XUDUR

Strategic Urban Plan for Durable Solutions to Displacement

IOM UN MIGRATION

UN-HABITAT

UKaid from the British people

DANWADAAG
Towards Durable Solutions to Displacement

Xudur Strategic Urban Plan for Durable Solutions to Displacement

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This Project is Funded By:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project is funded by: UKAID & DANWADAAG PROGRAMME

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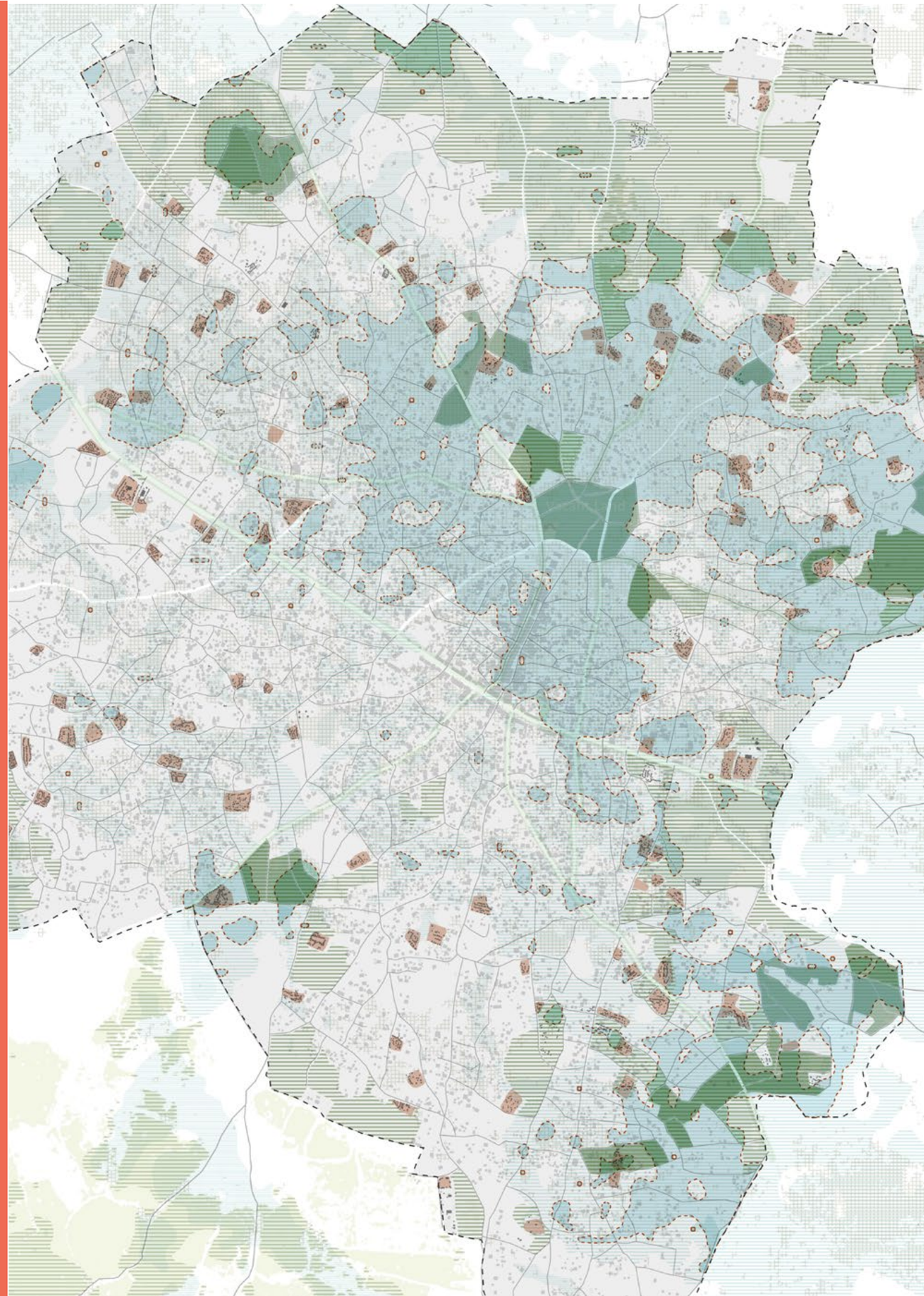

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ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FMS	Federal Member State
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
IDP	Internal Displaced Person
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PESS	Population Estimation Survey of Somalia
IDP	Internally displaced person
IDPs	Internally displaced people
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
SWALIM	Somalia Water and Land Information Management Project
SWM	Solid Waste Management
SWS	South West State
UN	United Nations
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children´s Fund
NGO	Non-Governamental Organization
NUP	National Urbanization Policy
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
POC	Protection of Civilian
UNHCR	United Nations High Comission for Refugees
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
UNSOS	United Nations Support Office for ATMIS
SMoE	State Ministry of Education
SMoH	State Ministry of Health
UKAID	United Kingdom Agency for International Development
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme of the United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization of the United Nations

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INTRODUCTION

Figure 1: Satellite image of Somalia. Source: Copernicus Open Access Hub (Sentinel-2)

01

Introduction

"Integrating displacement dynamics into urban planning is crucial for long-term urban resilience in Somalia. UN-Habitat and the Danwadaag Consortium led by IOM, collaborate to support cities and their local authorities through inclusive, displacement sensitive, and sustainable urban planning processes. This approach aims to prevent informal settlement growth, mitigate flooding risks, resolve land disputes, and promote social inclusion by integrating displaced individuals into the urban fabric of intermediary town environments."

1.1 Project Overview

16,000,000
Somalia Inhabitants

4,2%
National Growth Rate

25
pp/Km^2
Density National Level

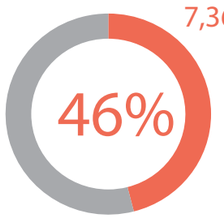
The displacement crisis in Somalia is a longstanding problem, that is exacerbated by natural disasters, floods and droughts, and the continued conflicts throughout many parts of the country. The persistent influx of displaced persons continues to impose challenges on the urban areas while hindering social, economic, and environmental development.

The issues extend beyond just humanitarian concerns. Cities and towns in Somalia must quickly absorb large numbers of newcomers, often leading to the creation of informal settlements that only perpetuate displacement and inequality by leaving IDPs in crowded and precarious conditions.

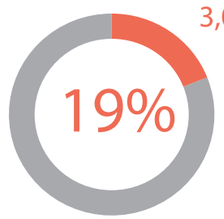
Despite being the region's fastest urbanizing country, Somalia grapples with significant urban planning challenges, with displacement at its core. Inadequate infrastructure capacity hinders the delivery of crucial services like water, food, sanitation, education, and healthcare, posing additional obstacles for newcomers seeking access to these services. Scarce housing options force many IDPs to move to urban areas characterized by chaotic layouts, informal management, and a lack of basic services.

Furthermore, weak governance frameworks in diverse Somali cities impede the formulation and implementation of successful urban planning approaches. The absence of coordination among local authorities, humanitarian entities, and international organizations results in fragmented endeavors that inadequately tackle the root causes of displacement and urban problems.

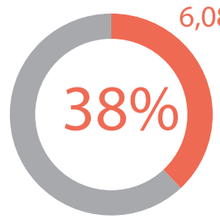
Through a partnership between UN-Habitat and the Danwadaag Consortium led by IOM, both agencies aim to support cities and their local authorities in enabling durable solutions for displaced affected communities (DACs) and long-term city development through inclusive, displacement-sensitive and sustainable urban planning processes. Referral pathways that can prevent the proliferation of informal settlements, reduce the risks of land disputes, and contribute to social inclusion by integrating displaced individuals into the urban fabric of intermediary towns, will be explored.



Somalia Total Urban Population



Somalia Total IDP Population



Somalia People in Need of Humanitarian Assistant

Map 1: Somalia International Setting

“Aligned with the Humanitarian Response Plan and The United Nations Interim Cooperation Framework, UN-Habitat has successfully supported the country´s peace process“

The urban reintegration approaches to displacement represent an opportunity to contribute to the development of Somali cities while addressing humanitarian needs and long-term goals of stability and prosperity within the regions. Establishing a solid collaboration strategy between local and international actors in the Humanitarian -Development-Peace-Nexus approach is essential for effectively assisting displaced populations, hosting communities and local institutions in recovering and building up sustained sources of resilience.

The New Urban Agenda adopted by all UN member States in 2016 further emphasizes the need to pay “special attention” to cities undergoing post-conflict transitions and affected by natural and human-made disasters. How these policies and statements of intent are translated to ensure humanitarian interventions in urban areas fully harness the potential of cities and their inhabitants are yet to be clearly understood in practice.

This is part of a more significant thinking among international and governmental organizations. As the UN’s urban agency, UN-Habitat is fully engaged in this endeavour, and many actual experiences and collaborations in the field are feeding the debate on how to develop common ground for its approach.

1.2 Transitioning From Humanitarian Assitance to Durable Solutions in Urban Contexts

According to the latest data of IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in January 2024 there were 3, 040,000 Internal Displaced Persons in Somalia and approximately the 80% of them were living in urban settings. The numbers are loud and clear, the significant solutions for displacement in Somalia will be in nature, urban. Although, humanitarian assistance provides immediate relief, save lives, alleviates suffering and maintains human dignity during and after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards.

Durable solutions, with its ultimate goal to end specific assistance and protection needs linked to displacement, provides an alternative to short-term humanitarian assistance. These efforts are essential for long-term integration, human development of displaced populations within their new contexts, and fostering stability and inclusiveness in Somalian cities, particularly in the intermediary towns located in the Bay, Gedo and Lower Juba regions that receive most of the population influx.

In this sense, it is imperative to start switching from humanitarian and emergency interventions to more permanent responses to displacement in terms of land tenure, housing provision, livelihoods opportunities, infrastructure delivery, and basic services accessibility. The achievement of a durable solution involves several criteria. These include long-term safety, security, and freedom of movement; a decent standard of living, which includes access to adequate food, water, housing, healthcare, and basic education at the minimum; access to employment and livelihoods; and access to housing, land, and property rights (HLP).

Beyond the technical definition, it’s important to understand where displacement occurs. For many countries in the world, including Somalia, this means examining cities and urban areas. A systemic approach to displacement and urbanisation cannot be achieved without a step-change in thinking that reconciles multiple ways of conceiving, engaging with and understanding displacement beyond a humanitarian emergency.

In this sense, UN-Habitat proposes to conceptualise displacement as part of a broader trend of migration to cities. There is a need to support local governments in planning for migratory inflows and internal

Figure 2: A woman carrying water in an IDP camp in South West Somalia. © IOM Somalia (Claudia Rosel), 2022

Figure 3: IDP camp flooded during the raining season outside Baidoa. ©IOM-SOMALIA, 2023.

displacement and capturing the labour, social networks, knowledge, and entrepreneurship abilities brought in by displacement affected communities (DACs) as an opportunity for economic growth and increased local government revenues while addressing their urban challenges.

"Most humanitarian actions are planned and implemented within a short timeframe. As a result of their urgency, they are designed to achieve immediate impact"

This reconceptualization opens-up several opportunities which include:

- **Inclusive Urban Planning:** Ensuring that IDPs are integrated into urban planning processes to improve living conditions and access to essential services.

- **Economic Empowerment:** Providing vocational training and job opportunities to help IDPs achieve economic self-reliance.

- **Infrastructure Development:** Investing in housing, water, sanitation, and healthcare infrastructure to support the growing urban population.

- **Community Engagement:** Promoting social cohesion and community involvement in decision-making processes to foster better integration and stability.

The shift in framing displacement resulting from urbanization presents us with an opportunity to transition from the language and concepts often used in short-term emergencies to a new vocabulary that emphasizes a more systematic and sustainable approach in territorial and spatial planning.

1.2.1 Transitioning From Site Planning to Urban Planning:

The concept of "site planning" primarily focuses on creating safe physical spaces. In contrast, "urban planning" encompasses a broader process that involves the development and design of land use and the built environment, integrating social and economic activities. Urban planning involves establishing well-defined development strategies and legal frameworks to prepare cities for their future. This preparation includes accommodating and managing in a sustainable manner rapid urban growth, attracting investment, increasing housing, securing land and property rights, and gradually building a city's resilience:

- Capacity building for state and municipality to strengthening urban governance and planning, to manage urban growth and reduce disaster risk.

- Improve the quality of the built and natural environment.

- Provide resilient infrastructure and inclusive basic services for all.

- Integrate communities and prevent conflict over land and resources.

1.2.2 Transitioning From Shelter to Adequate Housing:

Shelter is a fundamental human necessity, providing security, personal safety, and protection from the elements. It is crucial in preventing ill health and disease. Adequate housing goes beyond basic shelter; it offers dignity and the opportunity for individuals to lead normal lives. Additionally, proper housing is vital in reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience. Potential interventions in this area might include:

- **Developing Affordable Housing Projects:** Ensuring access to cost-effective and sustainable housing options for low-income families.

- **Upgrading Informal Settlements:** Improving living conditions in existing informal settlements through infrastructure development and service provision.

- **Implementing Legal Frameworks:** Establishing laws and policies that protect property rights and ensure secure tenure.

- **Community Involvement:** Engaging communities in the planning and implementation of housing projects to ensure they meet local needs and preferences.

- **Capacity Building:** Training local authorities and communities in sustainable building practices and effective land management.

By focusing on these areas, interventions can significantly improve living conditions and build stronger, more resilient communities.

1.2.3 Transitioning From Quick Impact Projects to Catalytic Investments to Facilitate Development & Durable Solutions:

Most humanitarian actions are planned and implemented within a short timeframe. As a result of their urgency, they are designed to achieve immediate impact. Slightly shifting this perspective through careful planning, a conscious strategic view in coordinating with longer-term development projects, and investments would contribute to generate inclusive urban growth and achieve regional economic goals. Developing a vision and linking catalytic interventions to a strategic plan and other overarching development documents facilitates coordination, maximising value to support hosting communities. Potential interventions in this area might include:

"The concept of "site planning" primarily focuses on creating safe physical spaces. In contrast, "urban planning" encompasses a broader process that involves the development and design of land use and the built environment, integrating social and economic activities"

- **Comprehensive Needs Assessment:** Conduct detailed assessments to understand the community's long-term needs, including socio-economic conditions, infrastructure deficits, and potential areas for sustainable development.

- **Strategic Spatial Planning:** Develop a strategic plan that outlines long-term development goals and objectives. Identify priority areas that require catalytic investments to drive sustainable development and durable solutions.

- **Integrated Development Approaches:** Design projects that integrate multiple sectors, such as housing, healthcare, education, and livelihoods, to address the root causes of vulnerability. Ensure that projects

"The Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium works with the Government of Somalia and communities to enhance progress towards (re) integration for targeted displacement-affected communities (DAC) in urban centres"

are adaptable and capable of evolving based on changing needs and contexts. This feature will provide reassurance about the resilience of the projects.

- **Neighborhood Pilot Projects:** Start with pilot projects that demonstrate the potential for scaling and replication. Use these pilots at sub-village/neighborhood level to test innovative solutions and gather lessons learned for larger-scale implementation.

1.3 Durable Solutions in Somalia *(Danwadaag Consortium & UN-Habitat Somalia Programme)*

1.3.1 DANWADAAG Consortium:

Established in 2018, Danwadaag (meaning common purpose) is a durable solutions consortium led by IOM with local and international non-governmental organizations. The Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium works with the Government of Somalia and communities to enhance progress towards (re)integration for targeted displacement-affected communities (DAC) in urban centres in Benadir Regional Administration (BRA), South West State (SWS), and Jubaland State of Somalia (JSS).

The consortium integrates the expertise of different partners and facilitates knowledge sharing for a multi-sectoral response across the humanitarian, development, and peace (HDP) nexus. The Core consortium members include Concern Worldwide (Concern), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Gargaar Relief Development Organization (GREDO), and the programme also engages with other local NGOs including Shabelle Community Development Organization (SHACDO), Juba Foundation, Northern Youth Frontier League (NoFYL), Somali Community Concern (SSC), and Lifeline Gedo (LLG). Also closely collaborates with learning and programmatic partners including the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) consortium, Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), UN-Habitat, and REACH.

Danwadaag adopts a twin-track targeting approach to address the challenges of displacement in Somalia, supporting urban towns and intermediary towns located along the displacement corridor. The first track aims to enhance urban resilience by enabling local (re)integration in urban towns experiencing significant incoming displacement. Danwadaag recognizes the importance of empowering these towns to effectively accommodate and support both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities. This involves investing in housing, land support, infrastructure, services, and livelihood opportunities to enhance resident well-being.

The second track targets intermediary towns, or anchor towns, located along major displacement corridors. These towns can potentially absorb more displacement flows, easing the burden on major towns. They are identified through analysis of displacement trends, IDP settlements, service availability, and consultations with local authorities. Danwadaag supports these municipalities by directing resources to strengthen service provision.

By incorporating data on displacement trends and other urban planning indicators, Danwadaag ensures that its efforts are guided and coordinated effectively. This approach allows for informed investments in key urban towns and anchor towns, shaping mobility patterns and addressing the complexities of regional migration dynamics.

As the lead agency and emerging as one of the most engaged agencies in the durable solutions space in Somalia, IOM focuses on community participation and integration of displaced communities, including the delivery of key projects identified in community action plans for job creation and improved basic service delivery.

The consortium is a valuable partnership example of an integrated response to complex challenges in a context characterized by economic, social, and institutional deficits accumulated over decades of crises and continued insecurity. It contributes to the national and international community's effort to prevent, protect, and resolve forced displacement and pursue new, innovative forms of financing urban solutions that leave no one behind.

1.3.2 UN-Habitat Somalia Programme:

UN-Habitat has been active in the Somalia urban sector for more than 30 years. Its interventions have evolved from responding to immediate local needs to systematic attempts to address sustainable urban development through integrated human settlement programmes. UN-Habitat's interventions in Somalia focus on local governance, durable solutions initiatives, shelter and protection in the context of urbanization, improved livelihoods, infrastructure and return and integration linked to durable solutions.

UN-Habitat's work in Somalia has not been done in isolation. For over five years, the agency has been working hand in hand with crisis response agencies such as UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, UNICEF and IOM to meet the urgent needs of affected communities. In the context of Durable Solutions and the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus (HDPN), UN-Habitat's approach is one of collaboration, leveraging humanitarian interventions to create lasting change.

In response to different types of urban crises, UN-Habitat, together with partners, has been promoting the application of the Urban Recovery Framework (URF), which aims to identify and address immediate and medium-term urban recovery interventions while laying

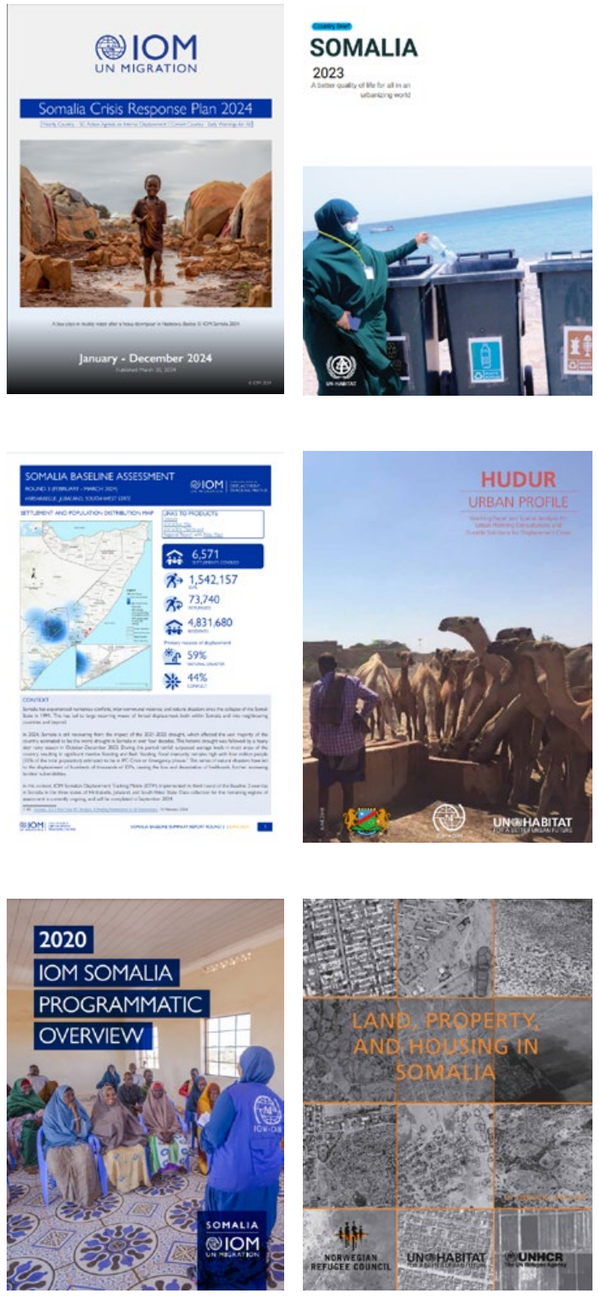


Figure 4: IOM and UN-HABITAT previous reports & projects in Somalia

"Displacement is shaping Somalia's urban landscape and contributing to the country's rapid urbanisation processes"

the foundations for longer-term resilience strategies in cities affected by natural or man-made crises, including conflict.

In order to ensure better recovery by 'building back better' in the Somalia context. UN-Habitat has been taking the lead on three key areas which are at the core of the project approach:

- Integrated territorial and urban planning and basic service delivery through a participatory, inclusive process linked to principles of sustainability and resilience and grounded in the evolving Somali legal and policy framework.

- Increased access to justice, remedial and adjudication on land issues through an integrated framework of the various legal mechanisms guided by clear policy and legislation to ensure coherence in the resolution of disputes.

- Improved land administration and land rights service delivery by institutionalizing appropriate infrastructure and information management systems, thus rebuilding the community's confidence in local and state authorities.

These areas of work reflect UN-Habitat's commitment to improving urban infrastructure, water supply, accessibility to basic services and upgrading the living conditions for displaced populations, contributing to an inclusive urban development in Somalia.

Figure 5: Transitional housing project in Mogadishu. ©IOM-SOMALIA, (Ismail Salad), 2022

1.4 Objectives of The Strategic Plan & Scope of Work

Displacement is shaping Somalia's urban landscape and contributing to the country's rapid urbanisation processes. Despite the political and social challenges, Somalia also faces many opportunities. The urban sector is a crucial driver of development and a catalyst of change due to its high potential to boost the economy, stimulate the secondary and tertiary sectors, and include the IDP population in the livelihood opportunities and economic dynamics of the urban areas.

The strategic plan's main objective is to support the local government and hosting communities to clearly understand the main constraints and strengths of Xudur city's context due to displacement. Establish a prioritization of these challenges and opportunities to facilitate decision-making regarding potential urban development interventions to attract capital investments to implement specific interventions.

In order to support this task, a set of multi-scalar and multi-dimensional maps were elaborated to build the narrative and consolidate a comprehensive vision of the city's current situation in a larger frame. The process is rooted in a strong planning participatory methodology and an evidence-based approach, building upon primary and secondary data collection and analysis.

The evidence is then combined with reviews of existing planning documents at national and regional levels, international reports, socioeconomic statistics and GIS data. The final report provides a framework for crucial strategic scenarios and recommendations in line with regional and national priorities.

Furthermore, the document also serves as an entry point for other relevant actors, such as humanitarian development agencies, International NGOs, regional and national governments, and other stakeholders. Confirming that the scenarios and recommendations for Xudur are not isolated from other ongoing projects and interventions. The document aims to sum up and orient the different efforts, investments and strategies in the same direction.

The outcome is a strategic plan for Xudur that defines a clear direction of growth, providing a holistic vision for a resilient and inclusive city in the upcoming years. It presents several recommendations and critical responses to the main identified problems. Furthermore, different scenarios and proposals are developed to test potential solutions before concluding on normative and policy frameworks, which could possibly be elaborated in a subsequent phase.

1.4.1 Target Audience:

Local Government Officials and Urban Planners: Local government officials, including city councils and urban planning departments, are the primary implementers of the strategic plan. They will use it to:

- **Guide Decision-Making:** Ensure all new developments align with the city's long-term vision.

- **Policy Development:** Formulate policies that address urban challenges such as housing, basic services provision, land tenure, water management and flooding risk.

- **Budget Allocation:** Prioritize funding for critical infrastructure projects and public services.

International Development Partners and Donors: International organizations and donors will refer to the strategic plan to:

"UN-Habitat, together with partners, has been promoting the application of the Urban Recovery Framework (URF), which aims to identify and address immediate and medium-term urban recovery interventions while laying the foundations for longer-term resilience strategies in cities"

"The urban sector is a crucial driver of development and a catalyst of change due to its high potential to boost the economy, stimulate the secondary and tertiary sectors, and include the IDP population in the livelihood opportunities"

- **Align Programs:** Ensure their interventions support the city's strategic goals.

- **Fund Projects:** Identify opportunities for investment and partnership in housing, land, infrastructure, health, education, and other sectors.

- **Monitor Progress:** Track the impact of their contributions and provide technical support where needed.

World Bank or African Development Bank: The business community and investors will use the strategic plan to:

- **Identify Opportunities:** Look for potential investment areas, such as strategic infrastructure.

- **Understand Regulations:** Stay informed about zoning laws, building codes, and other regulations that affect their operations.

- **Plan for Growth:** Align their business strategies with the city's development trajectory and land use plan.

Civil Society Organizations and Community Leaders: Civil society organizations and community groups will use the strategic plan to:

- **Advocate for Change:** Push for policies that promote social inclusion and address community needs.

- **Engage in Planning:** Participate in consultations and decision-making processes to ensure their voices are heard.

Figure 6: Transitional housing project in Somalia. ©UNICEF, 2012.

1.5 The Strategic Planning Process & Methodology

The plan was developed using IOM's displacement-sensitive lens, which integrates the needs, vulnerabilities, and dynamics of displaced populations into broader urban and regional development strategies. This approach ensures that displaced persons are included through tailored interventions that promote social cohesion and stability while bridging humanitarian efforts with long-term development and peace-building. Additionally, UN-Habitat's strategic planning methodology incorporates evidence-based, inclusive, and innovative principles to address complex urban challenges, fostering transformative change through context-sensitive, multi-stakeholder processes and integrated design in city planning.

Using a systematic and strategic methodology, UN-Habitat has formulated and tested transformative projects in cities using data-driven analysis and exploring applications for frontier technologies, delivering long-term transformative solutions.

UN-Habitat applies an iterative methodology with three main phases:

1. **Understanding the city**

2. **Planning the city**

3. **Transforming the city**

The subsequent sections provide a more comprehensive and detailed explanation of each component.

1. Understanding the city

This first phase of the process is understanding the city and establishing spatial diagnostics and includes activities such as:

- Collecting new data (qualitative and quantitative) via stakeholder interviews, community engagement and field studies.

- Stakeholders mapping and social composition analysis.

- Gap assessment of capacities needed to better include people of concern, including vulnerable migrant and host communities.

- Identifying city priorities.

- Assessing existing plans (using the Plan Assessment Tool) and review of

"The document also serves as an entry point for other relevant actors, such as humanitarian development agencies, International NGOs, regional and national governments, and other stakeholders"

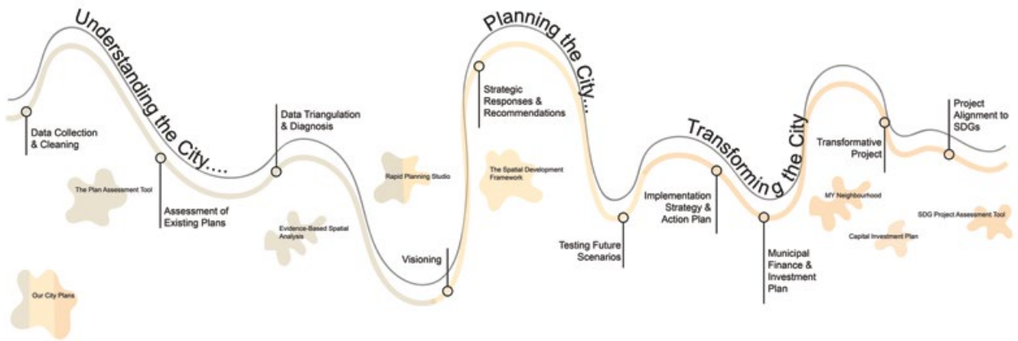


Figure 7: UN-Habitat´s Urban Lab Strategic Planning Process Methodology. ©UN-HABITAT, 2023

the existing legal framework.

- Land availability and suitability analysis for city extension and urban infill strategies.

- Population density scenarios to compare the business-as-usual model of urban growth versus an inclusive and comprehensive model of city expansion and urban infill.

- Analysis of population accessibility to basic services, jobs and infrastructure with projections to better localize investments and projects to make these more efficient and impactful.

- Setting project indicators and sustainability principles. (using the Urban Sustainability Assessment Framework and the SDG Project Assessment Tool)

- Delivering visioning and validation planning workshops.

"The plan was developed using IOM's displacement-sensitive lens, which integrates the needs, vulnerabilities, and dynamics of displaced populations into broader urban and regional development strategies"

The diagnostic phase is crucial to understanding specific goals for the city and the related interventions that will leverage progress against these goals. Through this integrated understanding of context, the interrelated impact of interventions can be extracted, establishing a solid platform for other levers for transformation, such as empowerment of communities, sustainable environments, inclusive economic development, and effective governance, to take effect. This lends toward a more likely transformative development agenda where interventions are not just informed but backed by evidence. This evidence-informed approach can support institutional decision-making to improve the city's functioning and management. In this manner, the UN-Habitat integrated approach is iterative, informed, inclusionary and transformative-focused.

2. Planning the city

In the second phase, leveraging from the situational analysis, the next step is to move into Planning using the data and information collected through the assessment phase.

The Proposed activities for this phase are:

- Define the future vision, goals and objectives of the city extension plan.

- Collect new data (qualitative and quantitative) via stakeholder interviews, community engagement and field studies.

- Establish a community-driven process through rapid planning studios and participatory workshops with the government, other international agencies, IDPs and returnees.

- Elaboration of detailed strategic plans and sectoral plans.

- Detailed disaster risk management and resilience plan.

- Proposed strategic responses (spatial and non-spatial) to ensure an iterative planning process where plans are developed, tested and improved.

- Developing and testing future scenarios through a Scenario Assessment to align planned projects, migration and population forecasting and predicted environmental risks with the proposed actions and intervention. This step can also provide additional insight into job creation, housing supply and future density simulation, all intending to showcase the impact of proposals over time.

Using the established indicators for the project, a strategic vision unifying the goals and priorities of the city can be built based on 4 city main goals or objectives for urban areas, which are:

- **The Compact City**

- **The Connected City**

- **The Inclusive and Vibrant City**

Figure 8: Participatory mapping exercise during Xudur´s validation workshop. ©UN-HABITAT, (Luis Gilio), 2024

"The urban sector should be regarded as a social economic entity with many sub-systems that are interlinked and work together to consolidate peace and stimulate economic growth that result in inclusive, resilient and livable cities and towns"

- **The Resilient City**

In this way, the strategic vision (spatial and non-spatial) is informed and evidence-backed, and it can be aligned with capital spending and investment priorities so that the investment is more effective, inclusive, and equitable.

3. Transforming the city

The ultimate phase of the methodology focuses on the transformation of the city through implementation. This phase includes a range of proposed activities intended to bring about significant changes:

- Developing an Implementation Strategy, Action Plan and Project Prioritization.
- Identifying transformative or pilot projects to test city-wide strategic plans on a target area, backed by guidelines such as the Urban Design Guidelines.
- Applying the SDG Project Assessment Tool to ensure the sustainable and long-lasting outcome of the project beyond implementation.
- Strategic responses are detailed into actions and interventions on both territorial and area-based level to provide clear direction and next steps for implementation. An Implementation Strategy is formulated by identifying key stakeholders and time scales for proposed interventions which are also prioritized in collaboration with stakeholders.
- A crucial component of the Transforming phase is testing solutions and reviewing against the indicators set at early stages of the process. Evaluating in an iterative way ensures that the interventions remain evidence-informed and attached to a transformative agenda.
- The Capital Investment Planning Tool and the SDG Project Assessment Tool aid this reflective process and help to prioritize action in relation to impact and the municipality's vision, budget and other plans.
- High level assessment for capacity development and strengthen to lead successful planning processes and effective implementation strategies.

By implementing these activities, the city will undergo a significant transformation, addressing current challenges and setting a foundation for future growth and development. The ultimate goal is to create a vibrant, sustainable, and connected urban environments that meets the needs of the hosting communities and IDPs to make more inclusive and just urban settings.

1.6 Transformation of Spatial Data into New Comprehensive GIS Datasets

UN-Habitat has made significant strides in developing the Xudur Urban Strategic Plan by employing cutting-edge machine learning models and remote sensing technologies to generate previously unavailable GIS datasets. This innovative approach has provided a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of the city's economic, spatial, environmental, social, and demographic landscapes.

The newly created GIS datasets offer highly detailed layers of information, enabling precise mapping of critical elements such as IDP camps, migration pathways, and environmental factors driving displacement. These datasets are not static; they are designed to be continuously updated with fresh data, ensuring real-time relevance and accuracy in reflecting the evolving situation on the ground.

Furthermore, the integration of these advanced tools supports the creation of predictive GIS models, which provide valuable foresight into potential future IDP movements and identify areas likely to require urgent humanitarian intervention. This capability empowers decision-makers with the data-driven insights necessary to respond proactively to emerging challenges, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts and urban planning in Xudur and other cities in Somalia.

1.6.1 UN-Habitat GIS Calculation of Population:

The population estimate was derived using a bottom-up approach, where each residential building polygon was assigned an average household size of six people, based on the 2022 Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey (SHIBS) data. The building polygons, covering the entire city, were sourced from the Google Open Buildings dataset. Buildings were classified as either residential or non-residential by cross-referencing available open-source land use information and through consultations with local authorities. The resulting population data at the building level was utilized to estimate the city's total population and to compute zonal statistics for various analyses presented in this document.

1.6.2 UN-Habitat GIS Calculation of IDP Shelters:

The IDP shelters were mapped using a deep learning object detection model, trained on high-resolution satellite imagery provided by UNOSAT for the first half of 2024. The imagery covered various areas occupied by IDPs in Southwest State, including Xudur. The resulting data layer is key for analyzing the spatial distribution of IDP camps, understanding the structural characteristics of IDP shelters, and estimating population density. In this document, the layer is specifically utilized to conduct a detailed assessment of the flood exposure risk faced by these IDP camps.

1.6.3 UN-Habitat GIS Calculation of Urban Morphology:

The different urban typologies of Xudur were detected through a machine learning model, which uses road network and buildings structures to cluster together portions of the urban fabric showing similar characteristics. The model is based on the open-source Momepy python library, created to automate the quantitative analysis of urban morphometrics.

1.6.4 UN-Habitat GIS Calculation of Flooding Risk:

The flooding analysis for Xudur was conducted using the software HEC-RAS for hydraulic modeling. The analysis combines topography, land cover, and historical daily precipitation records to map flood exposure. The layer shows the cumulative water depth in meters reached after one week of precipitation, with a 100-year return period, calculated using the daily rainfall dataset from 2000 to 2024 provided by the NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) POWER.

1.7 Stakeholders´Engagement & Participatory Design Process

As part of UN-Habitat´s Strategic Planning Methodology, the inclusive and participatory component is essential for building trust, leveraging local knowledge, fostering community ownership, and ultimately gaining political support from the national and regional governments.

Public participation was a crucial element in developing the Strategic Urban Plan for Xudur. Through a series of in-person and online workshops, various voices and perspectives were integrated into the analyses, final strategic recommendations, and project proposals. During visioning and validation workshops held in Baidoa, active participation was ensured from different minority and vulnerable groups, such as women, elderly, children, and IDPs incorporating their insights into the discussions.

1.7.1 Scoping Mission & Visioning Workshop (19th-20th of February, 2024)

The visioning workshop took place in Baidoa on February 19th and 20th 2024 at UNICEF compound. The main objectives were to do a stakeholder's mapping activity, develop the city´s vision, gather relevant data and information to elaborate the different spatial and environmental analyses, and

"UN-Habitat has made significant strides in developing the Xudur Urban Strategic Plan by employing cutting-edge machine learning models and remote sensing technologies to generate previously unavailable GIS datasets"

"An essential objective of the workshop was to build trust and garner political support for the urban plan process among local and regional authorities. By involving these key stakeholders from the outset and ensuring transparency throughout the process, the workshop aimed to create a sense of ownership and commitment to the plan"

build trust and political support to the plan with the local and regional authorities. The workshop employed various participatory techniques such as interactive mapping, group brainstorming sessions, and scenario planning. These techniques facilitated active engagement and creative thinking among participants, leading to innovative solutions and strategies for Xudur urban development.

Special attention was given to include minority and vulnerable groups such as elderly, women and youth in the visioning process. These groups were actively encouraged to participate in the discussions, ensuring that their particular needs and perspectives were considered in the planning process. This inclusive approach aimed to create a more equitable and representative urban plan for Xudur.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES:

- **Stakeholder Mapping:** The workshop began with a comprehensive stakeholder mapping activity. This process identified and categorized all relevant stakeholders, including government officials, local community leaders, business representatives, NGOs, and international partners. Understanding the interests and influences of each stakeholder group was crucial for ensuring their active participation and support in the planning process.

- **Developing the City's Vision:** Participants engaged in collaborative sessions to develop a unified vision for the future of Xudur. Through interactive discussions and visioning exercises, the diverse perspectives of the stakeholders were synthesized into a coherent vision statement. This vision reflects the aspirations of the community and provides a strategic direction for the city's development.

- **Data Gathering and Spatial Analysis:** The workshop also focused on gathering relevant data and information necessary for conducting various spatial and environmental analyses. Participants contributed local knowledge and expertise to complement existing data, ensuring a robust foundation for the planning process. This step included mapping existing land use, identifying environmental constraints, and analyzing socio-economic factors that influence urban development.

- **Building Trust and Political Support:** An essential objective of the workshop was to build trust and garner political support for the urban plan process among local and regional authorities. By involving these key stakeholders from the outset and ensuring transparency throughout the process, the workshop aimed to create a sense of ownership and commitment to the plan. Open dialogues and collaborative activities helped to align the interests of the IDPs, hosting community, local government with UN-Habitat and IOM technical support and foster an underpin environment for the plan's implementation.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES:

- Commitment to the project process from the local government, different minority group, stakeholders´ and international actors was achieved.

- New data and information were collected for the analyses phase.

- Clarity on the key locations of IDP sites and main sectoral issues that should be examined in the situational analysis

- Validated information and data of existing services, facilities, and infrastructures.

- Identified key constraints and opportunities of each neighborhood.

- The establishment of a collaborative vision for urban development, fostering a shared understanding from stakeholders, of the aspirations and priorities for the area.

1.7.2 Xudur Community Workshop (25th of April 2024)

The workshop held on April 25th, 2024, it was realized in Somali by the national team in Baidoa and it was a significant step towards developing a comprehensive and inclusive strategic urban plan. By facilitating active participation, addressing displacement issues, and collecting valuable data, the workshop laid a solid foundation for the planning process. It provided a dedicated platform for the community and local authorities to share their ideas and exchange perspectives on the challenges and opportunities associated with developing the strategic urban plan.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES:

- **Introduction and Project Overview:** The facilitator began by presenting the project objectives, expected outcomes, and the overall process. This introductory session aimed to align all participants with the workshop's goals and set the stage for interactive engagement.

- **Interactive Sessions:** Participants engaged in interactive sessions designed to provide an overview of urban and territorial development. These sessions included group discussions, breakout activities, and participatory mapping exercises. By using these techniques, the workshop encouraged active involvement and fostered a collaborative environment.

- **Addressing Displacement Issues:** The workshop specifically considered the displacement dimension within the selected areas. Participants discussed the impacts of displacement on urban planning and identified key locations and sectoral focuses that require attention. This approach ensured that the plan would be inclusive and responsive to the needs of displaced populations.

"Participants engaged in interactive sessions designed to provide an overview of urban and territorial development. These sessions included group discussions, breakout activities, and participatory mapping exercises"

Figure 9: Plenary discussion during the visioning & validation workshop. ©UN-HABITAT, (Luis Gilio), 2024

"There is a need to construct markets, including a livestock market and a main market, to support local economic activities"

- **Data Collection and Analysis:** Throughout the workshop, additional data was collected to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based understanding and analysis of the context. This included demographic information, land use patterns, environmental conditions, and socio-economic factors. The collected data will be instrumental in informing the strategic urban plan.

- **Identifying Challenges and Opportunities:** One of the main objectives was to identify the challenges and opportunities related to urban development in Xudur. Participants highlighted issues such as inadequate infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic disparities. They also identified opportunities for economic growth, improved public services, and community resilience.

- **Community and Local Authority Engagement:** The workshop emphasized the importance of engaging both the community and local authorities. By bringing these groups together, the workshop aimed to build trust and foster a sense of ownership over the urban plan. This engagement is crucial for ensuring that the plan reflects the community's needs and aspirations.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES:

Flooding and Infrastructure Challenges:

- Severe Flooding: Last autumn, flooding in Buulo Jadiid, Buulow and Sheik Aways neighborhoods caused significant devastation, impacting all aspects of livelihood and development.

- Road Conditions: The roads in these areas are damaged and muddy, with many being narrow and difficult to navigate.

- Drinking Water Quality: The quality of drinking water is poor, often salty due to flooding and other unidentified causes.

Health and Sanitation:

- Healthcare Facilities: The seven neighborhoods suffer from inadequate health and sanitation facilities, which are crucial for maintaining public health.

- Sanitation Issues: Poor sanitation exacerbates health problems, particularly during and after flood events.

Support for IDPs and Education:

- IDP Support: Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the district are poorly supported and organized, lacking essential services and resources.

- Educational Facilities: There are not enough education centers, and those that exist receive insufficient support.

Infrastructure Needs:

- Electricity: There is an urgent need for sustainable electricity to support the district's rapid growth.

- Airstrip: The airstrip is non-functional due to flood damage. There is an urgent need for constructing a new airport, which is crucial for the district's transportation sector.

- Playground: The construction of a playground is needed to provide recreational facilities for the community.

- Judicial Facilities: The district lacks court centers, which are essential for maintaining law and order.

Market and Economic Development:

- Market Construction: There is a need to construct markets, including a livestock market and a main market, to support local economic activities.

Additional Findings:

- Previous Reports: Earlier reports highlighted the above needs, and recent workshops have collected additional data to support these findings.

- Solar Lighting and Roads: There are not enough solar lights, and the main roads are in poor condition, affecting mobility and safety.

- Healthcare for IDPs: There is a significant lack of health facilities catering to the needs of IDPs.

1.7.3 Second Validation Workshop (27th & 28th of May 2024)

It was a two-day interactive workshop held on May 27th and 28th of 2024. It was leaded by UN-Habitat technical team and IOM in Baidoa at UNICEF compound. The UN-Habitat and Danwadaag teams presented the project outcomes from the analysis, the overall process and validated the first strategic sectoral plans for Xudur.

The participants coming from different sectors and the government personnel engaged in several discussions and interactive sessions that provided a comprehensive overview of proposed urban and territorial development by the UN-Habitat team.

During the workshop, the displacement dimension within the selected areas was carefully considered, and key sectoral focuses were identified along with specific locations of concern for further examination. These sessions also facilitated the collection of additional data, contributing to a comprehensive, evidence-based project proposals.

