

# JOWHAR

## URBAN PROFILE

Working Paper and Spatial Analyses for Urban  
Planning Consultations and  
Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Cover:  
Aerial view of flooding in Jowhar, 2013, AU UN IST Photo / Tobin Jones

Jowhar Urban Profile  
Working Paper and Spatial Analyses for Urban Planning Consultations and Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises -  
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In Collaboration with





- Mainly Agriculture Usage
- River
- Mainly covered by trees
- Built-up Area
- Trunk Road
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road



scale 1 : 25.000



Coordinte System: WGS 1984  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Datum: WGS 1984  
 Unit: Meters

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# 1. INTRODUCTION



Streets of Jowhar

**“You can have data without information, but you cannot have information without data.”**

Daniel Keys Moran

The Jowhar Urban Profile provides for an overview about the main features of the city. It shortly analyses the current development challenges with a special focus upon displacement and urban resilience with regard to the Shebelle river floods.

It is a complementary technical document to a several other planning studies and reports to shape the future of Jowhar in a more sustainable way, providing basic urban services to all communities and to leave no one behind.

This Urban Profile summarizes major results of the Community Action Planning process (CAP), government consultations and urban planning exercises from a spatial and socio-economic perspective. Proper urban planning based upon solid urban data, resource mobilization and government led coordination becomes more important to layout foundation work for infrastructure improvements, livelihood opportunities, housing, education, health and other services.

It is hoped that this working paper contributes to the necessary public discussion on Jowhar’s future development and facilitates decision making by local, regional and state and federal authorities.

Reference is being made to other studies and data updates undertaken by UN agencies and other international

stakeholders, such: Fragility Index Maturity Model (FIMM), UNFPA Population Estimation Survey, Atlas of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in Somalia, SWALIM, Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and Emergency Tracking Tool data (IOM).

This Urban Profile was drafted with support by the local Core Facilitation Team of Midnimo II (Unity) project: “Support for the Attainment of Durable Solutions in Areas Impacted by Displacement and Returns in Galmudug and Hirshabelle States.”

Midnimo II is jointly implemented by The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and funded by United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.



Jowhar's bridge

**“Waxa aad heli kartaa xog adiga oo aan haysan warbixin, laakiin ma heli kartid warbixin adiga oo aan helin xog”.**

Daniel Keys Moran

Warbixin-magaaleedka Jowhar, waxa ay soo bandhigaysaa warbixin guud oo ku aaddan tilmaamaha ugu mudan ee magaaladu leedahay. Waxa ay si kooban u dhiraandhirinaysaa caqabadaha hortaagan horumarka magaalada iyada oo fiir gaar ah loo yeelanayo saameynta fatahaadda wabiga Shebeelle, barakicinta uu keeno iyo adkeysiga magaaladu ay leedahay.

Waa xog – farsameed kaabaysa daraasado kale oo ku saabsan dhinaca qorsheynta qaabaynaysana muuqaalka mustaqbal ee Beledweyne oo ku taagan lugo xooggan iyada oo maaamulka magaaladu na bixinayo adeegyada aasaasiga ah ee ay ku leeyihiin dhamaan bulshada ku nool Jowhar.

Qorsho magaaladkan, waxa uu soo koobayaa natiijooyin ka soo baxay kullannadii hannaanka qorsho – shaqeedka bulsho, wadatashiyadii hey'adaha dowladda iyo dhammaan howl-galladii wajiyada badan lahaa kuwaas oo diiradda lagu saarayey qaabeynta qorshaha deggaameed iyo horumarinta mustaqbalka bulshada iyo dhaqaalaheeda. Sidaas daraadeed, qorshe dagaameed hufan oo ku salaysan xog deggaameed sugan, isu-keenid dhaqaale iyo isku dubarid ay horseed u tahay dowladda ayaa lafdhabar u noqoneysa aasaaska shaqo ee lagu hagaajinayo kaabayaasha kala duwan, fursadaha nololeed ee bulshada, guriyeynta, waxbarashada, caafimaadka iyo addegyada kale.

Waxaa la rajeynayaa in qorshe howleedkan uu ku dari doono fikrado mirodhal ka dhiga, fududeeyana go'aannada ka soo baxa wadahaladda mahuraanka ah ee ay bulshada iyo hogaankeeda (heerarka kala duwan ee dowladda) ay ka yeeshaan mustaqbalka magaalda Jowhar iyo horumarinteeda.

Tixraaca qoraalkan waxaa laga soo xigtay daraasadihii kale iyo xogihii kala danbeeyey ee ay sameeyeen xafiisyadiisa kala duwan ee UN ka iyo danyeeyayaasha kale ee caalamiga ah sida: FIMM, SWALIM, Waaxda Lafagurka Sugnaanshaha Cuntada iyo Nafaqada FSNAU, UNFP, Waaxda Qiyaasta Dadweynaha, Maababka Webiyada Shabeelle iyo Juba iyo Waaxda Xogta U kuurgalka Gargaarka ee (IOM).

Howshan (Qaabayn – magaaladka) qoraalkeeda waxaa gacan ka geystay Kooxda Lafdhabarta u ah hawl socodsiinta barnaamimka Midnimo ee ujeedadiisu tahay: “In la taageero qorshaha xal waara loogu raadinayo deegaamada barakacu saameeyey ee Galmudug iyo Hirshabeelle.”

Midnimo II waxa si wadajir ah u wada fulinaayo The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), waxaana maalgalinaayo United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

## 2. JOWHAR CITY INFORMATION

### LOCATION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Jowhar is the capital city of Hirshabelle State and also the administrative city of Middle Shabelle Region. It is situated about 90 km north of Mogadishu.

Jowhar consists of 4 urban villages, namely Horseed, Bulosheikh, Kulmis, and Hantiwadag. The first two villages are located on the east side of the town, and the last two are on the west side. (See map of page 2)

Jowhar has strategic importance because of its location. It connects Mogadishu to the rest of the central regions through the main road that crosses the country.

### GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The current Hirshabelle State is the youngest state of the Federal Government of Somalia.

Jowhar has a district administration led by its District Administrator who was appointed by the federal government with consultation from the state government. The District Administrator has a Deputy District Administrator and two Secretaries of Security and Finance. The district administration is plural in terms of local sub-clans but not in gender.<sup>1</sup>

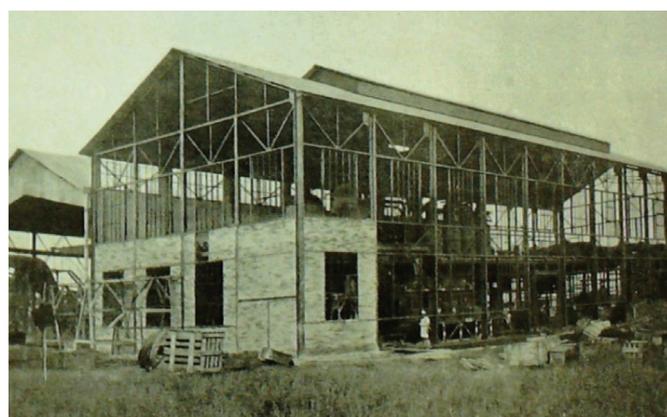
Jowhar does not have a district council yet, but the pre-formation process is currently underway as there was a meeting held in Jowhar in July 2019 to start the discussion of district council formation and to mobilize the community in taking part of the process. The state is headed by the Regional President and is composed of the Jubaland Central Government and Regional and District Administrations.<sup>2</sup>

A Council of Elders exists in Jowhar and is relatively influential, particularly on matters concerning clan conflict and resource disputes. The council reportedly works with the local government to help with local stability and peace processes. The full council consists of 40 members from a wide range of sub-clans.<sup>1</sup>

### HISTORY

In the Middle Ages, Jowhar was part of the influential Ajuran Sultanate, that covered much of southern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia extending from Mareeg in the north to Qelafo in the west and Kismayo in the south.

