45.2187947	120
16	Daryeel Yacquub	Buulo Beletweyne	Minority	Shiidle	4.729815	45.2195186	80
17	Sugow	Beletweyne	Minority	Reer Shabele	4.751888	45.2078861	58
18	Sigalow-kheyrqabe	Beletweyne	Minority	Eyle	4.748446	45.1927082	79
19	Jinawkey	Beletweyne	Minority	Makane	4.724891	45.2073510	70
20	Macruuf	Beletweyne	Minority	Reer Shabelle Ciise	4.757264	45.1836509	130
21	Bardaale	Beletweyne	Minority	Ajuuraan	4.735589	45.1900398	50
22	Moyko	Jowhar	Minority	Shiidle	2.758730	45.4984500	361
23	Shiiq Oyaaye	Jowhar	Minority	Garmagalay-shiidle	2.778666	45.5265961	257
24	Shiiq Omar	Jowhar	Minority	Shiidle	2.775020	45.5116650	105
25	Barwaaqo	Jalalaqsi	Minority	Makane	3.372319	45.5958122	240
26	Wadajir	Jalalaqsi	Minority	Eyle	3.374186	45.6129569	155
27	Wadajir	Buloburte	Minority	Eyle	3.849192	45.5587407	139

4.3 Details of affected Minority villages evacuated in riverine areas

#	Village name	GBS	GBS	HH	Total of HHs
1.	Abdi-Doon	4.8555	45.11398	328	328
2.	Kurtumarey	4.85755	45.11006	210	210
3.	Darusalaam	4.85839	45.09868	527	527
4.	Doolo-madow	4.86077	45.08928	734	734
5.	Jiijo	4.8669	45.0771	237	237
6.	Qarsoni	4.84993	45.11953	372	372
7.	Bacad-Buke	4.84993	45.16417	289	289
8.	Harcadeey	4.8656	45.16974	133	133
9.	Balad-salam	4.82674	45.16417	312	312
				Total	3,142

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MRDO team conducted an assessment of minority in evacuated areas in the Northwest villages that have been historically neglected in terms of humanitarian assistance.

The key findings were as follows:

- *The assessment found that minority settlements in the Northwest villages have never received any assistance during the recent Gu seasonal rains and floods. These populations were left without access to critical relief supplies, shelter, and other aid.*
- *The minority communities have never received any assistance in the aftermath of the post Elinino floods. Despite the devastation caused by these floods, the vulnerable minority populations residing in the evacuated areas were completely overlooked by humanitarian efforts.*
- *The lack of support during both the Gu rains/floods and post-Elinino periods has left these minority groups in dire conditions, with many lacking accesses to food, clean water, shelter, and other basic necessities. Their situation has been further exacerbated by their displacement from their home villages.*
- *The assessment highlighted an alarming pattern of systemic neglect and marginalization of these minority populations, who appear to have been entirely excluded from humanitarian response efforts in the region over an extended period of time.*

In light of these findings, MRDO is calling for an immediate intervention and significantly scaled-up assistance to address the acute needs of the minority evacuated populations in the Northwest villages. Coordinated efforts by governmental and non-governmental humanitarian organizations will be critical to provide these vulnerable groups with life-saving relief and support their long-term recovery and rehabilitation.

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4.4 Justification For Minority Inclusion Detailed Site Assessment

In-line with the HCT CoP strategy action plan, the Protection Cluster undertook a desk review of assessments and tools used in the humanitarian response. The outcomes of this desk review indicate a clear need for a more robust evidence based to identify the occurrence of exclusion and discrimination faced by persons with minority clan affiliations to inform advocacy for change and more inclusive programming.

List of Riverine villages affected Gu floods:-

These comprise of Balad-nuur, Donkudle, Xabasho cad, Guro Jadhi, Jameeco, Macaruf, Dharkeynta, Kilidheere, Qoydo, Burjodheer, Baladsalam, Deefow, Quracle, Boolo, Dhaywabar, Bacaad, Kalakalac, Jiijo, Doolo meadow and Bulcad.

These villages have been affected by Gu rains and Shabelle river floods by destroying and damaging their crops and canals. Worst is that these group have never received any form of support and assistance since Dayr Elinino and the ongoing current situation. The group is in dire need of assistance including not limited to hygiene kits, shelter, clean water, food, health and other assistance.

5.0 Report Goal and Purpose

The specific objective of the study was to identify and address different risks of exclusion and discrimination, including those based on societal discrimination, power structures, vulnerability, age and gender and the need for inclusion of all relevant responders in order to prevent exclusion in northwest villages evacuation sites.

The report is very relevant to SDG 16 as it will promote inclusion in Somalia's society and in particular in local government institutions. It will also make institutions more effective (in reaching furthest behind populations) and more accountable. Additionally, the report will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local levels including SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 Reduced Inequality and SDG 16 (Peace Justice and Strong Institutions).

The report presents our findings from the questionnaires and study conducted as part of the formative evaluation and routine monitoring with input garnered predominantly from other service providers in the region.

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6.0 Report Findings and Results

Minorities are excluded from roles in local and national governments. Clan dynamics influence appointments more than merit. It is impossible for minorities to “break into” such offices and structures.

- The assessment found that minority settlements in the Northwest villages have never received any assistance during the recent Gu seasonal rains and floods. These populations were left without access to critical relief supplies, shelter, and other aid.
- The minority communities have never received any assistance in the aftermath of the post Elinino floods. Despite the devastation caused by these floods, the vulnerable minority populations residing in the evacuated areas were completely overlooked by humanitarian efforts.
- The lack of support during both the Gu rains/floods and post-Elinino periods has left these minority groups in dire conditions, with many lacking accesses to food, clean water, shelter, and other basic necessities. Their situation has been further exacerbated by their displacement from their home villages.
- The assessment highlighted an alarming pattern of systemic neglect and marginalization of these minority populations, who appear to have been entirely excluded from humanitarian response efforts in the region over an extended period of time.

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