"The facilitator began by presenting the project objectives, expected outcomes, and the overall process. This introductory session aimed to align all participants with the workshop's goals and set the stage for interactive engagement"

Figure 10: Discussing the main challenges for Xudur during the first validation workshop. ©UN-HABITAT, (Niina Rinne), 2024

"The workshop considered the displacement dimension within Wadajiir, Buulow, and Horseed neighborhoods. Participants discussed the impacts of displacement in the city and identified key locations for strategic interventions"

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES:

- **Presentation of Project Outcomes:** During the workshop, the UN-Habitat and Danwadaag teams delivered a comprehensive presentation of the project outcomes and the overall process. This presentation outlined the steps taken throughout the project's development, including stakeholder engagement, data collection, and strategic planning activities.

The teams highlighted key findings from their analysis, which provided valuable insights into the current urban and territorial conditions of Xudur. These findings included critical data on infrastructure deficits, environmental challenges, population density, and the socio-economic landscape. By detailing these outcomes and analytical insights, the presentation aimed to equip participants with a thorough understanding of the project's basis, ensuring informed discussions and effective decision-making during the workshop.

- **Validation of Strategic Sectoral Plans with a Participatory Mapping Exercise:** The workshop included an interactive session and mapping exercise with the participants dedicated to validating the first strategic sectoral plans for Xudur. This session was crucial for ensuring that the proposed plans were aligned with the local context. Participants actively engaged in discussions focusing on critical environmental challenges such as flooding, which poses significant risks to infrastructure and livelihoods.

Connectivity issues were also addressed, emphasizing the need for improved transportation networks to facilitate mobility and economic activities. Land use planning was discussed to optimize space for residential, commercial, and agricultural purposes, while considering the rapid urbanization and population density future projections for Xudur. Additionally, the session highlighted the urgent need for adequate housing provisions for internally displaced persons (IDPs), ensuring that their needs are integrated into the urban development framework. This comprehensive approach aimed to create a spatial plan that addresses both immediate and long-term challenges.

- **Interactive Discussions:** The workshop discussions among participants from various sectors and government personnel, were important to understand the nature of urban and territorial development in Xudur. Participants from different backgrounds, including local authorities, community leaders and NGOs, contributed their insights on key issues such as infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development.

To complement these discussions, the workshop included group activities designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the proposed urban and territorial development plans. By working together in groups, participants were able to identify common challenges, brainstorm solutions, and develop a shared vision for the future of Xudur. This holistic approach ensured that the different sectoral plans to consolidate a compact, resilient, connected and inclusive city were well-informed, and reflective of the community's needs and aspirations.

- **Consideration of Displacement Dimension:** The workshop included specific sessions dedicated to discussing the displacement dimension within selected areas, recognizing the critical impact of displacement on urban development. These sessions provided a platform for participants to explore the challenges and needs of displaced populations, ensuring their voices were integrated into the planning process. By focusing on the displacement dimension, the workshop aimed to address issues such as housing, access to services, and socio-economic integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Participants collaboratively identified priority areas such as flood-prone zones, high- and low-density population areas, and neighborhoods with significant infrastructure deficits.

- **Project Prioritization Activity:** As part of the workshop, a project prioritization activity was conducted to identify and rank the most critical infrastructure projects needed for the development of Xudur and the short, medium and long-term assessments impact. This activity focused on several key areas, including public infrastructure and social facilities improvement, IDP relocation and housing provision, road enhancement, water catchment and boreholes construction and agricultural and livestock projects. Participants from various sectors and government officials collaborated to assess the urgency and impact of each proposed project.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES:

- One of the primary outcomes of the project prioritization activity was the strategic allocation of resources towards the most critical infrastructure needs. This prioritization ensures that available resources are directed towards projects that will provide the most significant benefits.

- By systematically ranking the strategic sectoral plans for Xudur based on criteria such as feasibility, impact, and urgency, the workshop participants were able to develop a clear and actionable roadmap. This roadmap will guide the allocation of resources and efforts for the next ten years towards the most pressing infrastructure needs, ensuring that the development of Hudur is both strategic and effective.

- Validation of the four different strategic sectoral plans (The compact, resilient, connected and inclusive city) and scenarios developed.

"The Participants from different backgrounds, including local authorities, community leaders and NGOs, contributed their insights on key issues such as infrastructure, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development"

Figure 11: Prioritization exercise during the second validation workshop. ©UN-HABITAT, (Niina Rinne), 2024

1.7.4 Final Validation Workshop (Hybrid)

Following the second validation workshop, the final proposals and strategic plan for the city had some last amendments based on the feedback from stakeholders, with some processes needing to be re-run and maps updated. Minor adjustments were already made between the second and final validation workshops.

The strategic responses and spatial plan that were developed during the workshops needed refining, with updated analytics and information to ensure accuracy.

This process required some targeted bilateral sessions with UN-Habitat and IOM technical teams with a focal point from the city´s government to ensure the final document remained aligned with the vision defined by the community during the first workshop and that the final outlined strategy endorsed with the agreed intentions during the previous participatory processes.

"The workshop underscored the need for flexibility in executing the plan, allowing for adjustments based on evolving needs and challenges. Participants agreed that a responsive approach would be crucial to adapting to unforeseen"

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES:

- **Integration of Stakeholder´s Feedback and Amendment of the Strategic Responses:** The different spatial and sectoral plans for the city were updated and amended with the final feedback received by the key stakeholders´. The different scenarios for development were also aligned with the community´s main priorities.

- **Final Document Alignment and Comprehensive Review:** The final report/ publication was presented to the main stakeholders´ of the project, which guaranteed accuracy and alignment with the agreed-upon strategies.

- **Targeted Bilateral Sessions:** Focused collaboration was done with the IOM team, the local and regional governments personnel and UN-Habitat technical team to ensure that the final report remained aligned with the outlined strategy agreed during the participatory design process.

- **Detailed Review:** These sessions allowed for a detailed review and final tuning of the strategic plan, addressing any specific concern or additional inputs from key stakeholders.

- **Stakeholder Endorsement:** Seek final endorsements from all key stakeholders, ensuring their commitment and support for the plan's implementation.

CONCLUSIONS:

Stakeholders highlighted the critical need for ongoing capacity building within local government to ensure effective implementation of the strategies. There was also a call for continued technical support from international organizations like UN-Habitat and IOM.

Furthermore, the participants stressed the importance of collaboration among local authorities, international agencies, and the private sector. They agreed that successful implementation of the strategic plan requires coordinated efforts and shared responsibility.

The workshop underscored the need for flexibility in executing the plan, allowing for adjustments based on evolving needs and challenges. Participants agreed that a responsive approach would be crucial to adapting to unforeseen circumstances.

Overall, the workshop concluded on an optimistic note, with stakeholders expressing confidence that the strategies, if implemented effectively, would significantly improve Xudur´s urban environment and quality of life for all the residents.

Figure 12: Closure ceremony during the first validation workshop. ©UN-HABITAT, 2024

Figure 13: Closure ceremony during the second validation workshop. ©UN-HABITAT, 2024

02

NATIONAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

02

National Context

"Somalia is located in the Horn of Africa, bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. The country has a coastline of over 3,300 kilometers, making it strategically significant for maritime trade."

2.1 National Setting

6
Federal Member States

18
Administrative Regions (Globollo)

118
Districts

1,200
Sub-Districts

Somalia is located in the Horn of Africa, bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. The country has a coastline of over 3,300 kilometers, making it strategically significant for maritime trade.

As of 2023, Somalia's population is estimated at approximately 16 million people. The population is predominantly ethnic Somali, and the official languages are Somali and Arabic. The country has a youthful demographic, with over 60% of the population under the age of 25 (IOM Somalia, DTM 2023)

DEMOGRAPHY

Age Structure

Somalia has a youthful population, with a significant proportion under the age of 25. Approximately 60% of the population falls into this age group, reflecting high birth rates and lower life expectancy. This demographic profile presents opportunities and challenges, particularly regarding education, employment, and health services.

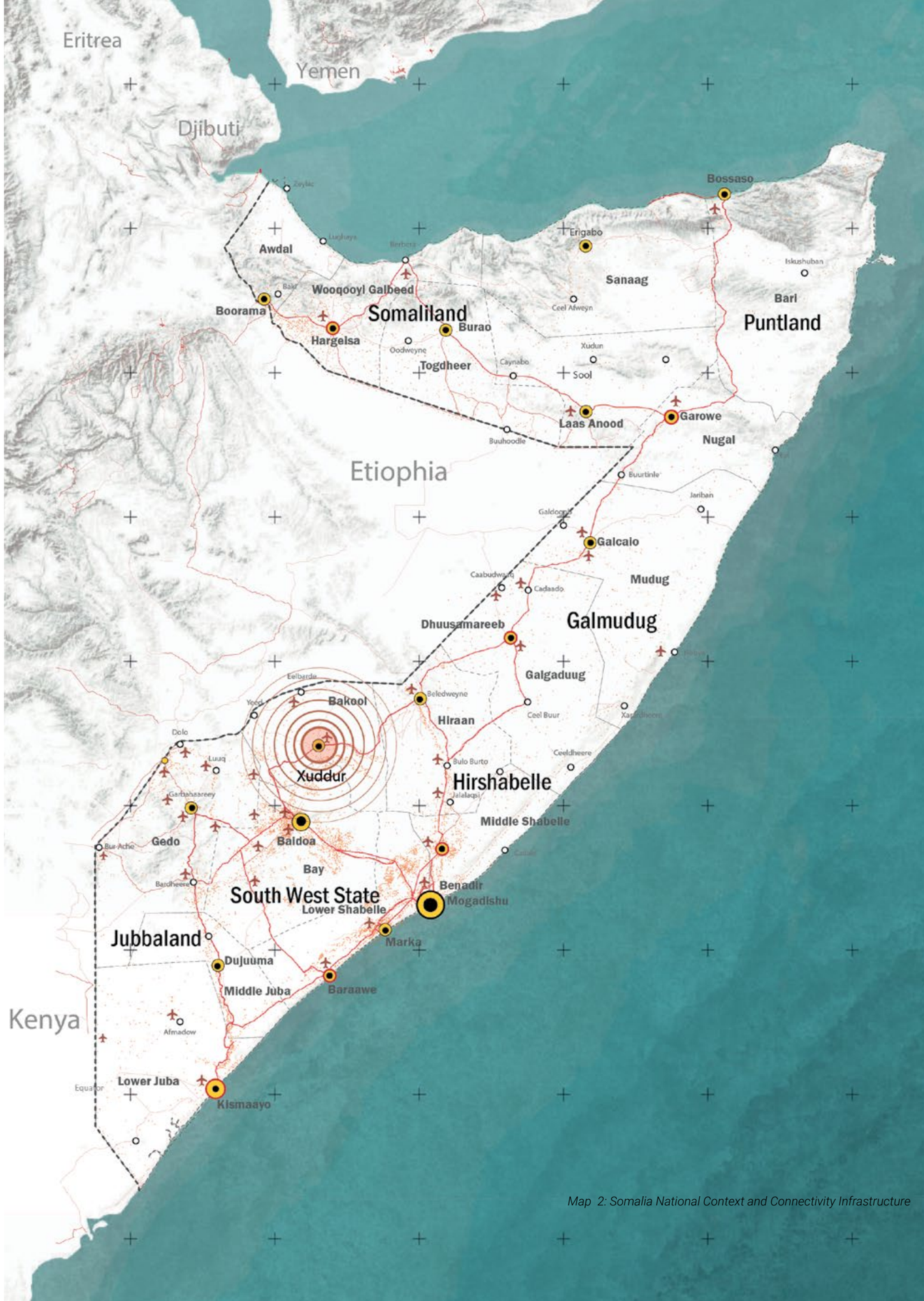
- **0-14 years:** Approximately 45% of the population
- **15-24 years:** Around 15%
- **25-54 years:** About 35%
- **55 years and older:** Roughly 5%

Gender Distribution

The gender distribution in Somalia is relatively balanced, though slightly skewed towards males in certain regions, mainly due to migration and conflict-related factors.

Ethnic and Clan Composition

The Somali ethnic group is the predominant ethnic group in Somalia, making up over 85% of the population. Other ethnic groups include Bantu, Arabs, and a small number of non-Somali ethnicities. Somali society is traditionally clan-based, with major clans



Map 2: Somalia National Context and Connectivity Infrastructure

"The Somali ethnic group is the predominant ethnic group in Somalia, making up over 85% of the population. Other ethnic groups include Bantu, Arabs, and a small number of non-Somali ethnicities. Somali society is traditionally clan-based, with major clans such as the Darod, Hawiye, Isaaq, and Rahanweyn playing significant roles in the country's social and political landscape"

such as the Darod, Hawiye, Isaaq, and Rahanweyn playing significant roles in the country's social and political landscape.

The major clan's composition include:

- **Darod:** One of the largest and most influential clans, the Darod are primarily located in northeastern Somalia (Puntland), parts of southern Somalia, and in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia. Sub-clans include the Marehan, Ogaden, and Harti (Majeerteen, Dhulbahante, and Warsangali).

- **Hawiye:** Another dominant clan, the Hawiye are mainly found in central and southern Somalia, particularly around Mogadishu and the surrounding regions. Major sub-clans include the Abgaal, Habar Gidir, and Hawadle.

- **Isaaq:** Predominantly located in the northwestern region (Somaliland), the Isaaq clan is one of the major clans in the self-declared independent region. Sub-clans include the Habar Awal, Habar Jeclo, and Garhajis.

- **Rahanweyn (Digil and Mirifle):** Primarily based in the southwestern regions, including Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle. They are known for their agricultural lifestyle. Sub-clans include the Geledi, Hadamo, and Jiroon.

- **Dir:** The Dir clan is distributed across Somalia, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. Sub-clans include the Gadabuursi and Issa.

Minority Groups

In addition to the major clans, there are several minority groups in Somalia:

- **Bantu:** Descendants of African slaves brought to Somalia in the 19th century, the Bantu primarily inhabit the southern regions, engaging in farming and manual labor. They are often marginalized and face discrimination.

- **Bajuni:** An ethnic minority primarily located in the coastal regions of southern Somalia and the islands off the coast. They are traditionally fishermen and sailors.

- **Benadiri:** A minority group in Mogadishu and other coastal cities, of Arab and Persian descent, traditionally involved in trade and commerce.

- **Bravanese:** Another coastal minority, found in Brava and other southern coastal towns, with a distinct cultural and linguistic heritage.

URBANIZATION

Somalia's urban population represents approximately a 47.9% of the total, with an annual urban growth rate of about 4.2%. Major urban centers include Mogadishu, Hargeisa, Bosaso, Kismayo, and Baidoa. Rapid urbanization is driven by rural-to-urban migration, displacement due to conflict and natural disasters, and the search for better economic opportunities.

The rapid urbanization and displacement have led to the proliferation of informal settlements. These areas often lack basic services such as water, sanitation, and electricity, contributing to poor living conditions. Efforts are being made to improve urban infrastructure and provide better housing solutions. For example, initiatives have been undertaken to construct housing units, improve revenue collection systems in districts, and integrate urban planning efforts

HEALTH & EDUCATION

Health indicators in Somalia remain challenging. Life expectancy at birth is approximately 56 years, lower than the global average. The country faces high maternal

Figure 14: Women from different ethnic groups in Dolow. © IOM Somalia (Claudia Rosel), 2022

"Health indicators in Somalia remain challenging. Life expectancy at birth is approximately 56 years, lower than the global average"

and infant mortality rates, malnutrition, and limited access to healthcare services. Efforts to improve health outcomes are ongoing, supported by international organizations and the Somali government.

•**Life expectancy:** About 56 years

•**Infant mortality rate:** 74 deaths per 1,000 live births

•**Maternal mortality rate:** 829 deaths per 100,000 live births

EDUCATION

Education levels in Somalia are among the lowest in the world. The adult literacy rate is estimated to be around 37.8%, with significant gender disparities. Primary school enrollment has recently improved but remains low, particularly for girls. Access to secondary and higher education is limited, with ongoing efforts to rebuild and expand educational infrastructure.

•**Adult literacy rate:** Approximately 37.8%

•**Primary school enrollment rate:** Around 50%

•**Gender parity in education:** Significantly skewed, with fewer girls attending school compared to boys. Despite challenges, there have been strides in improving education. Some regions, like Somaliland and Puntland, have made notable progress in education governance and enrollment rates.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS

Figure 15: WHO community health worker providing support for a vaccination campaign. ©WHO-SOMALIA, 2022

Topography

Somalia's topography is diverse, consisting of flat plains, plateaus, and highlands. The country's landscape can be divided into several distinct regions:

- **Coastal Plains:** Stretching along the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden, the coastal plains are relatively flat and low-lying, characterized by sandy beaches and small dunes.

- **Central Plateaus:** The central region of Somalia features extensive plateaus with elevations ranging from 500 to 1,000 meters. This area is primarily semi-arid and supports pastoralism.

- **Northern Highlands:** The northern part of the country includes the rugged highlands of the Karkaar Mountain range. The Golis Mountains, part of this range, have peaks reaching up to 2,416 meters at Mount Shimbiris, the highest point in Somalia.

- **Southwestern and Western Lowlands:** These areas are predominantly flat and are intersected by the country's two major rivers, the Jubba and the Shabelle.

Volcanic Activity

Somalia is part of the East African Rift system, an area of tectonic activity. While Somalia does not have active volcanoes, the neighboring regions within the Rift Valley, particularly in Ethiopia and Djibouti, experience volcanic activity. The Afar Triangle, located northwest of Somalia, is a notable active volcanism and

"Education levels in Somalia are among the lowest in the world. The adult literacy rate is estimated to be around 37.8%, with significant gender disparities"

Figure 16: Students play in a classroom. ©UNICEF-SOMALIA, 2022

Figure 17: Flash floods rains in an IDP camp. ©IOM-SOMALIA, 2023

rifting region.

Mountains

The most significant mountain ranges in Somalia include:

- **Golis Mountains:** Running parallel to the northern coast, these mountains feature some of the highest elevations in Somalia.
- Karkaar Mountains: **These are part** of the broader highland system in northern Somalia, contributing to the region's varied topography.

Climate and Weather

Somalia has a predominantly arid to semi-arid climate characterized by hot temperatures and irregular rainfall. The climate can be divided into four main seasons:

- **Jilal (December to March):** The dry season, with hot temperatures and very little rainfall.
- **Gu (April to June):** The primary rainy season brings most of the annual rainfall.
- **Xagaa (July to September):** A secondary dry season, typically cooler than Jilal but still arid.
- **Deyr (October to November):** A shorter rainy season, providing additional but less consistent rainfall.

Rainfall

Rainfall in Somalia is highly variable and often insufficient. The average annual rainfall ranges from less than 100 mm in the arid northeast to about 500 mm in the southwest. The central and northern regions experience the least rainfall, contributing to their semi-arid conditions. The two primary rainy seasons, Gu and Deyr, are critical for agriculture and water resources but are often unpredictable, leading to droughts and water scarcity.

Natural Hazards

Somalia is prone to various natural hazards, including:

- **Droughts:** Frequent and severe, especially in the central and northern regions, impacting agriculture and livestock.
- **Floods:** Seasonal flooding occurs, particularly along the Jubba and Shabelle rivers, causing displacement and damage to infrastructure.
- **Cyclones:** Occasionally affect the coastal areas, bringing heavy rains and strong winds.

The irregular rainfall patterns contribute significantly to the flooding risk in Somalia. Flash floods are a common occurrence, particularly along the country's major rivers, the Juba and Shabelle, which overflow during periods of intense rainfall. Flooding is especially prevalent in low-lying regions and areas with poor drainage infrastructure, affecting urban centers, agricultural lands, and communities living near riverbanks. These floods exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, particularly for displaced populations living in informal settlements, and often lead to the destruction of homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, further compounding humanitarian crises in the country.

These geographic conditions shape the livelihood of Somalia's population, influencing agriculture, water resources, and settlement patterns. The variability in climate and weather and the diverse topography pose significant challenges to sustainable development and disaster management in the region.

"Rainfall in Somalia is highly variable and often insufficient. The average annual rainfall ranges from less than 100 mm in the arid northeast to about 500 mm in the southwest. The central and northern regions experience the least rainfall, contributing to their semi-arid conditions"

2.2 Governance & Administration System

Somalia has a complex and evolving administrative and governance system shaped by its tumultuous history. The Country has faced decades of civil war, political instability, and clan-based conflicts, leading to a fragmented governance structure. However, it's important to note that despite these challenges, significant efforts have been made to establish a functional and inclusive system of government, offering hope for the Country's future.

Somalia's administrative and governance system is characterized by a federal structure designed to accommodate the Country's diverse clans and regions. Despite significant challenges, progress is being made towards establishing a more stable and inclusive governance framework. Continued efforts to enhance security, promote political reconciliation, and build institutional capacity are essential for the Country's future stability and development.

"Somalia's administrative and governance system is characterized by a federal structure designed to accommodate the Country's diverse clans and regions"

The Country stands as a unique federal republic, officially known as the Federal Republic of Somalia. This federal system, a distinctive response to the Country's deep-seated clan divisions, was adopted to promote political stability by decentralizing power. The current federal structure is composed of:

- **Federal Government:** Based in Mogadishu, the capital city, the federal government is responsible for national policies, defence, foreign affairs, and economic regulation.
- **Federal Member States:** These include Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, South West State, and the self-declared but not internationally recognized Somaliland. Each state has its own government and exercises a significant degree of autonomy.
- **Regions:** President of Somalia Mohamed Siad Barre established five of these regions in 1974 and 1975 for baized clan reasons: Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Gedo, Bay, and Bakool; Banaadir shrank to consist of only Mogadishu at the same time.
- **Districts:** The basic unit of local governance, responsible for local services and administration. Districts are headed by commissioners or mayors appointed by the regional government or elected locally.
- **Sub-districts:** In rural areas, village councils or traditional elders often play a significant role in local governance, resolving disputes and managing community affairs.

Executive Branch

The executive branch is headed by the President, whom the Federal Parliament elects. The President appoints the Prime Minister, who leads the Council of Ministers (the cabinet). The executive branch is responsible for implementing laws, overseeing national defense, conducting foreign policy, and managing the federal administration.

President: The current President in July 2024 is Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who was elected in May 2022.

Prime Minister: The Prime Minister, Hamza Abdi Barre, appointed by the President, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the government and heads the Council of Ministers.

Legislative Branch

Somalia's legislative authority is vested in the Federal Parliament, which is bicameral and consists of the House of the People and the Upper House:

- **House of the People (Lower House):** Comprising 275 members elected by clan-based electoral colleges. Members serve four-year terms.
- **Upper House (Senate):** Comprising 54 members elected by state assemblies. Members represent the federal member states and serve four-year terms.
- **The Federal Parliament:** Responsible for passing laws, approving the budget, and overseeing the executive branch.

Judicial Branch

The judiciary in Somalia is independent and consists of several levels:

- **Constitutional Court:** Reviews the constitutionality of laws and resolves disputes between federal institutions.
- **Federal High Court:** Handles major civil and criminal cases.
- **Appeals Court:** Reviews decisions from lower courts.
- **District and Regional Courts:** Handle local civil and criminal matters.

Local Governance

Local governance in Somalia varies significantly between regions and federal member states. While some areas have relatively functional local administrations, others are affected by ongoing conflicts and lack effective governance structures.

2.2.1 Federal Member States

The Provisional Constitution of Somalia lays the groundwork for a federal system, establishing six Federal Member States (FMS):

- **Jubbaland**
- **South West State**
- **Hirshabelle**
- **Galmudug**
- **Somaliland**
- **Puntland**

The Constitution does not clearly delineate responsibilities between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Federal Member States, particularly in critical public sectors such as health and education, as well as other vital areas like security. Article 52 of the Constitution emphasizes the need for coordination between the FGS and FMS on relevant issues. Only a few overarching areas are explicitly allocated to the FGS, including foreign affairs, defense, citizenship and immigration, and monetary policy (Article 58). For all other matters, the distribution of power and resources must be negotiated between the FGS and the FMS.

According to the principle outlined in Article 50, authority is allocated to the level of government where it is expected to be most effectively exercised. Despite several years of negotiations, no definitive agreements have been reached, and tensions between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and some Federal Member States (FMS) continue.

The FGS holds a strategic role in urban planning, particularly concerning regional

"The Country stands as a unique federal republic, officially known as the Federal Republic of Somalia. This federal system, a distinctive response to the Country's deep-seated clan divisions, was adopted to promote political stability by decentralizing power"

"South West State in Somalia is divided into three primary regions—Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle—each with its own districts and local administrations. The governance structure combines formal administrative bodies and traditional leadership to manage local affairs"

and national infrastructure provision. It is responsible for formulating national policies and strategic directives, such as those pertaining to land, urbanization, and housing. However, from a legal standpoint, the FGS does not play a role in the approval of urban plans and strategies.

2.2.2 South West State Governance Structure

South West State in Somalia is divided into three primary regions—Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle—each with its own districts and local administrations. The governance structure combines formal administrative bodies and traditional leadership to manage local affairs. Despite facing challenges such as security issues and infrastructure needs, efforts continue to strengthen governance and improve the quality of life for the residents of South West State.

BAKOOL REGION

The Bakool region, located in Somalia's South West State, is composed of several key districts, each playing an important role in the region's governance and administration. The major districts of Bakool include:

Xudur: The capital and largest district in Bakool, Xudur serves as the administrative and political center of the region. It is a focal point for governance, security, and humanitarian efforts.

Tiyeglow: Another significant district in Bakool, Tiyeglow has experienced periods of instability due to conflict but remains an important hub for agriculture and local trade.

El Barde: This district is located near the border with Ethiopia and serves as a vital connection point for cross-border trade and movement between Somalia and Ethiopia. It also experiences significant humanitarian needs, particularly related to displacement.

Rabdhure: Rabdhure is another district in Bakool, though it is smaller and less densely populated than Xudur or Tiyeglow. It faces similar challenges related to conflict, displacement, and access to resources.

Wajid: This district has also been significantly affected by conflict and food insecurity, with large numbers of IDPs. Wajid serves as a critical site for humanitarian operations, often hosting displaced populations from surrounding areas.

Regional Administration

Each region within South West State has its own administrative structures, which oversee local governance and development activities. Regional administrations are responsible for implementing state policies, managing public services, and ensuring security within their respective areas.

District Administration

Districts are the basic units of local governance within the regions. Each district has a district commissioner or mayor, typically appointed by the regional government. The district administration handles local issues, including public services, infrastructure development, and community welfare.

Traditional Leadership

In addition to formal administrative structures, traditional clan leaders and elders play a significant role in local governance. They often mediate conflicts, oversee customary law, and support the formal administration in maintaining peace and order.

XUDUR DISTRICT

Xudur, as the capital of the Bakool region in Somalia's South West State, operates under Somalia's federal government system, which devolves authority to the state and district levels. The administrative structure of Xudur is governed by a district commissioner and a local council, which is tasked with managing day-to-day governance, security, and service delivery in the district.

Administrative Structure

District Commissioner

The district commissioner serves as the highest-ranking government official in Xudur, appointed by the regional or state authorities. The commissioner oversees governance, development, and security within the district and coordinates with the regional and state governments.

Local Council

The local council, consisting of elected or appointed representatives from various parts of the district, plays an advisory role and supports decision-making processes related to local governance, development projects, and public services. They also represent the interests of local communities within the district.

Coordination with State & Federal Authorities

Xudur's local government coordinates closely with the South West State authorities, including the state president and various ministries. The South West State government is responsible for broader policy direction, law enforcement, and resource distribution within the region, which affects Xudur. The district also receives guidance from the federal government on issues related to national security, law, and public administration.

Security & Law Enforcement

Given Xudur's strategic and volatile position, security in the district is a significant focus. Security forces in Xudur include local police and regional security forces supported by the South West State government. In some areas, coordination with Somali National Army (SNA) units or African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops helps maintain security, particularly due to the presence of Al-Shabaab militants in the region.

Judicial System

The district typically has its local courts that handle legal disputes, civil cases, and minor criminal offenses. For more significant or federal cases, legal matters may be referred to higher courts within the South West State or national-level courts.

Collaboration with Humanitarian Organizations

Xudur's administration also works closely with international and local NGOs, UN agencies, and humanitarian organizations to address pressing issues such as displacement, food insecurity, healthcare, and infrastructure development. Coordination between local authorities and these organizations is critical to addressing the ongoing humanitarian needs in the region.

Sub-Divisions

Xudur District is further divided into smaller administrative units to ensure effective governance and service delivery. These sub-divisions typically include:

Urban Centers

Xudur Town: The main urban center and

"In addition to formal administrative structures, traditional clan leaders and elders play a significant role in local governance. They often mediate conflicts, oversee customary law, and support the formal administration in maintaining peace and order"

"Xudur Town serves as the central administrative headquarters for Xudur District. It is the location of key governmental offices that facilitate the functioning of the district's administration"

administrative hub of the district. It hosts the district's key governmental offices, markets, and public facilities.

Villages and Rural Areas

- The district includes several villages and rural areas governed by village elders or local administrators. These villages are crucial for agricultural activities, which form the backbone of the district's economy.

Traditional Leadership

In addition to the formal administrative structure, traditional leadership plays a vital role in the governance of Xudur District. This includes:

Clan Elders

- Clan elders are influential in local governance, conflict resolution, and maintaining social order. They often work in conjunction with the formal administrative authorities to address community issues.

Customary Law

- Customary law, or Xeer, is practiced alongside formal legal systems. It governs various aspects of social conduct, land disputes, and other local matters.

Security and Governance

- **Local Security Forces:** Security in Xudur District is maintained by local security forces, including police and community-based security initiatives. These forces work under the oversight of the District Commissioner and collaborate with regional and federal security agencies.

- **Development Councils:** Development councils or committees are established to focus on specific sectors such as health, education, and infrastructure. These councils are instrumental in planning and implementing development projects within the district.

XUDUR TOWN

Xudur Town, the principal urban center in Xudur District, is situated in the Bakool Region of South West State in Somalia. As the administrative hub of the district, Xudur Town plays a critical role in governance, economic activities, and social interactions in the surrounding rural areas.

Xudur Town is sub-divided into four principal Sub-villages or neighborhoods, which are:

- **Shiida**
- **Wadajir**
- **Morogabey**
- **Buulow**
- **Horseed**
- **Sheik Awes**
- **Buulo Jadiid**

District Headquarters

- Xudur Town serves as the central administrative headquarters for Xudur District. It is the location of key governmental offices that facilitate the functioning of the district's administration.

Office of the District Commissioner: The District Commissioner, based in Xudur Town, is the highest-ranking local official responsible for overseeing the administration of the district. This office coordinates with regional and federal authorities to implement policies and ensure compliance with laws and regulations.

Local Government Departments: Various departments operate from Xudur Town, including those responsible for health, education, public works, agriculture, and security. These departments are crucial for planning, executing, and managing public services and development projects.

Local Governance

As the focal point of local governance, Xudur Town is pivotal for the implementation of regional and district policies. The town's governance structure includes:

- **District Council:** The District Council, composed of elected or appointed representatives, meets in Xudur Town. The council is involved in legislative functions, such as passing local ordinances, approving budgets, and providing oversight of the district administration.

- **Coordination of Development Projects:** Xudur Town is the central hub for coordinating development projects within the district. This includes infrastructure projects like road construction, water supply systems, and public building renovations. The town's administrative offices work closely with development agencies, NGOs, and international partners to secure funding and support for these initiatives.

- **Delivery of Public Services:** The town hosts facilities and offices that provide essential public services to the district's population. This includes healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and social welfare programs. Xudur Town's administration ensures these services are accessible to both urban and rural residents.

2.3 Policy, Planning, & Legal Frameworks

2.3.1 Federal & Regional Framework

The policy and urban planning system in Somalia is shaped by the country's federal structure and the need to address various challenges, including security, displacement, and infrastructure deficits. Urban planning and development policies are essential for promoting economic growth, improving living conditions, and managing the rapid urbanization in major cities.

The urban planning system involves coordination between federal and regional governments, local communities, and international partners. While significant challenges exist, ongoing efforts in policy formulation, infrastructure development, and community engagement have been carried out by UN-Habitat, IOM and other UN Agencies.

Federal Government Role

National Policies and Strategies: The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is responsible for formulating national policies and strategic directives related to urban planning. These include overarching policies on land use, housing, urbanization, and infrastructure development.

Strategic Oversight: The FGS oversees large-scale infrastructure projects, regional development plans, and coordination between different federal member states. Key areas under federal jurisdiction include foreign affairs, defense, citizenship, and major infrastructure projects like highways and ports.

Federal Member States Role

- **Autonomy in Planning:** Each Federal Member State (FMS), including

"The District Commissioner, based in Xudur Town, is the highest-ranking local official responsible for overseeing the administration of the district. This office coordinates with regional and federal authorities to implement policies and ensure compliance with laws and regulations"

regions like South West State, Puntland, and Galmudug, has a significant degree of autonomy in urban planning and development. They create localized plans that address specific regional needs and challenges.

- **Local Governance:** Regional governments and local councils are directly involved in urban planning and implementation of development projects. This decentralized approach aims to ensure that planning is responsive to local conditions and requirements.

2.3.2 State Urban Land Management Law

The South West State Law No. 5, enacted on February 2, 2022, known as the "Urban Land Management Law" (ULML), was developed with the support of UN-Habitat to improve urban land management.

"Regional governments and local councils are directly involved in urban planning and implementation of development projects. This decentralized approach aims to ensure that planning is responsive to local conditions and requirements"

This innovative legislation, tailored to the Somalia context, aims to establish a systematic approach to urban land governance, integrating comprehensive urban planning, sustainable land use practices, and the protection of land rights.

The ULML harmonizes the roles and responsibilities of government institutions, private owners, communities, citizens, and other stakeholders in land management and urban planning. It creates a cohesive framework that effectively aligns governmental mechanisms with customary practices to resolve land disputes.

Furthermore, the law includes robust provisions to safeguard displaced communities and the urban poor from forced evictions. It ensures the allocation of suitable land for voluntary relocation, thereby promoting social stability and protecting vulnerable populations. This legislation marks a significant step towards equitable and sustainable urban development, reflecting a commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents.

2.3.3 Members & Functions of The State Urban Land & Planning Committee

The ULML provides regulations for the State Urban Land and Planning Committee with the following functions:

- To approve all plans and legalization of urban land that is proposed to them after they review the complaints and appeals.

- To advise the cabinet and the president in general on policies and standards regarding urban planning, urban land, the positive and negative consequences and economic benefits of planning or re-planning in urban land.

- To commission further study and give guidance and recommendations on issues relating to urban planning which transcend more than one local government for purposes of coordination and integration of the State development.

- To ensure compliance with local governments in the implementation of the urban plan.

- To enforce land governance procedures and administrative practices and ensure standardization

- throughout all cities and local governments of the State.

- To listen and decide on any appeal from a person or government an institution that complains about

- an urban plan proposed by the planning office of the State, which has been requested by the local government or the community.

The Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing (MoPW), and composed of the following entities:

- Minister for Agriculture.

- Minister for Justice.

- Minister for Environment.

- Minister for Planning.

- Minister of Interior Affairs.

- Civil society Human Rights Advocate

- Director of the Ministry's Land and Planning Office, who shall be the Secretary

Besides chairing the Committee, the MoPW is mandated to (i) coordinate and monitor the operation of the decisions of the State committee, (ii) formulate state land policies and standards for urban issues, and (iii) maintain state registry for all transactions related to both public and private lands.

2.3.4 Functions of The Office of Urban Land & Planning

The ULML constitutes the Office of Urban Land and Planning under the MoPW.

The office shall:

- Contribute to the development of the district plans following the urban procedures of the State Committee.

- Conduct and occasionally direct studies and research on issues related to urban land planning.

- Advise the State Committee and the Cabinet on issues related to land, the path to be followed and the plan to work to deal with issues related to urban land.

- Advise the local government and local council on the most appropriate way to use the land, including the land allocation process, urban planning, public land allocation, control of urban expansion, and spatial planning.

- Monitor compliance with the approved urban plans and how they are implemented by the local governments and ensure the smooth implementation of growth and conservation directives and reporting to the State Committee.

2.3.5 Functions of The Local Government

The Local Government has a central role in the urban planning and land management. In particular:

- Initiates the Urban Planning process with a request to the State Committee.

- Allocates and distributes land according to the town plan approved by the State committee.

- Registers and maintains all private land ownership transactions.

- Systematically stores urban land and real estate information, including private and public lands, and carry out land and housing registration.

- Supports in the update of the land registry by MoPW.

"This innovative legislation, tailored to the Somalia context, aims to establish a systematic approach to urban land governance, integrating comprehensive urban planning, sustainable land use practices, and the protection of land rights"

"The process for urban plan approval in Somalia typically follows several key steps, which are often influenced by both local and national government frameworks, as well as the involvement of international organizations in some particular cases"

2.3.6 Responsibility of Plot Owners, Communities, Citizens, and other Stakeholders

The ULM established various procedures for land allocation and plot development for private landowners. In particular, private owners should (i) obtain permission for development from local government, (ii) conform to the plan of the area where the plot is located, and (iii) pay all the taxes, fees and other charges established by government authorities.

The law also recognizes participation and inclusiveness as fundamental for urban plans development. In this sense, all communities directly affected by a plan should be "meaningfully involved and informed", and a town plan should be publicized before and after approval.

2.3.7 Process for Urban Plan Development & Approval

The process for urban plan approval in Somalia typically follows several key steps, which are often influenced by both local and national government frameworks, as well as the involvement of international organizations in some particular cases.

The draft urban plan is submitted to the local municipality or district government for initial review. Local governments evaluate the plan based on existing frameworks, feasibility, and alignment with local development priorities.

For larger urban plans, the national government may also need to review and approve the plan, especially if it involves significant infrastructure projects, land use changes, or international funding.

Based on feedback from government officials and stakeholders, urban planners make necessary revisions. This stage may involve technical refinements to zoning, land use distribution, or infrastructure projects to meet legal and regulatory requirements.

After revisions, the final version of the urban plan is submitted for formal approval by the local or national government. This may involve signing off by key officials such as the mayor or district commissioners.

The graphic in the next page summarizes the process for the development and approval of an Urban Plan as indicated in the ULML, which is composed of the following steps:

1. **The local Government requests an urban/area plan to the State Urban Land and Planning Committee**

2. **The State committee forwards the requests to the MoPW's Urban Land and Planning Offices.**

3. **The Urban Land and Planning Offices technically develops the plan under the supervision of the Local Government.**

4. **Input is provided by line ministries, private owners interested in the plan, citizens and communities and other stakeholders.**

5. **The plan is submitted to the Local Government for approval.**

6. **The Local Government submits the plan to the State Committee for the final approval.**

This process varies slightly depending on the region or city, with some areas relying more on international assistance for capacity building and technical guidance. International donors and organizations often play a critical role in ensuring these plans are resilient, inclusive, and responsive to local challenges.

Figure 18: Official process for urban plans development and approval in South West State. ©UN-HABITAT

2.4 South West State Context

The South West State of Somalia, composed of three regions—Bay, Bakool, and Lower Shabelle—has an estimated population of around 3.6 million people. The state is predominantly inhabited by the Rahanweyn (Digil and Mirifle) clan, though other smaller clans and sub-clans are also present. This region is largely rural, with agriculture forming the backbone of the local economy.

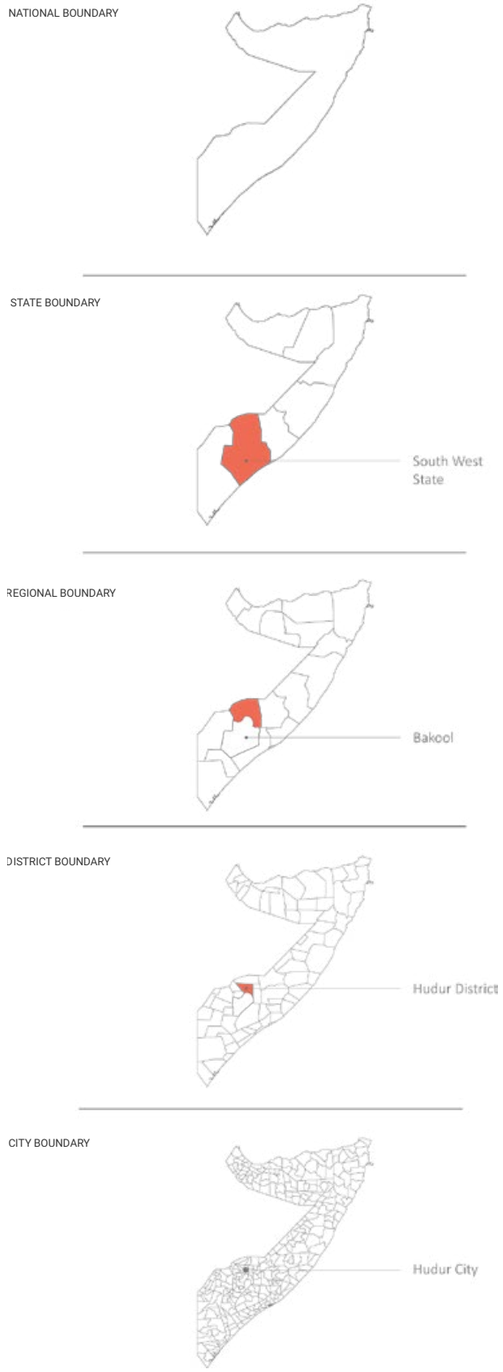
The geography of South West State is diverse, ranging from fertile agricultural land in the Shabelle River valley to more arid areas in Bakool, where droughts are frequent. The capital of the state, Baidoa, serves as an administrative hub and a critical center for humanitarian operations due to its proximity to conflict-affected areas and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

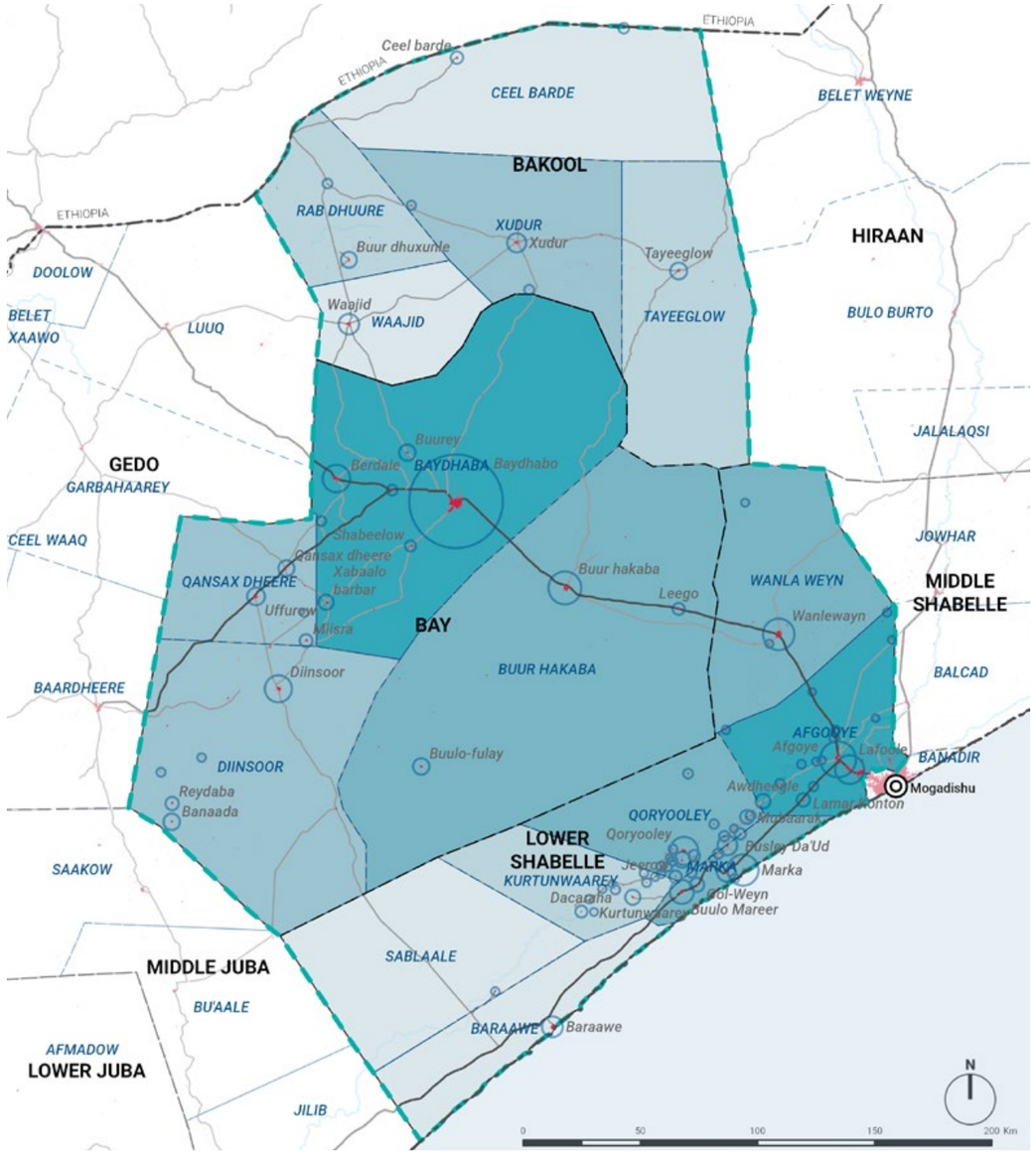
South West State has significant humanitarian needs, exacerbated by ongoing conflicts, environmental challenges like droughts and floods, and a high concentration of IDPs. The region is home to a large number of displaced persons, many of whom fled due to conflict and food insecurity. In Baidoa alone, IDP camps host tens of thousands of people in precarious conditions.