During the Italian Colonialism in 19th century Jowhar was developed as a agricultural center experimenting with new cultivation techniques. The italians, who believed in the economic potential of the region, built dams, roads, schools, hospitals, a church and a mosque. In 1926, the colony

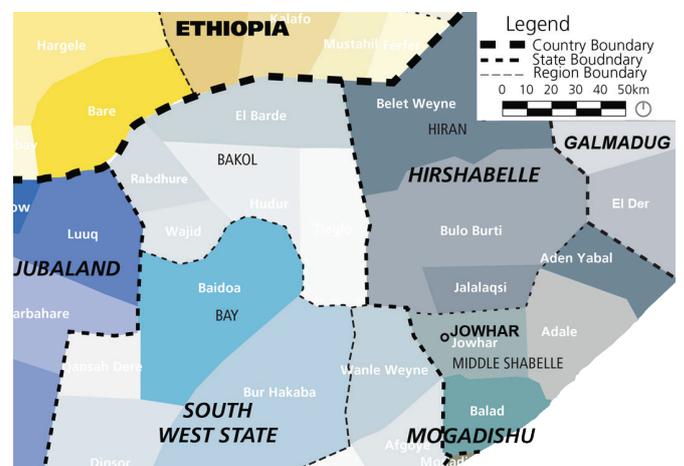


Jowhar's sugar factory under construction in November 1927

1. Fragility Index Maturity Model (FIMM), Round 3 - March 2019
2. Jowhar Community Action Plan, 2019



Jowhar's Regional Context



Administrative boundaries around Jowhar

comprised 16 villages, with some 3,000 Somali and 200 Italian inhabitants. It was commonly known as Villabruzzo. In 1940s there was a railroad system that linked Jowhar to Mogadishu to export the products from their large scale farms.

Jowhar only became the regional capital in the mid-1960s when Mogadishu was taken out of Middle Shabelle to form its own region, Banaadir.

After the independence of Somalia in 1960, Jowhar changed name from the Italian Villaggio Duca degli Abruzzi to the current name.

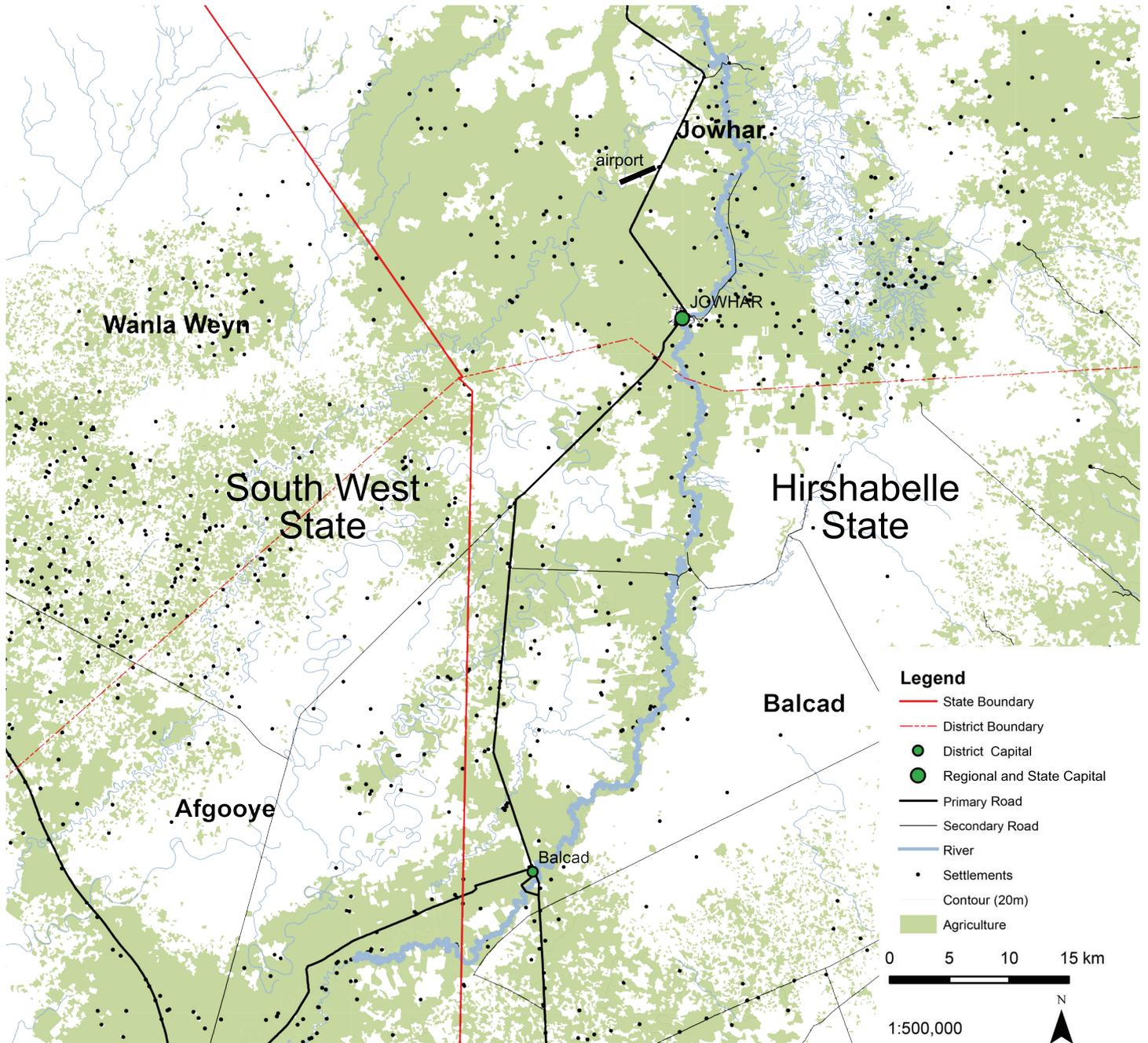
In 2004 Transitional Federal Government moved to Jowhar as a joint administrative capital of the government.

In 2006 the Islamic Courts Union assumed control of Jowhar and other parts of southern Somalia, but the Transitional Federal Government supported by troops from Ethiopia and the African Union re-established its authority on December of the year.

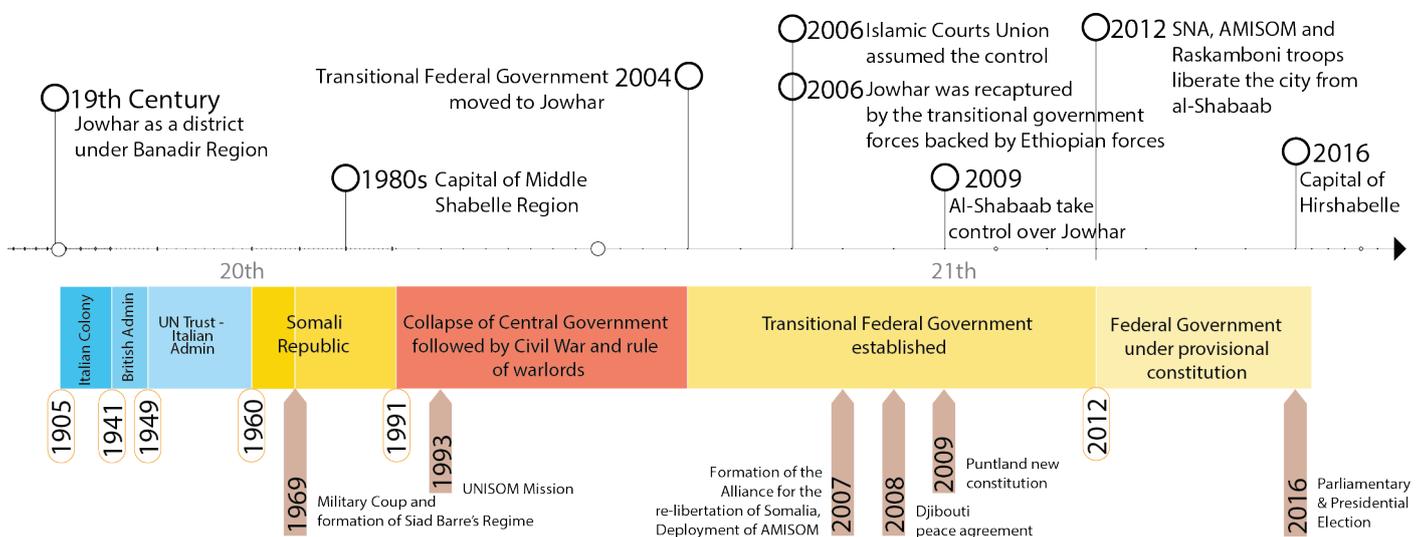
On May 17, 2009, the Islamist al-Shabab militia took the town and imposed new rules.

The town was recovered from Al Shabaab by the Somali National Army (SNA) with the help of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in 2012.

In 2016 Jowhar became the capital city of the newly formed Hirshabelle State of Somalia.



Jowhar and its hinterland



Timeline of significant event of Jowhar in the last century

### 3. URBAN GROWTH AND DEMOGRAPHICS

#### PEOPLE AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

UNFPA Somalia population estimates of 2014 indicate that Middle Shabelle has a total population of 516,036; comprising an urban population of 114,348, a rural population of 249,326, 100,402 nomads and 51,960 IDPs.<sup>3</sup>

Middle Shabelle has the highest percentage of rural population (48%) after Lower Shabelle (60%) and Bay (58%) with a significantly high male population (55.6%). Together, these three regions accounted for more than half of the total population living within the rural settlements.<sup>3</sup>

Demographic estimates of the urban villages of Jowhar that have been developed are not considered reliable.

#### POPULATION ESTIMATION OF MIDDLE SHABELLE - 2014<sup>3</sup>

<b>Urban Population</b>	<b>114,348</b>	<b>22.2%</b>
Male pop.	56,104	49.1%
Female pop.	58,244	50.9%
Households:	13,446	
Household size:	8.5 (national average: 6.4)	
<b>Rural Population</b>	<b>249,326</b>	<b>48.3%</b>
Male pop.	138,698	55.6%
Female pop.	110,628	44.4%
Households:	50,099	
Household size:	5.0 (national average: 5.8)	
<b>Nomadic Population</b>	<b>100,402</b>	<b>19.5%</b>
Male pop.	50,000	49.8%
Female pop.	50,402	50.2%
Households:	15,635	
Household size:	6.4 (national average: 6.5)	
<b>IDP:</b>	<b>51,960</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
Male pop.	25,584	49.2%
Female pop.	26,376	50.8%
Households:	14,731	
Household size:	3.5 (national average: 3.7)	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>516,036</b>	

#### URBAN FORM AND URBAN GROWTH

Analysis through satellite imagery (see maps and charts on page 9) shows some growth in the last 15 years but more moderate than in other regions of Somalia.

The growth of Jowhar is determined by the Shabelle river and there are clearly three very distinct spatial zones: the largest to the west of the river composed of the urban villages of Hantiwadag and Kulmis, and two different areas to the east of the river: Horseed and Buulo Sheikh.

These three areas have grown in recent years but in a very different way. Hanntiwadag and Kulmis have grown in a relatively orderly and hierarchical way following a very particular direction, towards the west. This is because the river and the main road serve as a spatial boundary on the east side.

On the other hand, the urban villages of Horseed and Buulo Sheikh, in the east side of Shabelle river, have grown in a less hierarchical way, following an informal pattern.

In all three cases the growth has been horizontal, without a substantial increase in density leaving an area along the river without new constructions.

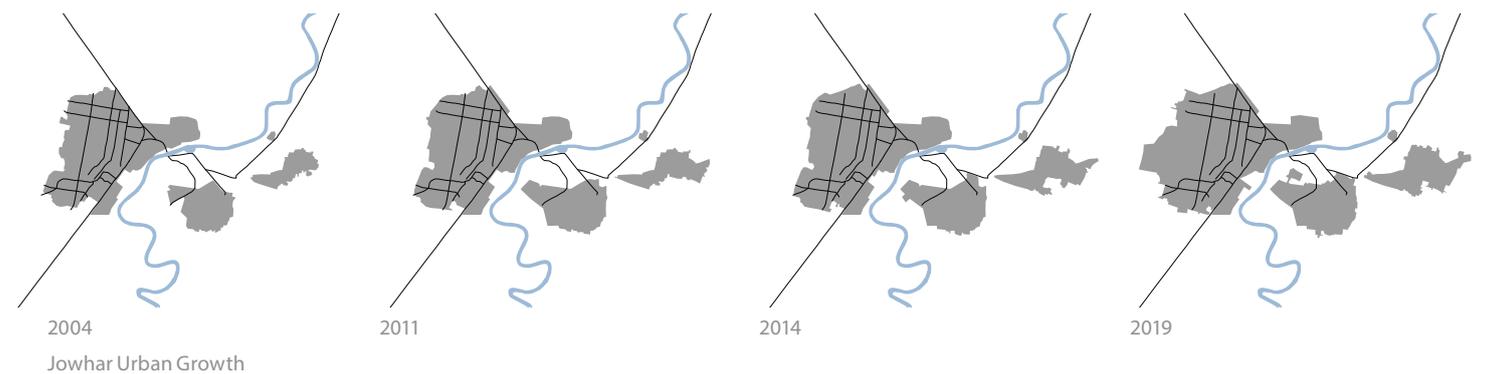
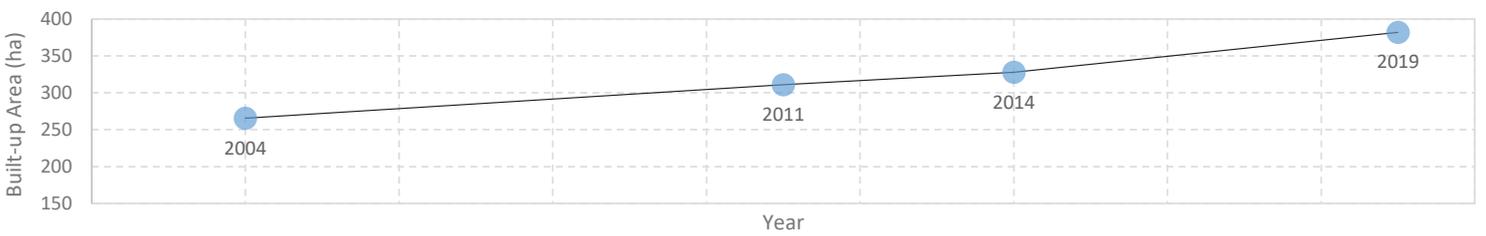
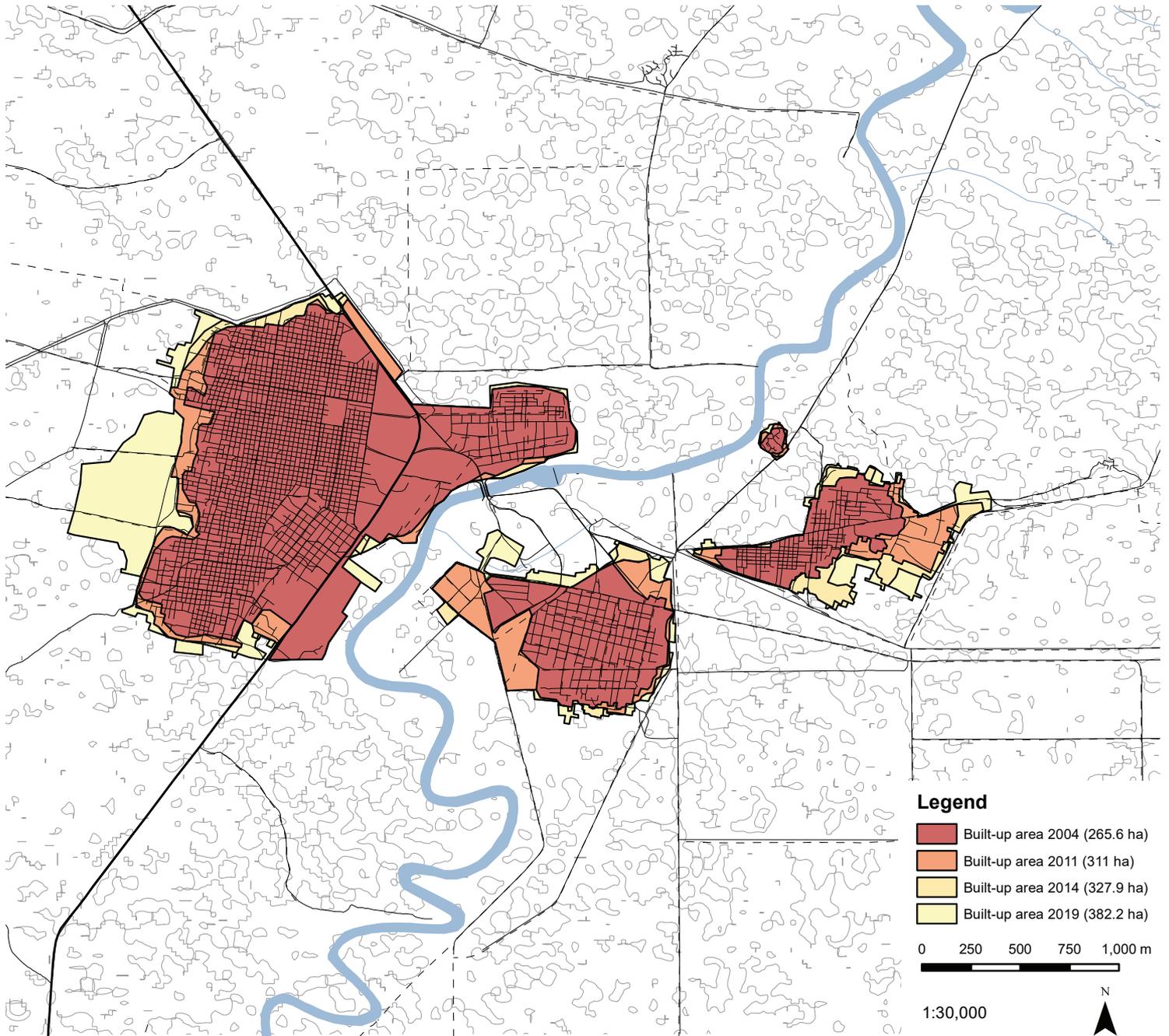
As the aerial photograph below shows, Jowhar is surrounded in all directions by crops. Without actions to regulate and manage the way new construction will take place, Jowhar is likely to suffer loss of fertile agricultural land, that may end in land disputes.