Humanitarian assistance is critical in addressing food shortages, health crises, and educational needs. Environmental degradation, including deforestation and soil erosion, further compounds the difficulties faced by local communities, making the region vulnerable to climate-related shocks and posing long-term challenges for both development and disaster resilience efforts.

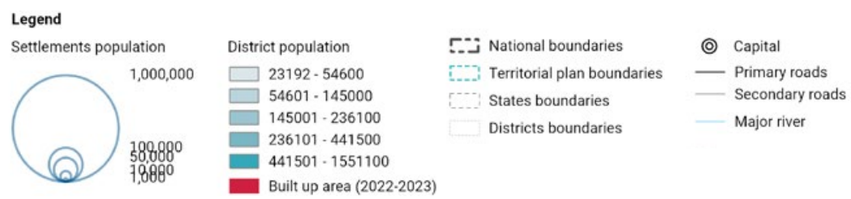
The regional map in the next page, shows the population distribution among the SWS. The most populated districts are Baidoa and Afgooye, with the region followed by Buur Hakaba, Wanla Weyn, Qoryooley and Marka. Qansax Dheere, Diinsoor and Xudur are the third-level most populated districts.

The population distribution in Somalia's South West State varies across districts, with significant numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in key areas, particularly around Baidoa. As of 2023, the South West State hosts around 650,000 IDPs, most of whom are concentrated in the districts of Baidoa, Buurhakaba, and Qansahdhere. Baidoa alone is home to approximately 268,243 IDPs living in over 380 camps. These camps, located in urban and peri-urban areas, face significant challenges such as overcrowding and limited access to basic services like sanitation and healthcare.





Map 3: Population Distribution in South West State



2.5 Displacement & Migration

In Somalia's South West State, displacement and migration patterns are primarily driven by conflict, insecurity, and climate-related challenges such as droughts and floods. The cities of Baidoa, Berdaale, and Xudur have emerged as key hubs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to their relative stability and access to humanitarian aid.

Baidoa:

Baidoa is one of the largest centers for displaced populations in South West State, often referred to as the "epicenter" of displacement in the region. The city hosts over 268,000 IDPs, most of whom live in informal settlements on the outskirts. Many IDPs fled rural areas due to both Al-Shabaab-related conflicts and the severe droughts that have devastated agricultural livelihoods. The city's proximity to humanitarian services makes it a destination for those seeking food, water, and medical assistance. However, overcrowded camps and poor living conditions are common, exacerbating health and sanitation issues.

Berdaale:

Berdaale, a smaller but significant urban center, has seen an influx of displaced populations due to the ongoing conflict in surrounding rural areas and environmental degradation. Droughts and loss of agricultural productivity have driven migration from rural to urban areas, where IDPs seek safety and access to basic services. While Berdaale is not as large as Baidoa, the local infrastructure struggles to support the growing displaced population, leading to informal settlements and inadequate housing.

Xudur:

Xudur, located in the Bakool region, has faced recurrent blockades by insurgent groups, limiting access to aid and contributing to the displacement of its residents. Many who remain in Xudur face extreme isolation, but those who flee tend to move toward Baidoa or Berdaale in search of stability. The movement of people in Xudur is heavily influenced by the shifting control of territories and ongoing conflict. Migration from Xudur to other cities often reflects a survival strategy for families escaping both conflict and famine.

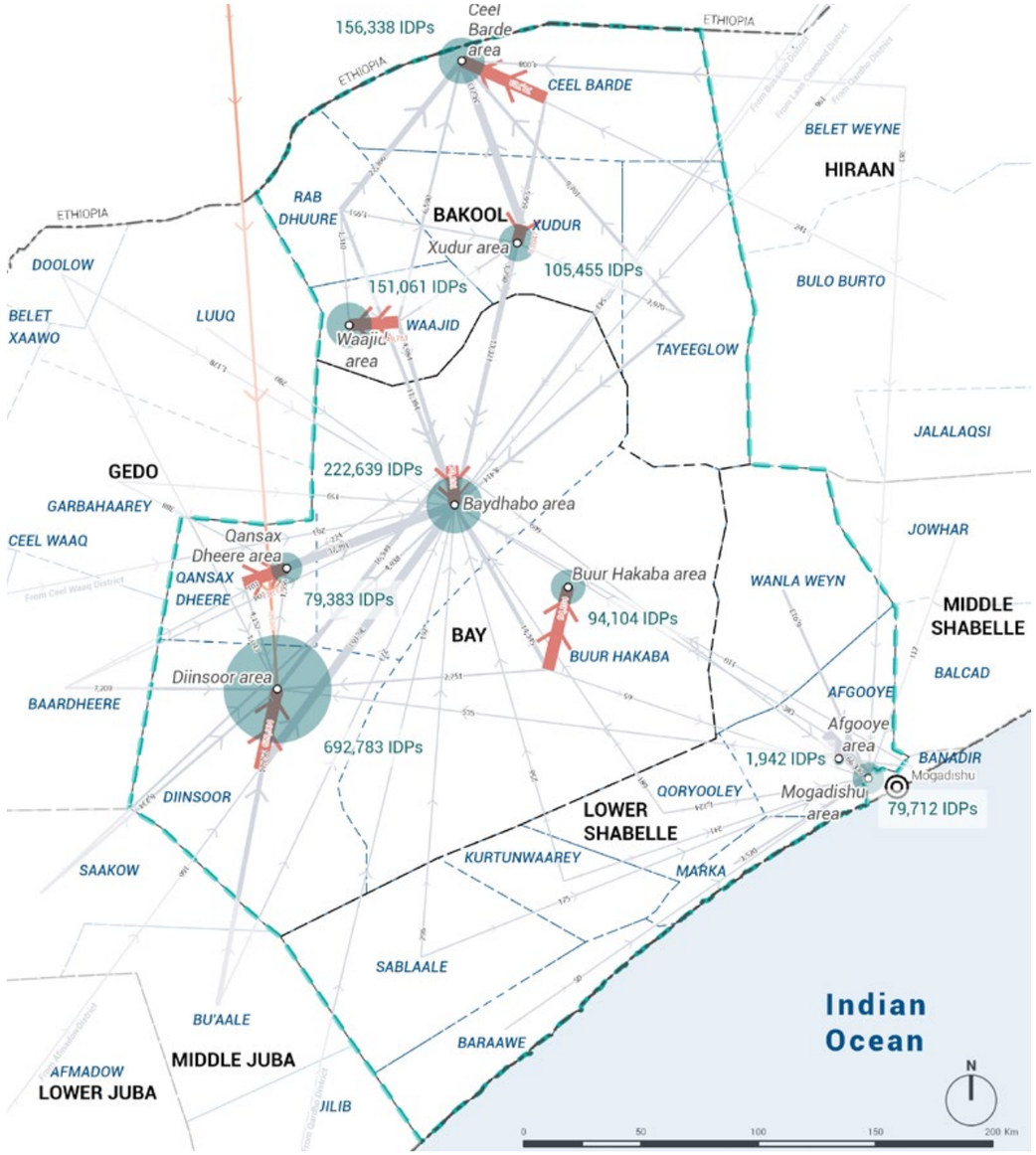
These migration and displacement patterns reflect broader dynamics in South West State, where both climate change and armed conflict are pushing rural populations into urban areas, often overwhelming city infrastructure and exacerbating humanitarian needs.

Efforts to address this issue include large-scale relocation projects, such as the one led by IOM and UN-Habitat in partnership with the South West State government and other humanitarian organizations. One prominent example is the Barwaaqo settlement, located just outside Baidoa, which was developed to provide secure land tenure and better living conditions for IDPs.

The project offers a range of services, including housing plots, cash assistance, schools, health centers, and police stations. Importantly, relocated families receive title deeds after two years, ensuring long-term stability and reducing the risk of further displacement.

However, despite these efforts, many challenges remain. Access to basic services such as markets and employment opportunities is still limited, with many IDPs struggling to find consistent livelihoods. Climate-induced displacement continues to be a major driver, exacerbated by environmental degradation and competition over scarce resources, which sometimes leads to conflict.

"These migration and displacement patterns reflect broader dynamics in South West State, where both climate change and armed conflict are pushing rural populations into urban areas, often overwhelming city infrastructure and exacerbating humanitarian needs"



Map 4: Main Displacement & Migration Patterns in South West State

2.6 Conflict & Controlled Areas

South West State (SWS) of Somalia is a highly volatile region marked by frequent violent conflicts, territorial control by various factions, and the ongoing influence of Al-Shabaab militants. The state's conflict dynamics are largely shaped by the struggle for control over territory and resources, combined with the presence of clan-based divisions.

Armed clashes often occur between government forces, supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and Al-Shabaab, which controls substantial rural areas and key roadways. These conflicts disrupt daily life, restrict humanitarian access, and destabilize the region, with a significant impact on the displacement of civilians.

Al-Shabaab has maintained a strong presence in parts of SWS, including vast rural areas outside major cities like Baidoa. The group enforces strict control in these areas through roadblocks and extortion, making it difficult for people to move between towns or access critical services.

Al-Shabaab militants regularly target government facilities and military convoys with ambushes and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), contributing to the insecurity of road networks, especially the routes connecting Baidoa, Mogadishu, and Marka. These violent scenarios not only heighten fear among local populations but also hinder economic activities, as road transport is crucial for trade and humanitarian aid.

Government-controlled areas in SWS primarily include the cities of Baidoa and Barawe, where Somali National Army (SNA) forces, often backed by AMISOM, maintain a fragile hold. These urban centers serve as safe zones for displaced populations fleeing violence in Al-Shabaab-controlled regions. However, even in these government-controlled areas, sporadic violence and attacks remain a concern. Al-Shabaab has a history of launching attacks on government positions and civilian targets, seeking to undermine the administration's control and create chaos. The Somali government, with international support, continues to conduct military operations to reclaim territories from the group, though progress is often slow and met with resistance.

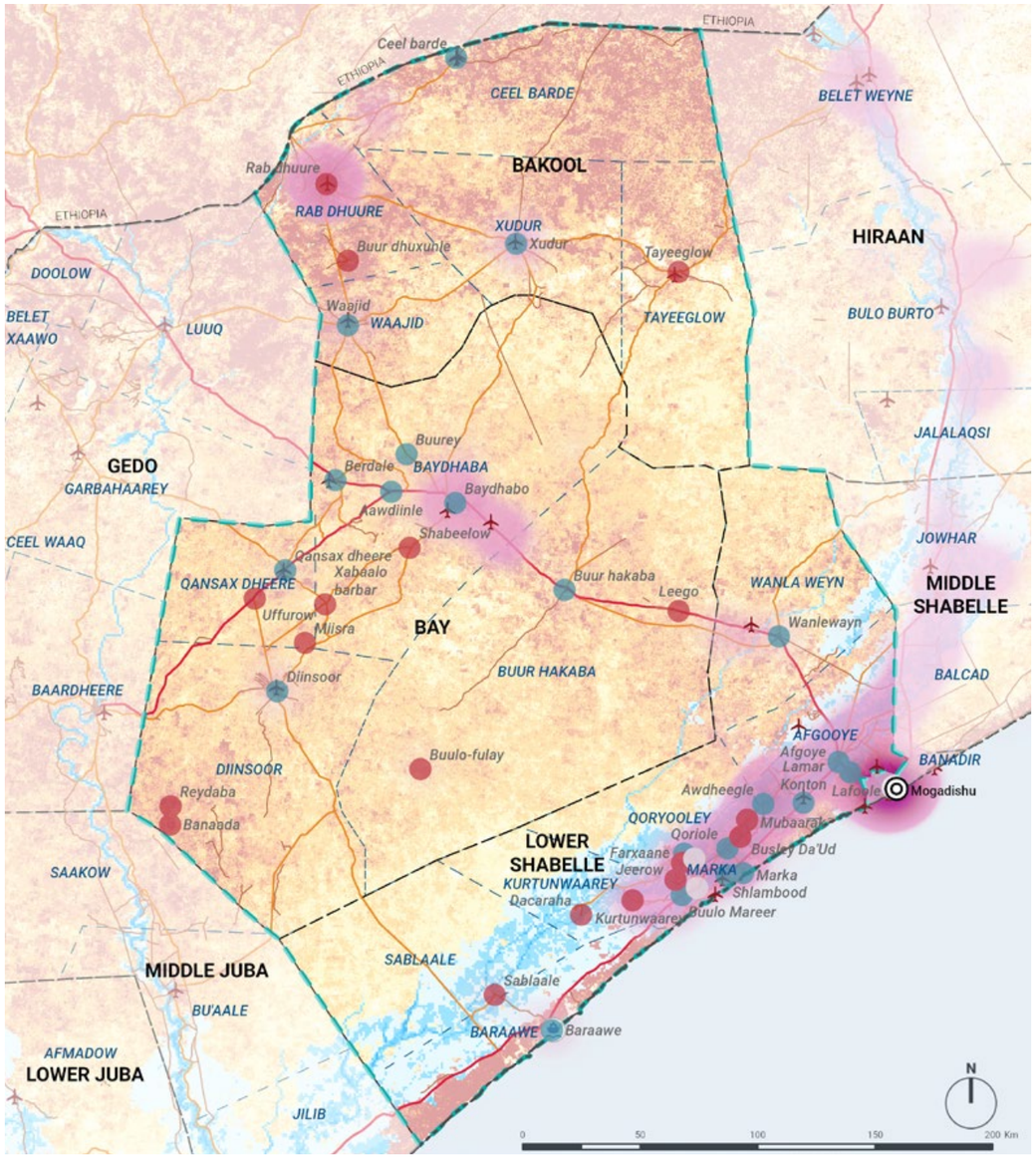
Roadblocks are a constant feature of the conflict in South West State. Al-Shabaab sets up numerous checkpoints along key roads to extort money from travelers and disrupt government supply lines. These roadblocks not only serve as a source of income for the militant group but also as a method to control movements, monitor populations, and ambush government or AMISOM forces.

The road between Baidoa and Mogadishu is particularly dangerous due to such roadblocks and frequent attacks. These areas, under constant threat, have become zones of fear for civilians, when attempting to transport goods or access aid.

The areas controlled by Al-Shabaab are largely characterized by lawlessness and violence, where the group enforces harsh interpretations of Sharia law. People living in these regions face severe restrictions on their movements, trade, and daily activities. Al-Shabaab's control limits the Somali government's ability to extend governance and provide services.

Meanwhile, in government-held regions, efforts are underway to rebuild institutions and improve security, but the presence of Al-Shabaab remains a destabilizing factor that challenges these initiatives. Despite ongoing military operations, the conflict between government forces and Al-Shabaab in South West State leaves many communities trapped in a cycle of violence and displacement.

"The road between Baidoa and Mogadishu is particularly dangerous due to such roadblocks and frequent attacks. These areas, under constant threat, have become challenging, when attempting to transport goods or access aid"



Map 5: Main Conflict & Controlled Areas in South West State

Legend

Settlements control
- Government control
- Out of government control
- N/D

Annual drought probability
- ≤ 5%
- 5 - 15%
- 15 - 25%
- 25 - 35%
- ≥ 35%

100-years riverine flood
- 0 - 1 m
- 1 - 3 m
- 3 - 6 m
- > 6 m

Conflict density
- Sparse
- Dense

- Harbors
- Airfields
- Primary roads
- Secondary roads
- Tertiary roads

- National boundaries
- Territorial plan boundaries
- States boundaries
- Districts boundaries
- Capital

2.7 Socio-economic Development & Livelihoods

South West State (SWS) of Somalia has an economy primarily based on agriculture and livestock, with small-scale trade also playing a vital role. The region is considered one of the more agriculturally productive areas in Somalia, with the Shabelle and Juba rivers providing critical water resources for farming. Staple crops grown include sorghum, maize, and beans, which are essential for local food consumption and trade. Livestock, such as camels, cattle, goats, and sheep, remains a major economic asset, particularly for rural communities. This sector supports a large part of the population, including pastoralists who depend on the sale of livestock and animal products for their livelihood.

One of the primary livelihood opportunities in SWS is related to smallholder farming. Many families engage in subsistence farming, and there is growing interest in transitioning towards commercial farming to boost incomes. Initiatives by international development agencies aim to enhance farming techniques, provide access to improved seeds and irrigation, and create value chains for agricultural products.

However, access to markets remains a challenge due to poor road networks and insecurity caused by Al-Shabaab's presence in certain areas. Livestock trade, both domestically and through exports to the Middle East, also continues to be a significant economic activity, but it too is vulnerable to environmental and security issues.

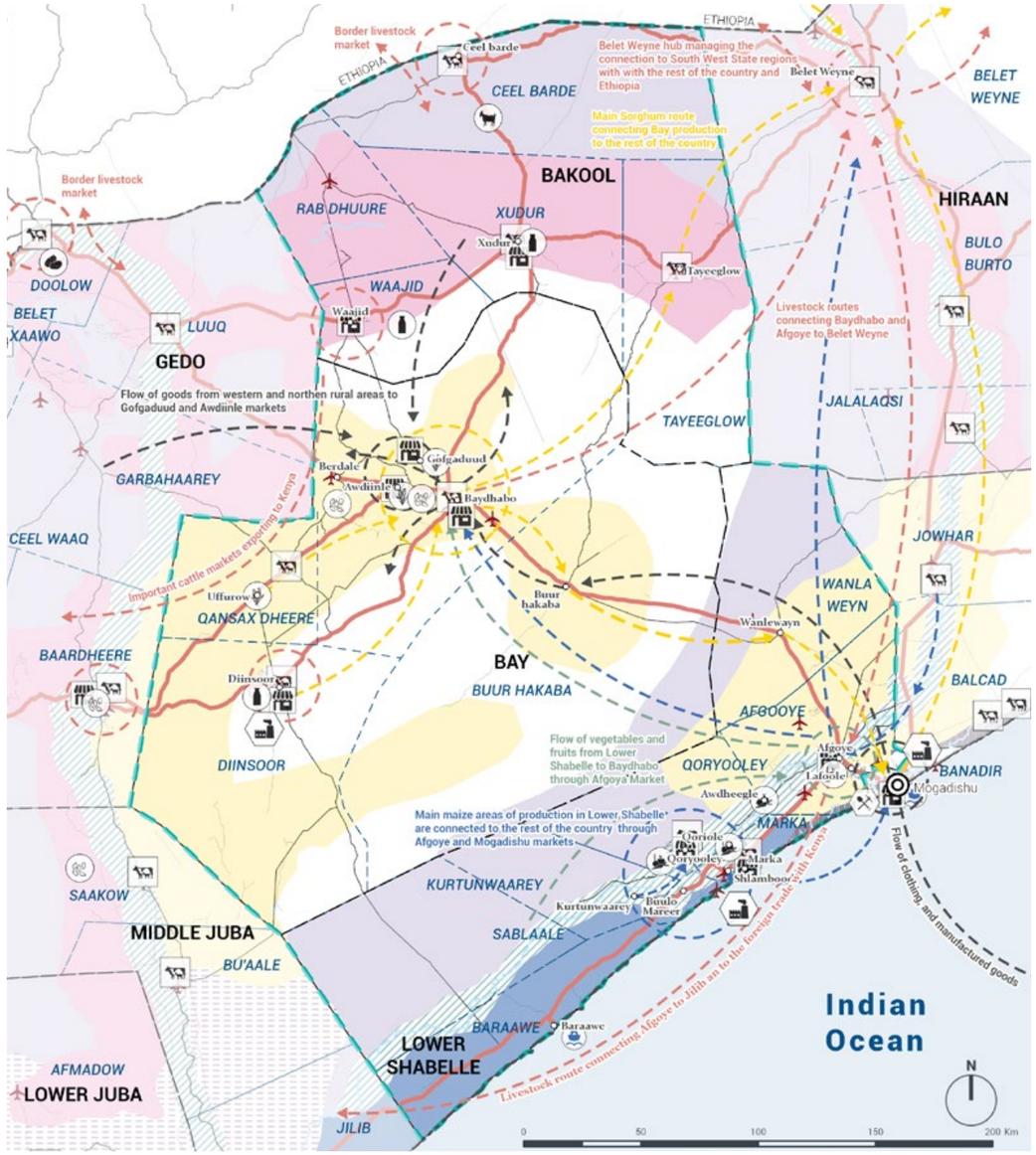
In urban centers like Baidoa and Barawe, small businesses and trading hubs offer employment opportunities for some residents. The informal economy thrives, with street vendors, small shops, and market traders being the backbone of urban livelihoods. Additionally, there are efforts to develop vocational training programs aimed at equipping youth and displaced populations with skills in carpentry, tailoring, and mechanics, among other trades. These programs are crucial in addressing high unemployment rates, especially among youth, and reducing the reliance on traditional livelihoods that are increasingly threatened by climate change.

Overall, the socio-economic development of South West State is at a critical juncture. While the region holds significant potential due to its agricultural base and strategic location, the ongoing conflict, environmental degradation, and underinvestment in infrastructure continue to impede progress. International and local efforts focus on building resilience through infrastructure projects, enhancing agricultural productivity, and promoting alternative livelihoods to help communities break the cycle of poverty and dependence on humanitarian aid

Trade and small-scale commerce also represent growing economic opportunities. Xudur, like many other Somali towns, has a bustling informal market economy where goods like food, clothing, and everyday items are traded. Improvements in infrastructure, such as roads and telecommunications, could enhance the town's role as a regional trading hub, connecting rural producers with larger urban markets in Baidoa and beyond.

Despite its potential, Xudur faces challenges to fully realizing its economic opportunities. These include insecurity due to the ongoing conflict in South West State, limited infrastructure, and vulnerability to droughts and floods that affect both agriculture and livestock production. Development initiatives by the government and international partners, focusing on building resilience and improving market access, could help unlock more of the town's economic potential in the coming years.

"Initiatives by international development agencies aim to enhance farming techniques, provide access to improved seeds and irrigation, and create value chains for agricultural products"



Map 6: Socio-economic Development & Livelihoods in South West State

03

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

03

Situational Analysis

"The Various international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are active in Xudur, providing humanitarian aid and development support to address the needs of the local population and IDPs. These efforts include food aid, water and sanitation projects, healthcare services, and livelihood support programs."

3.1 City Overview

Xudur is the capital of the Bakool region in southwestern Somalia. It is located approximately 310 kilometers northwest of Mogadishu and lies close to the Ethiopian border. Xudur sits in a semi-arid zone and is characterized by flat, dry plains that extend across much of the region.

The climate is hot and dry, with high temperatures during most of the year. Rainfall is scarce, and the area experiences periodic droughts, which significantly impact agricultural activities. The region's geography makes it reliant on seasonal rains, primarily during the Gu (April-June) and Deyr (October-November) seasons.

Xudur is home to a population of approximately 60,000 people, though this estimate can fluctuate due to internal displacement and migration caused by conflict, food insecurity, and environmental challenges. The town's population consists mainly of ethnic Somali people, with the majority belonging to various clans and sub-clans. As with many towns in Somalia, Xudur has a youthful demographic, with a large percentage of the population being under the age of 30. The town's population density has increased over time due to the arrival of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing violence and drought in surrounding areas.

As with many other Somali cities, Xudur is informally divided into neighbourhoods by subclans. The Hadame clan, with the majority of population of the seven neighbourhoods, constitutes approximately 55% of the town's population. Other clans that reside in the area include the Jiroon, Luway, Leysan, Wanjeel, Ashraf and Eyle clans.

Various international development agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are active in Xudur, providing humanitarian aid and development support to address the needs of the local population and IDPs. These efforts include food aid, water and sanitation projects, healthcare services, and livelihood support programs. Traditional leaders and elders hold significant authority in the community, and they often serve as intermediaries between the town and external actors, including NGOs and government representatives.

"Traditional leaders and elders hold significant authority in the community, and they often serve as intermediaries between the town and external actors, including NGOs and government representatives"

Xudur in Numbers

City Size:
366 Ha
(Admin. Boundary)

Total Population:
60,205 pp
(hosting community + IDPs population)

Number of IDP Settlements:
76 Sites
(Data from IOM DTM, 2023)

Hosting Population:
29,699 pp
(Disaggregated data from FSNAU & FAO, 2024)

Available Vacant Land:
36.6 Ha
(within the city boundary)

IDP Population:
30,506 pp
(Disaggregated data from IOM DTM, 2023)

Average Water Consumption per Capita:
16 lts daily
(FAO-SWALIM, 2022)

City Population Density:
112 pp/ha
(within urban footprint without IDPs population)

Number of Households:
5,376 units (hosting community) UN-HABITAT, 2023
7,266 units (IDPs) CCCM, 2022

3.2 Urban Growth & Form

Xudur urban form was shaped by different factors such as its geographical location, the main economic activities and particularly the socio-political dynamics associated with displacement and conflict. The clan-based social structure plays a crucial role in the establishment of the different neighbourhoods and population density distribution around the community and clan settlements.

According to UN-Habitat analysis, the population density in Xudur fluctuates, primarily due to the movement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing conflict and environmental crises, such as droughts and floods, in the surrounding rural areas. The town has become a refuge for IDPs seeking safety and better access to essential services. This influx of people has strained the local resources, leading to overcrowding in informal settlements at the outskirts of the town. Humanitarian organizations estimate that the town hosts thousands of IDPs who are in dire need of housing, food security, healthcare, and education.

According to FAO-FSNAU, Xudur has an estimated local population of around 29,699 people plus 30,506 IDPs according to IOM-DTM and UN-Habitat GIS calculations, who have fled conflict and environmental disasters from other regions.

In recent years, the combination of ongoing conflict, periodic droughts, and flooding has continued to drive people to Xudur. Humanitarian reports from IOM, UNHCR, and UN-Habitat indicate that Xudur has become a sanctuary city for IDPs who also bring diverse traditions and skills, particularly in agriculture and livestock, enriching local culture and fostering innovation and economic dynamic.

Xudur in 2003

By 2003, Xudur built-up area had approximately 118.73 Ha of urban footprint, which can be seen in the figure next page. The urban form was characterized by having a consolidated core centre but the peri-urban areas were unplanned and with scattered informal settlements. Many houses and building structures were built using traditional materials such as mud, thatch, and locally available resources. The lack of formal urban planning resulted in a haphazard arrangement of residential, commercial, and public spaces.

Infrastructure development was minimal. The road network consisted mainly of dirt tracks and unpaved roads, which were often in poor condition and impassable during the rainy seasons. There were no significant public transportation systems, and mobility was primarily dependent on foot, bicycles, and occasional vehicles.

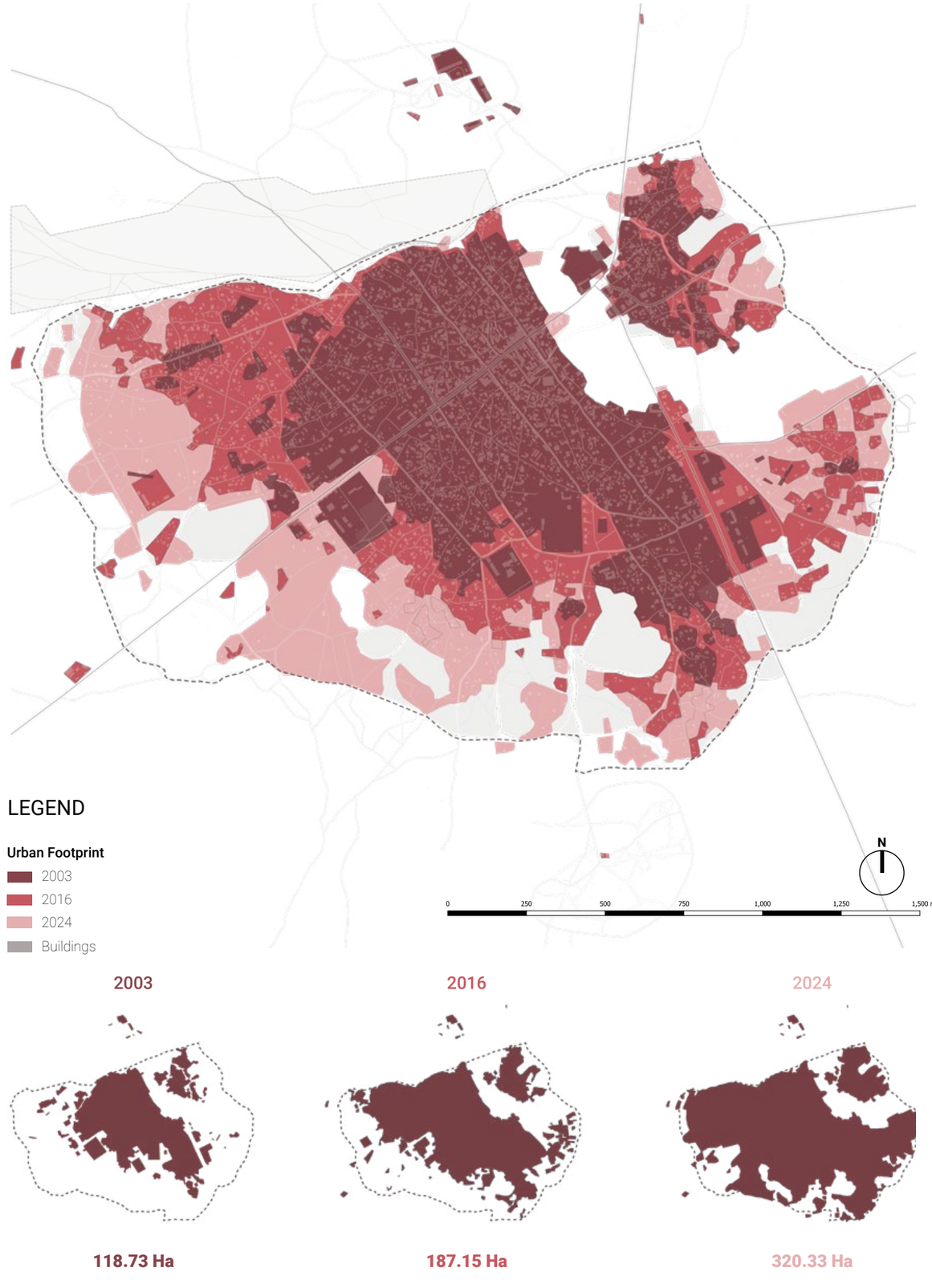
At the time, there were various international NGOs and humanitarian organizations operating providing emergency relief and basic services. Their presence was critical in supporting the population, particularly the IDPs, with food aid, medical supplies, and temporary shelters.

Xudur in 2009

By 2009, Xudur experienced significant changes, the urban footprint grew from 118.7 Ha in 2003 to 173 Ha by 2009. The city expanded the urban footprint about 50 hectares. Improvements regarding infrastructure provision were done, particularly in the roads condition with the expansion and rehabilitation projects enhancing connectivity and pushing development towards the outskirts of the city. Promoting the creation of new settlements, mainly unplanned and without accessibility to basic services.

By 2009, Xudur's population was estimated to be in ten thousands, though precise numbers

"According to FAO-FSNAU, Hudur has an estimated population of around 29,699 people and 30,506 IDPs, according to IOM-DTM and UN-Habitat GIS calculations, who have fled conflict and environmental disasters from other regions"



Map 7: Xudur Historical Urban Growth

SHEIKH AWAYS
Total Area: 67 Ha
Total Pop: 10,516pp
Hosting Pop:6,388pp
IDP Pop: 4, 128pp
Pop Density: 95pp/Ha

BUULOW
Total Area: 69 Ha
Total Pop: 7,398pp
Hosting Pop:6,143pp
IDP Pop: 1,255pp
Pop Density: 89pp/Ha

SHIIDA
Total Area: 75 Ha
Total Pop: 10,070pp
Hosting Pop:4,711pp
IDP Pop: 5,359pp
Pop Density: 62.5pp/Ha

WADAJIR
Total Area: 59.5 Ha
Total Pop: 16,958pp
Hosting Pop:2,486pp
IDP Pop: 14,472pp
Pop Density: 41.7pp/Ha

BUULOW JADIID
Total Area: 37 Ha
Total Pop: 5,780pp
Hosting Pop:1,510pp
IDP Pop: 4,270pp
Pop Density: 41pp/Ha

HORSEED
Total Area: 35 Ha
Total Pop: 5,112pp
Hosting Pop:4,224pp
IDP Pop: 888pp
Pop Density: 120.6pp/Ha

MOORO GAABEY
Total Area: 23 Ha
Total Pop: 4,372pp
Hosting Pop:4,237pp
IDP Pop: 135pp
Pop Density: 184pp/Ha

Map 8: Xudur Neighborhoods

were difficult to ascertain due to displacement caused by conflict. Large portions of the population consisted of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing violence in surrounding areas, as well as those returning after periods of displacement.

The integration of IDPs into Xudur´s urban fabric continued to be a challenge, but efforts were made to regularize informal settlements and provide better living conditions for displaced families.

With the support of different humanitarian aid, the first schools and health clinics were built in the city. Although accessibility for most of the population still remained limited. During that year, Xudur's population was significantly impacted by the ongoing Somali Civil War, which caused widespread displacement and instability. Many residents fled to safer areas, while others arrived in Xudur seeking refuge from conflict zones.

Xudur in 2016

Between 2009 and 2016, Xudur experienced significant changes, largely driven by shifts in the control of territory between Al-Shabaab and Somali government forces backed by AMISOM. While the recapture of the town in 2014 marked a turning point in terms of political control, the broader security and humanitarian situation remained fragile. Social and economic conditions improved only marginally, and the population continued to face displacement, food insecurity, and limited access to essential services. Nonetheless, the resilience of the local population and the gradual re-establishment of government authority represented some hope for a more stable future.

By 2016, Xudur increased its urban footprint to 187 Ha approximately. In 7 years' time span Little development occurred in Xudur from 2009 to 2016, as insecurity continued to hamper reconstruction efforts. Infrastructure such as roads, healthcare facilities, and schools were in poor condition. Efforts to rebuild were slow and primarily focused on basic needs, such as water and sanitation facilities, though these were often temporary or inadequate.

By 2016, education and health services were still severely limited. Some schools had reopened after the recapture of the town, but resources were scarce, and access to education was inconsistent. Similarly, health services were minimal, with only a few clinics operating, often with the support of international NGOs and humanitarian agencies.

Xudur in 2024

From 2016 to 2024, Xudur saw notable changes in urban planning and architecture, reflecting broader improvements in governance, security, and humanitarian efforts, although challenges persisted. The city expanded its urban built-up area from 189 Ha to 320 Ha, which was a vast percentage of land that was turned into an urban use.

By 2024, Xudur had seen the rehabilitation of some key public buildings. Government offices, schools, and healthcare facilities that were damaged during the conflict were repaired or rebuilt. The vast majority of IDPs in Xudur continued to live in informal settlements on the outskirts of the town. These settlements were typically crowded, with makeshift shelters made of plastic sheeting, wooden frames, and scrap materials.

Efforts by international humanitarian organizations and local authorities to improve conditions for IDPs led to some modest improvements in shelter. By 2024, some IDPs had been provided with more durable housing solutions, such as semi-permanent shelters made from corrugated iron sheets and mud bricks. These were more resilient to environmental stressors, such as rain and heat, but they remained basic and often overcrowded.

"From 2016 to 2024, Xudur saw modest but notable changes in urban planning and architecture, reflecting broader improvements in governance, security, and humanitarian efforts, although challenges persisted"

3.3 Population by Neighborhoods

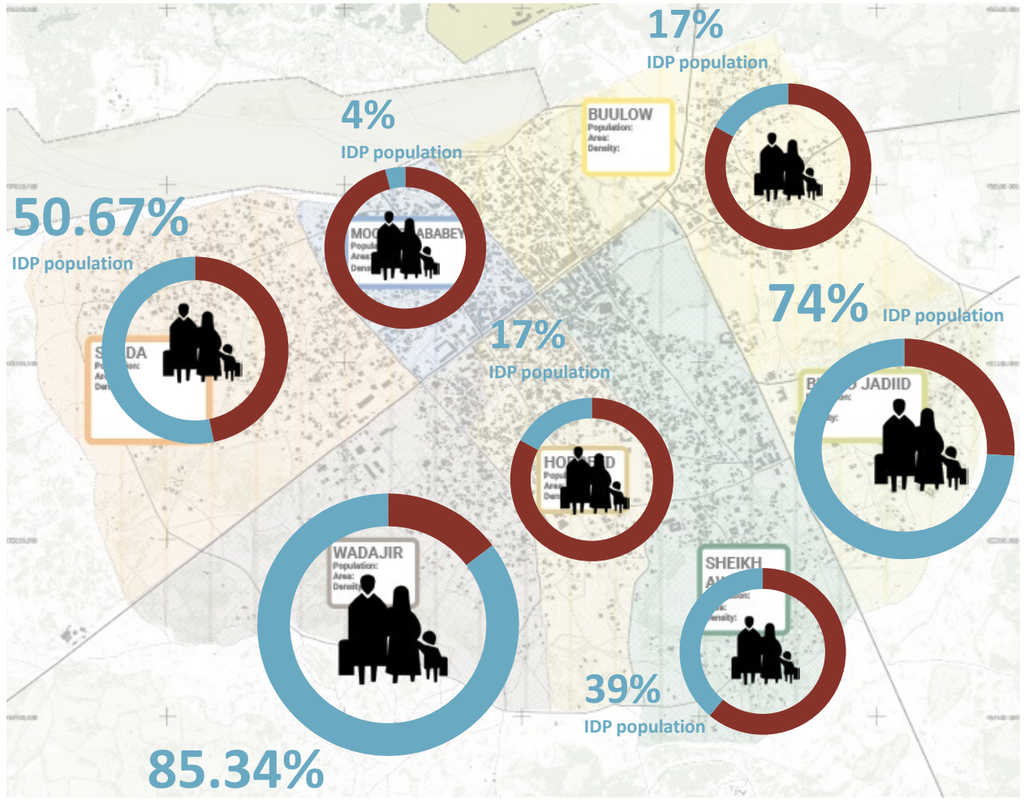
1. Shiida

Shiida neighborhood wich is conformed mainly by Hadame clan individuals, hosts a portion of the total population, accounting for 16.7% of the total city´s residents. The total population of Shiida is around 10,070 people. This includes a hosting population of 4,711 individuals and an internally displaced persons (IDP) population of 5,359 individuals. The neighborhood spans an area of 75 hectares, resulting in a total urban population density of 62.5 people per hectare (pp/Ha), only considering the hosting community (HC).

2. Wadajiir

Wadajiir neighborhood is home to a 28% of the total city´s population, with 16,958 residents (IDPs+HC). The hosting population comprises 2,486 people, while the IDP population stands at 14,472 individuals. The neighborhood covers an area of 59.5 hectares. The average urban population density is around 41.7 people per hectare (pp/Ha), only considering the hosting community (HC) which can be considered quiet low for the average standards.Most of the population settled in Wadajiir neighborhood forms part of the Leysan clan community (IDPs+HC).

"The integration of IDPs into Xudur´s urban fabric continued to be a challenge, but efforts were made to regularize informal settlements and provide better living conditions"



Map 9: IDP population by neighborhood

3. Moorogaabey

The neighborhood of Moorogaabey accommodates 7.2% individuals of the total city´s population, which makes it one of the neighborhoods with the lowest population number, nevertheless the one with the highest population density numbers being 184 people per hectare (pp/Ha). The total population is 4,472 people, conformed in its majority by the hosting community with 4, 237pp and only 135 IDPs.

It is the neighborhood with the lowest number of IDP population in an area of 23 Hectares. During the workshop it was mentioned that it was one of the most spatially limited and crowded areas in the city by buildings and houses so there is not so much space for growth nor horizontal expansion. Most of the hosting community and IDP population in this area forms part of the Hadame clan community.

4. Buulow

Buulow neighborhood population represents 12.3% of the total city´s population, with a total number of 7,398 individuals. The hosting population in Buulow is conformed by 6, 143 people, while the IDP population accounts to 1,255 individuals. The neighborhood covers an area of 69 hectares and has an average population density of 89 people per hectare (pp/Ha), considering only the hosting community. The large majority of population in the area forms part of the Luway clan community, which is a minority within Xudur.

5. Buulo Jadiid

Buulo Jadiid is a neighborhood comprised of individuals from the Eyle, Waanjeel, and Ashraf clans. The neighborhood is home to 9.6% of the total city's population, amounting to 5,780

"There is a slight majority of IDPs population compared to the hosting community population in the city. It is imperative to establish projects to provide adequate housing and shelter for the displaced communities"

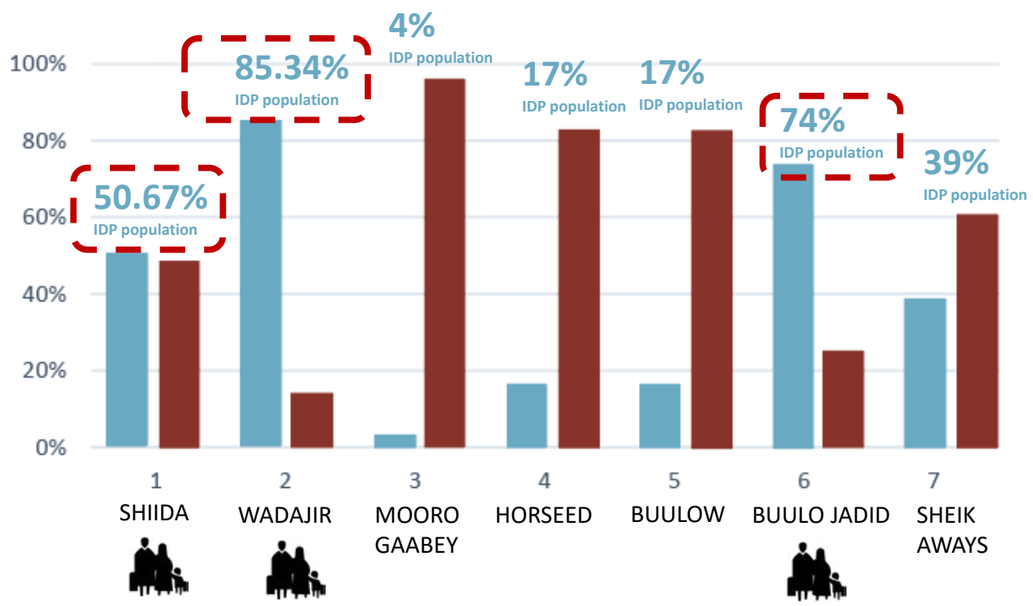


Figure 19: Percentage of IDPs VS hosting community population by neighborhood

people. Of this population, 4,270 individuals are internally displaced persons (IDPs), while the remainder consists of the host community.

Buulo Jadiid spans 37 hectares, resulting in an overall urban population density of 41 people per hectare (pp/Ha). This population density is relatively low compared to the city's average standards.

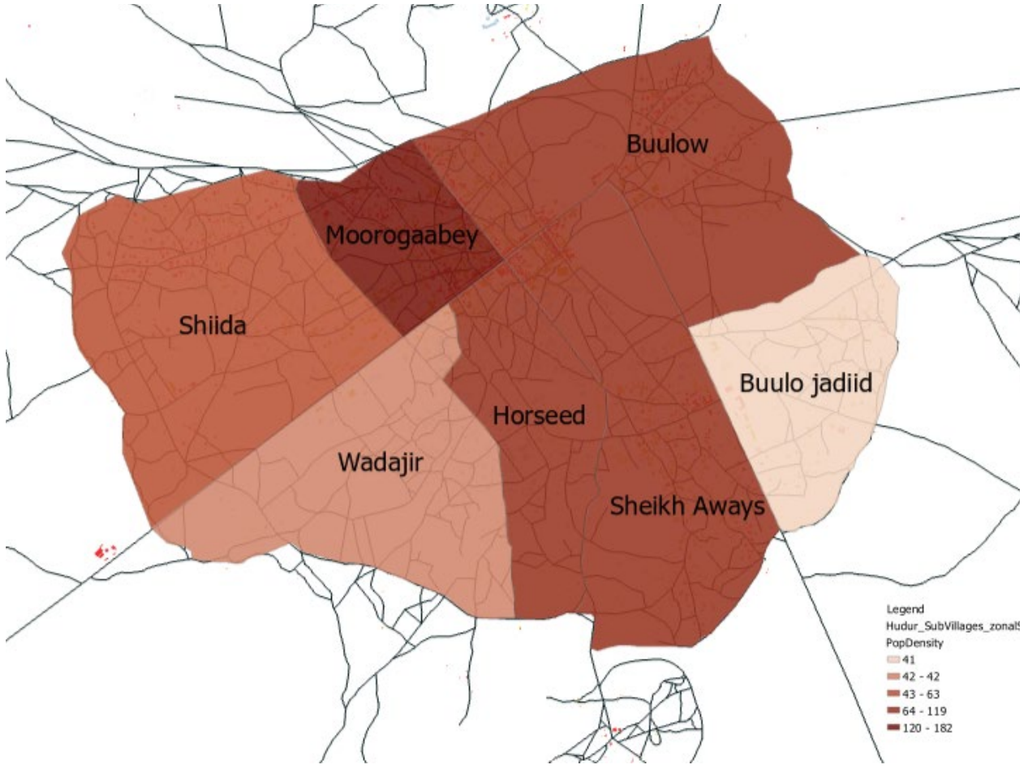
In addition to the demographic diversity, Buulo Jadiid has faced unique challenges due to its significant IDP population. The integration of IDPs into the host community has required careful management of resources and services to ensure equitable access to housing, water, sanitation, and education. Despite the lower-than-average population density, the neighborhood still struggles with providing adequate infrastructure for its growing and diverse population.

6. Sheikh Aways

Wadajiir neighborhood accounts for 28% of the city's total population, housing 16,958 residents, including both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the host community (HC). Of this population, 2,486 belong to the host community, while 14,472 are IDPs.

The neighborhood spans 59.5 hectares, with an average urban population density of approximately 41.7 people per hectare (pp/Ha) when considering only the host community. This density is relatively low compared to the city's typical standards. The majority of residents in Wadajiir, both IDPs and the host community, are part of the Leysan clan.

"During the workshop, it was highlighted that Horseed, alongside Moorogaabey, is one of the most spatially constrained and overcrowded areas in the city, largely due to the concentration of buildings and houses"



Map 10: Hosting community population density by neighborhood

The concentration of IDPs in Wadajiir presents unique challenges, particularly in the distribution of resources and services. With such a large proportion of the population being displaced, the neighborhood faces pressure on infrastructure, housing, and social services. The Leysan clan's presence provides a sense of community and shared identity, which has facilitated some level of social cohesion.

7. Horseed

The Horseed neighborhood accounts for 8.5% of the city's total population, making it one of the least populated areas, along with Buulo Jadiid and Moorogaabey. Despite its smaller population size, Horseed has a notably high population density, with 120 people per hectare (pp/Ha). The total population of the neighborhood is 5,112, the majority of whom belong to the host community, comprising 4,224 individuals. The IDP population stands at 888, making Horseed the second-lowest neighborhood in terms of IDP numbers, with the area spanning 35 hectares.

During the validation workshop, it was highlighted that Horseed, alongside Moorogaabey, is one of the most spatially constrained and overcrowded areas in the city, largely due to the concentration of buildings and houses. The neighborhood faces significant limitations in terms of spatial growth, with little room for horizontal expansion.

The majority of both the host community and the IDP population belong to the Jiroon and Hadame clan, contributing to a shared cultural and social identity within the neighborhood. However, the high density and limited space pose challenges for future development, infrastructure improvement, and the provision of essential services, necessitating strategic urban planning to address these issues.

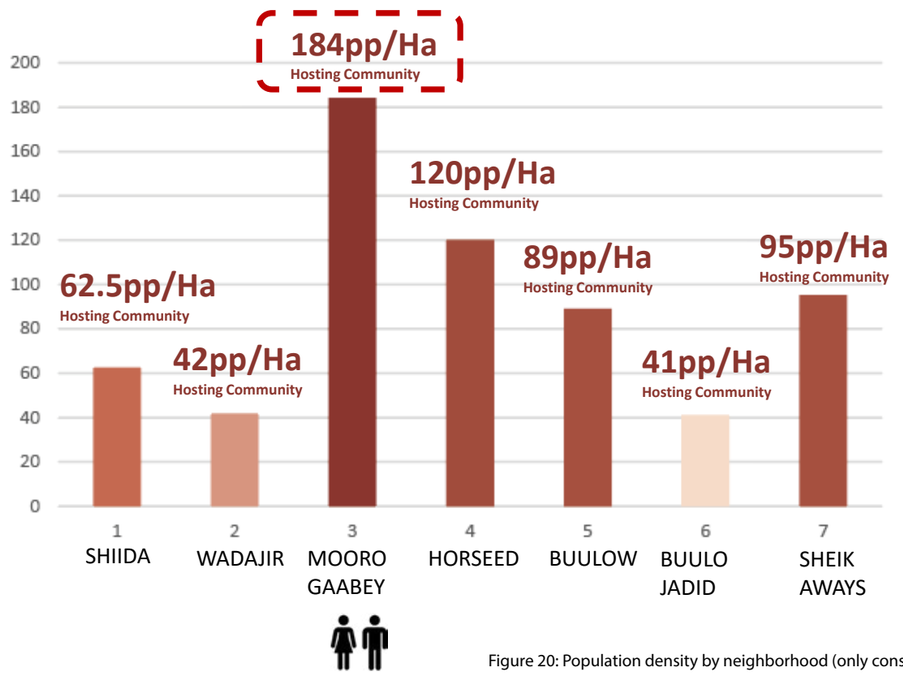


Figure 20: Population density by neighborhood (only considering HC)

3.4 Population Density

Xudur has a total population of approximately 60, 205 people, according to the information of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) by FAO and UN-Habitat GIS analysis. The hosting population estimation is based on the total number of residential buildings considering an average household size of six people. Within this total population, the host community comprises around 29, 699 people, while the internally displaced persons (IDPs) number approximately 30,506 pp. This means that the IDPs represent a 50.7% of the total city´s population while the local residents represent a 49.3%.

Breakdown of Population:

Total Population: 60, 205pp

Host Community: 29, 699pp

IDPs: 30,506pp

Data Sources:

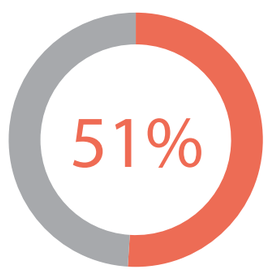
- **IOM-DTM:** Provides regular updates on displacement and population movements, offering reliable data for population estimates.
- **Food Security & Nutrition Analysis Unit-Somalia (FSNAU):** Provides population data for IDPs and Hosting Communities. The information is collected by a field team of enumerators and analysts and is entered and processed through an integrated database and information management system. The unit draws on reliable and appropriate secondary information at all levels, as well as rigorous analysis of the FSNAU field data.
- **UN-Habitat GIS Analysis:** Utilizes geographical information systems to analyze urban development and housing, ensuring accurate assessments of residential use and population distribution. This detailed breakdown clarifies the significant impact of displacement on Xudur's demographics, highlighting the substantial presence of IDPs within the overall population.

This demographic distribution outlines a significant demographic shift for Xudur over the last years, where internally displaced persons (IDPs) constitute a substantial 51% of the city's total population. In contrast, the local residents account for 49%. This highlights the profound impact of displacement on the town's social fabric and infrastructure.

The average city density is 164/pp/Ha considering the hosting population and the IDPs current population. Based on the population density map for Xudur, it is evident that the highest population densities are concentrated in the city center in Moorogaabey and Horseed neighborhoods. Moving outward towards the periphery of the city, the

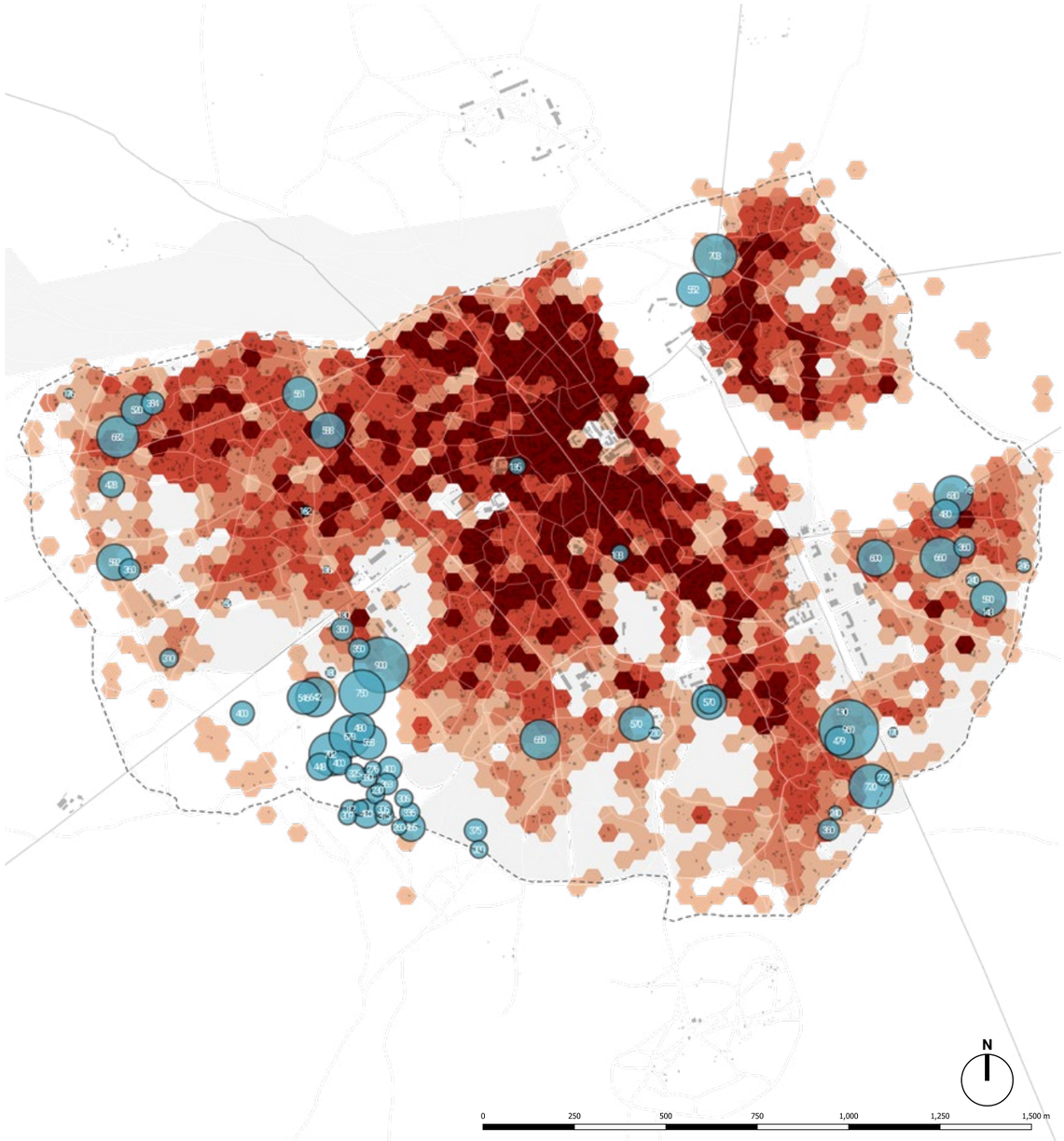
164PP/HA

Xudur´s average population density including hosting community and IDPs.



IDPs represent 51% of the total city´s population

"This demographic distribution outlines a significant demographic shift for Xudur over the last years, where internally displaced persons (IDPs) constitute a substantial 51% of the city's total population. In contrast, the local residents account for 49%. This highlights the profound impact of displacement on the town's social fabric and infrastructure"



Map 11: Xudur Population Density Map

Figure 21: IDP camp at Xudur´s urban-rural periphery ©FAO, Arete/Ismail 2022

population density gradually decreases. The numbers in these areas can go from 184pp/Ha in the urban core to 41pp/Ha at the city´s outskirts. This pattern indicates a significant disparity in population distribution, with the city center being the most densely populated area, while the urban periphery and rural areas exhibit considerably lower density levels.

The high presence of IDPs needs urgent and targeted urban planning solutions with resource allocation to address the different structural problems. Such a high proportion of displaced individuals puts immense pressure on local resources, services, and facilities, necessitating innovative solutions and collaborative efforts from both local and international stakeholders.

Moreover, this demographic reality emphasizes the critical importance of integrating IDPs into the urban community dynamics and job opportunities in order to activate the local economy. Ensuring equitable access to housing, healthcare, education, and employment, will foster social cohesion and stability.

Xudur can transform this demographic shift into an opportunity for inclusive growth and long-term development, ultimately creating a more equal and balanced community.

3.5 Dimension of Displacement & Migration Dynamics

Displacement and migration in South West State, Somalia, are driven by a complex interplay of conflict, environmental challenges, economic hardship, and the search for better access to services and humanitarian aid. The

"The IDP population which represent more than half of the total city´s population only occupies a 6% of the urban land within Xudur. The IDP population density is 12 times higher than the hosting community"

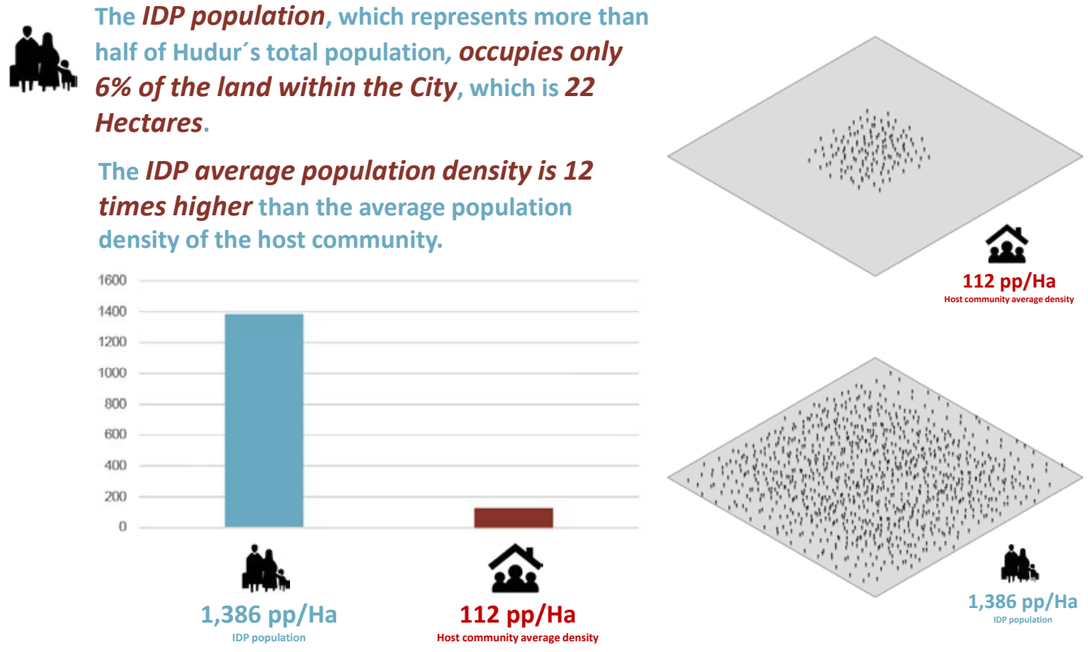


Figure 22: Difference of land occupation and population density among IDPs & hosting community

displaced population typically includes a high proportion of women, children, and the elderly. Many IDPs arrive with few possessions and have limited means to support themselves, increasing their dependency on humanitarian support.

Main Drivers of Migration in Xudur:

1. Conflict and Insecurity

Armed Conflict: Xudur has been a key town in the struggle between government forces, supported by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the Al-Shabaab militant group. Al-Shabaab often imposes blockades, cutting off access to food, aid, and essential services. These conditions create severe insecurity, forcing residents to flee for their safety.

"The displaced population typically includes a high proportion of women, children, and the elderly. Many IDPs arrive with few possessions and have limited means to support themselves, increasing their dependency on humanitarian aid"

Clan-based Conflicts: In addition to the broader insurgency, inter-clan violence and territorial disputes contribute to instability, forcing many families to leave areas with high tension and violence.

2. Food Insecurity and Famine

Drought: Somalia is highly vulnerable to climate shocks, and recurrent droughts have severely impacted agriculture and livestock in Xudur. With livelihoods heavily dependent on farming and pastoralism, droughts lead to loss of income, food scarcity, and hunger, forcing people to migrate to areas with better access to resources.

Blockades: Al-Shabaab's control of rural areas surrounding Xudur often results in blockades, preventing humanitarian aid from reaching the town. These blockades exacerbate food shortages and lead to acute malnutrition, particularly affecting children. In search of food and aid, families are forced to migrate to safer areas.

Climate Change: Long-term environmental degradation and changing weather patterns exacerbate the frequency and intensity of droughts and floods, making traditional livelihoods increasingly unsustainable.

3. Economic Hardship

Livelihood Loss: As insecurity and drought persist, economic opportunities have dwindled. Agricultural and pastoralist activities are severely disrupted, leading to loss of income. The lack of alternative employment pushes people to migrate to urban centers or even across borders, seeking economic stability.

Limited Access to Basic Services: Xudur's isolation due to the conflict has also led to limited access to health care, education, and clean water. This lack of services is a major factor in displacement, as residents move to areas where humanitarian agencies can operate more freely and provide essential services.

4. Access to Services and Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian Aid: The presence of humanitarian agencies in certain areas can attract displaced populations seeking food, water, shelter, and other essential services. Camps and urban centers with established aid distribution systems become focal points for migration.

5. Environmental Degradation & Climate Change

Desertification: Xudur is part of a region that faces significant environmental degradation. Land degradation, coupled with climate change, leads to the loss of arable land, making traditional agricultural and pastoralist lifestyles unsustainable. This forces people to migrate in search of new livelihoods.

Floods: Although droughts are more common, occasional floods further displace communities, particularly during heavy rains that damage property and farmlands, compounding the displacement crisis.

Figure 23: Informal IDP sites in rural areas. © CARITAS (Catherine Mumbi/Trocaire), 2017

Figure 24: Status of IDP shelters in the city´s rural area. © FAO (Arete/Ismail Taxta), 2022

3.6 IDPs Main Urban Challenges

Over the past years, Xudur has become a key refuge for a significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The Urban IDPs face a wide range of challenges, including inadequate housing, food insecurity, limited access to basic services, and vulnerability to violence and exploitation.

1. Housing & Shelter

Overcrowded Settlements: IDPs in urban areas, often settle in overcrowded informal camps or shantytowns. These makeshift settlements are characterized by substandard housing, such as temporary shelters made from plastic sheeting, and lack durable infrastructure to withstand harsh weather.

Evictions: Forced evictions are a major issue, particularly in urban areas where land ownership is contested or where private landowners reclaim their property. IDPs are often evicted without adequate notice or compensation, leading to repeated displacement within urban areas.

Insecure Tenure: The lack of formal land tenure for IDPs contributes to their vulnerability to eviction and prevents them from investing in more permanent housing solutions. Many IDPs are forced to squat on public or private land, leaving them in a constant state of insecurity.

2. Access to Basic Services & Infrastructure

Healthcare: Many urban IDPs lack access to basic healthcare services. Urban clinics and hospitals are often overburdened, understaffed, and lack essential medical supplies. IDPs, who tend to live on the outskirts of cities, may struggle to access these facilities due to distance, cost, or insecurity.

Education: The education needs of children in IDP settlements are often unmet. Schools in urban areas are either too few to accommodate the growing population or too far from IDP camps. Additionally, economic pressures and the need for children to help support their families often prevent IDP children from attending school.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH): Access to clean water and sanitation facilities is often extremely limited in IDP camps and informal settlements. Poor sanitation increases the risk of disease outbreaks, including cholera, diarrhea, and other waterborne illnesses, which are common in IDP settlements.

The rapid growth in population has placed enormous strain on Xudur's already limited resources. The town's infrastructure, including water supply systems, sanitation facilities, and housing, is under significant pressure to accommodate the needs of both the local population and the newly arrived IDPs.

This situation outlines the urgency for comprehensive support from both national and international bodies to enhance Xudur's capacity to manage this crisis. Humanitarian assistance is crucial to address immediate needs such as food, water, shelter, and medical care.

"This situation outlines the urgency for comprehensive support from both national and international bodies to enhance Xudur's capacity to manage this crisis. Humanitarian assistance is crucial to address immediate needs such as food, water, shelter, and medical care"

3.7 IDPs Land Occupation Patterns

"The land occupation patterns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are shaped by a variety of factors, including availability of land, local governance, security conditions, and socio-economic dynamics"

The land occupation patterns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Xudur are shaped by a variety of factors, including availability of land, local governance, security conditions, clan-based relationships, presence of international humanitarian agencies and socio-economic dynamics. A lack of formal ownership, legal vulnerability, and frequent evictions characterize the land tenure situation for IDPs in Xudur.

Informal IDP camps are managed through a combination of self-governance and support from humanitarian organizations, which provide essential services and protection. Addressing the challenges faced by IDPs requires coordinated efforts to improve land tenure security, enhance living conditions, and support sustainable livelihoods. According to IOM-DTM, the city is hosting approximately 30,000 IDPs, which increases the total population, straining resources, and stressing the quality of the services in the existing public facilities, which are already insufficient.

Here are some key patterns observed in the occupation of land by IDPs in the different neighborhoods of Xudur:

1. Informal Settlements

Squatting on Vacant Land: Many IDPs occupy vacant public or private land without formal permission. These informal settlements are often built in the outskirts of cities or in unused urban spaces.

Makeshift Shelters: Housing in these areas typically consists of makeshift shelters made from available materials such as plastic sheeting, wood, and corrugated iron. These shelters are often densely packed and lack basic amenities.

50.67%
IDP population

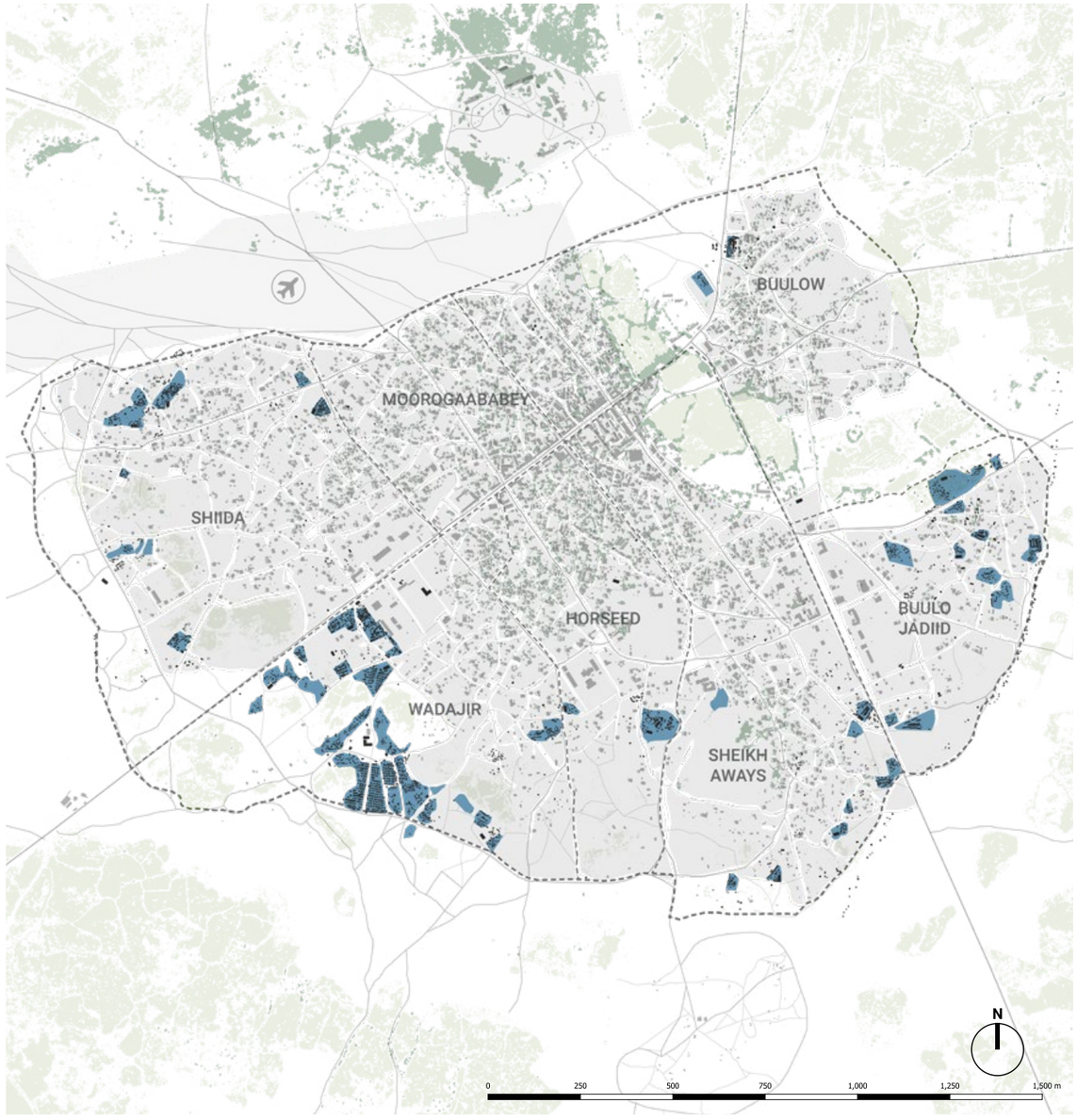
6%
Land occupied by IDP Sites

According to IOM Report on 2023 ***there are 78 IDP Settlements*** **in Hudur.**

The occupation of IDP Sites ***represents only a 6% of the City total urban land (22Ha).*** **This means more than half of the population lives in only 1.5m per person. (shelter space)**

There are approx. ***7,266 Shelter/Housing IDP Units*** **in Hudur.** *(according to LASER PULSE Report by USAID, 2023)*

1. WADAJIR: ***26 IDP Sites***
2. SHIIDA: ***12 IDP Sites***
3. BUULO JADIID: ***10 IDP Sites***
4. BUULOW: ***2 IDP Sites***
5. SHEIK AWAYS: ***9 IDP Sites***
6. HORSEED: ***3 IDP Sites***
7. MOOROGAABEY: ***2 IDP Sites***



Map 12: IDP Tents and Shelters Distribution in Xudur

LEGEND

- Agriculture
- Tree Cover
- Blocks
- IDP Tents/Shelters
- IDP Camps/Sites
- City Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- Road Network

"The Informal IDP camps are managed through a combination of self-governance and support from humanitarian organizations, which provide essential services and protection"

2. IDP Camps

Planned Camps by Humanitarian Organizations: In some cases, IDPs are hosted in camps established by humanitarian organizations. These camps may offer better access to services like water, sanitation, healthcare, and education. These settlements may offer slightly better services and infrastructure compared to informal camps, but they still face challenges like overcrowding, limited access to livelihoods, and long-term land tenure issues.

Government Designated Sites: These camps provide some level of structure and security for IDPs, but they often lack sufficient services. Moreover, tenure security is still a challenge, and these camps are often located on marginal or unproductive land.

3. Integration with Host Communities

Shared Spaces: Some IDPs find refuge by integrating with existing urban populations. They may live with clan relatives, friends, or rent space from local residents.

Rented Accommodation: Where possible, IDPs might rent accommodation, though this is often limited by their economic means and the availability of affordable housing.

4. Clan-based Land Occupation

Clan-Based Allocation: In rural areas, land tenure is often governed by customary systems where clan elders allocate land based on traditional practices. However, this system is less prevalent or effective in urban areas where many IDPs reside.

Community Negotiations: Some IDP communities negotiate with local clans or landowners to secure temporary or semi-formal access to land, but these agreements are usually not legally binding.

5. Peri-urban Land Occupation

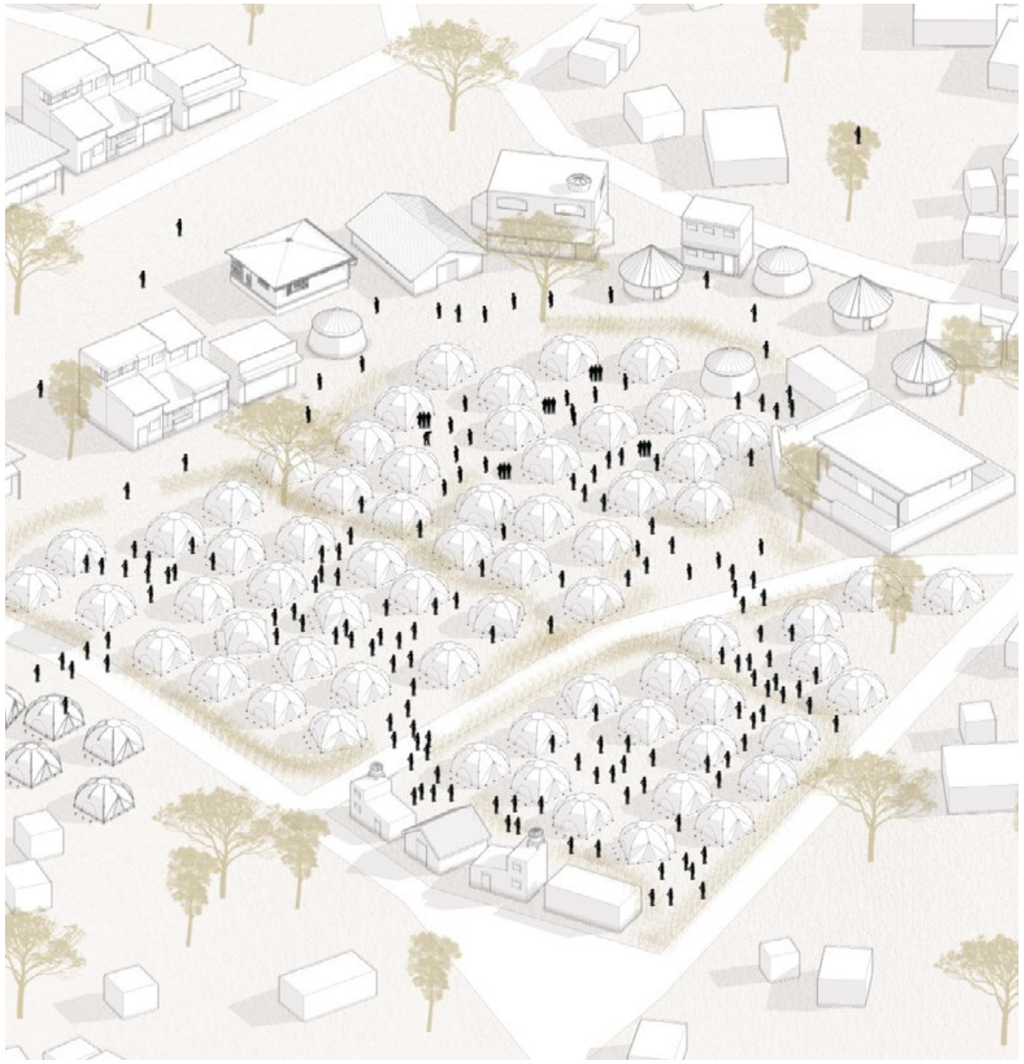
Peripheral Land in Urban Areas: IDPs often settle in peri-urban areas on the outskirts of Xudur. This pattern is driven by the higher availability of land on the city fringes, where landowners may be more willing to allow temporary settlements. These areas, however, are often poorly serviced and lack basic infrastructure.

Urban Expansion & Land Pressure: As urban areas expand, the land occupied by IDPs on city peripheries becomes more valuable, leading to land pressures and an increased likelihood of eviction. Many IDP settlements are pushed further into marginal land areas, increasing their vulnerability.

- The ***Humanitarian Standards (SPHERE) for IDP Camps recommend to allocate 30m2 per each IDP*** within the camp site (including shelter space) if basic services and infrastructure are provided outside the camp area. ***If basic services provision should be implemented within the camp site, the recommended square meters per IDP are 45.***

- ***For Hudur case*** if we consider that basic services will be provided in the urban area ***there is a current land deficit of 22.79m2 per IDP.***

- ***This means there is a need of 91.5 Ha of land to allocate an adequate space of living to IDPs in the city.*** (with a camp site typology, if we envision a high-density urban model to allocate IDPs the land demand ***can be reduced by less than 45Ha.***



Current IDPs Status in Xudur	SPHERE recommended stardards for IDPs if services are provided outside the camp area	SPHERE recommended stardards for IDPs if services are included inside the camp area
7.3 m2	30 m2	45 m2

Figure 25: Axonometric of the Current IDPs Situation in Xudur Regarding Housing & Shelter Provision

"The SPHERE Standards are a set of internationally recognized guidelines designed to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian responses, particularly in emergencies and displacement situations"

Management of Informal IDP Camps

1. Camp Coordination and Management

Humanitarian Organizations: Informal IDP camps are often managed with the assistance of humanitarian organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, and various NGOs. These organizations provide coordination, basic services, and support to camp residents.

Camp Committees: In some camps, IDPs establish self-governing committees to manage daily affairs, resolve disputes, and liaise with humanitarian agencies. These committees play a critical role in maintaining order and ensuring that the needs of camp residents are communicated to aid providers.

2. Shelter and Housing

Makeshift Shelters

Materials Used: IDPs often use available materials such as plastic sheeting, sticks, wooden poles, corrugated iron sheets, and pieces of cloth. These materials are typically sourced from humanitarian aid distributions or scavenged locally.

Structure: These makeshift shelters are rudimentary, providing minimal protection against the elements. They are often constructed quickly and lack durability.

Living Conditions: The shelters are overcrowded, with families often living in very close quarters. Privacy and personal space are severely limited, and the shelters do not provide adequate insulation from extreme weather conditions.

Temporary Shelters

Materials Provided by NGOs: Humanitarian organizations frequently distribute shelter kits that include materials such as tarpaulins, bamboo poles, ropes, and basic tools. These kits are designed to help IDPs build more stable and weather-resistant structures.

Improved Designs: Some temporary shelters follow designs that are intended to be more durable and secure, incorporating better roofing materials and more robust framing techniques.

3. Overcrowding

High Density: The density of shelters in IDP camps and settlements is typically very high, leading to overcrowded living conditions. This exacerbates the spread of communicable diseases and increases tension among residents.

Limited Space: Families often live in single-room shelters or shared spaces, with little room for personal belongings or privacy.

4. Forced Evictions

Frequent Evictions: IDPs frequently face forced evictions, often without adequate notice or provision of alternative accommodation. Evictions are typically carried out by private landowners or government authorities seeking to reclaim land for development or other uses.

5. Governance & Service Delivery Challenges

Weak Local Governance: Local governments in Somalia often lack the capacity, resources, and coordination to adequately address the needs of urban IDPs. Governance challenges such as corruption, limited administrative reach, and the fragmentation of authority hinder efforts to improve service delivery and infrastructure in IDP settlements.

Limited Humanitarian Coordination: While many international and local humanitarian organizations are working to assist IDPs, the coordination between these actors is often weak, resulting in gaps in service delivery. This lack of coordination also leads to unequal access to aid, with some IDP populations receiving more assistance than others.

THE SPHERE STANDARDS

The SPHERE Standards are a set of universal minimum standards and internationally recognized guidelines designed to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian responses to reugees and IDPs, particularly in emergencies and displacement situations.

They cover various sectors, including water supply, sanitation, hygiene promotion, food security, nutrition, shelter, settlement, and non-food items. This guidelines are usually designed for short-term recovery responses but still lack long-term vision, solutions and strategies.

Key Aspects of the SPHERE Standards in the Context of IDP Camps:

1. **Adequate Living Space**
2. **Privacy and Dignity**
3. **Safety and Security**
4. **Access to Water**
5. **Sanitation Facilities**
6. **Hygiene Promotion**
7. **Access to Healthcare**
8. **Nutrition**
9. **Food Security and Non-Food Items**

"There is a need of 91.5 Ha of urban land to allocate an adequate space of living to IDPs in Xudur, considering a typical site camp typology"

Figure 26: People displaced by droughts ©UMISOM (Tobin Jones), 2016

3.8 Urban Morphology

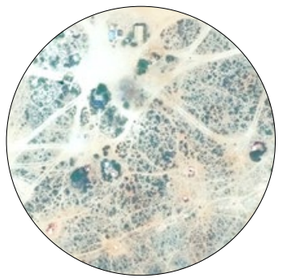
"Urban morphology is the study of the form, structure, and layout of urban areas. It examines the physical characteristics of cities, including their streets, buildings, plots, and open spaces, and how these elements are arranged"

Urban morphology is the study of the form, structure, and layout of urban areas. It examines the physical characteristics of cities, including their streets, buildings, plots, and open spaces, and how these elements are arranged and interconnected. Urban morphology looks at the historical development of cities, the patterns and processes of urban growth, and the social, spatial, economic and environmental factors that influence the physical form of urban areas. The analysis done assesses urban performance based on criteria like accessibility, form, plot layout, mobility, connectivity, buildings, density, social and economic dynamics, etc.

The urban morphology of Xudur can be classified into five distinct typologies. These classifications are based on the analysis of several key dimensions: plot layout, building density, population density, urban form (organic or gridded), and road density. It is important to note that these dimensions are interrelated and collectively influence the overall urban structure of the city.

The urban form of Xudur becomes increasingly diffuse and less structured as it transitions from the densely built-up neighborhoods of the city center to the more loosely organized peripheries. The highest densities, both in terms of buildings and population, are found in the central areas within the city boundary. This centralization supports economic vitality but also necessitates comprehensive urban planning to address challenges related to congestion, infrastructure strain, and service delivery.

By understanding and addressing the unique characteristics and implications of each urban typology, planners and policymakers can promote balanced and sustainable urban development in Xudur, enhancing the quality of life for all residents.