This would not be the only consequence of informal growth. If this trend continues there will be a risk of urban fragmentation, illegal occupation and difficulties to provide basic services and infrastructure.

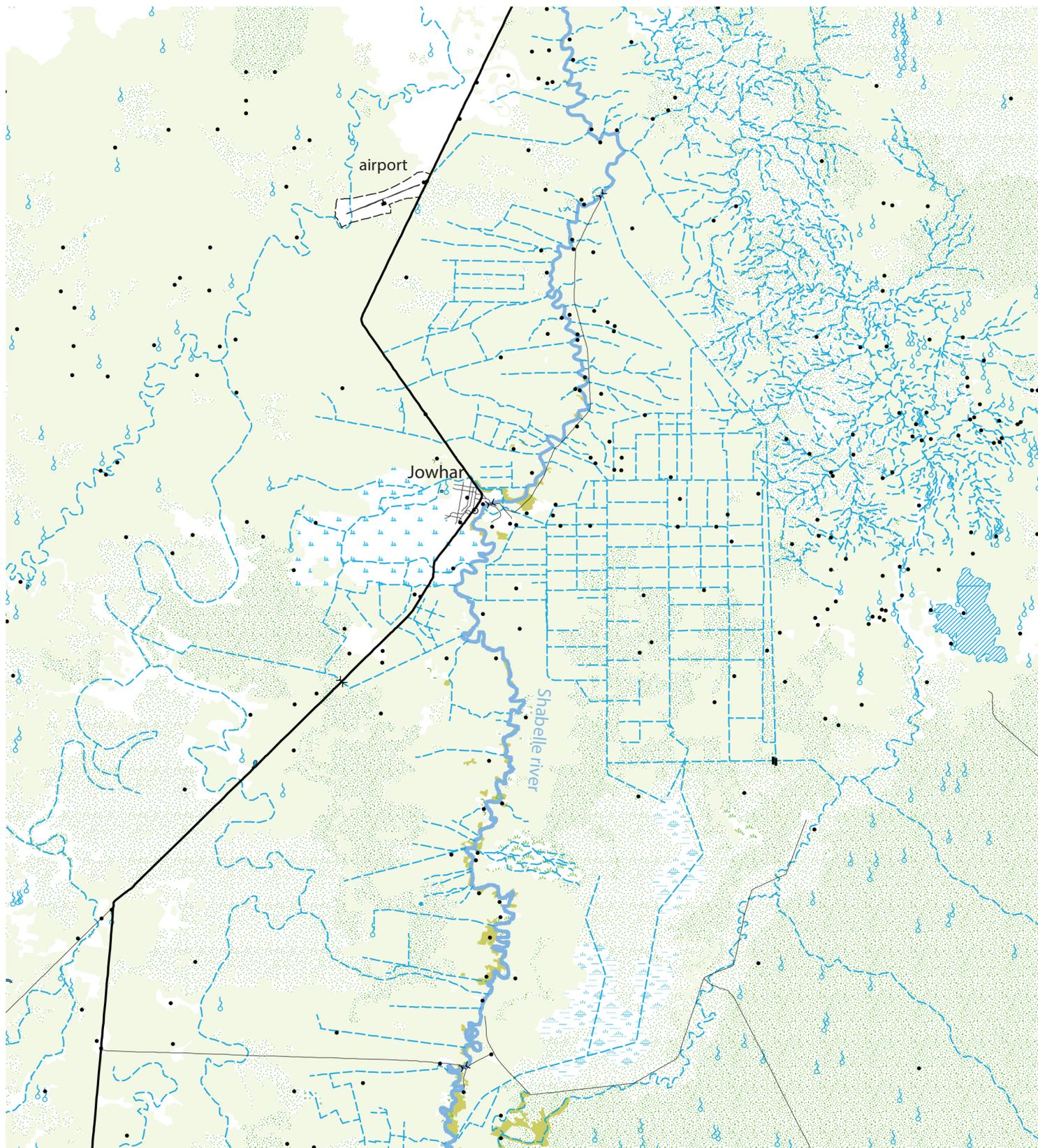


Aerial view of Jowhar

3. UNFPA Population Estimation Survey 2014



## 4. LAND USE PATTERNS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS



### Legend

- |                     |                                |                           |                           |                       |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Settlements       | ○ Natural Pool / Non-Perennial | ▨ Lake / Non-Perennial    | --- River / Non-Perennial | Grassland             |
| == Bridge           | • Well / Water, Perennial      | ■ Reservoir               | ■ Wood / Coniferous       | Grass Thicket         |
| — Road Fairweather  | ⊙ Water Tower                  | ▬ Dam                     | • Wood / Scattered Trees  | Grass Thicket Low     |
| — Road Dual Paved   |                                | --- Ditch / Non-Perennial | Swamp Bog                 | Crop Land / Dry Crops |
| — Road Single Paved |                                | — River / Perennial       | ▨ Rice Field              | Crop Land / Orchard   |

0 2.5 5 7.5 km

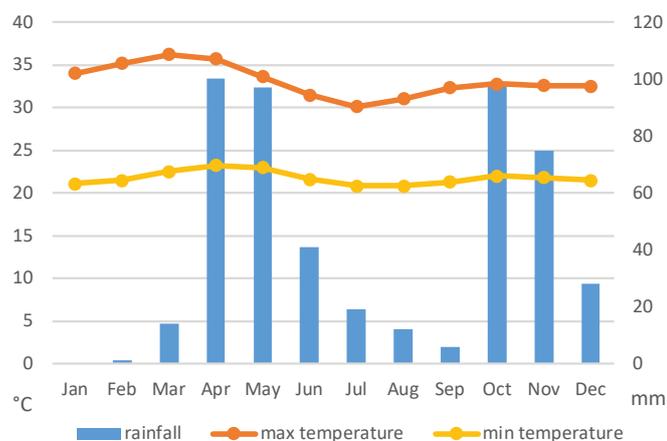
1:200,000



The landscape of the region is strongly conditioned by Shabelle river. The surroundings of Jowhar are characterized by being vast extensions of crops fields. Mango crop fields are common along the river while the cereals crop fields occur further away from the river.

There is an extensive irrigation network for the development of agriculture. This orthogonal network is specially developed at the east side of the town while the flood prone areas of the west are reserved for rice plantations.

The average annual temperature in Jowhar is 27.3 C, whereas the annual average rainfall is 483 mm. There are a seasonal monsoon wind and irregular rainfall. The gu rains, also known as the Southwest Monsoons, begin in April and last until July, and this is when vegetables grow in the district.



The soil in Jowhar District consists of floodplain, alluvial plain with fertile clay loam and dark clay.

Land is affected by moderate to strong degradation, specially in the east side, mainly due to increasing farming, reduction of vegetation cover, and tree cutting.<sup>4</sup>



Jowhar

Jowhar District is prone to recurrent flooding during rainy season.

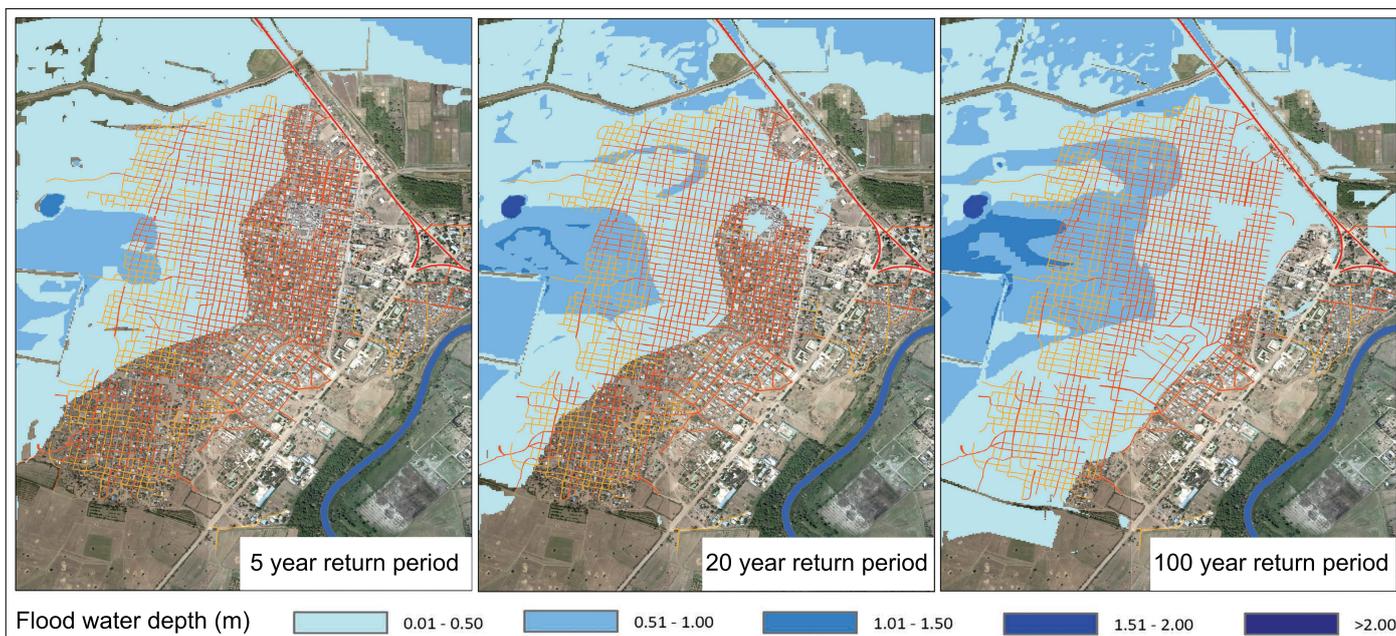
SWALIM, the Somalia Water and Land Information Management project, is an information management program, technically managed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Somalia.

SWALIM serves Somali government institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development agencies and UN bodies engaged in assisting Somali communities whose lives and livelihoods depend directly on water and land resources. The program aims to provide high quality water and land information, including a Early Warning System, crucial to relief, rehabilitation and development initiatives in Somalia, in order to support sustainable water and land resources development and management.<sup>5</sup>

According to the Atlas of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in Somalia, SWALIM, seasonal variations in river flow at Jowhar is less pronounced than the upstream stations.

The previous government had constructed some structures for diverting excess water during high flows and re-directing it to the river during low flows.

Much of these structures are however no longer functional and a lot of water is diverted for irrigation around this area.



Flood risk maps for Jowhar, Atlas of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in Somalia, SWALIM 2010

4. SWALIM, Land Degradation and Monitoring Framework in Somalia - Report No. L-14, 2009

5. SWALIM, <http://www.faoswalim.org>

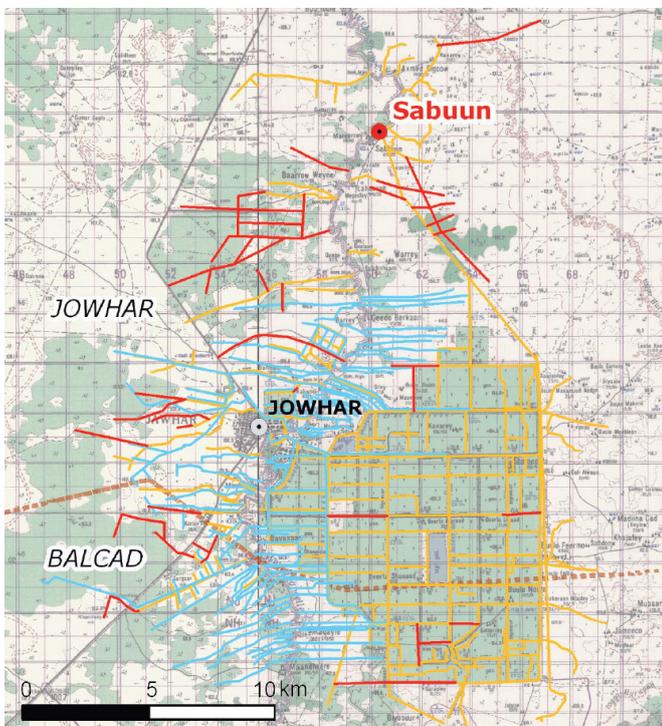
## 5. URBAN AND RURAL ECONOMY - DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL



Food market



Livestock market



Irrigation Infrastructure, Atlas of Somali Water and Land Resources, SWALIM

### LIFELIHOOD AND PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

The first and most common activity is agricultural production, which is suitable and famous for Jowhar.

The common types of agricultural products include maize, beans, rice, sesame, onions and sorghum. Also, fruits that grow in the area such as mango, guava, lemon, banana and tomato and onion.

Livestock production such as cattle, goats, camels, sheeps and poultry is also a productive sector. However, there is no official data about the exact livestock numbers in Jowhar.

### MARKETS

The local markets functions relatively well and have approximately 1,000 stalls. A Chamber of Commerce oversees trading activities.

The main market is in Hantiwadag village and its name is Suuq Weyn ee Jowhar. It is an open market where people sell and buy different items ranging from food, clothing, utensils to medicines.

There is also an important section of the market where they sell agricultural products such as maize, beans, sesame, and rice. The market also includes wholesale area for vegetables and fruits. This area is degraded and need to be improved.

There is also a meat market area which is very small and congested. It exists a big need to extend the meat market to avoid people selling meet in unhealthy areas.

The district has a designated area to sell and buy livestock animals such as camels, cattle, sheep, and goats. It is an open place, and most business transactions happen on Saturdays. When it rains it is often flooded so the stadium in Kulmis Village is a livestock market.

### DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

According to the Somalia National Development Plan 9, 2020 to 2024 Volume 1, the highest priority facing the Hirshabelle State is the management of the Shabelle river, upon which so many livelihoods and indeed national food security depend. In this regard, the river is prone to recurrent flooding yet almost dries up at other times of year. The problem is especially apparent in Jowhar, where river management and related disaster prevention and mitigation are almost completely absent.

The result is the accumulation over the past 30 years of high levels of silt and rubbish in the river channels, which in turn causes increasingly frequent bank over-topping and damage to surrounding farmland. Then, dry seasons water flows in the river have become lower and lower, sometimes failing altogether, due to upstream damming and over-use in Ethiopia.