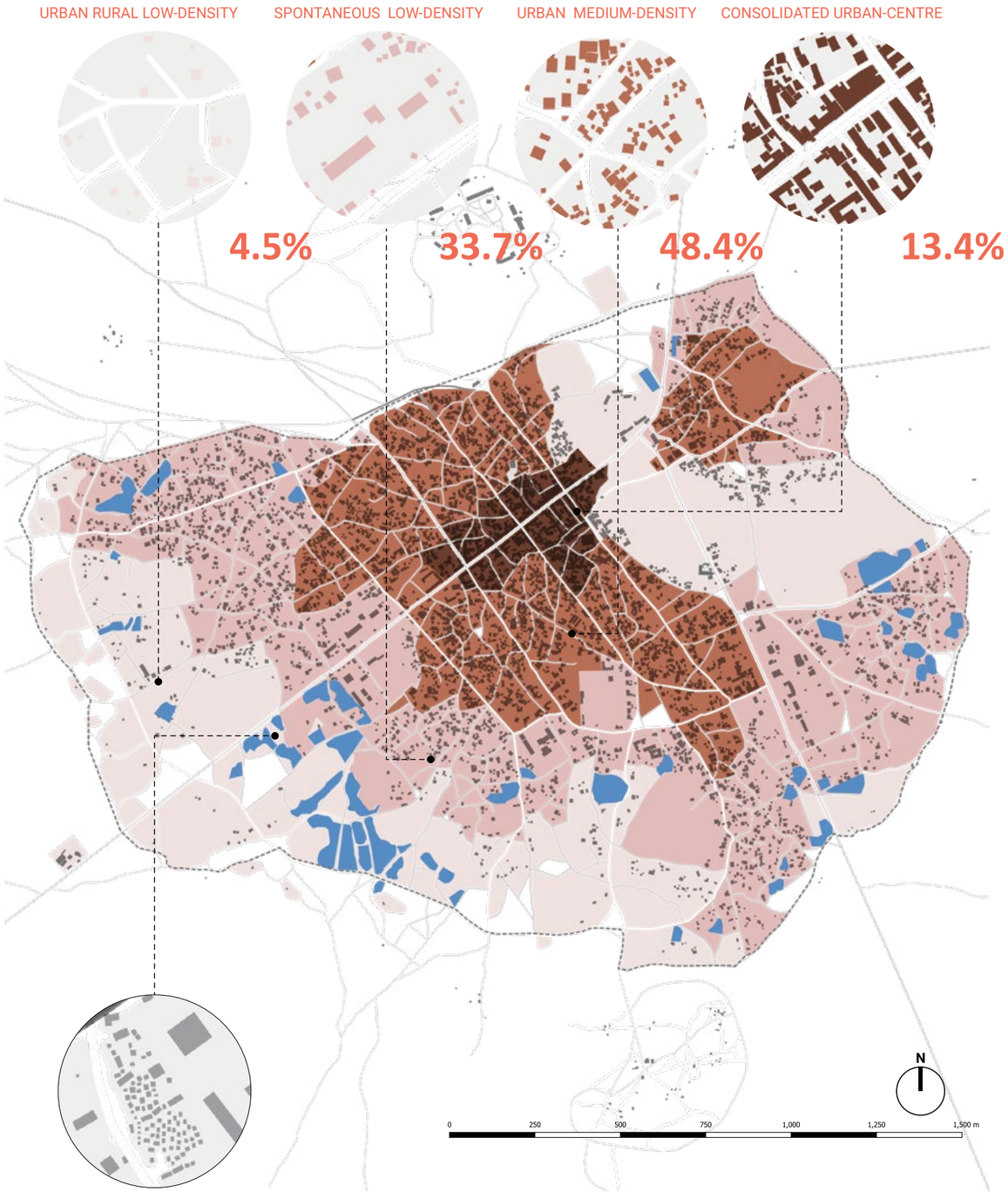
URBAN RURAL LOW-DENSITY

URBAN MEDIUM-DENSITY

CONSOLIDATED URBAN-CENTRE

SPONTANEOUS LOW-DENSITY

IDP CAMP TYPOLOGY

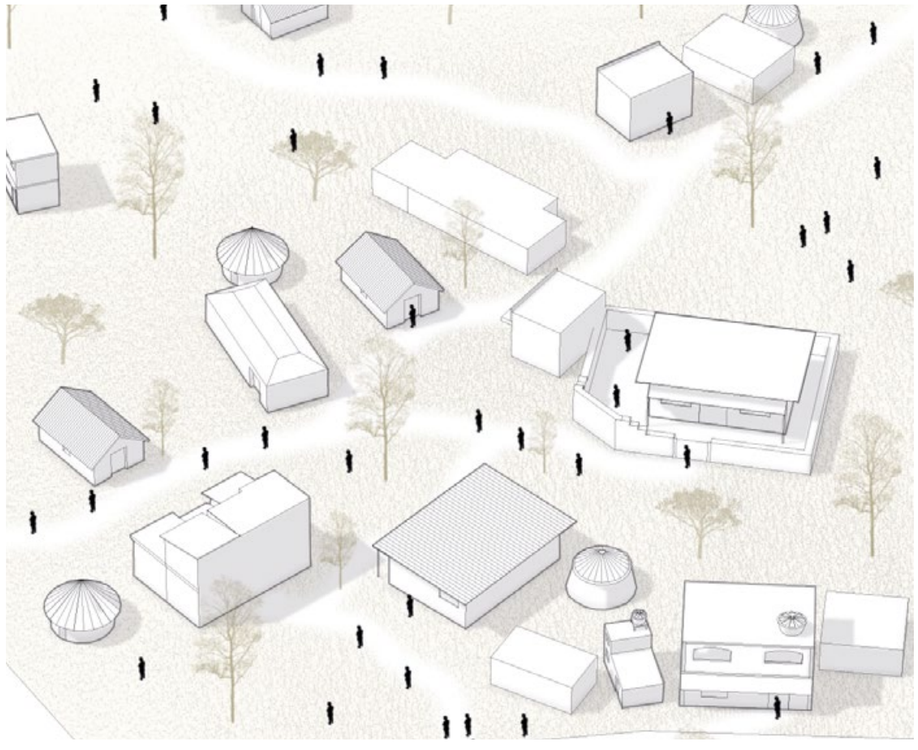


Map 13: Xudur Urban Morphology Distribution

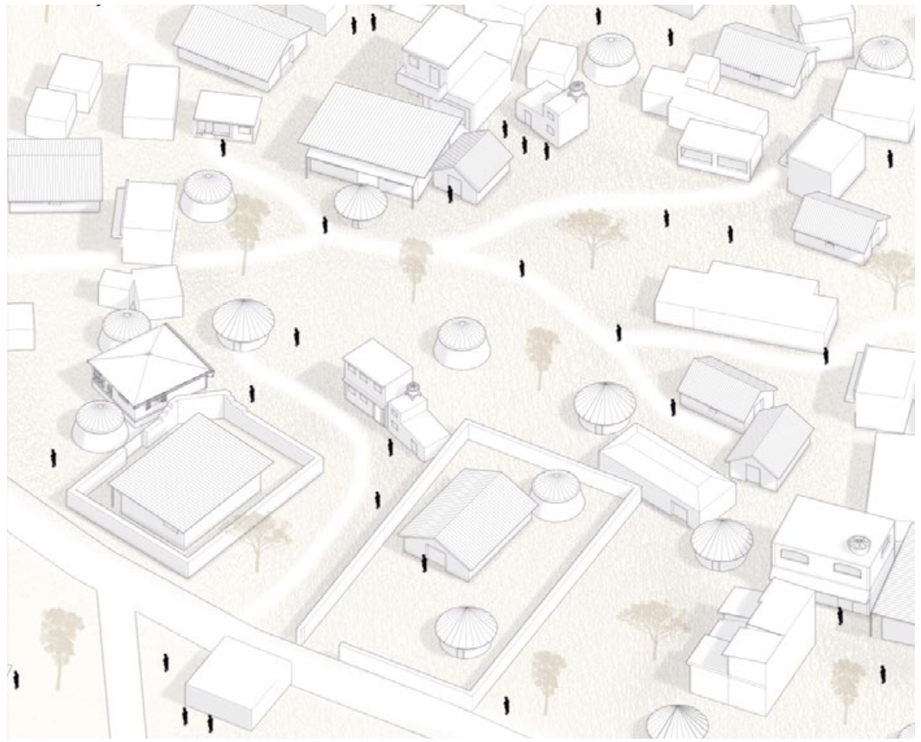
LEGEND

- Consolidated High Density Urban Center
- Spontaneous High-medium Density Urban Area
- Spontaneous Low-medium Density Urban Pheriphery
- Urban Rural Low Density Pheriphery
- Blocks
- Buildings
- IDP Camps/Sites

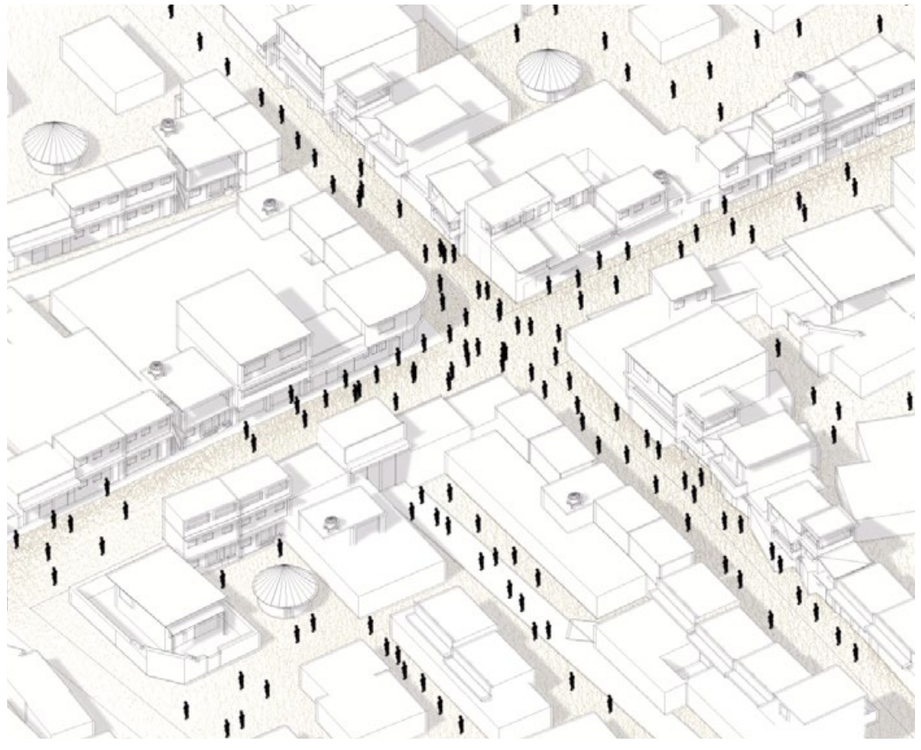
URBAN RURAL LOW-DENSITY PERIPHERY
Population Density: 0-20pp/Ha
Buildings Density: 0-10 Units/Ha
Description: This typology is the consequence of new arrivals into the city. It lacks a clear urban form and structure and accessibility to basi services and infrastructure.



SPONTANEOUS-LOW-MEDIUM DENSITY
Population Density: 20-80pp/Ha
Buildings Density: 0-50 Units/Ha
Description: This typology has some irregular streets, but it has a more consolidated urban pattern. The accessibility to services is better than the settlements at the outskirts.



URBAN MEDIUM-HIGH-DENSITY
Population Density: 81-160pp/Ha
Buildings Density: 51-89 Units/Ha
Description: This typology is close to the consolidated areas and has more coverage of services than the others. There are not so many vacant plots.



CONSOLIDATED HIGH-DENSITY URBAN CENTRE
Population Density: 161-250pp/Ha
Buildings Density: 90-105 Units/Ha
Description: The consolidated high-density urban centre has a clear street structure and a reticular block pattern with several buildings of two or three stores. It is relatively accessible to infrastructure, commerce, and services.

Figure 27: Axonometric view of the different typologies of urban and rural settlements in Xudur

3.9 Land Use Analysis

A Land Use Plan is a strategic framework used by city planners and policymakers to dictate how land within a specific area will be used and developed. It serves as a blueprint for the physical development of a city, ensuring that land resources are allocated efficiently and sustainably. The plan typically categorizes land into various uses such as residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, agricultural, and public spaces, and outlines regulations and guidelines for development and conservation. The primary goals of a Land Use Plan are to promote orderly growth, enhance the quality of life for residents, protect natural resources, and ensure sustainable development.

Xudur lacks a formal and official land use plan for the city. However, UN-Habitat successfully mapped the current land uses within the urban fabric and categorized each urban plot/block within the city's boundary through satellite analysis, focus group discussions, validation workshops, and surveys, all with the support of the local government. By 2024, the city's urban footprint extends to 366 hectares.

As highlighted earlier, many urban areas in Xudur require further consolidation in terms of population density, urban form, structure, and a diverse mix of land uses to foster greater economic activity and vibrancy. Currently, there is a significant imbalance in land use distribution, with approximately 53% (193 hectares) of the total urban footprint designated for residential purposes. This has resulted in a mono-functional urban layout, lacking the diversity of activities and land uses within the same urban blocks, which is essential for creating a dynamic and economically robust city

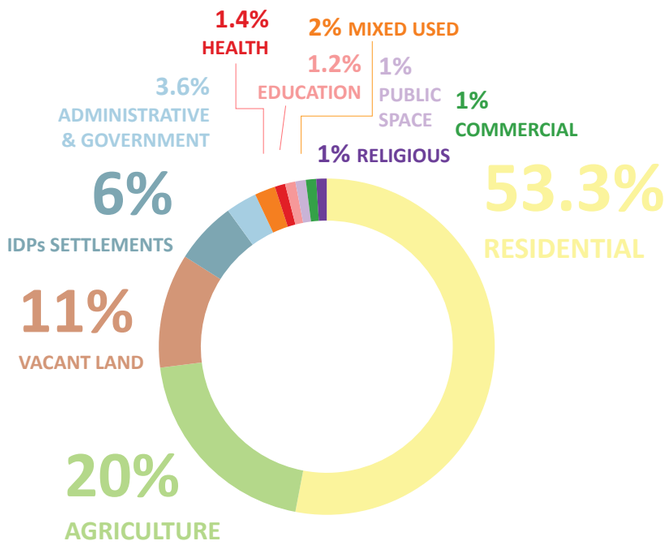
Agriculture is the second most significant land use, accounting for approximately 20% which represents 73 hectares of the total area. Agriculture and livestock are the main economic and subsistence activities in Xudur. This is important when analyzing the numbers of food production and food insecurity within the city.

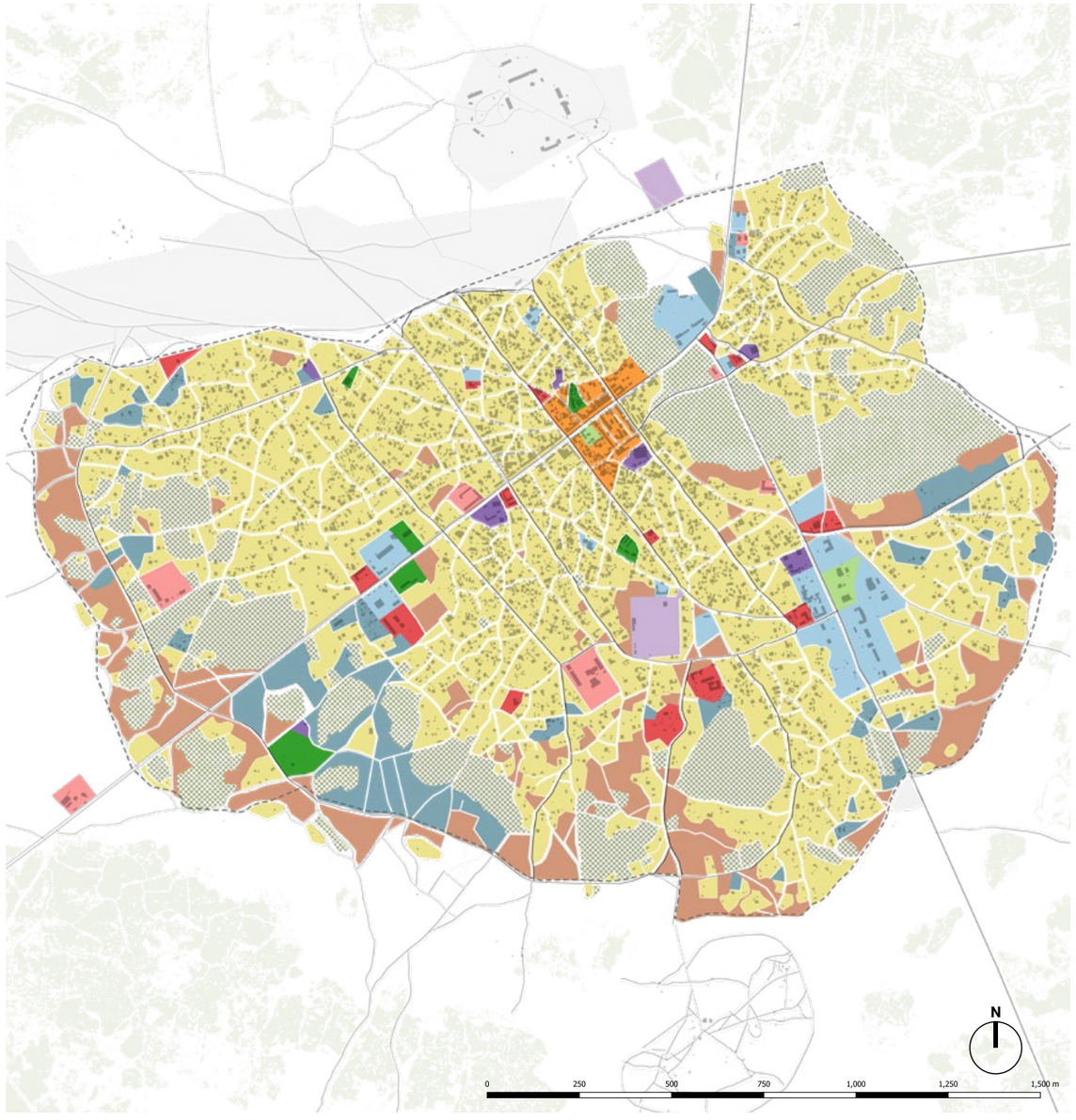
The third main land use is urban vacant land within the city boundary, representing 11% which are 40 hectares of the total area. This available land presents a significant opportunity for the implementation of various catalytic projects, including social and public infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and public spaces for residents and the hosting population. It is a potential area for significant development and improvement in the city.

The fourth largest land use category comprises formal and informal IDP camps within the city, which occupy 6% which represents 22 hectares of Xudur area. Since IDP sites are essentially exclusive residential areas, this reinforces the argument that Xudur is predominantly a mono-functional city. Therefore, there is a pressing need for a comprehensive land use plan to rebalance land uses and improve land management.

The rest of uses are distributed for Industrial, Governmental, Public Space, Educational, Health and Commercial. None of these reaches to the 2% of the total land.

"Xudur lacks a formal and official city land use plan. However, the UN-Habitat GIS team successfully mapped the current land uses and categorized each urban plot/block within the city's boundary"





Map 14: Current Land Use Distribution in Xudur

LEGEND

- Vegetation
- Admnistrative
- Agriculture
- Commercial
- Educational
- Health
- IDP Camps/Sites
- Mixed Use
- Recreational
- Religious
- Residential
- Vacant Land
- City Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- Road Network

3.10 Vacant Land & Non-consolidated Urban Areas

The existing vacant land within Xudur urban area is comprised approximately of 40 hectares of land. This presents a valuable opportunity for improving the overall dynamics of the city in terms of social, economic, housing, and commercial development. The effective utilization of these plots can foster more vibrant, inclusive, and economically viable urban environments.

Land in Xudur is a highly valuable resource, especially due to the town's predominantly arid and semi-arid conditions. Cultivable land with access to water and pasture is in high demand among agro-pastoralist communities. Expansion beyond urban and peri-urban areas is restricted by insecurity, making urban land a lucrative investment for businesses and landowners. As a result, land values in these areas have sharply increased over the past decade, intensifying competition.

Despite the centrality of land to the economy, regulation of land use in Xudur is largely ineffective due to ongoing conflicts and a weak statutory legal system. Written land title deeds and agreements are often lost. For these reasons, competition over land is often fierce and is one of the main drivers of conflict in many areas.

Here are several strategies for how vacant land can be effectively used to enhance various aspects of Xudur:

1. Opportunities for Planned IDP Settlement Expansion

Controlled Settlement Growth: Vacant land allows for the organized expansion of IDP settlements, helping to prevent the formation of overcrowded and informal settlements. This structured growth is crucial for ensuring that new housing developments are safe, accessible, and integrated into the city's infrastructure.

Densification Processes: Vacant land is important to establish and implement the urban infill strategies in the non-consolidated urban areas. Providing an important opportunity to increase the densities in certain areas of Xudur through several social housing projects.

Infrastructure and Service Provision: Utilizing vacant land for planned IDP housing enables the installation of necessary infrastructure, such as roads, water supply, sanitation, and electricity, ensuring that these basic services are adequately provided to all residents.

2. Diverse Land Use and Zoning for IDP Integration

Integrated Land Use: Vacant and low-density areas offer the flexibility to create mixed-use zones that include residential, commercial, and community services. This integration helps IDPs access essential services and employment opportunities, facilitating their socio-economic integration.

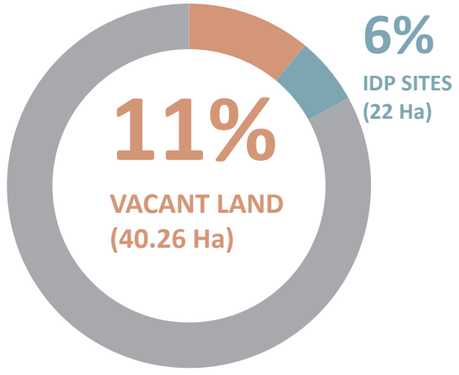
Community Facilities: These areas can be designated for critical community facilities, such as health clinics, schools, and community centres, specifically catering to the needs of the IDP population.

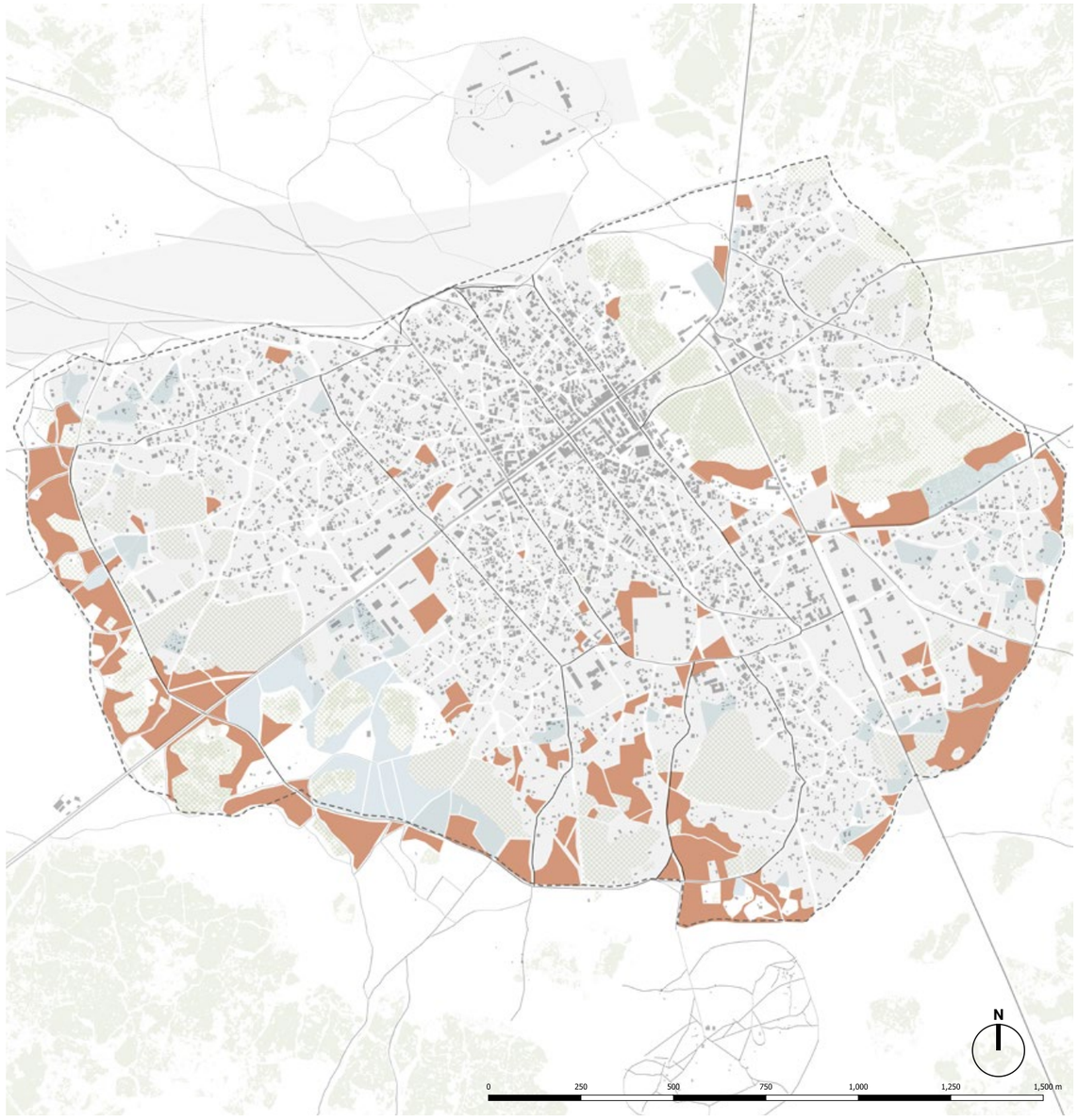
3. Environmental and Green Space Integration

Climate Adaptation: Green spaces help manage environmental challenges, such as flooding, by providing natural drainage and reducing heat in densely populated areas. This is especially important in improving the living conditions in IDP settlements.

Public Spaces for Social Integration: Creating public spaces in low-density areas helps facilitate social integration between IDPs and host communities, promoting mutual understanding and reducing social tensions.

Urban Agriculture Initiatives: Creating urban farming or community gardens, contributing to local food security and providing fresh produce to residents. Urban agriculture also offers employment opportunities, reduces the city's environmental footprint, and creates green, sustainable urban spaces.





Map 15: Vacant Land and Non-consolidated Urban Areas

3.11 Climate Change & Flooding Risk

"Due to the combination of seasonal rains, inadequate drainage infrastructure, and flat topography flooding is a main challenge and a significant risk for the hosting population and IDPs, particularly during the rainy seasons"

Xudur is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly in the form of droughts and floods. While drought has historically been the more pressing issue in Xudur, recent climate shifts have also exacerbated flooding risks, posing new challenges to the town's infrastructure, livelihoods, and overall resilience.

This paradoxical combination of extended droughts followed by heavy rainfall creates a drought-flood cycle that disrupts food production and economic stability. After prolonged dry periods, the soil becomes less absorbent, leading to faster runoff during rainstorms, increasing the likelihood of flash floods.

Xudur, situated in a flat, low-lying region, is prone to flash flooding when heavy rains occur. The town's inadequate drainage systems and unplanned urban growth exacerbate this issue, as water accumulates quickly in the absence of proper channels to divert it. The surrounding deforested and degraded land reduces the natural capacity of the environment to absorb excess rainwater.

CAUSES OF FLOODING:

1.Seasonal Rains

Gu Season: The main rainy season from April to June brings the heaviest rainfall, which can lead to flooding, especially if the rains are intense and prolonged.

Deyr Season: The secondary rainy season from October to December can also contribute to flooding, although typically to a lesser extent than the Gu season.

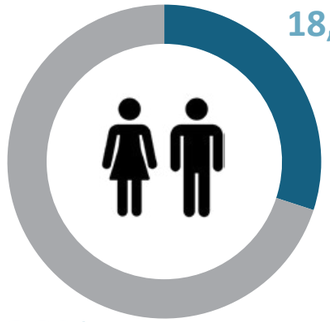
2.Topography and Drainage

Flat and Low-Lying Areas: Xudur´s topography includes flat and low-lying areas that are prone to water accumulation. Poor natural drainage can exacerbate the flooding risk.

3.Infrastructure

Inadequate Drainage Systems: Urban areas in the city often lack sufficient drainage infrastructure to manage heavy rainfall, leading to waterlogging and urban flooding.

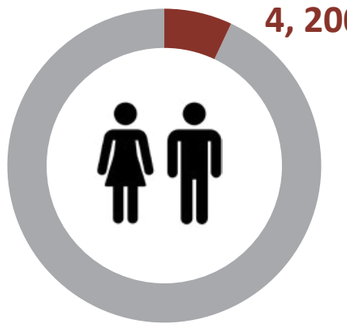
Blocked or Poorly Maintained Channels: Blockages in drainage channels due to debris, silt, or lack of maintenance can prevent proper water flow, increasing flood risks.



18, 000pp

30% **Of Total Population (HC+IDPs)**

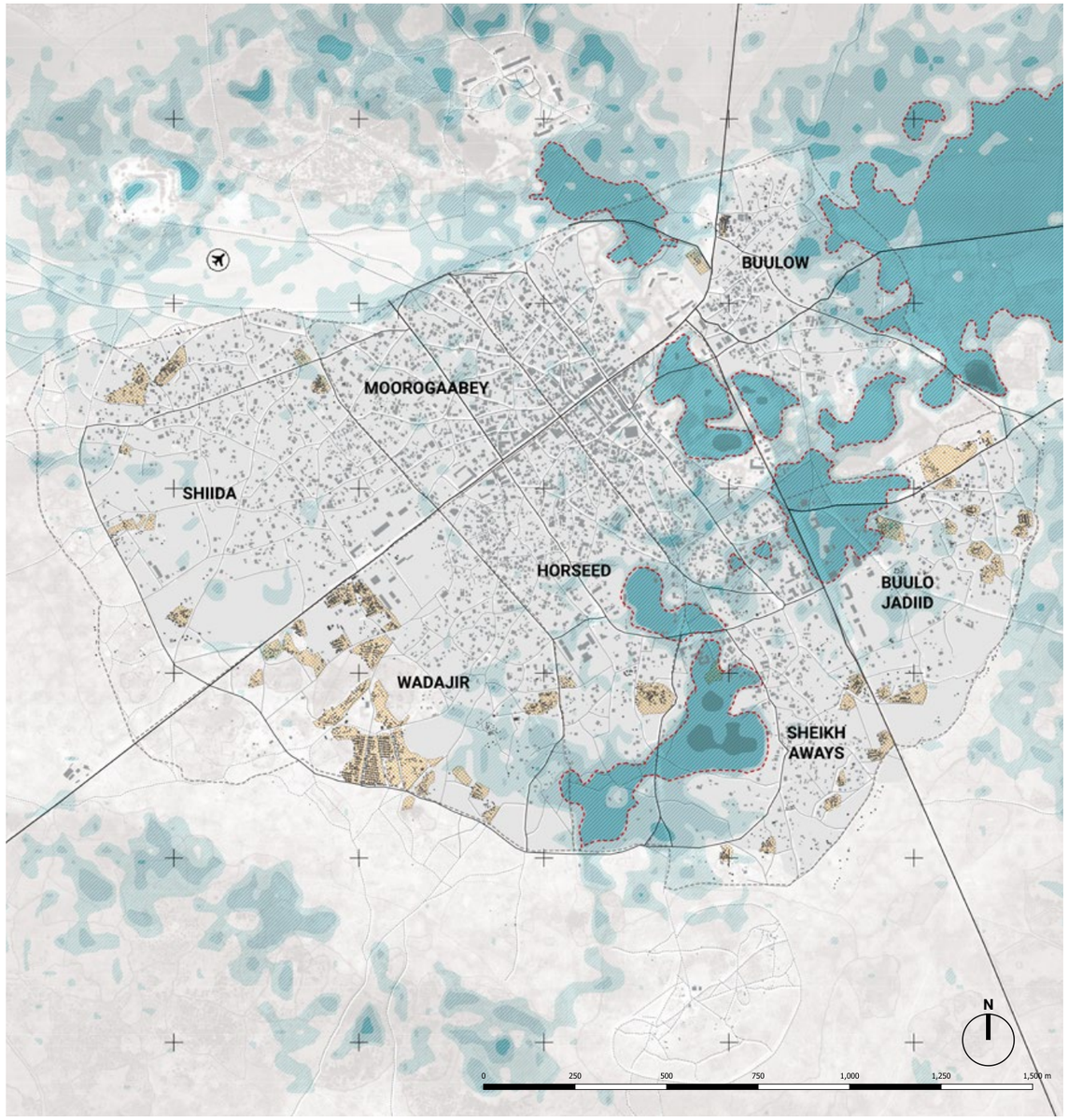
moderately exposed to flash flooding with a depth ranging from 0 to 0.5 meters.



4, 200pp

6.8% **Of Total Population (HC+IDPs)**

exposed to severe flash flooding with a depth ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 meters.

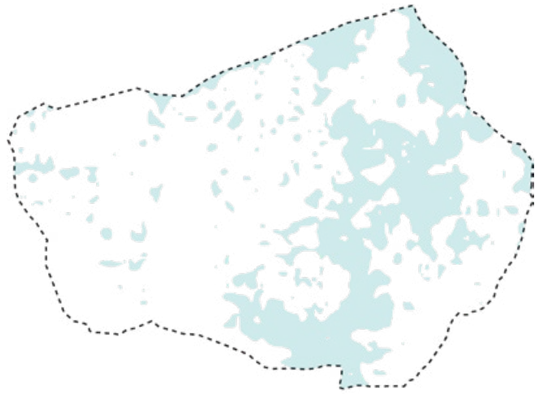


LEGEND

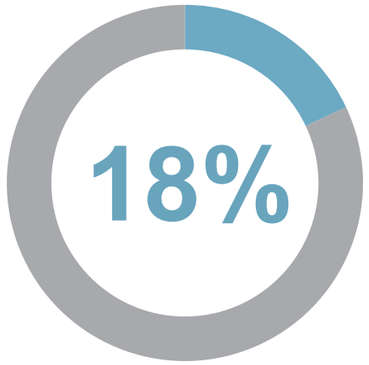
- Buildings
- Blocks
- Tree Cover
- Extreme Flooding
- Moderate Flooding
- Agriculture
- IDP Camps
- IDP Shelters
- Main Roads

Map 16: Xudur Flooding Risk

At this stage, flooding is caused due to the natural drainge limitations and topography characterized by a flat and low-lying terrain. The absence of natural slopes and adequate drainage channels exacerbates the retention of surface water following heavy rains.

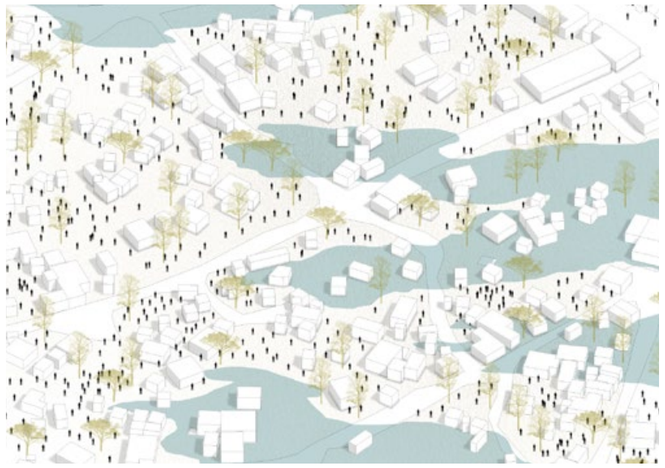


Flooding from 0.1 to 0.5 meters depth

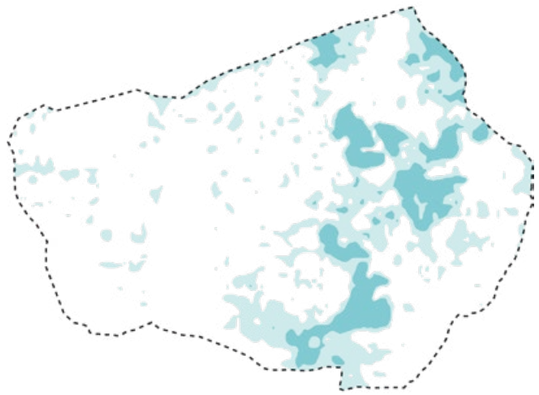


65 Ha

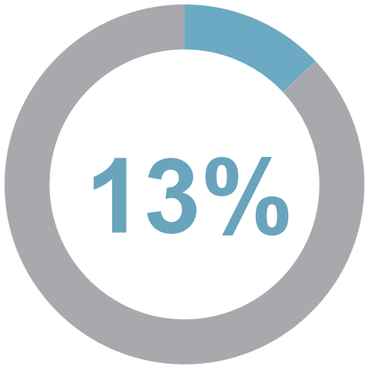
Affected of the total urban area



At this stage, flooding starts to affect the social and public life of Xudur. The accessibility to public services, such as schools, hospitals, parks, and public transport is severely affected, damaging also the economic activity.

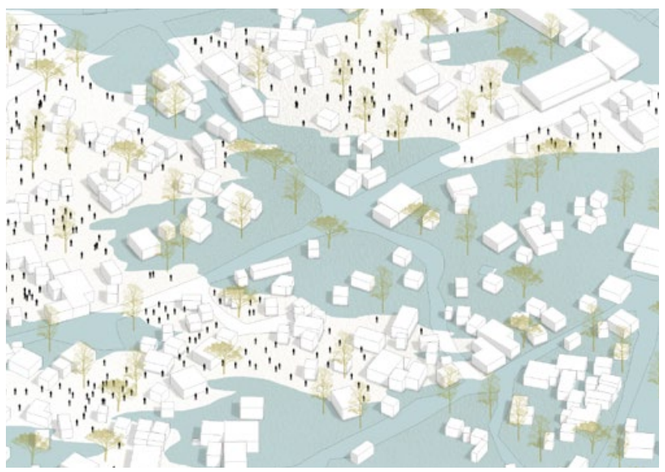


Flooding from 0.6 to 1 meters depth

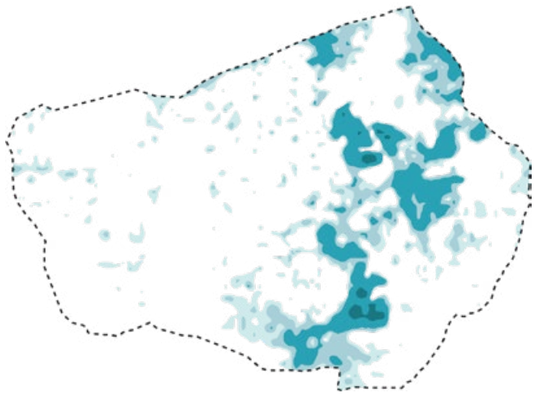


47.5 Ha

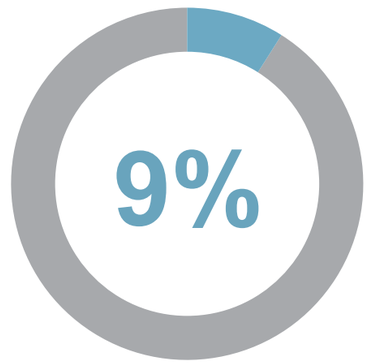
Affected of the total urban area



At this stage, there are several lives at risk and there are new displacements, buildings and tents damaged, serious public health risks and waterborne diseases and high economic costs for the community and government.



Flooding at more than 1.1 meters depth



32.5 Ha

Affected of the total urban area

IMPACTS OF FLOODING:

1.-Humanitarian Impact

Displacement: Flooding can force people to evacuate their homes, leading to temporary displacement and increased vulnerability.

Health Risks: Stagnant water can become a breeding ground for waterborne diseases and vector-borne diseases like malaria.

Property Damage: Floodwaters can damage homes, personal property, and critical infrastructure, leading to significant economic losses.

2.-Agricultural Impact

Crop Damage: Floods can destroy crops, leading to food shortages and loss of livelihoods for farming communities.

Soil Erosion: Floodwaters can erode topsoil, reducing agricultural productivity and land quality.

3.-Economic Impact

Infrastructure Damage: Flooding can damage roads, bridges, and other infrastructure, disrupting transportation and commerce.

Recovery Costs: The economic burden of rebuilding and recovery can be substantial for local governments and communities.

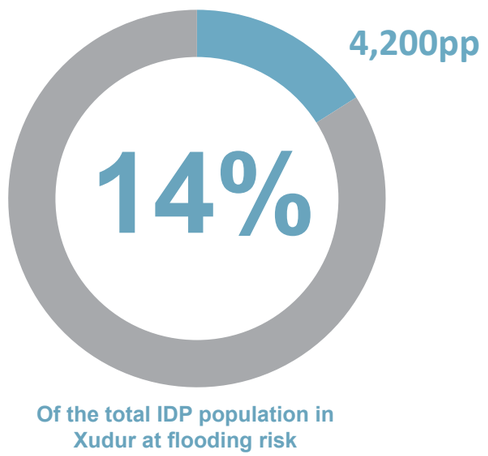
The flooding challenges in Xudur, are complex and require a holistic approach. Enhancing infrastructure resilience, implementing proactive flood management, engaging the community, and planning for climate change can mitigate flooding impacts and promote sustainable urban development. Coordinated efforts among local authorities, international organizations, and the community are essential for building a resilient future, ensuring resident safety and well-being, and promoting economic stability and environmental sustainability.

A coordinated approach involving both local authorities and international actors is crucial to enhancing Xudur's resilience to climate change and mitigating the impacts of future flooding.

"The flooding challenges in Xudur, are complex and require a holistic approach. Enhancing infrastructure resilience, implementing proactive flood management, engaging the community, and planning for climate change can mitigate flooding impacts and promote sustainable urban development"

Figure 28: Floods damage the IDP camps causing serious public health risks & waterborne diseases. © IOM-Somalia, (IOM) 2022

Figure 29: Axonometric of how flooding affects IDP sites perpetuating displacement



Flooding in Xudur has a profound impact on internally displaced persons (IDPs), leading to the destruction of housing and shelters, heightened health risks from waterborne diseases, and worsening food insecurity due to disruptions in agriculture. It hampers access to essential services such as clean water, sanitation, and healthcare, often resulting in further displacement that fractures social networks and disrupts livelihoods. The damage to infrastructure and ongoing environmental degradation further exacerbate these challenges, highlighting the need for comprehensive risk management and coordinated support to enhance resilience and implement sustainable solutions for IDPs.

3.12 Accessibility to Basic Services & Infrastructure

The level of accessibility to basic services and infrastruture in Xudur, such as hospitals and schools for IDPs and the hosting community is significantly challenged. According to recent reports by IOM and USAID, IDPs often reside in overcrowded and underserved areas, which limits their ability to access basic services particularly education and health facilities. The infrastructure in these areas is typically inadequate, with insufficient hospitals facilities and educational institutions to meet the growing demand.

1.-Healtchare Services

Limited Access to Healthcare: Xudur has very limited healthcare facilities. The town's healthcare system struggles with inadequate infrastructure, insufficient medical supplies, and a shortage of trained health professionals. This leaves residents with little access to even basic medical care.

Humanitarian Aid Dependency: Access to healthcare is largely dependent on humanitarian organizations, which provide emergency medical services and operate mobile clinics. However, frequent security challenges and restricted access due to conflict often disrupt the consistent provision of these services.

High Health Risks: Given the poor sanitation and frequent flooding, there are elevated health risks related to waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea. Additionally, the healthcare system is under strain during outbreaks of diseases, further highlighting its limitations.

2.-Water & Sanitation (WASH)

Inadequate Water Supply: Access to clean water is a significant challenge in Xudur. The town lacks a reliable water supply system, forcing many residents to rely on untreated water sources such as wells, which can be unsafe. Water scarcity is exacerbated during droughts, which are frequent in the region.

Poor Sanitation Facilities: Sanitation services are severely lacking in Xudur. Many people, especially in IDP settlements, have limited access to proper latrines or waste management systems, leading to unsanitary conditions and increased health risks.

Drainage System: Seasonal floods further degrade sanitation conditions, contaminating water sources and increasing the spread of diseases. The town lacks proper drainage systems, making it difficult to manage water runoff during heavy rains.

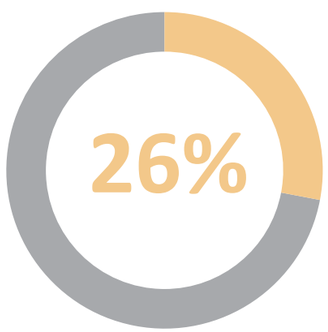
3.-Education

Limited Schooling Opportunities: Access to education in Xudur is limited, with many children unable to attend school due to a lack of educational facilities, teachers, and materials. The existing schools are often overcrowded, and many have inadequate infrastructure such as classrooms, clean water, and sanitation facilities.

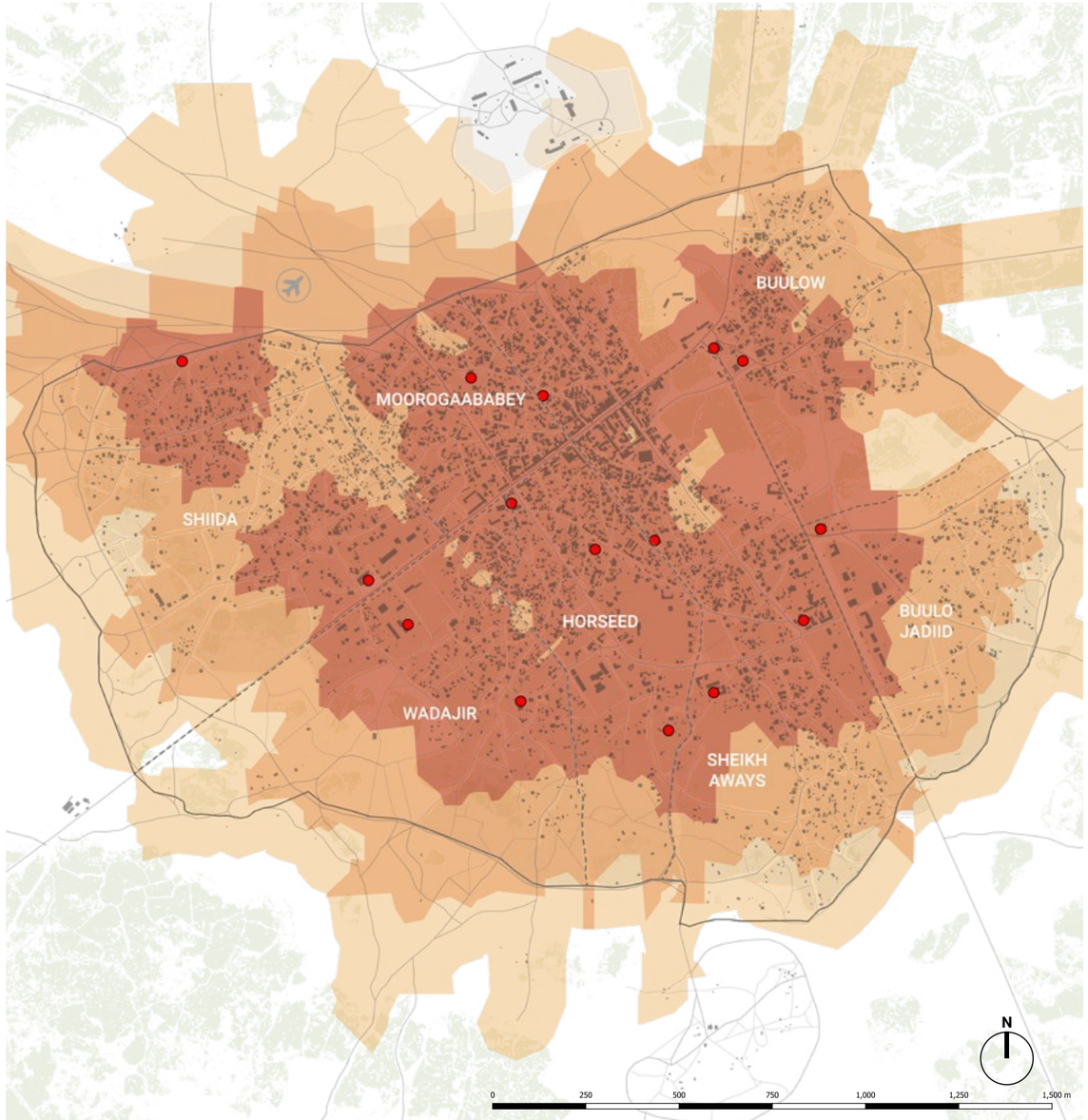
Impact on Displaced Children: IDP children are particularly affected, with many dropping out of school due to displacement, the need to work, or the lack of accessible educational opportunities within their communities. Humanitarian organizations sometimes provide temporary learning spaces, but these efforts are inconsistent.

4.-Transport & Road Infrastructure

Poor Roads Conditions: The road network in and around Xudur is severely underdeveloped, with many roads unpaved and in poor condition. This makes transportation difficult, particularly during the rainy season when roads often become impassable due to flooding or mud.



Of the city´s population is within 15 min walking distance of Health



LEGEND

URBAN FORM
- Vegetation
- Blocks
- Hospital / Health Clinic
- City Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- Road Network

WALKING DISTANCE
- 5 min
- 10 min
- 15 min

Map 17: Walking Accessibility to Health

Road Blockades Outside the City: Xudur's location in a conflict-prone region contributes to its isolation. Insecurity caused by the presence of militant groups such as Al-Shabaab has led to road blockades, restricting the movement of goods and people. This isolation limits access to essential supplies, including food and medicine.

5.-Electricity & Energy

Lack of Reliable Electricity: Access to electricity in Xudur is extremely limited. The town does not have a stable power grid, and most households rely on alternative sources like generators, solar power, or other makeshift energy solutions. This limits economic activity, access to information, and the quality of life for residents.

High Cost of Energy: For those who do have access to power, the cost of running generators or purchasing solar panels is high, making electricity a luxury that few can afford, especially among IDP communities.

6.-Security & Access

Insecurity Limits Access: One of the biggest challenges in Xudur is insecurity, which restricts movement and access to essential services. The presence of militant groups and the frequent use of road blockades limit humanitarian organizations' ability to provide consistent aid. Residents, especially those in remote or rural areas, struggle to access markets, healthcare, and other services due to safety concerns.

Displacement Related Challenges: Xudur is home to a large number of IDPs who face additional challenges in accessing services and infrastructure. Displacement due to conflict and climate shocks has led to overcrowding in urban areas, further straining the already limited resources available in the town.

7.-Livelihoods & Economic Activity

Disrupted Livelihoods: Many residents of Xudur rely on agriculture and pastoralism for their livelihoods. However, frequent droughts, flooding, and insecurity have disrupted these traditional economic activities. The lack of infrastructure to support agricultural productivity, such as irrigation systems or access to markets, further limits economic opportunities.

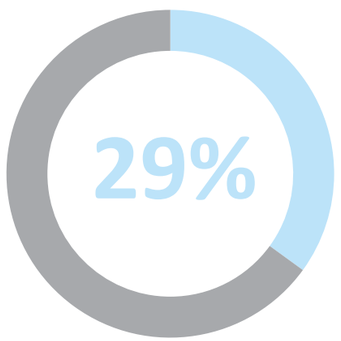
Limited Commercial Activity: Insecurity has also affected trade, with many roads blocked and markets frequently disrupted. As a result, economic activity is minimal, and many residents are dependent on humanitarian aid for survival.

More data is needed on the conditions of the schools:

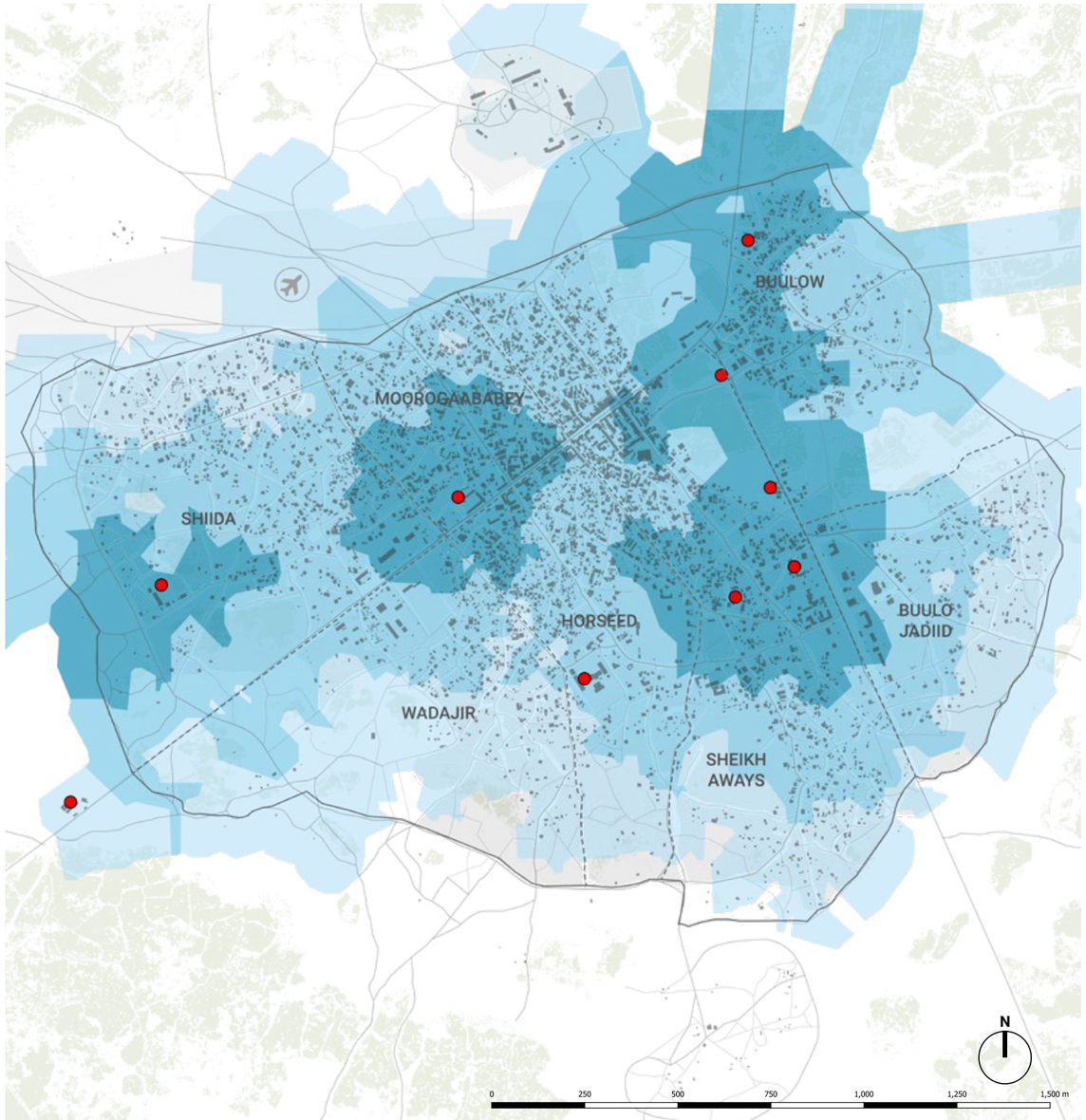
- State of the building, including access to electricity, water, and presence of functioning latrines divided by gender
- State of the equipment, including desks and teaching material
- Presence and capacity of qualified personnel
- Enrolment and attendance of children, segregated by age and gender.

Efforts to improve access to services in Xudur must focus on enhancing infrastructure, expanding healthcare and educational facilities, and addressing the documentation needs of IDPs to ensure they can fully participate in and benefit from the city's resources.

Improving access to healthcare and education for IDPs in Somalia requires comprehensive interventions that address infrastructure deficits, resource allocation, and socio-economic barriers. Collaboration among government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and international donors is crucial to ensure that IDPs can access the services they need.



Of the city´s population is within 15 min walking distance of Education



LEGEND

URBAN FORM
- Vegetation
- Blocks
- School Primary / Secondary
- City Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- Road Network

WALKING DISTANCE
- 5 min
- 10 min
- 15 min

Map 18: Walking Accessibility to Education

3.13 Ongoing Projects & Interventions

Several international humanitarian agencies are actively involved in Xudur Town, Somalia, with various projects aimed at improving the living conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the local population. These agencies focus on addressing critical challenges such as housing, water, sanitation, and livelihood support. These organizations are making significant efforts to support Xudur's vulnerable populations by addressing immediate humanitarian needs and working toward sustainable development in the region. Some of the organization acting on the field are:

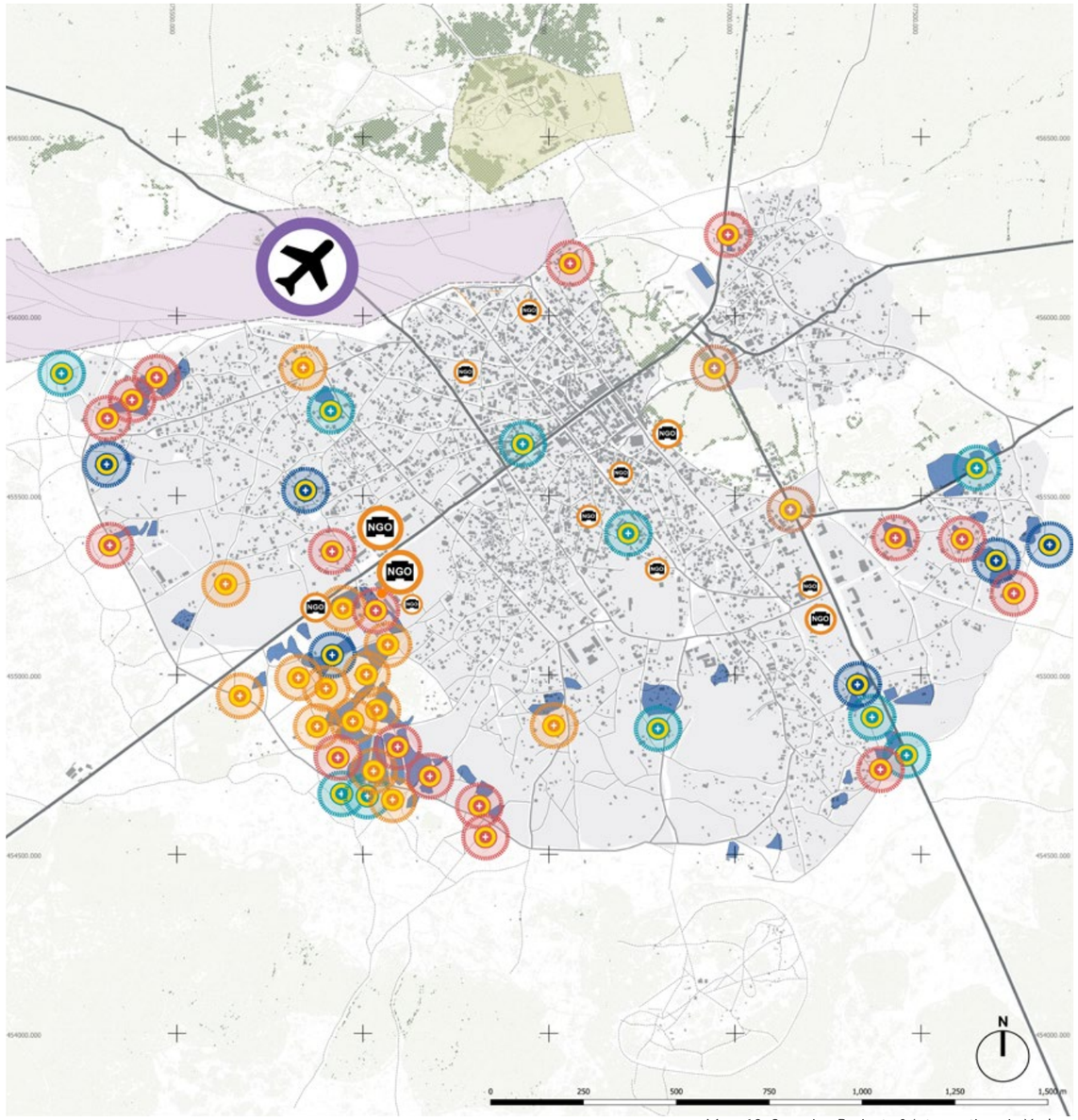
UN-HABITAT: In partnership with IOM, is implementing the Midnimo (Unity) Programme in Xudur. This project aims to provide durable solutions for displacement-affected communities by integrating IDP settlements into urban planning and improving access to basic services, housing, and job opportunities. The project also focuses on improving the local governance structures to enhance stability and support sustainable urban development

International Organization for Migration (IOM): IOM is heavily involved through DANWADAAG Programme on providing durable solutions to IDPs. Their efforts include improving living conditions in displacement sites, developing land for IDP relocation, and conducting regular site safety audits. IOM is also leading initiatives to provide land tenure security, housing, land and property rights, livelihoods support, integrated basic services and capacity building programmes.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): UNDP is leading stabilization efforts in Hudur under the Area-Based Integrated Stabilization Program (ABIP). Their projects focus on rebuilding critical infrastructure, such as the market, police station, and youth and women's centers. These projects aim to enhance security, promote economic recovery, and empower women and youth in the community. UNDP's interventions have been crucial for supporting small businesses, with a particular focus on increasing opportunities for women entrepreneurs and integrating youth into the local governance system.

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): NRC has been implementing the Integrated Protection Response project, which targets vulnerable and displaced populations in

Figure 30: Women´s Farmers Training by FAO. ©FAO-SOMALIA, (Arete/Ismail Taxta) 2021



Map 19: On-going Projects & Interventions in Xudur

LEGEND

- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Tertiary Roads
- Footways
- Airport
- CWW
- GREDO
- Overlaping (2 or more Agencies)
- NRC
- IOM
- Government

Xudur. This project, funded by the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF), focuses on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and protection services. NRC has provided safe drinking water to over 13,500 individuals, including those living in IDP camps, helping to alleviate water shortages and improve living conditions for families affected by displacement.

ACTED: ACTED is addressing the severe water scarcity and sanitation challenges by rehabilitating water sources such as boreholes and shallow wells, constructing latrines, and promoting hygiene practices. This aims to reduce waterborne diseases and improve overall public health in Xudur, where access to clean water is limited.

Gargaar Relief and Development Organization (GREDO): GREDO is actively implementing several projects in focused on enhancing education access, promoting social inclusion, and supporting child protection initiatives in Xudur amidst ongoing humanitarian challenges.

Concern Worldwide (CWW): Is involved in humanitarian efforts in Xudur, Somalia, particularly focusing on building resilience and providing durable solutions for vulnerable communities. CWW is part of various consortia, including those focusing on education, food security, and livelihood support. They work on improving access to essential services for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and addressing the effects of recurrent droughts and food insecurity through projects aimed at sustainable development and community-based resilience initiatives.

SOS Children´s Villages (SOS): SOS focuses on supporting vulnerable children and families in Xudur, offering services such as healthcare, education, and family strengthening programs. They aim to enhance the well-being of children and ensure they grow up in stable and supportive environments.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): CRC, in collaboration with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), provides emergency food assistance and water to vulnerable communities. They are also involved in healthcare services, offering support for hospitals and clinics to ensure access to essential medical care in conflict-affected regions like Xudur. Additionally, ICRC works on improving self-reliance by assisting local farmers and herders through livelihood support programs.

DARDO (Darul Rahma Development Organization): DARDO, a Somali NGO, focuses on humanitarian aid and development projects in the region. While specific details on current projects in Xudur are less documented, they typically work on providing emergency relief and supporting livelihoods through agricultural projects and educational programs.

The People Centered Governance (PCG): Funded by USAID, is dedicated to enhancing local governance in southern Somalia, including Xudur town. PCG's initiatives aim to strengthen district councils by promoting inclusive decision-making, equitable resource management, and effective service delivery to build citizen trust in local authorities. In Xudur, PCG has conducted baseline assessments and formative research focusing on disputes over land, resources, and service delivery. This research is crucial for understanding local challenges and tailoring interventions to address specific community needs. Through these efforts, PCG seeks to provide a credible alternative to extremist influences by fostering responsive and legitimate local governance institutions in Xudur and other parts of southern Somalia.

There are also several local committees and civil society organizations that are cooperating with the international agencies and the government to implement different initiatives and projects, such as:

Women´s Committee: Consists of dedicated members advocating for women's empowerment and involvement in decision-making. Chaired by Sacdiyo Adan Ibrahim.

Youth Committee: Led by Omar Deyniile from Hadame clan. Provides young people with opportunities for personal and professional development, education, and skills training.

Peace Committee: Instrumental in mediating minor community conflicts and addressing major disputes when they arise. Led by Ali Adan, from Hadame clan the peace committees work towards resolving conflicts through dialogue, negotiation, and reconciliation.

Religious Committee: Comprised of religious leaders and scholars from different clans within the community. They manage religious affairs, lead prayers, and engage in conflict resolution through Islamic principles.

Water Committee: For management of boreholes, drilling, and maintenance of wells, chaired by Ali Abdullahi Mohamud who is a farmer and businessman. The district currently has around 30 wells.

Bakool Women Empowerment Organization: Group who are actively working in the district. Their members are the members of the Women's Group. They manage village loan savings associations.

Figure 31: Road construction in Xudur with UNDP support. © UNDP Somalia, 2024

3.14 Displacement Scenarios: Future Projections & Trends

"As agricultural productivity continues to decline, rural-urban migration will intensify. Young people, in particular, are likely to move to cities seeking employment in the informal economy, construction, or low-skilled services. This rural exodus will result in urban populations swelling, while rural areas become depopulated and economically weakened"

The future of South West State in Somalia is marked by continued displacement and rural-urban migration, driven by conflict, climate change, and economic challenges. Cities like Xudur will bear the brunt of this migration, with significant increases in both IDP populations and overall urban growth. To manage these trends effectively, coordinated efforts from the government, international organizations, and local communities will be required to redistribute migration patterns and displacements dynamics into other cities of the region. This should be made focusing on improving security, enhancing resilience to climate change, and developing sustainable economic opportunities in both rural and urban areas.

CONFLICT INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

Conflict-driven displacement is expected to continue, particularly if security remains fragile or deteriorates. Urban areas, especially Xudur, will likely continue receiving large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Without significant progress in stabilizing the region, the influx of displaced populations will strain local infrastructure, housing, and services. Humanitarian organizations forecast that displacement due to conflict in South West State will remain high in the coming years, with potentially hundreds of thousands more people being displaced.

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES

Projections indicate an increase in the frequency and severity of climate-related events in Somalia, with South West State being one of the most affected regions. Droughts are expected to intensify, driving more people from rural areas to cities as they seek food, water, and livelihood opportunities. Simultaneously, flooding could displace people in flood-prone areas, creating additional challenges for urban centers.

The World Bank and UN agencies project that by 2030, climate-related displacement in Somalia could displace several million people across the country, with South West State being a significant contributor to this figure. Many rural populations are expected to move to urban areas like Baidoa, Xudur, Beerdhaale, and Afgooye as rural livelihoods become increasingly unsustainable.

ECONOMIC PRESSURES & LIVELIHOODS DISPLACEMENT

As agricultural productivity continues to decline, rural-urban migration will intensify. Young people, in particular, are likely to abandon the agricultural activity and move to cities seeking employment in the informal economy, construction, or low-skilled services. This rural exodus will result in urban populations swelling, while rural areas become depopulated and economically weakened.

Economic displacement due to declining rural livelihoods is expected to push more people toward urban centers. Baidoa, a hub in the region, is likely to face significant population growth, putting further pressure on already limited resources like water, electricity, and healthcare.

URBANIZATION TRENDS IN SOUTH WEST STATE

The different urban centers in SWS have seen a significant urban growth due to displacement and rural-urban migration. Particularly cities as Baidoa, Berdaale and Xudur, which have become critical zones for trade, humanitarian assistance, and security compared to the rural areas in SWS.

Urbanization is expected to rise at an average annual rate of 4-5%, consistent with national trends. Xudur is projected to grow from its current urban population of over 60,205pp (including IDPs) to potentially 595,090pp or more by 2035. Urban areas will face significant challenges in absorbing this population growth, particularly the lack of adequate housing, infrastructure, and services.

IOM-GIST SCENARIOS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

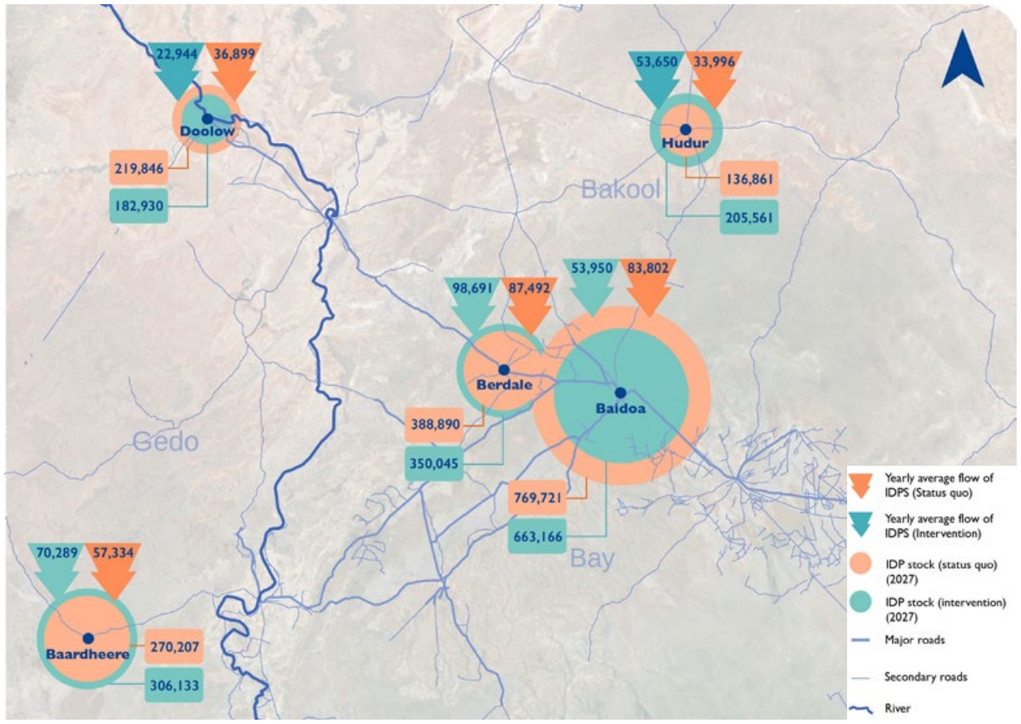
As displacement continues, Baidoa, Berdaale, Xudur, and Afgooye could see its IDP population swell further, especially if conflict in neighboring regions like Lower Shabelle or climate shocks worsen. The international humanitarian community will play a crucial role in providing aid, but the scale of displacement may outpace the resources available.

According to the 2024 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) flow projections developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and GIST, Xudur is expected to receive an annual IDP inflow ranging between 33,996 and 47,170 individuals. Based on these projections, by 2035, the total population of Xudur, including both IDPs and the host community, is estimated to reach approximately from 500,00 to 600,000 individuals.

The calculations and projections were done through a machine learning model called Prophet applied to the protection & return monitoring Network (PRMN) dataset, which provided district-level data on IDP flows into the target districts. In addition, systematic reviews were conducted and key informant interviews with a diverse range of respondents.

These included local community leaders, elders from local clans, leaders of civil society organizations, IDP settlement managers, international humanitarian organizations working in the field, as well as several community members in rural areas who intend to move. This diverse range of perspectives ensured a comprehensive understanding of the situation.

"Xudur is expected to receive an annual IDP inflow ranging between 33,000 and 48,000 individuals"



Map 20: IDP Future Flows and Projections in Key Urban Centers in SWS. Source: IOM/GIST, 2024

3.15 Xudur Displacement & Urban Growth Scenarios

3.15.1 Scenario One: Assumes UN-Habitat strategies & recommendations are not implemented and IOM-GIST displacement projections for Xudur materialise.

This scenario projects that, based on IOM-GIST data, Xudur will experience an annual influx of approximately 47,170 internally displaced persons (IDPs). By 2035, the city is expected to host a total of 549,376 IDPs, in addition to a local population of 45,714 by 2035 considering an annual growth rate of 4%, bringing the total city population to 595,090pp. If the current IDPs land occupation pattern of 1,386 people per hectare remains unchanged, the demand for land will increase significantly, requiring an additional 363 hectares—to almost duplicating the current city boundary of 366 hectares. This will force the city to expand horizontally to 729 hectares, only to allocate IDPs.

The outcome of this trend presents significant challenges. IDPs will likely face ongoing poor living conditions, lacking access to dignified housing and essential services such as healthcare, education, water and sanitation, and infrastructure. Moreover, this scenario suggests that urban sprawl can become the dominant development model in Xudur, which carries several negative consequences for the territory. Urban sprawl leads to inefficient land use, greater infrastructure costs, environmental degradation, and reduced access to services.

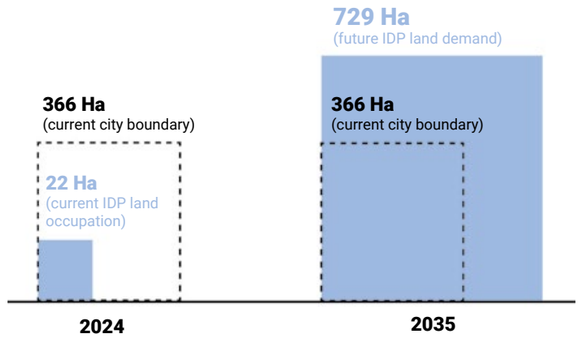
This type of unchecked horizontal expansion strains resources, increases transportation challenges, and undermines efforts to create a cohesive, sustainable, and inclusive urban environments.

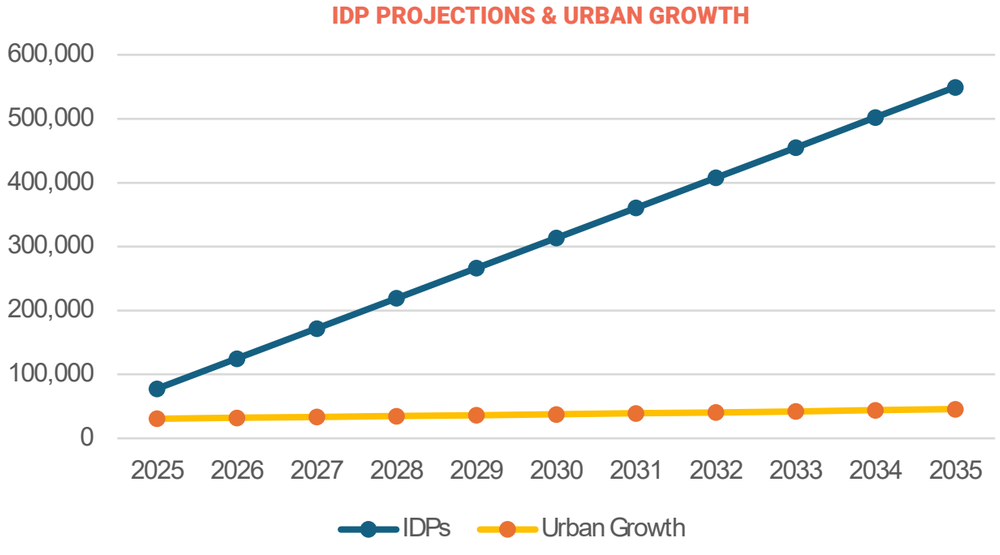
549,376 IDPs
(population by 2035)

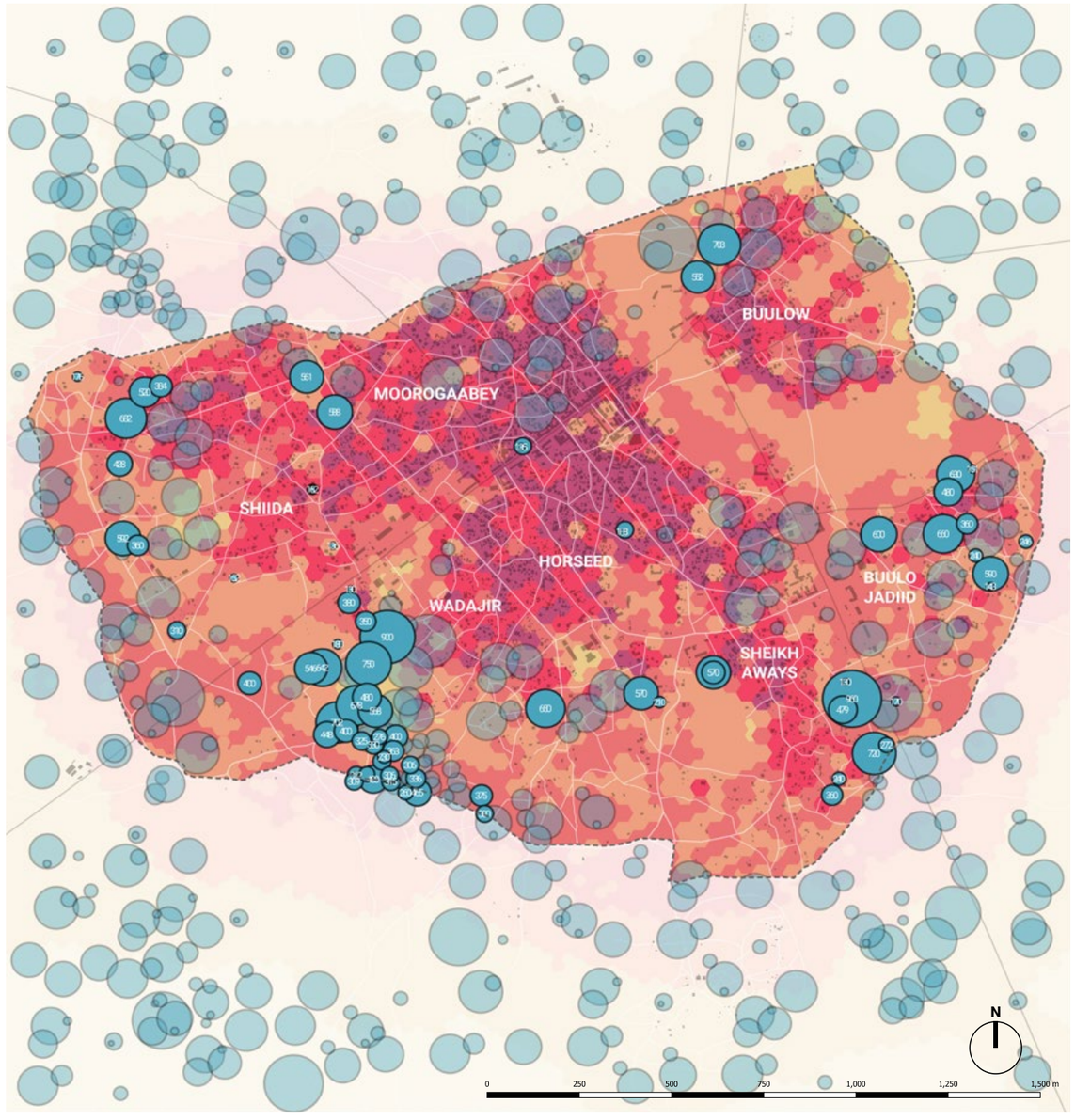
45,714 pp
(HC population by 2035)

595,090 pp
(Total population by 2035)

IDPs Land Demand Projections (Avg Density:1,386pp/Ha)







Map 21: Xudur scenario one for future displacement & urban growth by 2035

LEGEND

POPULATION DENSITY
- 221 - 320pp
- 120 - 220pp
- 61 - 120pp
- 1 - 60pp
- New Urban Growth by 2035

EXISTING IDP SITES
- <1000
- 1001 - 1500
- 1501 - 2000
- 2001 - 3000
- > 3000

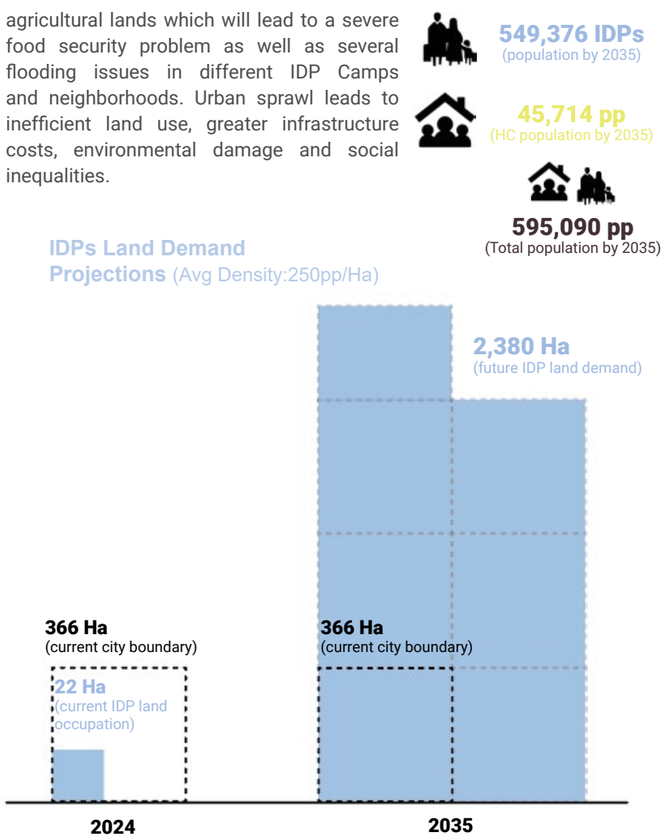
ESTABLISHED BY 2035
- <1000
- 1001 - 1500
- 1501 - 2000
- 2001 - 3000
- > 3000

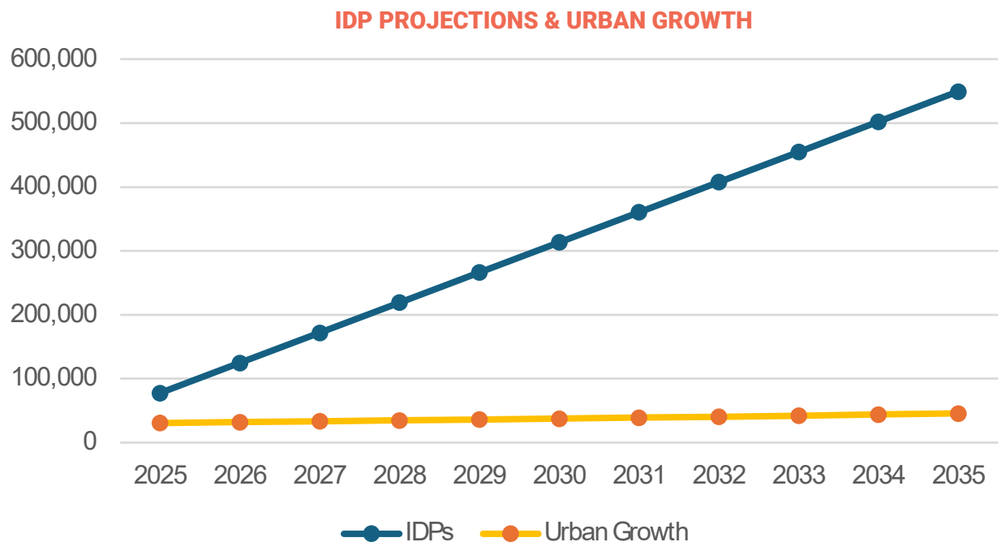
3.15.2 Scenario Two: Assumes some of the UN-Habitat strategies & recommendations are implemented and IOM-GIST displacement projections for Xudur materialise.

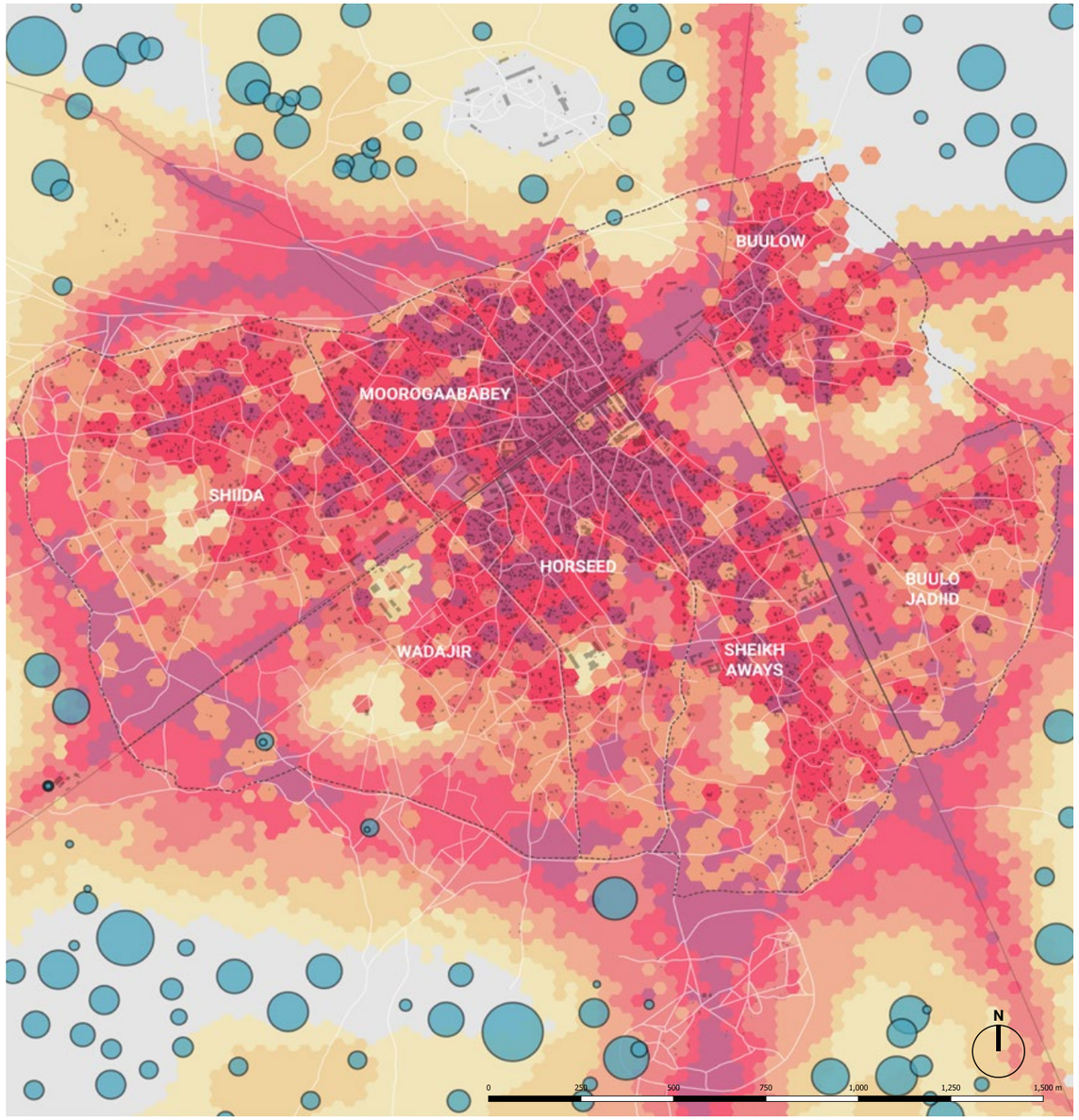
This scenario projects that, based on IOM-GIST data, Xudur will experience an annual influx of approximately 47,170 internally displaced persons (IDPs). By 2035, the city is expected to host a total of 549,376 IDPs, in addition to a local population of 45,714 by 2035 considering an annual growth rate of 4%, bringing the total population to 595,090pp. If the land occupation pattern changes to a consolidated average of 250 people per hectare all over the city. This means the demand for land will increase significantly, requiring 2,380Ha—almost seven times the current city boundary of 366 hectares.

If this scenario materialises, will present significant challenges for the IDPs and the hosting community. They will likely face poor living conditions, lacking access to dignified housing and essential services such as healthcare, education, and water and sanitation infrastructure.

Moreover, this scenario suggests that urban sprawl will erase the remaining protected agricultural lands which will lead to a severe food security problem as well as several flooding issues in different IDP Camps and neighborhoods. Urban sprawl leads to inefficient land use, greater infrastructure costs, environmental damage and social inequalities.







Map 22: Xudur scenario two for future displacement & urban growth by 2035

LEGEND

POPULATION DENSITY
- 221 - 320pp
- 120 - 220pp
- 61 - 120pp
- 1 - 60pp
- New Urban Growth by 2035

EXISTING IDP SITES
- <1000
- 1001 - 1500
- 1501 - 2000
- 2001 - 3000
- > 3000

ESTABLISHED BY 2035
- <1000
- 1001 - 1500
- 1501 - 2000
- 2001 - 3000
- > 3000

3.15.3 Scenario Three: Assumes most of the UN-Habitat strategies & recommendations are implemented, and limits the city´s capacity to integrate IDPs and HC to 366,090 individuals consolidating sustainable growth and development.

The recommended scenario suggests limiting Xudur's urban growth and the influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to approximately 320,376 individuals to ensure sustainable and inclusive urban development. Based on UN-Habitat's GIS calculations and assessments, the city's infrastructure and resources can only support this population, ensuring adequate access to essential services, employment opportunities, dignified housing, and water and sanitation.

Exceeding this capacity presents significant risks, including increased vulnerability to natural disasters such as flooding and drought, as well as pressure on natural resources, potentially leading to food scarcity and insecurity.

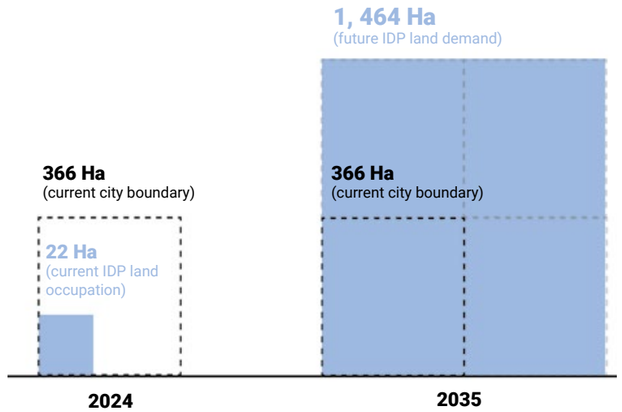
To address these challenges, UN-Habitat recommends limiting urban expansion with an average population density of 250 persons per hectare with peaks of high-density areas in key locations. This will be achieved by urban infill strategies, targeted relocation of IDPs, and densification projects in specific areas. These will include new urban hubs, primary and secondary roads, and critical neighborhoods. This strategy aims to promote sustainable urban development in Xudur while ensuring the effective provision of services such as health and education for both new IDPs and the hosting community. This scenario also considers to develop a comprehensive land management framework that ensures optimal use of land resources, preventing urban sprawl.