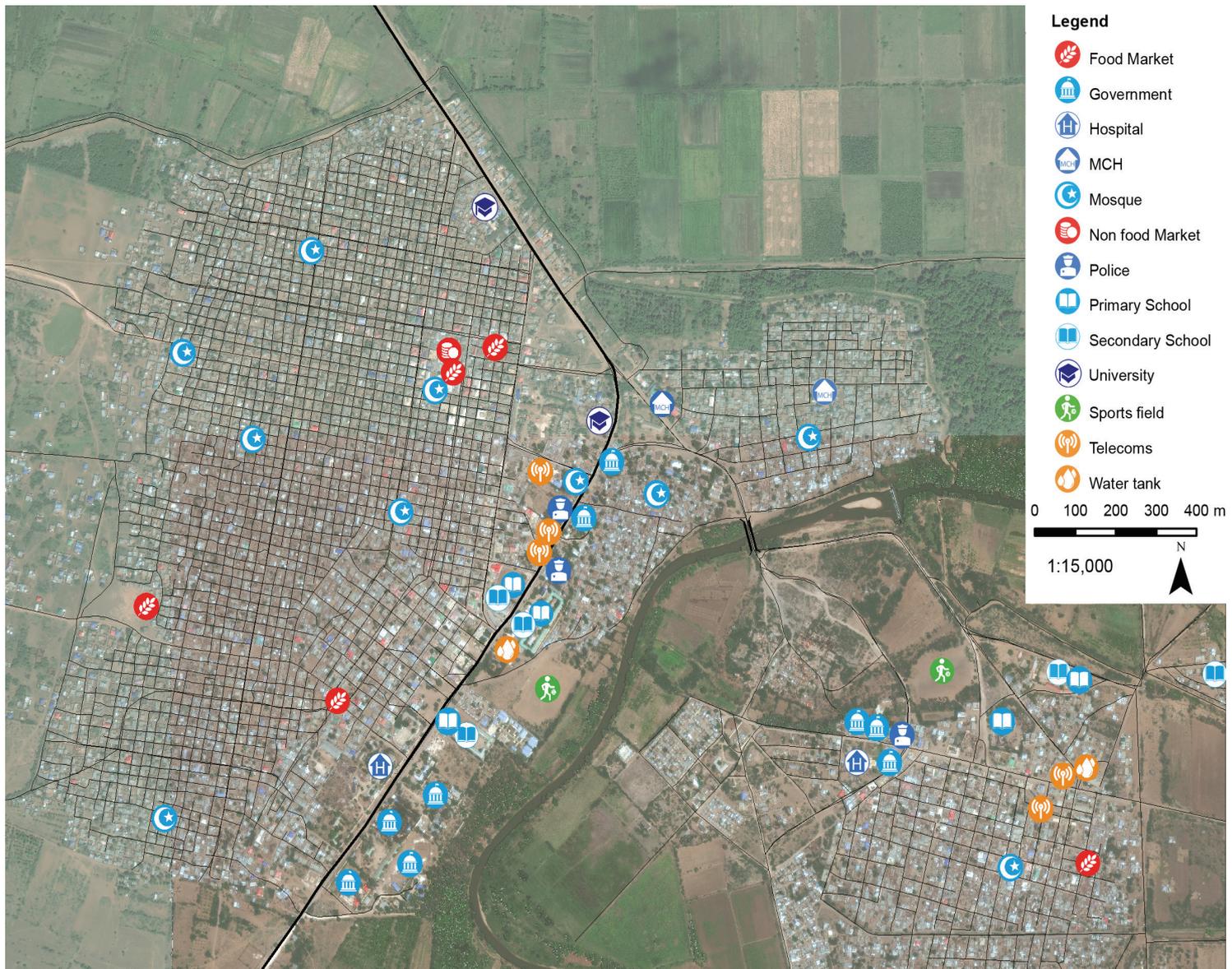
An immediate consequence of flooding is the displacement of local populations and their further impoverishment.

Jowhar has a huge irrigation scheme (see map on the left) which is mostly unusable due to lack of maintenance.

Jowhar's great potential is to regain its previous importance as an agricultural centre that supplies the region with fresh fruits and vegetables.

To exploit this potential it is crucial to repair the irrigation infrastructure as well as the road between Jowhar and Mogadishu.

## 6. BASIC URBAN SERVICES



### SECURITY<sup>6</sup>

Jowhar experiences pockets of insecurity and some lack of access on key routes out of the town.

The district remains under the control of pro-government forces. A sizeable portion of these forces are Burundian troops of the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Troops of the Somali National Army (SNA) are also present.

The access routes to Jowhar run along the main supply route from Mogadishu to Galmudug. Jowhar is vulnerable to roadblocks and ambushes by Al-Shabaab and can be cut off from the capital.

Al-Shabaab is still active in the rural areas surrounding Jowhar, however their activity has been reduced by operations by AMISOM and the SNA.

Despite efforts to make access roads to Jowhar free flowing, gained ground is quickly ceded back Al-Shabaab after they have gone back to their bases following the operation.

6. Fragility Index Maturity Model (FIMM), Round -3, March 2019

7. Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) Integrated Phase Classification, January 2019

### WATER AND SANITATION

There is still a lack of clean water in Jowhar, however the majority of the community can access water from the Shabelle river, which only dries up during drought, resulting in occasional resource conflict.<sup>6</sup> Food security is 'minimal'<sup>7</sup>



Shallow well near Jowhar, Atlas of Somali Water and Land Resources SWALIM

## TRANSPORT AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

Jowhar has two main roads and two minor roads that connect it to other main town or its neighbouring village.

The main highway starts from Mogadishu, passes through Jowhar, and then go further to the central regions of the country. Another one is the one that comes from Jalalaqsi on the north. I

In addition, the other two minor roads connect Jowhar to its neighbouring villages. These roads allow residents of the villages to bring their agricultural or dairy products to town.

However, the conditions of these roads are very poor which makes the exploitation of Jowhar's potential very difficult.

The main road between Jowhar and Mogadishu is critically important for the marketing of agricultural produce – also for accessing social services like health and education – and its poor state of repair is a real constraint in this regard.

Jowhar has a functioning airstrip, 17 km outside of the town. Flights are available on two days and it is run and secured by the AMISOM forces, who have a base at the airstrip.

There is one main bridge in Jowhar that separates the town into two parts, namely Horseed and Hantiwadag (see page 5).

The bridge was built in the colonization era, and it is significant to the movement of people and goods from one side to the other. However, it has not received any maintenance and its physical condition is getting worse.

There is also another small bridge that is between Bulosheikh and Horseed villages

## POWER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Electricity is available 24/7. It is provided by Beco at a relatively cheap price of \$0.6 kw/h.<sup>8</sup>

Network connectivity is serviced by Hormuud, Nationlink and Somtel. News media is mainly disseminated through radio, such as Radio Jowhar, which also broadcasts BBC Somali programmes.<sup>8</sup>

## EDUCATION

There are seven schools in Jowhar. Five of them (Barsane, Adde, Hanafi, Imamu Shafi'i and Horseed) are private while the other two schools (Buulla Balle and Sheikh Oyaye) are public under the "GO-TO-SCHOOL" Program.

The five private schools offer Primary and Secondary levels to around 5000 students. Fees begin at \$11 at primary and \$12 for secondary education.

For the public schools, they do not charge any fees to students, but they only provide primary education and they have 700 students. TAYO youth and development organization support most of the budgetary requirements

In addition, Jowhar has two universities, namely Plasma and Jobkey Universities. The universities offer different programs such as Business administration, IT, Public Admin, Medicine, and Agriculture.

At a district level 33%<sup>9</sup> of the population have not access to education services and their main barrier is the lack of schools

8. Fragility Index Maturity Model (FIMM), Round -3, March 2019  
9. REACH, Somalia Joint Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (JMCNA), 2019



Primary and secondary school

## HEALTH

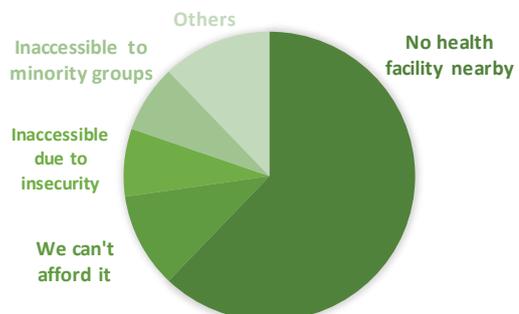
Jowhar Hospital is the district's largest and is in good condition, NGOs shoulder most of the health provision. It offers a range of services, primarily maternity and child healthcare (MCH) and out patient treatment. There are 5 Doctors and 20 Nurses who can offer adequate care and a range of medicines.<sup>8</sup>

Three other private hospital offer medical services for the Jowhar population.