320,376 IDPs
(Recommended limited population by 2035)

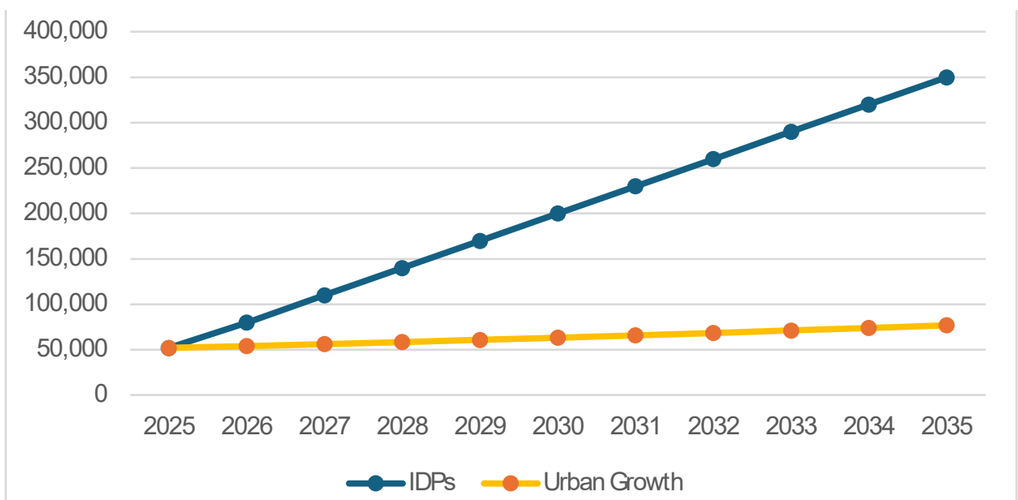
45,714 pp
(HC population by 2035)

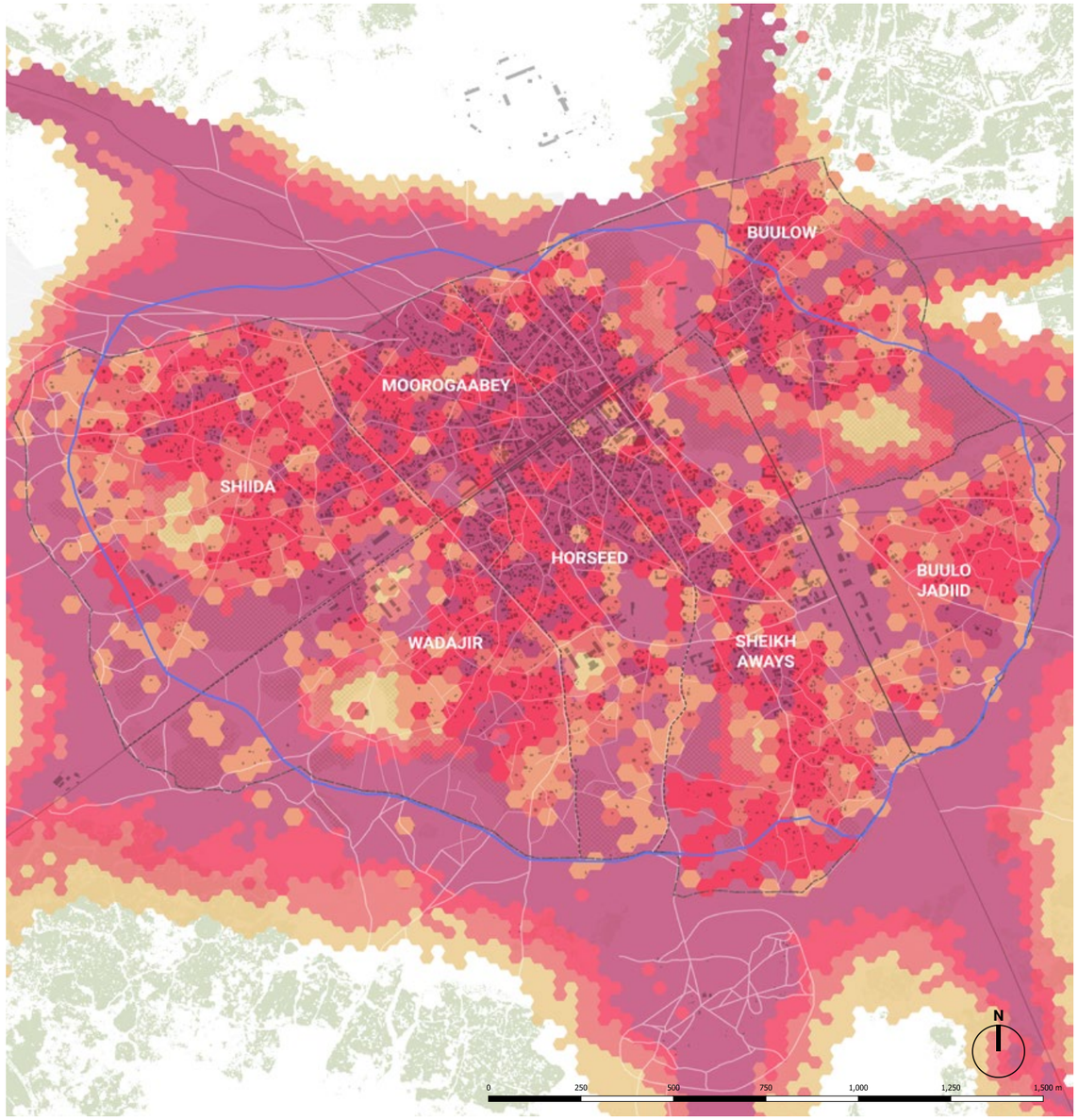
366,090 pp
(Recommended limited total population by 2035)

IDPs Land Demand Projections (Avg Density:250pp/Ha)



IDP PROJECTIONS & URBAN GROWTH





Map 23: Xudur scenario three limiting the city´s future displacement & urban growth by 2035

LEGEND

POPULATION DENSITY

- 221 - 320pp
- 120 - 220pp
- 61 - 120pp
- 1 - 60pp

04

THE STRATEGIC DIAGNOSIS

04

Strategic Diagnosis

"The evidence-based analysis identified three main strategic and priority issues highlighting Xudur performance in relation to the principles of sustainable urban development. These issues represent the strategic framing of a complex diagnosis, synthetised through four conceptual lenses. The lenses, once defined in their conceptual nature, were then contextualised with maps."

60, 205
Inhabitants

4,2%
Growth Rate

164
pp/Ha
Density

7
Neighborhoods

4.1 Identifying & Defining The Main Strategic Issues

An in-depth analysis of the existing spatial and social conditions of Xudur and its surroundings has led to the identification and analysis of a set of strategic issues. These issues are not just a result of a complex diagnosis, but they also represent the strategic framing of our understanding of the city. This process involves a comprehensive analysis of the city's physical, social, and economic landscape, aimed at understanding the existing challenges and opportunities. This chapter outlines the systematic approach to identifying these critical issues, ensuring that the urban plan is both relevant and responsive to the needs of the community and the government agenda.

The data gathering process and subsequent analysis for the Xudur Strategic plan used the following elements:

•**Desk Research:** gathered with national and international stakeholders, which included plans, maps, surveys and reports at national, regional, state and city levels.

•**Participatory Workshops:** with the participation of representatives of the municipality, citizens, workers associations and other relevant stakeholders.

•**Liaison with Local Government:** which provided clarifications, recommendations, insights and data only the public administration could have.

• **Georeferenced Data Modelling:** using data from satellites and previous field surveys; GIS models provided insights regarding vegetation, land, water bodies, natural hazards, population dynamics, infrastructure, city development and many others.

In conclusion, the detailed analysis of Xudur spatial and social conditions has provided a clear understanding of the city's strategic issues. The planning process has incorporated diverse perspectives and technical insights, ensuring an extensive framework for addressing Xudur's specific challenges and opportunities. This analysis, forms the foundation for a durable solution strategic urban plan that is both contextually informed and community-responsive that includes effectively to the IDP population.

Figure 32: Defining Xudur´s main strategic issues. © UN-HABITAT, 2024

4.2 Strategic Issue One: Unbalanced Land Management & Densification Patterns

Xudur faces significant challenges in land management, characterized by an unbalanced distribution of land uses. The city's current land use predominantly supports residential areas, with approximately 53% of the total urban footprint dedicated to housing. This overemphasis on residential use has led to a mono-functional urban environment that lacks the diversity needed for a dynamic and sustainable city.

The limited allocation of land for agricultural, commercial, industrial, and recreational purposes restricts economic opportunities. It reduces the availability of public amenities, contributing to uneven quality of life across different neighbourhoods.

In addition to the unbalanced land use, Xudur also features extensive low-density urban areas. Often located on the city's periphery, but also in areas located within the existing and consolidated urban fabric. These areas are characterized by sparse development and large plots, primarily used for agriculture or left vacant. While low-density areas provide potential space for future urban expansion, they currently represent an underutilization of land resources.

The inefficiencies associated with low-density development, such as increased infrastructure costs and longer travel distances for residents, exacerbate urban planning challenges. Low-density areas often lack public transport options, leading to reliance on private vehicles. Furthermore, sprawling development increases commuting distances and time.

Effective strategies to densify these areas such as implementing urban infill strategies are essential for maximizing land use efficiency and accommodating the city's growing population.

The presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs) adds another layer of complexity to Xudur's urban landscape. IDPs often occupy informal settlements or camps, which, while providing immediate shelter, lack proper infrastructure and services. This is mainly due to a lack of affordable housing options or formal support systems existing at the consolidated urban areas. Most cities in Somalia, often lack the necessary urban planning frameworks to distribute and manage the migration influx.

The reallocation of IDPs to more organized and adequately serviced areas is crucial for improving their living conditions and integrating them into the urban fabric. This process involves identifying suitable land for resettlement, ensuring access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and healthcare, and promoting economic opportunities. Proper reallocation not only enhances the well-being of IDPs but also helps in managing the urban sprawl and reducing the pressure on consolidated settlements.

There are also governance challenges due to unregulated growth, it makes harder to implement different solutions and support to the IDPs settling in the new urban areas. Upgrading these areas involves improving infrastructure, such as roads, drainage, and electricity, as well as providing better housing options. Community engagement is essential in this process, ensuring that the solutions implemented meet the residents' needs and are sustainable in the long term.

By addressing the underlying causes of urban sprawl and mono-functional land use linked to IDP influxes, Xudur can transition toward more sustainable and integrated urban development model.

Buulow Neighborhood

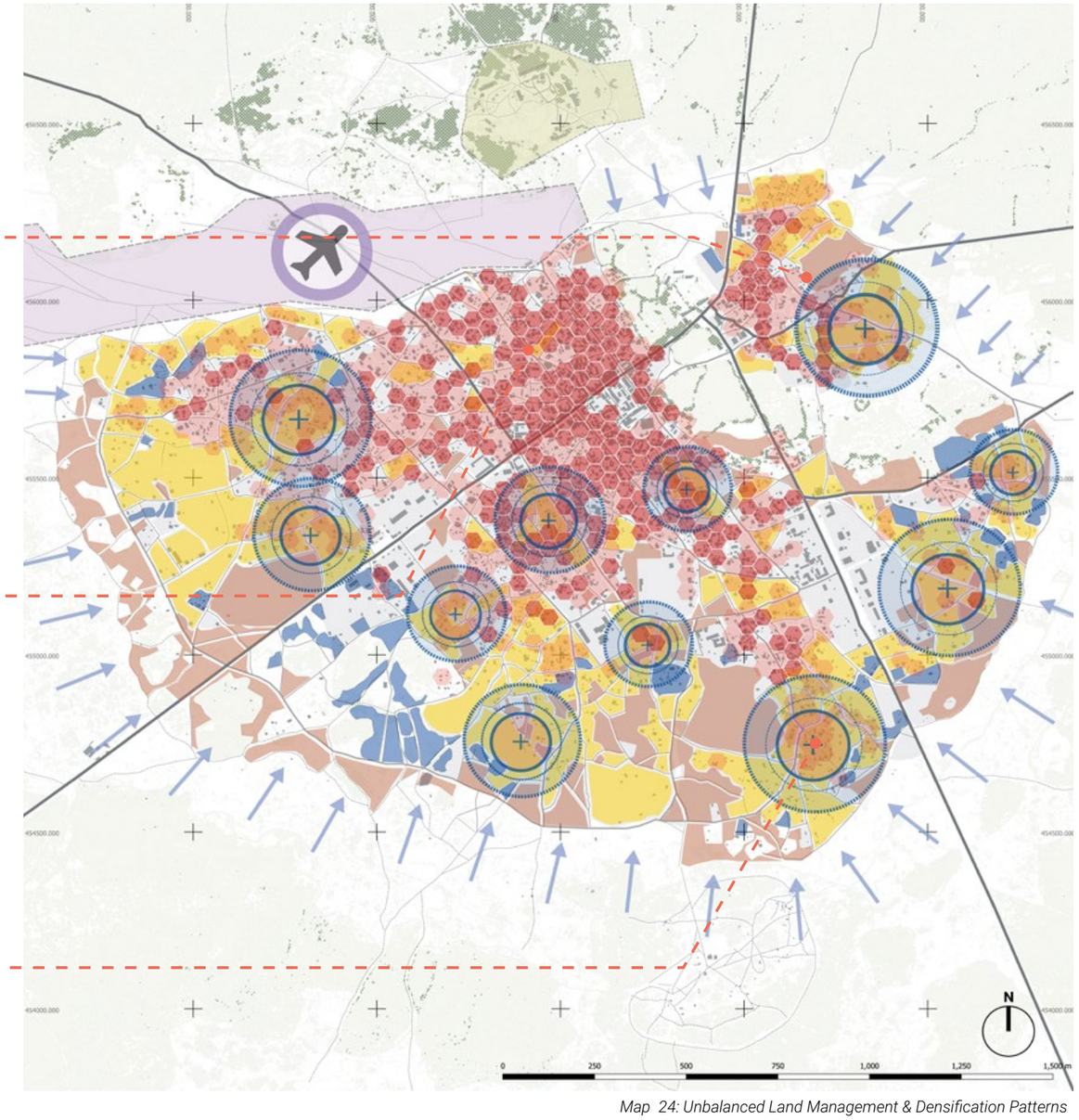
There are more than 300 IDPs at eviction risk in this area of the city.

Moroogaabey Neighborhood

There are more than 200 IDPs at eviction risk in this area of the city.

Sheikh Aways Neighborhood

There are approximately 35 hectares of vacant urban land available for realocation of IDPs.



Map 24: Unbalanced Land Management & Densification Patterns

4.3 Strategic Issue Two: Flooding Risk & Climate Change

Climate change manifests in Xudur through increased variability in weather patterns, more intense and unpredictable rainfall events, and rising temperatures. These changes contribute to a higher frequency and severity of flooding, especially during the rainy seasons.

The region's water systems, critical for agriculture, drinking water, and sanitation, are under stress due to these climatic shifts. In particular, heavy rainfall can lead to the overflow of rivers and streams, exacerbating the flood risk in low-lying urban areas and surrounding agricultural land.

Xudur, like many other cities and towns in Somalia, is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which has exacerbated the city's flooding risk. The town currently has 65 hectares classified at risk of moderate flooding, 47.5 hectares classified as medium flooding risk, which means from 0.6m to 1 meter depth and 32.5 hectares at very high-level risk of flooding, which means more than 1 meter water depth. These numbers reflect that a significant portion of the town is a flooding threat, considering the overall size of the urban footprint.

This flood-prone land not only threatens the physical infrastructure but also poses severe risks to the residents, with approximately 18,000 people living in areas susceptible to flooding, this represent the 30% of the total city´s population.

The human impact of flooding in Xudur is profound. More than 4,200 people are exposed to severe flash flooding, which is more than 1.1 meters deep. The GIS analysis also shows that 14% of the total IDP population is at flooding risk, which means some of the informal IDP camps need to be relocated.

The UN-Habitat GIS analysis reveals that 28% of all permanent structures within the city are classified as being at moderate risk of flooding, while 23% are at severe risk. These findings are visually represented in Map 24.

At the neighborhood level, Sheikh Aways and Buulow Jadiid are identified as the most heavily impacted by flooding. Buulow and Wadajir also face significant flood exposure, with extensive areas within these neighborhoods affected.

Floods can lead to the displacement of communities, destruction of homes, loss of personal property, and disruption of livelihoods. The economic costs are also substantial, as floods damage infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and public utilities, leading to costly repairs and economic disruptions. Additionally, the agricultural sector, which many residents depend on for their livelihoods, is frequently affected by floodwaters, resulting in crop losses and food insecurity.

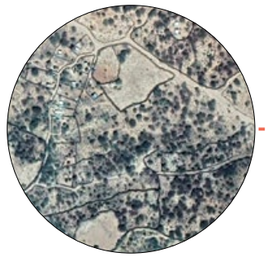
Implementing effective drainage systems and flood control strategies is crucial to mitigating the impact of heavy rainfall and managing water flow. Furthermore, integrating green infrastructure, such as parks and wetlands, can help absorb excess rainfall and reduce the burden on traditional drainage systems.

Building community resilience is also essential in adapting to the changing climate. Public awareness campaigns can educate residents about flood risks and preparedness measures, such as evacuation plans and protective actions.

Additionally, policies that support sustainable agricultural practices and diversify livelihoods can reduce the economic vulnerability of those dependent on flood-prone land.

Buulow Neighborhood

There are more than 60 hectares of urban vacant land at the city´s outskirts to implement agriculture, foodable areas and parks.

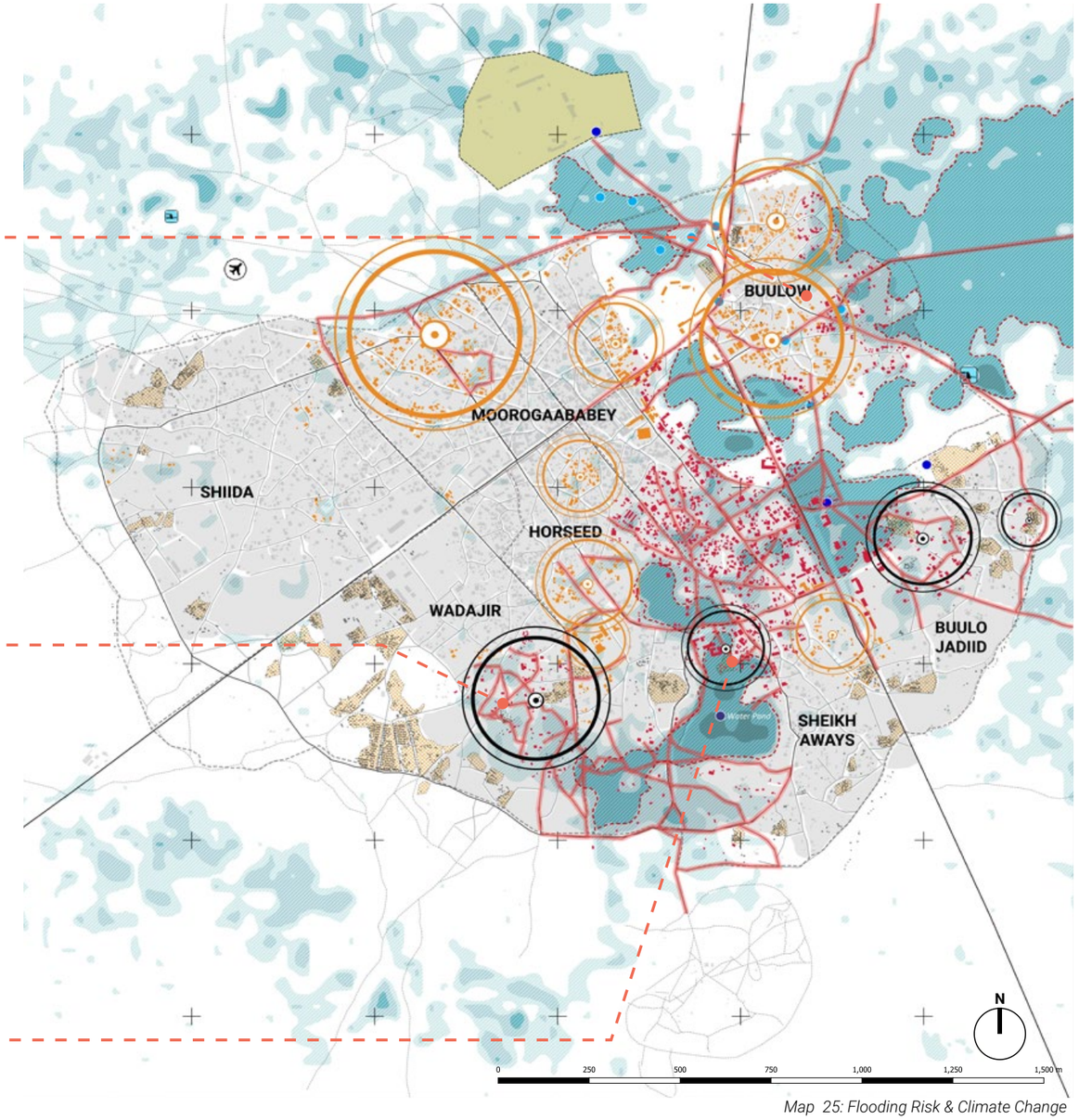


Wadajir Neighborhood

There are more than 25 hectares of urban vacant land at the city´s outskirts to mitigate the impact of heavy flood.

Sheikh Aways Neighborhood

There are more than 15 hectares of urban vacant land available to mitigate the impact of heavy flooding with blue strategies.



Map 25: Flooding Risk & Climate Change

LEGEND

- City Boundary
- Urban Footprint
- Agriculture
- Wetlands
- IDP Sites

Road Network

- Roads affected by flooding
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road

- IDP sites affected by flooding depth (0.4-1.4m)
- Urban areas affected by flooding depth (0.4-1.4m)
- Buildings affected by flooding depth(>1.5m)
- Buildings affected by flooding depth (0.4-1.4m)
- IDP Tents & Shelter
- Flooding risk depth >1.5m
- Flooding risk depth 0.5-1.4m
- Flooding risk depth 0.1-0.5m

4.4 Strategic Issue Three: Disconnectedness and Lack of Accessibility to Infrastructure

In Xudur, the condition of the road infrastructure is a critical issue impacting the daily lives of its residents, including a significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The city suffers from inadequate and poorly maintained roads, which are characterized by potholes, erosion, and uneven surfaces. A lack of connectivity between different neighborhoods and critical areas, such as health facilities, schools, and marketplaces, compounds this problem. For many residents, particularly those living in informal settlements or peripheral areas, this means limited access to essential services and opportunities.

The limited reach of public transport and the high cost of private transportation further exacerbate these challenges, leaving many people isolated from economic activities. For IDPs and low-income residents, this situation not only limits their ability to access essential services but also hinders their integration into the broader urban community.

Main Road & Infrastructure Issues:

Unpaved Roads: A significant portion of roads in Xudur are unpaved, making them vulnerable to erosion, flooding, and difficult to navigate during rainy seasons.

Lack of Maintenance: Limited funding and governance result in poorly maintained roads, with potholes and uneven surfaces affecting usability and safety.

Inadequate Drainage: Roads often lack proper drainage systems, leading to waterlogging and accelerated degradation during heavy rains.

Pedestrian Safety: Streets are often not pedestrian-friendly, with few sidewalks, crossings, or traffic-calming measures.

Street Lighting: Many roads lack lighting, increasing the risk of accidents and crime at night.

Climate change has exacerbated the challenges posed by poor road conditions. Increased variability in rainfall and more intense rainy seasons have led to frequent flooding, particularly in poorly drained urban areas. During these periods, roads often become impassable, further isolating communities and disrupting access to services. The flooding damages the road infrastructure, creating hazardous conditions and cutting off entire neighborhoods, making it difficult for residents to reach hospitals, schools, and other critical services. This lack of accessibility during floods increases the risk of health emergencies and delays in receiving essential medical care, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses.

This creates broader socio-economic implications for Xudur. The inability to move goods and people efficiently limits economic growth and development. Businesses face challenges in transporting products, leading to increased costs and reduced competitiveness. Additionally, the lack of reliable infrastructure deters potential investment in the city, slowing overall urban development and modernization efforts.

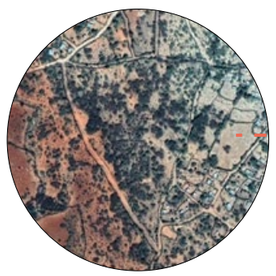
It is crucial for Xudur to invest in improving its road infrastructure and enhancing connectivity. This includes paving and maintaining roads, constructing new routes to underserved areas, and developing efficient drainage systems to prevent flooding. Prioritizing areas with high populations of IDPs and low-income residents can help ensure that the most vulnerable communities are not left behind. Integrating climate resilience into infrastructure planning is also essential to mitigate the impacts of future climate variability and extreme weather events.

Shiida Neighborhood

There are more than 500 IDPs in Shiida without accessibility to water, sewerage, health and education.

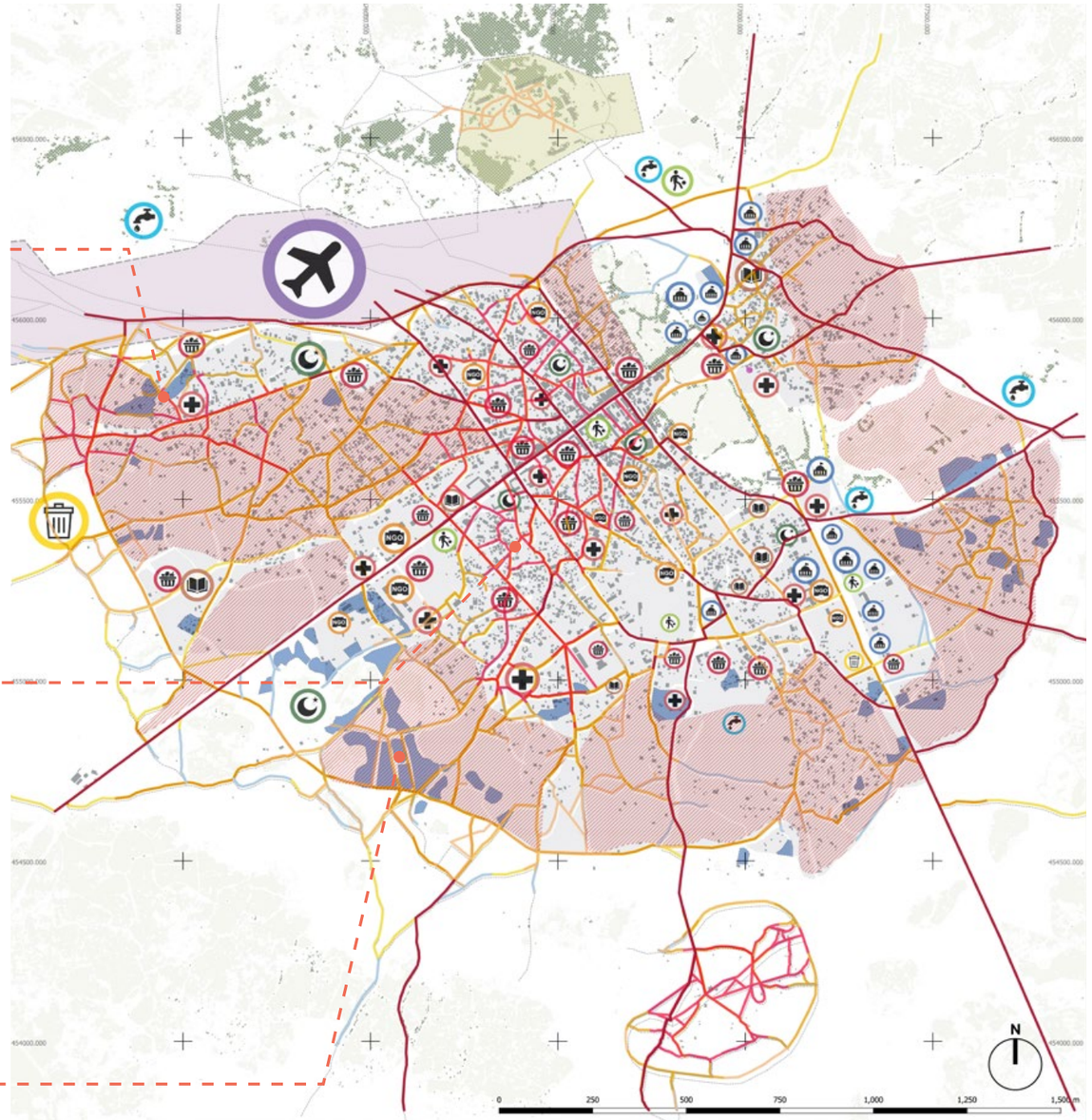
Horseed Neighborhood

There are more than 2000 IDPs in this urban area without accessibility to water, sewerage, health and education.



Wadajiir Neighborhood

There are more than 3,500 IDPs in this urban area without accessibility to water, sewerage, health and education.



Map 26: Disconnectedness & Lack of Accessibility to Infrastructure

05

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

05

The Strategic Plan *(2024-2035)*

"The main objective of the strategic vision is to support the local government to clearly understand the main constraints and strengths of their city´s context. Establish a prioritization of these challenges and opportunities to facilitate the decision-making process."

5.1 Introduction

The main objective of a Strategic vision and plan is to support the local governments to clearly understand the main constraints and strengths of their city´s context. Establish a prioritization of these challenges and opportunities to facilitate the decision-making process regarding potential urban development interventions and capital investments. To support this task, a set of multi-scalar and multi-dimensional maps were elaborated to build the narrative and establish a comprehensive vision of Xudur future sustainable development. Once defined in their conceptual nature, they are developed into a more detailed description, spatially interpreted and contextualized in its context at various scales. A roadmap follows this to implementation in the form of an articulated Action Plan for durable solutions to displacement.

According to the UN-Habitat principles, cities need to encourage spatial development strategies that consider the need to guide urban extension, limiting urban sprawl and horizontal expansion, and prioritizing well-connected infrastructure and services. An integrated city has different urban centers within the city´s fabric.

48
IDP Camps Transformed into Housing Projects

62
Hectares allocated for Urban Renovation Projects

5.2 The Future Vision

During the different participatory and validation workshops, a long term urban vision for Xudur was consensually developed and decided among the different groups. In a spirit of inclusivity, the community and local government expect to consolidate Xudur by 2035 as an inclusive, vibrant, green and resilient city. It aims to foster a better quality of life for every resident and surrounding community, including agro-pastoral societies. Through integrated urban planning, robust community engagement and participation of stakeholders, from local communities to governmental bodies and donors, the project aspires to cultivate a city where diversity thrives, green spaces flourish, and resilience is integrated into every facet of society.

The Xudur Strategic Plan 2024-2035 relies on four main strategic recommendations that directly address the critical urban issues identified in the spatial analysis. One of the main objectives of the work methodology was to create an urban development vision based on the participation of the concerned people and potential development partners, taking into consideration different inputs, perspectives, suggestions, and views

Figure 33: Validating Xudur´s responses during the second validation workshop. © UN-HABITAT, 2024

"A series of catalytic interventions were formulated to establish a foundational vision for each sector and identify feasible development opportunities. These interventions were prioritized during a Validation Workshop held in May 2024 in Baidoa"

during the early stages of the urban plan´s preparation.

A series of catalytic interventions were formulated to establish a foundational vision for each sector and identify feasible development opportunities. These interventions were prioritized during a Validation Workshop held in May 2024 in Baidoa. The workshop was facilitated by the UN-Habitat team with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and included participation from key stakeholders. Attendees included the Minister of Public Works, Reconstruction & Housing of Southwest State, the Mayor of Xudur, members of the local community, various government officials, and national technical staff from both UN-Habitat and IOM.

During the workshop, the discussion focused on validating the gathered primary and secondary data, the main issues at regional and city scales, and the strategic recommendations for Xudur. The critical elements of the discussion were:

- **Land tenure security for residents and IDPs**
- **Construction of a Dam in Buloow to contain flooding**
- **Construction of solar energy plants for electricity**
- **The construction of police stations**
- **Relocation projects for IDPs**
- **Construction of markets and community centers**
- **The airport upgrading and fencing**
- **Status and future interventions for a waste management system and accessibility to basic services such as clean water and sewage.**
- **Construction of tarmacked roads and rehabilitation of existing roads and streets**
- **Construction of a referral hospital to service the town and region**
- **Construction of a public university**
- **Construction of community centers and social hubs for women and youth**
- **Engagement with IOM regarding data on the IDP´s camps and possible urban projects with long term vision**

This participatory design process was an essential component of the project. From this discussion, a joint vision for the future of Xudur and prioritization of projects were developed in a collective manner, including the different interests, aspirations and needs of various sectors while trying to push all the ambitions into the same direction. In definitive, the strategic recommendations in this chapter aim at developing and achieving a compact, resilient, inclusive, accessible, and open Xudur.

The strategic approach of a compact city intends to limit urban sprawl and avoid the pop-up of new informal settlements around the city's outskirts, where IDPs and newcomers usually settle. The intention is to consolidate the town's central core and increment the population density numbers within the proposed developmental protection boundary rather than continuing to expand the city horizontally and create more dispersion. Three concrete actions in the form of specific projects and policies are recommended to consolidate Xudur into a compact city.

Vulnerability to climate change and flooding risk depends not only on adverse climate conditions but also on the capacity of the local governments and community to anticipate, adapt and resist its impacts with the right interventions and actions regarding infrastructure. Cities with complex informal and precarious settlements as Xudur are more vulnerable to human and economic losses. The strategic approach for the resilient city aims to reconcile the natural features with the urbanization processes that have taken place during the last decades, protecting the seasonal water bodies inside the city´s urban fabric and at risk of flooding, establishing buffer protection areas to avoid informality. As part of this vision, urban agriculture should be promoted inside the city and the surrounding areas, with the objective of first protecting the land from undesired urbanization and second addressing the issue of food insecurity and food dependency from other regions and humanitarian aid.

The term "connected city" can be defined in multiple ways. A city can be connected through its physical layout but also through economic opportunities and social interaction. To address each of those meanings is the primary recommendation for a connected and integrated city, pointing towards relinking the existing infrastructure, the economic cores of activities and the main pockets of population densities within Xudur.

Urban mobility is one of the main challenges, and the proposals for the city are to upgrade the road network, integrate sustainable practices, and engage the community. Xudur can enhance accessibility, support economic growth, and improve the quality of life for all its residents, including the most vulnerable populations if a new road hierarchy is established and the street patterns appropriately designed with the relevant urban elements to promote accessibility.

Xudur is often at the forefront of integrating internally displaced persons (IDPs) and migrants, facilitating their social and economic inclusion. The strategic approach to consolidating an inclusive city aims to use urban planning as a peacebuilding tool and establishing a participatory planning process that integrates migration into future development interventions. By adopting inclusive, sustainable, and evidence-based urban planning decisions, Xudur can ensure that basic services and infrastructure are aligned with a vision for integrated territorial development that accommodates urban growth due to rural-urban migration and displacement.

Failure to plan for the increasing urban population can strain urban services, intensify competition for housing and land, and exacerbate existing dysfunctions in urban systems. This lack of planning can contribute to social tensions, lead to the creation of new informal settlements, exacerbate urban poverty, and increase vulnerability to gender-based violence and exploitation. Therefore, Xudur must adopt a comprehensive urban planning strategy that not only addresses the immediate needs of IDPs and migrants but also fosters long-term resilience and social cohesion.

There is an interrelatedness of the many components of a land planning system. A Strategic Urban Plan can only address the discussion of land use, transportation, the natural environment, migration, and economic growth by recognizing the contributing effects of one on the other. In terms of inclusivity, the strategic plan must address the needs of both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the host community, ensuring equitable access to housing, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. Creating affordable housing and formalizing informal settlements through land tenure security can reduce social tensions and prevent the marginalization of vulnerable populations.

Furthermore, enhancing connectivity through the development of efficient public transportation networks will promote social and economic mobility, allowing residents from various parts of the city, including IDP communities, to access job markets and services. By embracing these principles, Xudur can evolve into a city that is compact, resilient, inclusive and vibrant.

"A Failure to plan for the increasing urban population can strain urban services, intensify competition for housing and land, and exacerbate existing dysfunctions in urban systems. This lack of planning can contribute to social tensions, lead to the creation of new informal settlements, exacerbate urban poverty, and increase vulnerability to gender-based violence and exploitation"

5.3 Goal One: The Compact City
(Efficient Land Management & Densification Strategies)

To promote sustainable development, a comprehensive urban transformation strategy is vital. This approach emphasizes strategic land management, effective densification, reallocation of IDPs, urban infill, and enhancements to the land tenure system. By prioritizing these initiatives, Xudur can evolve into a compact and efficient city that optimizes land use, reduces urban sprawl, and provides equitable access to resources and opportunities for its diverse population.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Efficient Land Management**

Proposal: Develop a comprehensive land management framework that ensures optimal use of land re-sources, prevents urban sprawl, and supports sustainable growth.

Land Use Zoning: Implement a zoning plan that designates specific areas for residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational uses. This plan should prioritize mixed-use developments that enhance the functionality and vibrancy of urban spaces.

Land Inventory: Conduct a thorough inventory of all available land, including vacant and underutilized parcels, to identify opportunities for development and strategic investment.

Goal: To create a well-organized urban environment that optimizes land use and supports economic and social activities.

- **Densification Processes**

Proposal: Encourage higher-density developments in targeted urban areas to make better use of land and infrastructure, reduce travel distances, and support a vibrant urban lifestyle.

Vertical Expansion: Promote the construction of multi-story residential and commercial buildings in designated zones to accommodate more people and businesses within a smaller footprint.

Incentives for Developers: Provide incentives such as tax breaks or expedited permitting for developers who invest in high-density, sustainable projects.

Goal: To increase the population density in strategic areas, thereby reducing the environmental footprint of urban growth and enhancing the efficiency of infrastructure and services.

- **IDP Relocation and Integration**

Proposal: Relocate IDPs from informal IDP Camps to planned, serviced neighborhoods that offer adequate housing and access to essential services such as water, sewerage, schools, hospitals, public spaces, etc.

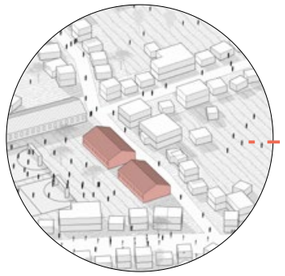
Planned Settlements: Develop new neighborhoods with proper infrastructure, including water, sanitation, electricity, and transportation links, to provide adequate shelter and housing IDPs and local residents.

Goal: To improve living conditions for IDPs, reduce the prevalence of informal settlements, and promote social cohesion within the city.

- **Urban Infill Strategies**

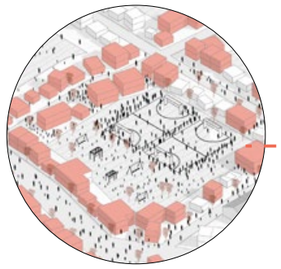
Proposal: Utilize vacant and underused land within the existing urban footprint to develop new housing, commercial spaces, and public amenities.

Infill Development Projects: Identify and prioritize infill sites for development, focusing on areas close to existing infrastructure and



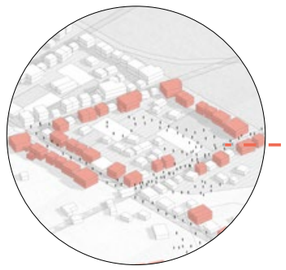
Shiida Neighborhood

Realocation and integration of more than 1,500 IDPs in Shiida with new accessibility to education and health.



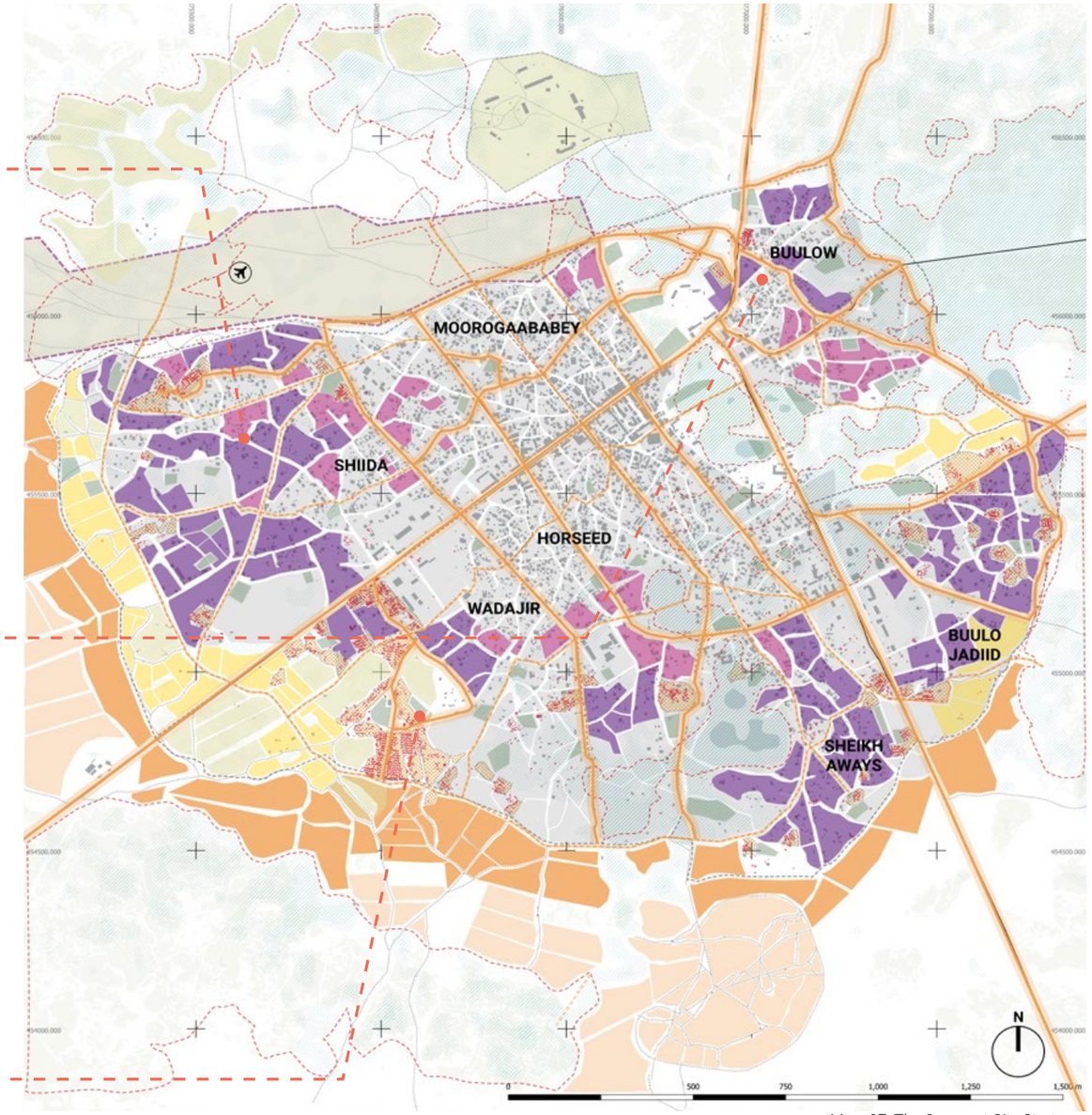
Buulow Neighborhood

An urban infill project and new public facilities to integrate more than 2000 IDPs in this urban area without accessibility to water, sewerage, health and education.



Wadajiir Neighborhood

New developmental housing project to realocate 3,500 IDPs in this urban area along the main and secondary roads.