Medical facility in Jowhar

At a district level, only 48% of the inhabitants of Jowhar district have access to health services and their main barriers are<sup>5</sup> :

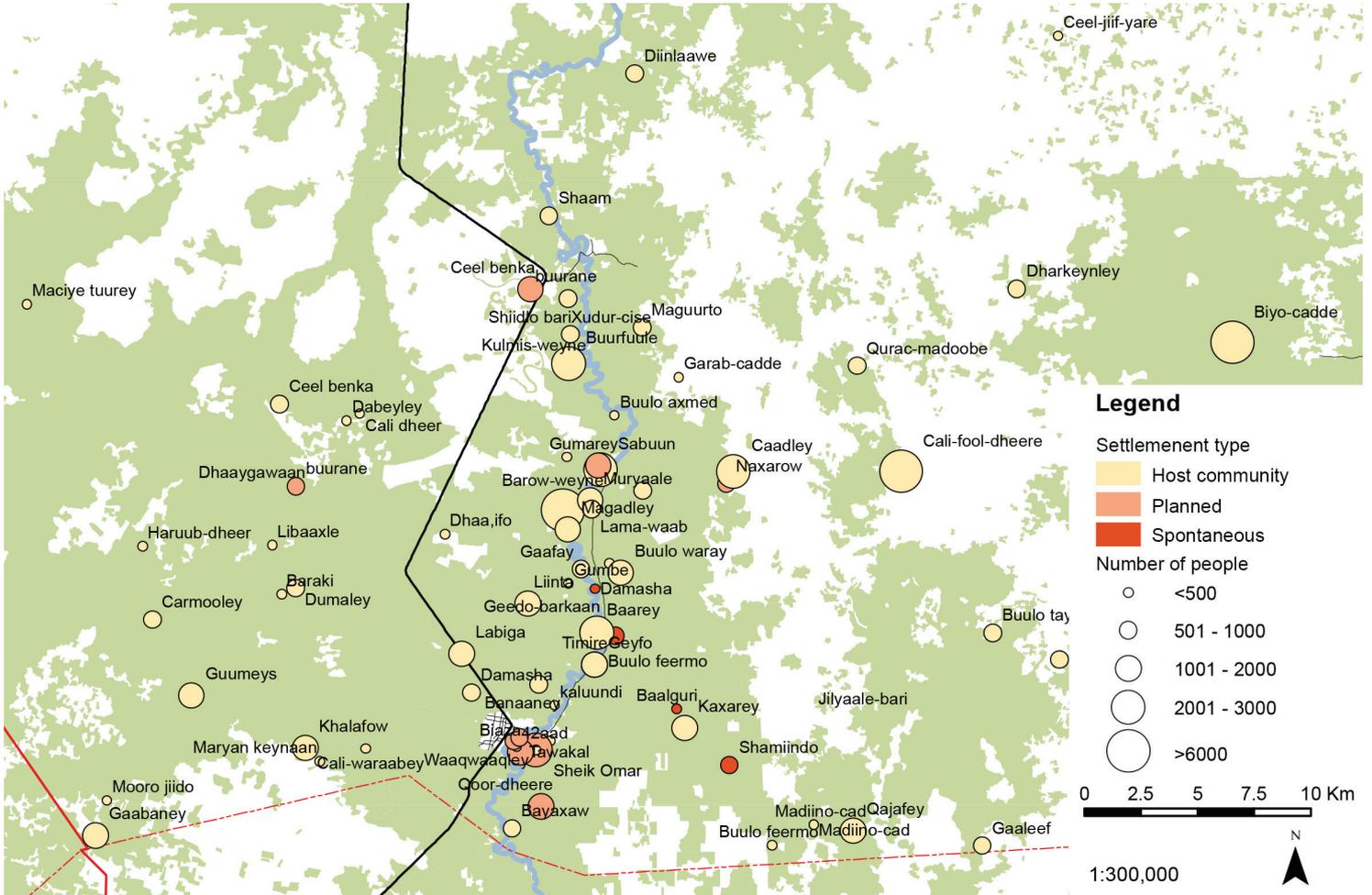


## SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES

According to the District Administration, there are 76 religious buildings such as mosques and Koranic school centres.

Jowhar has two main sports centre: Kulmis stadium (located in Hanti wadaag) and Horsed stadium.

## 7. DIMENSION OF DISPLACEMENT & IMPACT ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT



IDP settlements in Jowhar District. Map made from Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) data.

The Displacement Situation Report (IOM, 2017) states that floods, low-rainfall and chronic food shortages as well as clan conflicts have caused movement into the regional capital since 2013, when the Somali national army supported by AMISOM liberated the city.

According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), as of June 2017, there are more than 95,000 IDPs in Jowhar District.

**95,600**  
Number of IDPs  
(rounded estimates)

**95**  
IDP sites

**19** Data collection was conducted between May 10th and 3rd June 2017 through key informant interviews

### AGE DISAGGREGATION OF IDPS

Children (0-5 years)	25,940
Children (6 - 18 Years)	27,177
Adults (18 - 59 Years)	37,073
Elders (60+ years)	5,291
Unaccompanied children (below 18 years)	120

### TOP THREE CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

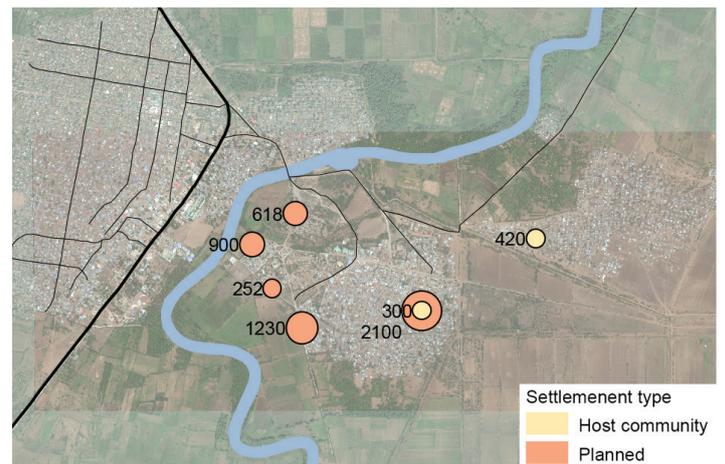
Drought	100%
Insecurity	93%
Outbreak of disease	98%

### PRIORITY NEEDS\*

Food	31%
Shelter/NFIs	13%
WASH	42%
Medical services	14%

\* % sites expressing this need

The estimation of IDPs within the urban area is 5820 in seven settlements, all of them in the east side of the town.

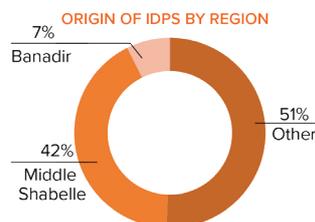
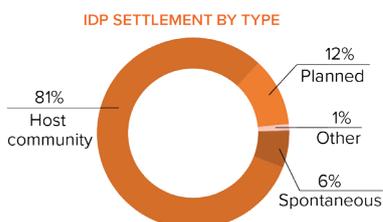


IDP settlements in Jowhar. Map made from Emergency Tracking Tool (ETT) data.

FIMM Round 3, March 2019, reports that in total there are 500 returnees and 200 IDPs in Jowhar town. They are located in four different camps: Talogoye, Sheikh Omar, Geliyaale and SNAI Piaso Camp.

The NGOs that are offering aid are Islamic Relief Somalia, and Intersos.

More analysis is needed to deal with IDP challenge in Jowhar.



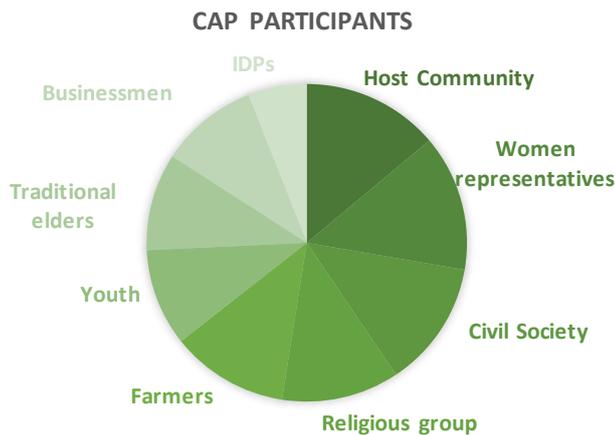
Jowhar Displacement Situation Report, IOM 2017.

## 8. JOWHAR COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING 2019

Community consultations in Jowhar were held from 17 to 23 July 2019, facilitated by a Core Facilitation Team (CFT) comprised of four members: one from the Local Government, one from the District Commissioners office and two from the community.

The CTF was trained by the local teams of IOM and UN-Habitat.

In total the process involved 101 participants, 62 male and 29 female, with a great diversity in terms of socio-economic groups:



Through a participatory, bottom-up planning process the plenary analysed their current situation and developed a shared vision to prioritize initiatives at household, group and community level that facilitate social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and can fulfil their basic needs and rights.

As part of the intense discussions in plenary and working groups the participants agreed on their vision for Jowhar:

**“By the 2029, Jowhar will be the most productive district in Somalia through its increased agricultural production such as maize, beans and rice and improved infrastructure, health, and education sectors that will enhance the community cohesion, social justice, and living standards among different socio-economic groups and clans in the district.”**



Jowhar Community Action Planning



Jowhar Community Action Planning

The Community Action Planning exercise included a SWOT analysis. These are the ideas identified by the community:

### STRENGTHS

- Farming agricultural products such as maize, beans, and rice.
- Keeping or herding livestock.
- The use of Somali Shillings in their business transactions.

### WEAKNESSES

- Dependence on the river for farming.
- Reliance on financial or non-financial support from organizations.
- Little social cohesion and Fragile governance.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Suitability for farming to increase agricultural production.
- Availability of farmlands for Poultry production.
- Shabelle river is available for irrigation.
- Creation of social cohesion and trust towards the local government.

### THREATS

- Floods from the river that can destroy the crops.
- Lack of river water.
- Lack of rains and drought.
- Clan conflicts and Al-Shabaab.

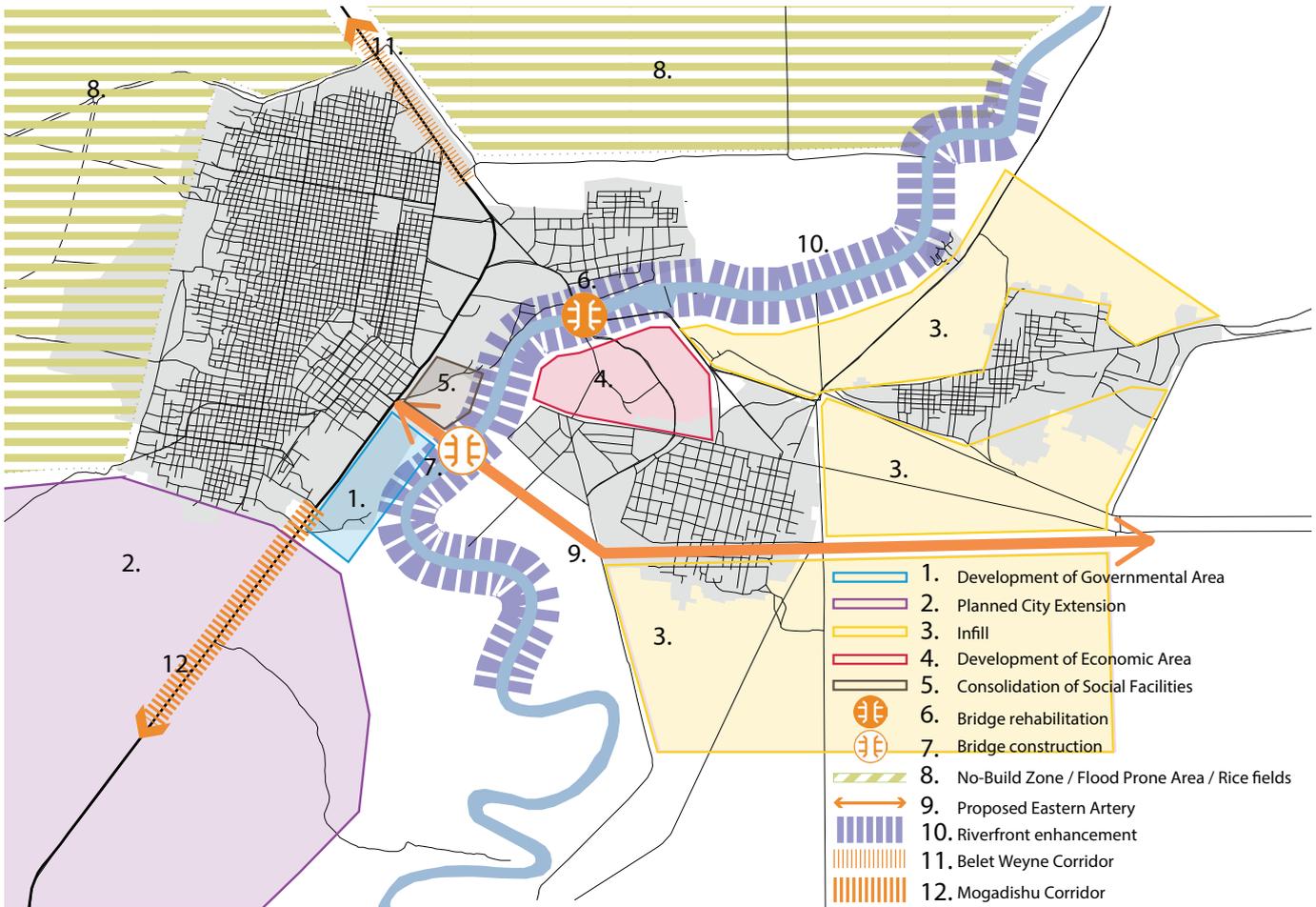
The workshop specified the challenges raised in the consultations into an action plan which identified possible intervention projects that other agencies can tap into. These projects fall into three main goals:

- Improved infrastructure
- Improved health
- Improve education
- Improved livelihoods

Early delivery of small scale intervention projects present an opportunity to mobilise and motivate residents, as well as to ensure the programme maintained momentum



## 9. DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO AND TOWN PLANNING



The Shabelle river has historically been the economic engine of the region and Jowhar a great agricultural center that supplied fruits and vegetables to the surrounding regions and Mogadishu. Due to the lack of maintenance of the infrastructures and absence of river management, Jowhar has lost this protagonism.

However, in 2016 Jowhar became the capital city of the newly formed Hirshabelle State. This new administrative role combined with its great agricultural potential can make Jowhar develop rapidly in the coming years. It is a unique historical moment to take advantage of this opportunity to make development truly sustainable. It is at this point where inclusive and participatory urban planning is of vital importance to get a shared vision on the future development.

Although there is no urban planning law in place and planning institution need more technical capacity, it is possible to move towards this sustainable development with good coordination among the actors active in the district, and following some basic town planning principles. A committed district authority, supported by State and Federal institutions and technical experts, can guide a more sustainable development patterns of Jowhar. If no particular urban planning effort is undertaken, current unsustainable development trends can be expected to continue and urban problems, especially those related to the management of the Shabelle river, will rapidly intensify.

The Shabelle river is a great environmental resource, but also a critical element that, if not managed properly, could threaten the inhabitants and their livelihoods.

According to SWALIM's flood risk maps (page 11), flood prone areas are located on the north and west sides of the city. It is necessary to identify these areas and to establish no-build zones as well as to protect the riverfront.

At the same time, the city extension need to be identified with the view of protecting valuable agricultural land.

From the point of a balanced spatial development that leaves none behind, two growth direction have been identified: the extension

along the Beledweyne-Mogadishu corridor towards the south west (number 2) and the eastern side across the river (number 3).

These growth directions require different planning approaches. The first one (number 2) refers to a planned city extension approach to transform non-urban land into urban land. The second (number 3) deals with a so-called infill approach for the eastern side which lacks social infrastructures but also has potential for residential properties. To improve connectivity and accessibility to all parts of the town, the rehabilitation of the only existing bridge (number 6) is of high priority. A second river crossing (number 7) should be considered in conjunction with the first development growth direction (along Mogadishu corridor), possibly as a pedestrian bridge at the first phase.

It would be advisable to consolidate the area of administration (number 1) and some social facilities (number 5) where they are now, next to the main road and at the same time build new educational and health facilities across the town.

There is a vacant area (number 4) between the old bridge and the proposed one, where the abandoned old sugar factory is located, which would be suitable for economic recovery due to its centrality and good connectivity. For this area, a specific development concept would be necessary.

Finally, as the National Development Plan 9 underlines, it is crucial to improve the roads, especially the Mogadishu corridor to connect the agriculture sector of Jowhar with the demands of the Mogadishu Metropolitan Area.

The proposed development scenario builds upon the existing resources and opportunities in Jowhar and works to support, restore and improve the existing urban systems rather than imposing isolated technical interventions. However, to develop a comprehensive Jowhar Development Plan requires more technical work, stakeholder coordination and resource mobilization under the Government leadership.



Your comments to consolidate this paper are highly appreciated. Please send us your feedback.

Talada aad ku xoojinayso buug-yarahan aad baan u soo dhawaynaynaa. Fadlan fikirkaaga nala wadaag.

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