Map 27: The Compact City Strategy

LEGEND

- City Boundary
- Urban Footprint
- Existing Agriculture
- IDP Sites

Road Network
- Primary Roads (Sewerage+Drainage Systems)
- Secondary Roads (Environmental+Social Connectors)
- Tertiary Roads/Footways

- Urban Land to consolidate with Urban Infill 250pp/Ha (High Priority)
- Urban Land to consolidate with Urban Infill 250pp/Ha (Medium Priority)
- Vacant Land to Develop/Densify with 150pp/Ha
- First City Extension (250pp/Ha)
- Second City Extension (150pp/Ha)
- IDP Tents & Shelter
- Non Developable Land

services to minimize additional costs and environmental impact.

Public-Private Partnerships: Encourage partnerships between the government and private sector to finance and implement infill projects, ensuring they meet high standards of sustainability and design.

Goal: To maximize the use of existing urban land, prevent urban sprawl, and create more cohesive and connected neighborhoods.

- **Improving the Land Tenure System**

Proposal: Strengthen the land tenure system to provide secure property rights, reduce disputes, and encourage investment.

Land Registration and Documentation: Implement a systematic land registration process that provides clear and legal recognition of land ownership and usage rights.

Community Land Trusts: Establish community land trusts to manage and protect land for public use, ensuring that land remains accessible and affordable for community members.

Goal: To enhance legal security for property owners and tenants, facilitate transparent land transactions, and support long-term urban planning efforts.

DENSIFICATION SCENARIOS:

- **Efficient Land Management**

Proposal: Develop a comprehensive land management framework that ensures optimal use of land resources, prevents urban sprawl, and supports sustainable growth.

Incremental Housing Development

Proposal: Develop a comprehensive land management framework that ensures optimal use of land resources, prevents urban sprawl, and supports sustainable growth. This approach can accommodate growth over time, providing flexibility for displaced populations while ensuring planned urban expansion. It also minimizes the risk of overcrowding in existing low-density areas.

- **Upgrading Informal Settlements**

Proposal: Improve infrastructure and services in existing informal settlements rather than displacing communities. Formalizing land tenure and upgrading housing and sanitation can create denser, more organized living environments. This supports the integration of IDPs into the urban fabric, enhancing living conditions while avoiding the social and economic disruption of relocation.

- **Densifying Along Transit Corridors**

Proposal: Focus higher-density housing developments along existing or planned public transportation corridors to create transit-oriented developments (TODs). This reduces dependence on private vehicles, encourages more efficient land use, and helps integrate displaced populations into the broader urban economy by providing better access to jobs and services.

- **Incentivize Private Sector Investment in Affordable Housing**

Proposal: Provide incentives, such as tax breaks or land grants, to encourage private developers to build affordable and higher-density housing that accommodates low-income residents and IDPs. This can help fill the housing gap while stimulating the local economy and ensuring that new developments contribute to densification in a planned manner, which will be very beneficial for both, the hosting community and the IDP population living in Xudur.

"The proposed strategy relocates IDPs from informal IDP Camps to planned, serviced neighborhoods that offer adequate housing and access to essential services such as water, sewerage, schools, hospitals, public spaces, etc"

Figure 34: Different densification & urban infill strategies proposed for Xudur urban consolidation

5.4 Goal Two: The Connected City *(Accessibility & Connectivity Strategies)*

Transforming Xudur into a connected and accessible city through strategic infrastructure improvements will significantly enhance mobility, safety, and quality of life for all residents. Prioritizing effective street designs, inclusive public lighting, dedicated bike lanes, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, and a well-defined street hierarchy will ensure smooth connectivity across the urban fabric. By supporting diverse modes of transportation and improving access to key destinations, Xudur can promote sustainable urban growth, strengthen social and economic ties, and foster a vibrant, inclusive community. This comprehensive approach to accessibility and connectivity can establish Xudur as a benchmark for efficient and sustainable urban planning in Somalia.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **New Street Sections and Design**

Proposal: Introduce new street sections and design standards to improve the functionality, safety, and aesthetics of Xudur´s roads. This involves categorizing streets based on their intended use and traffic capacity. To create streets that cater to diverse modes of transportation, promote safety, and enhance the urban experience.

Complete Streets: Adopt a 'Complete Streets' design philosophy, which ensures that streets are safe and accessible for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and public transport passengers.

Street Furniture and Landscaping: Incorporate Street furniture, such as benches, waste bins, and signage, along with landscaping elements like trees and green buffers, to enhance the streetscape and provide shade and environmental benefits.

- **Implementation of Public Lighting**

Proposal: Install comprehensive public lighting systems throughout the city to improve visibility and safety, particularly at night. To enhance safety and security, reduce crime rates, and encourage nighttime activities in public spaces.

Solar Energy-Efficient Lighting: Use solar panels to generate energy and implement public LED lighting for its energy efficiency and longevity, reducing maintenance costs and energy consumption in Hudur´s main streets and roads.

- **Road Upgrading and Tarmacking**

Proposal: Upgrade existing roads and tarmac key routes to improve road quality, reduce travel times, and enhance connectivity. To provide smooth and durable road surfaces that facilitate efficient transportation and reduce vehicle maintenance costs.

Paving and Resurfacing: Focus on paving and resurfacing roads that are currently unpaved or in poor condition, prioritizing those that serve high-traffic areas and critical services.

Drainage Systems: Integrate effective drainage systems into road designs to manage stormwater and reduce flood risks.

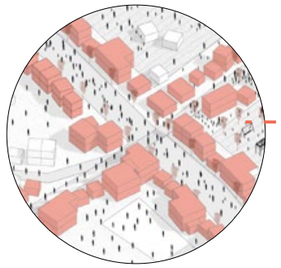
- **Establishing a New Street Hierarchy**

Proposal: Create a structured street hierarchy that defines the role and function of each road within the urban network. To improve traffic management, optimize transportation networks, and ensure efficient use of road space.

Primary Roads: Designate major thoroughfares as primary roads, facilitating high-capacity traffic flow and connecting major points of interest across the city.

Secondary Roads: Develop secondary roads to link primary roads with local destinations, including residential areas, schools, and commercial centers.

Tertiary Roads: Use tertiary roads for local access within neighborhoods, designed for lower speeds and accommodating pedestrian and local traffic.

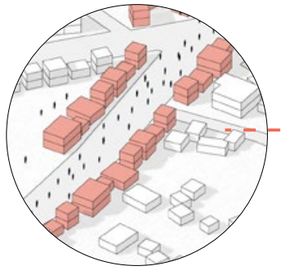


Horseed Neighborhood

Increasing of population density along the primary and secondary roads in different urban areas of Xudur with new collective housing projects.

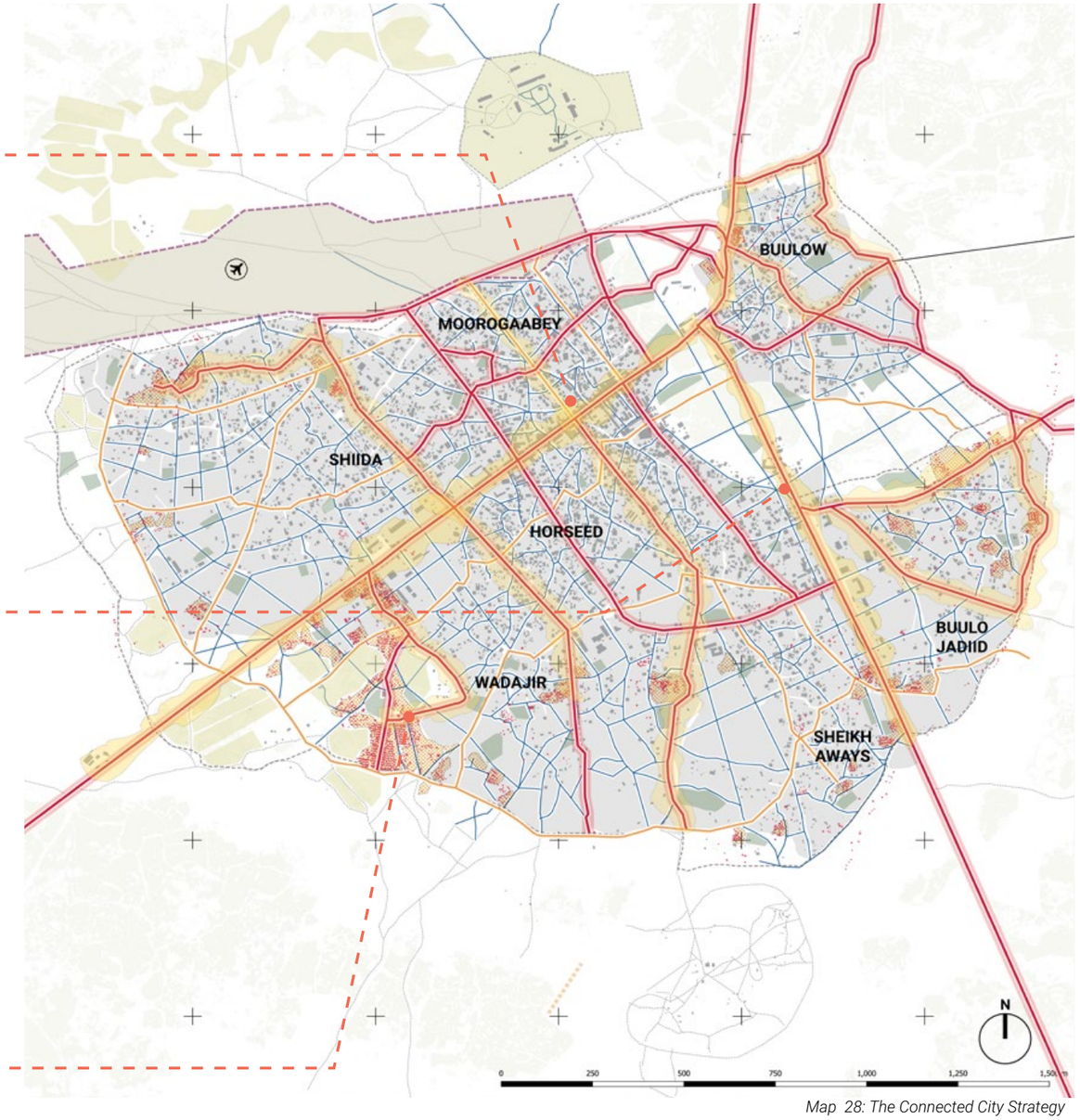
Sheikh Aways Neighborhood

Establishing of clear a street hierarchy in different city´s areas with implementation of mixed land use and new job opportunities along the primary and secondary roads.



Wadajiir Neighborhood

Implementation of Transit Oriented Developments (TODs) interventions along the primary and secondary roads within the residential areas of the city.

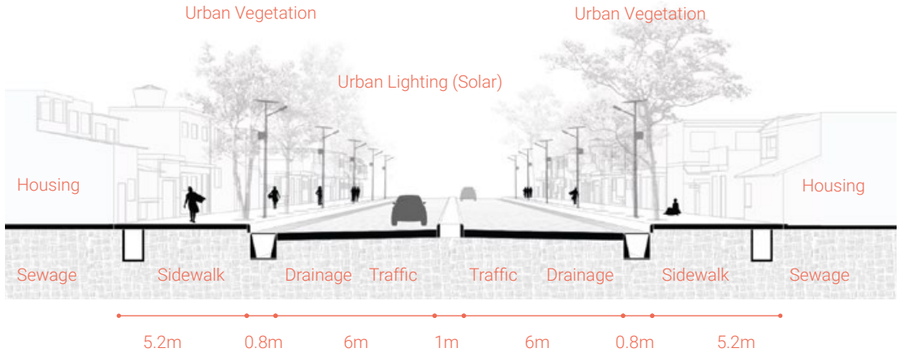


Map 28: The Connected City Strategy

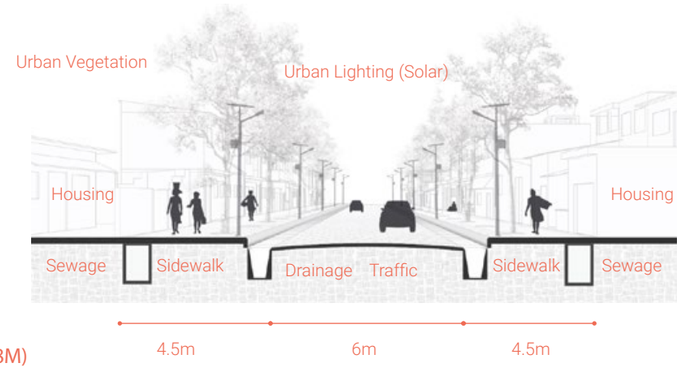
LEGEND

- City Boundary
- Urban Footprint
- Existing Agriculture
- IDP Sites
- Buildings
- Road Network
- Primary Roads (To consolidate with Mixed-use)
- Secondary Roads (To consolidate with domestic business)
- Tertiary Roads/Footways
- IDP Tents & Shelter
- Proposed Green Infrastructure

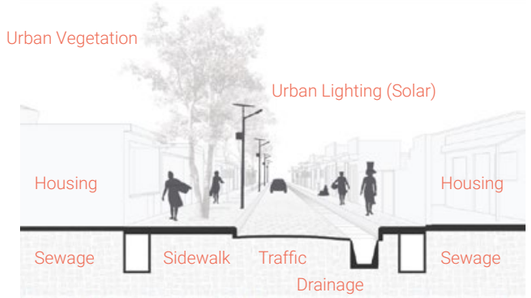
MAIN ROAD (25M)



SECONDARY ROAD (15M)



TERTIARY ROAD (8M)



LOCAL STREET (6M)

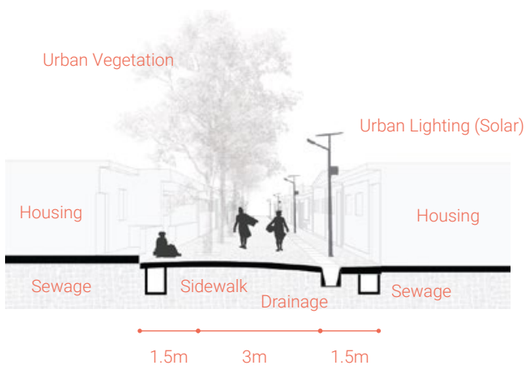


Figure 35: Xudur representative urban street. © Mohamud Hassan, AMISOM, 2019

5.5 Goal Three: The Resilient City *(Resilient Communities & Climate Change Strategies)*

By implementing these strategies, Xudur can enhance its resilience to environmental challenges and climate variability, ensuring a sustainable and secure future for its residents. The focus on water management, agricultural protection, and green infrastructure will not only mitigate risks associated with water scarcity and flooding but also promote a healthier and a more vibrant urban environment. This comprehensive approach can position Xudur as a referent of resilience and sustainable urban development in the region.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Construction of a New Dam in Buulow & Creation of New Boreholes**

Proposal: Construction of a new dam in the north area of the city and establish new boreholes in strategic locations throughout Xudur to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for residents, agriculture, and livestock. Aiming to provide a consistent water supply, reduce water scarcity, and support public health and agriculture.

Site Selection: Conduct hydrogeological surveys to identify optimal locations for boreholes, ensuring that water extraction does not deplete local aquifers or affect the water tables.

Community Involvement: Involve local communities in the planning and management of boreholes to promote ownership and ensure proper maintenance.

- **Urban Water Catchments for Urban Agriculture**

Proposal: Develop urban water catchment systems to collect and store rainwater for use in urban agriculture, promoting food security and reducing water runoff. To increase urban agriculture, enhance food security, and promote sustainable water use in urban settings.

Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting: Install rainwater harvesting systems on public buildings, schools, and commercial properties to capture rainwater for irrigation.

Community Gardens: Support the establishment of community gardens and urban farms that utilize harvested rainwater, encouraging local food production and greening urban spaces.

- **Rural Water Catchments for Livestock and Agriculture**

Proposal: Construct water catchment systems in rural areas around Xudur to support livestock and agriculture, critical for the livelihoods of rural communities. To stabilize water supply for agricultural and livestock activities, improving resilience against drought and supporting rural economies.

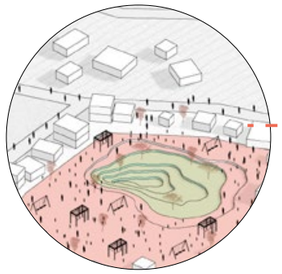
Earth Dams and Reservoirs for Livestock: Build earth dams and reservoirs to store water during the rainy season, providing a water source during dry periods.

Small-Scale Irrigation: Implement small-scale irrigation systems that use stored water efficiently, supporting crop production and livestock needs.

Floodable Public Spaces

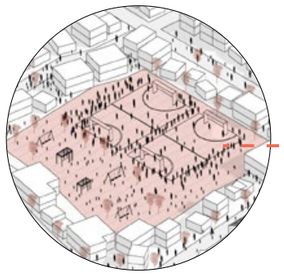
Proposal: Designate and develop certain public spaces as floodable areas that can temporarily hold excess rainwater during heavy rainfall, reducing the risk of flooding in urban areas. To manage stormwater effectively, mitigate flood risks, and provide recreational areas for the community.

Parks and Open Spaces: Create parks and open spaces with water-absorbent surfaces and retention basins that can flood temporarily, protecting surrounding infrastructure.



Shiida Neighborhood

Implementation of several new floddable public spaces near IDP camps in order to manage flooding and collect rain water for use in urban agriculture.

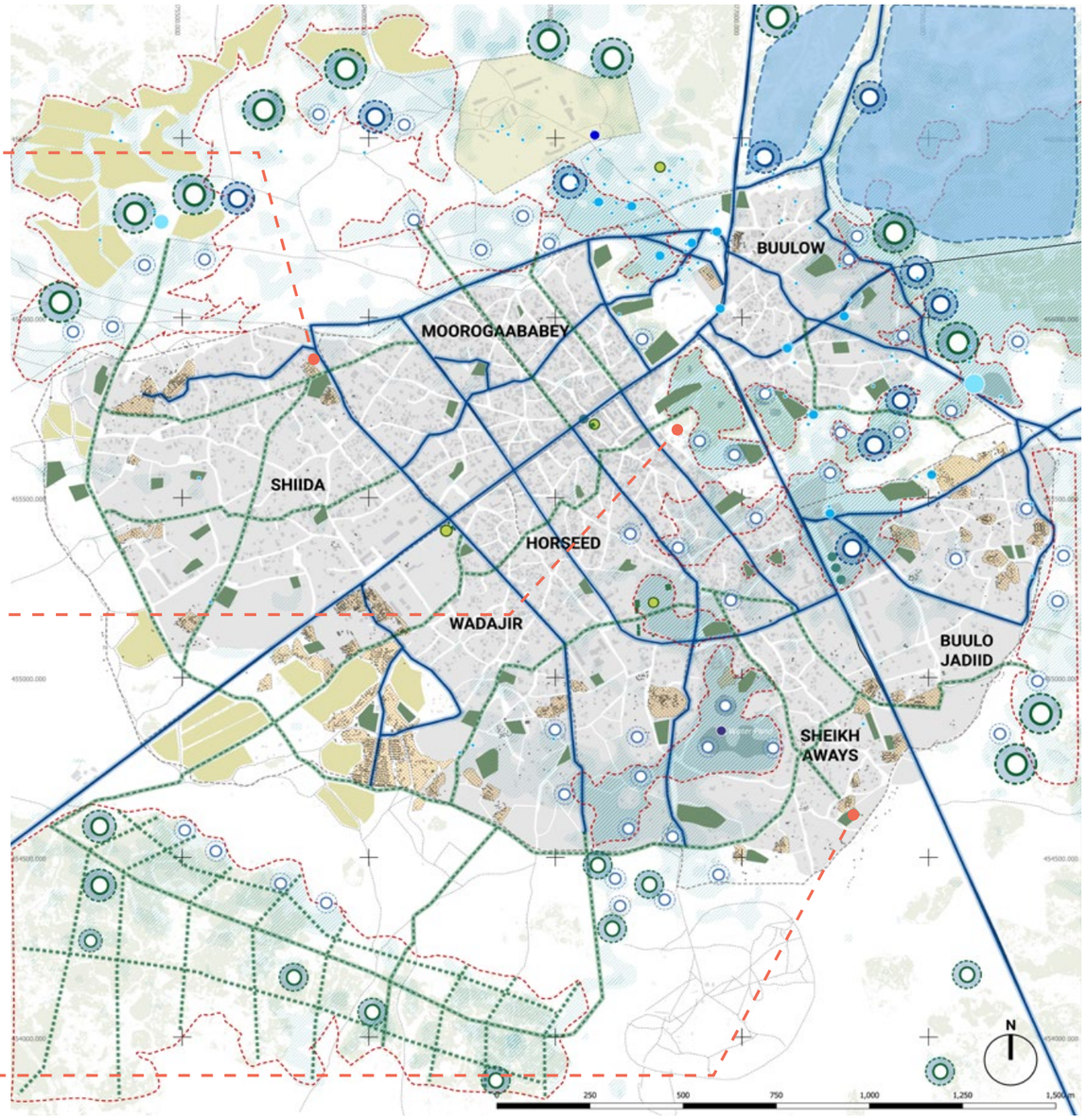


Horseed Neighborhood

Construction of new parks and open spaces with water-absorbent surfaces and retention basins that can be used by the community during dry season with recreational purposes.

Sheikh Aways Neighborhood

Create urban water catchments and retention basins that can be reused for urban agriculture purposes and protect surrounding residential areas during rainning season.



Map 29: The Resilient City Strategy

LEGEND

- City Boundary
- Urban Footprint
- New Proposed Agriculture
- Existing Agriculture
- IDP Sites

Road Network

- Proposed Blue Corridors (Sewerage+Drainage Systems)
- Green Corridors (Environmental+Social Connectors)
- Tertiary Roads/Footways

- Areas not suitable for urbanization due to flooding/agriculture
- Public Spaces+Floodable Areas
- Proposed Urban Water Catchments
- Proposed Rural Water Catchments for Livestock & Agriculture
- IDP Tents & Shelter
- Flooding risk depth >1.5m
- Flooding risk depth 0.5-1.4m
- Flooding risk depth 0.1-0.5m

- Existing Water Wells (UN-Habitat+SWALIM)
- Dams
- Existing waterpond
- Proposed Boreholes
- Proposed Dams

Multipurpose Use: Design these spaces to be usable for recreation and community activities during dry periods, ensuring they serve multiple purposes.

- **Protection of Existing Agricultural Areas**

Proposal: Implement policies and measures to protect existing agricultural lands from urban encroachment, ensuring they remain available for food production and supporting local economies. To preserve agricultural lands, support local food production, and maintain ecological balance.

Zoning Regulations: Enforce zoning laws that designate agricultural areas as protected zones, preventing their conversion into non-agricultural uses.

Support for Farmers: Provide resources and support to farmers to maintain and improve agricultural practices, including access to markets, training, and subsidies for sustainable farming techniques.

- **Implementation of Blue and Green Corridors**

Proposal: Develop blue and green corridors throughout Xudur to enhance urban biodiversity, provide natural flood management, and create recreational spaces. To integrate natural elements into the urban environment, improve ecological connectivity, and enhance the quality of life for residents.

Blue Corridors: Establish networks of waterways and wetlands that help manage stormwater, support aquatic ecosystems, and provide aesthetic and recreational value.

Green Corridors: Plant trees and vegetation along streets, parks, and pathways to create continuous green spaces that enhance urban cooling, air quality, and biodiversity.

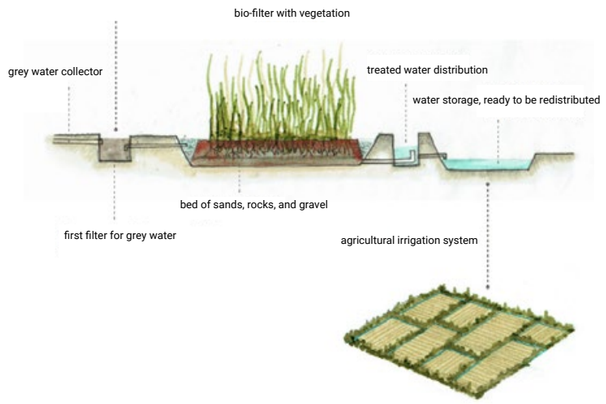


Figure 36: Proposed agricultural sustainable irrigation system

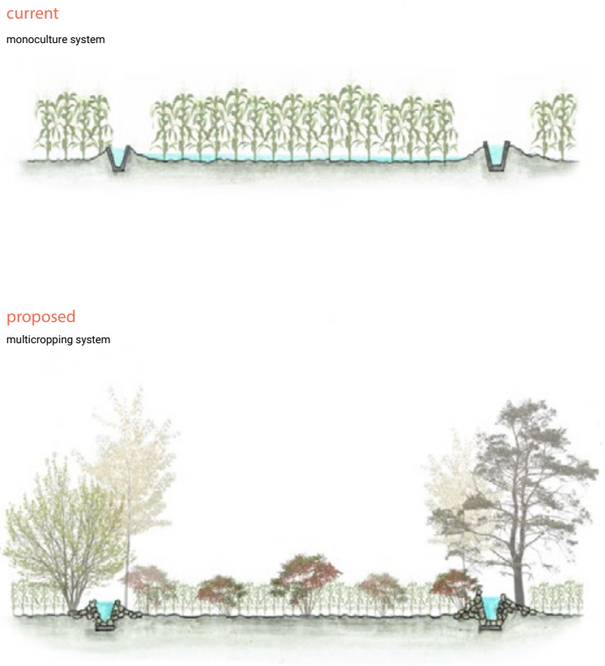


Figure 37: From monoculture to multicropping systems

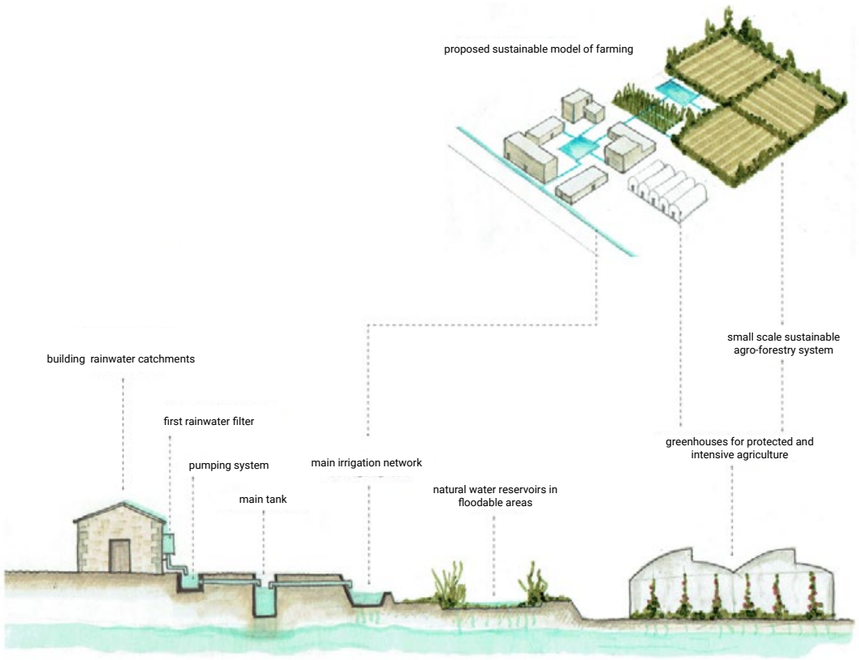


Figure 38: Proposed urban water catchment systems for agriculture

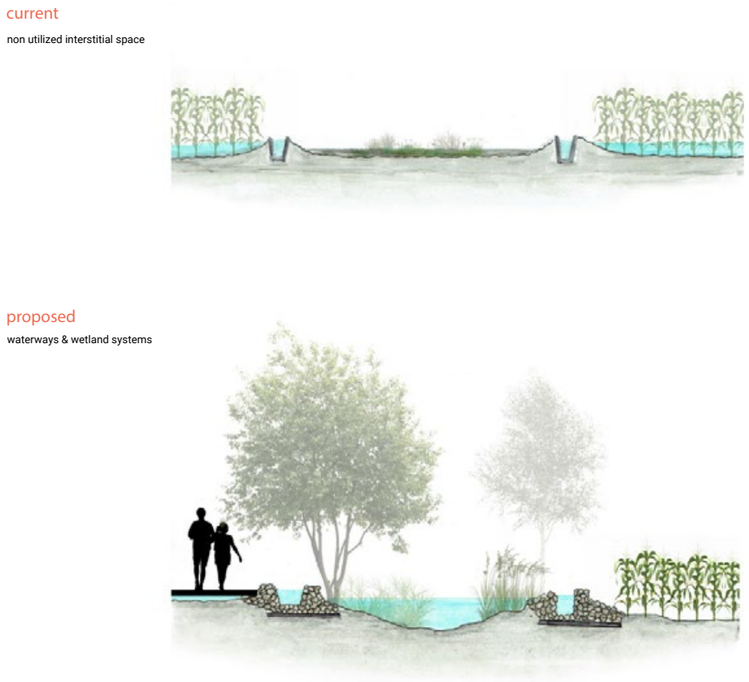


Figure 39: Proposed blue corridor with waterways & wetlands systems

5.6 Goal Four: The Inclusive and Vibrant City *(Better Accessibility to Services & Livelihood Strategies for Economic Development)*

By prioritizing the development of commercial hubs, markets, and local businesses, along with the expansion of public services, Xudur can transform into a more inclusive city with a vibrant and thriving community. These initiatives will drive economic growth, improve access to essential services, and foster a strong sense of belonging and connection among all residents, including both IDPs and the local population.

- **Development of Commercial Areas and Businesses**

Proposal: Establish new commercial zones along major roads and in new urban centers to stimulate economic activity, and create jobs to diversify the local economy, support small businesses, and enhance the availability of goods and services.

Commercial Corridors: Designate major roads as commercial corridors, encouraging the development of shops, restaurants, and small businesses that serve both the local population and passersby.

Marketplaces: Develop modern marketplaces where vendors can sell a variety of goods, including agricultural produce, crafts, and manufactured items. These marketplaces can also serve as hubs for cultural exchange and community events.

- **Creation of New Public Services: Schools, Hospitals, Community Centers for Women & Youth, and Libraries**

Proposal: Improve access to education, healthcare, and information by building new schools, hospitals, and libraries in strategically chosen locations throughout Xudur. To enhance the quality of life by providing essential public services, promoting lifelong learning, and improving public health outcomes.

Educational Infrastructure: Construct new schools to accommodate the growing population, including primary, secondary, and vocational training centers. Focus on providing quality education and reducing student-to-teacher ratios.

Healthcare Facilities: Build new hospitals and health clinics equipped with essential medical facilities and staffed by trained healthcare professionals. Ensure these facilities are accessible to all residents, including IDPs.

Community Centers for Women & Youth: Implement community spaces for skills training, education, and economic opportunities for women and youth, strengthen community ties by fostering interaction between diverse groups for personal development and education.

Public Libraries: Establish libraries that provide access to books, digital resources, and learning programs. Libraries can also serve as community centers for educational workshops and cultural activities.

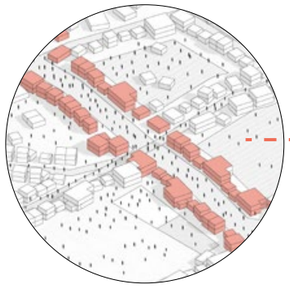
- **Agricultural and Livestock Development**

Proposal: Expand and support agricultural and livestock activities to provide sustainable livelihoods for IDPs and local residents, leveraging the region's agricultural potential. To create sustainable economic opportunities, improve food security, and strengthen community resilience through agriculture and livestock.

Community Farming Initiatives: Establish community farms where IDPs and local residents can grow crops and raise livestock. Provide training in modern farming techniques, access to seeds, tools, and resources.

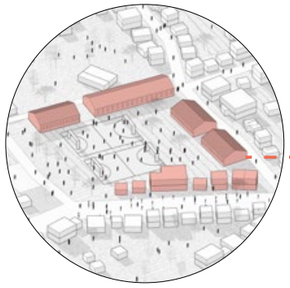
Livestock Programs: Develop programs that support livestock rearing, including veterinary services, feed supply, and marketing support. Focus on improving productivity and ensuring the health of livestock.

Market Access: Facilitate access to local and regional markets for agricultural and livestock products, helping farmers and herders sell their produce and earn a stable income.



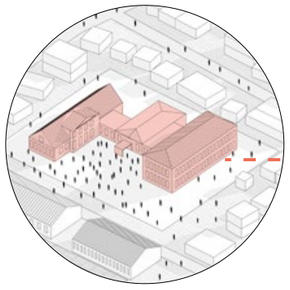
Buulow Neighborhood

Implementation of new commercial and businesess with distributed new mixed-use areas along the main roads.



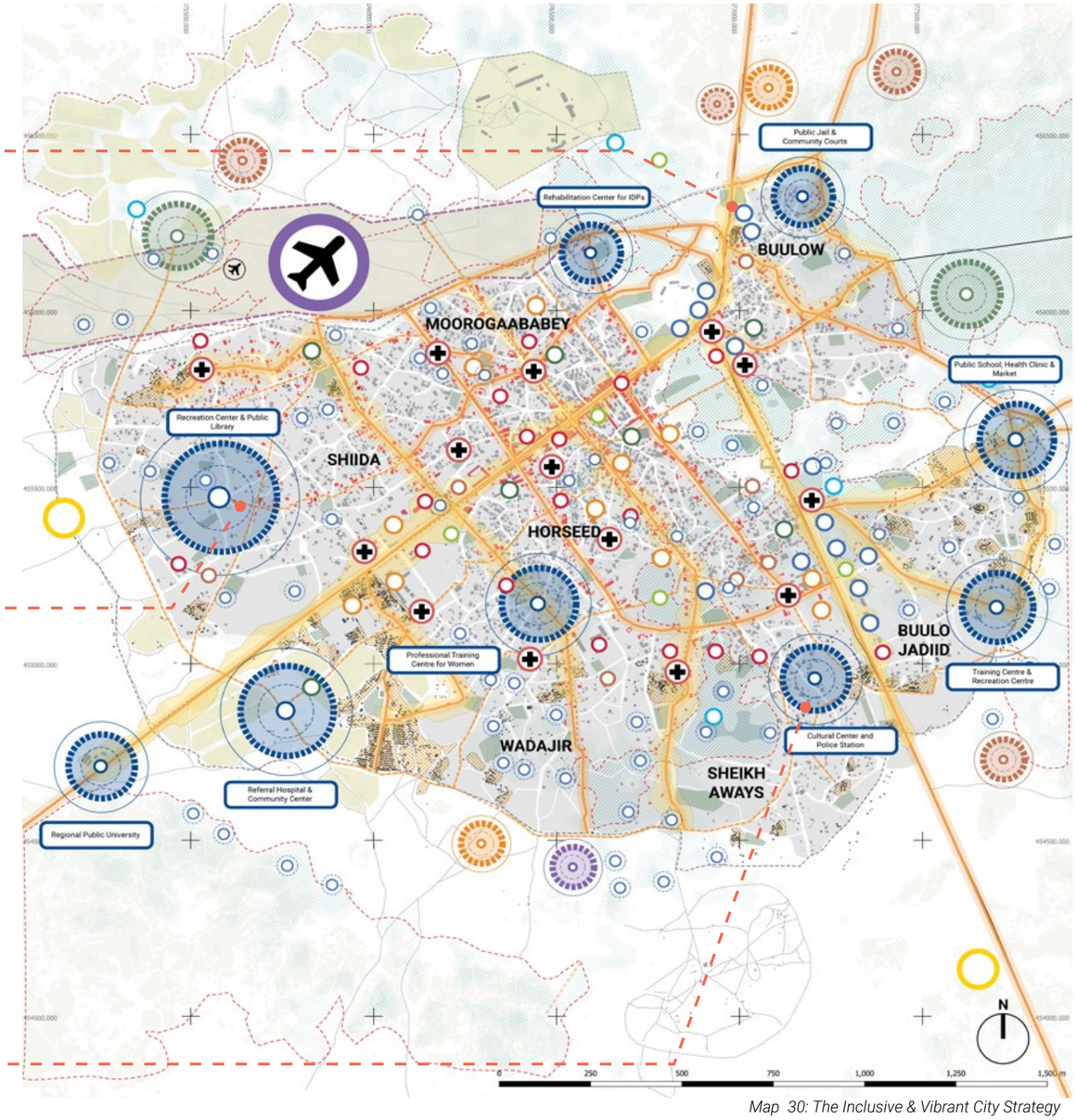
Shiida Neighborhood

Implementation of new healthcare centers and dispensary center in order to improve the accessibility to health infrastructure for IDPs and host community in Shiida Neighborhood.



Sheikh Aways Neighborhood

Implementation of new schools and education facilities of primary and secondary level to improve the accessibility for IDP´s and the hosting community in the Southeast side of the city.



Map 30: The Inclusive & Vibrant City Strategy

LEGEND

- City Boundary
- Urban Footprint
- Existing Agriculture
- IDP Sites
- Proposed Street Lighting with Solar Panels

Road Network

- Primary Roads (To consolidate with Mixed-use)
- Secondary Roads (To consolidate with domestic business)
- Tertiary Roads/Footways

- Proposed Boreholes for Human Consumption
- Existing Markets/Businesses
- Existing Library
- Existing Hospitals & Health Clinics
- Existing Public & Community Spaces
- Existing NGOs in the City
- Proposed New Services HUBs
- Proposed Livestock Holding Grounds
- Proposed Livestock Markets

- IDP Tents & Shelter
- New Businesses & Commercial Areas
- Non Developable Land
- Existing Boreholes
- Existing Dumpsites
- Existing Mosques
- Proposed New Agriculture Cooperatives & Training Centers
- Proposed New Slaughterhouse

06

THE ACTION PLAN

06

The Action Plan

"Transforming strategic recommendations into concrete and implementable programmes and policies requires detailed systemic actions that can trigger the envisaged spatial, economic, and social transformation. It serves as a guide when prioritizing and detailing following actions needed for building a compact, connected, inclusive, open, and resilient city."

6.1 Introduction

250pp/ha
Density can be increased in certain areas of Xudur

30%
of Mixed land use can be increased within Xudur

16km
of new linear green corridors can be implemented

Xudur's urban strategy is a comprehensive plan aimed at steering the city's growth and development toward sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience. This strategy integrates various targeted initiatives, focusing on essential aspects of urban transformation, such as efficient land use, enhanced connectivity, equitable access to services, and environmental sustainability. By addressing these key areas, the city can lay the foundation for long-term development that benefits all residents while ensuring the efficient and responsible use of resources.

These include the development of a balanced land use plan that integrates residential areas, IDP camps, agricultural zones, mixed-use neighborhoods, and economic centers, ensuring equitable access to resources and services. Additionally, the strategy focuses on enhancing connectivity and infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on upgrading the existing road networks, implementing public lighting, and establishing clear street hierarchies.

The citywide approach for Xudur emphasizes the spatial aspects of urban development, highlighting the crucial connections between upgrading settlements and broader urban planning, land management, and infrastructure provision processes. This action plan seeks to address two primary questions:

- In what directions should urban expansion and growth be guided?
- What urban patterns, character, and density should be adopted in the city's future development to ensure equitable access to public infrastructure and facilities for all residents?

This approach aims to create a cohesive urban framework that balances growth with sustainable land use, integrates infrastructure planning with settlement improvements, and promotes equal access to essential services across Xudur.

Transforming strategic recommendations into concrete and implementable programmes and policies requires detailed systemic actions that can trigger the envisaged spatial, economic, and social transformation. It serves as a guide when prioritizing and detailing following actions needed for building a compact, connected, inclusive, open, and resilient city.

Figure 40: Discussing Xudur´s priorities during the second validation workshop. © UN-HABITAT, 2024

6.2 Proposed Land Use Plan

This comprehensive land use plan seeks to transform Xudur into a well-balanced, inclusive, and sustainable city. By strategically managing residential areas, integrating IDPs into the urban fabric, and preserving agricultural land, the plan ensures efficient use of space while safeguarding essential resources. The development of mixed-use zones and vibrant commercial and community hubs will encourage economic activity and reduce urban sprawl, creating a dynamic and connected city. Furthermore, the plan prioritizes green infrastructure, renewable energy integration, and sustainable mobility solutions.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN

1. Residential Areas

The residential component of the plan focuses on creating diverse housing options to cater different socio-economic groups, including IDPs and local residents. Also, to accommodate a growing population while maintaining a high quality of life, providing affordable and diverse housing options. This involves:

- **High-Density Urban Housing:** Developing multi-story apartment buildings and compact residential complexes in central urban areas to efficiently use land and support higher population densities. These areas will be equipped with necessary infrastructure and public facilities, including schools, parks, local businesses and healthcare facilities.

- **Medium-Density Urban Housing:** Designating urban areas with lower density housing options. These areas will be integrated with green spaces and designed to provide a more spacious living environment, catering to families and those seeking quieter residential settings.

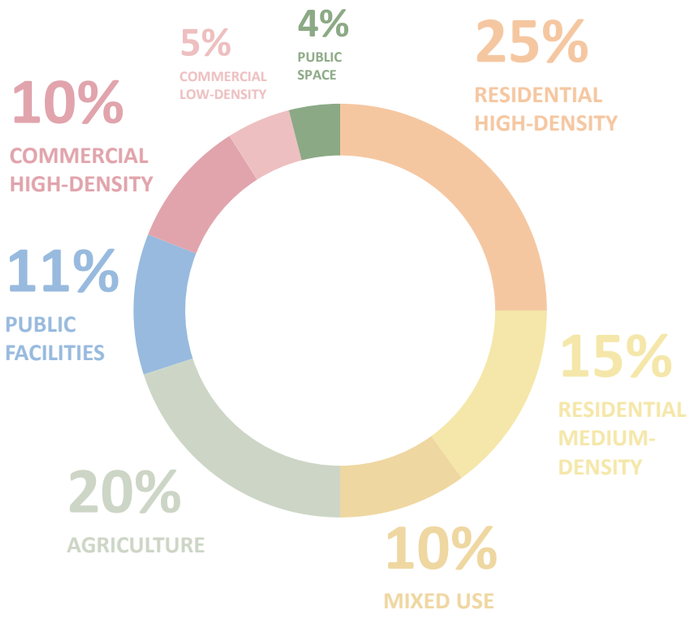
2. IDP Camps and Integration

IDP camps will be reallocated and integrated into well-planned neighborhoods that are fully included into the city's basic services and infrastructure, as well as livelihood opportunities. To provide secure and dignified living conditions for IDPs and promote their social and economic integration. This process includes:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Upgrading existing camps with permanent structures, sanitation facilities, water supply, and electricity.

- **Economic and Social Integration:** Creating mixed-use areas within these neighborhoods to include commercial spaces, job training centers, and community facilities, thereby facilitating the integration of IDPs into the broader urban economy and society.

"This comprehensive land use plan aims to transform Xudur into a balanced, inclusive, and sustainable city. By carefully managing residential areas, integrating IDPs, preserving agricultural land, developing resilience"



Map 31: The Proposed Land Use Plan for Xudur

3. Agricultural Land

Preserving agricultural land within and around Xudur is crucial to address the food security issues and activate local livelihoods. This action will offer job opportunities to IDPs, women and youth, fostering economic inclusion. The plan includes:

- **Protected Agricultural Zones:** Clearly demarcating agricultural zones to prevent urban encroachment. These zones will be safeguarded through zoning laws and supported by agricultural policies that encourage sustainable farming practices.

- **Urban Agriculture Initiatives:** Promoting urban farming projects such as community gardens and farms within residential and mixed-use areas. These initiatives aim to supplement food supply and provide educational and recreational opportunities.

4. Mixed-Use Areas

Mixed-use development is key to creating vibrant, dynamic urban neighborhoods. These areas will blend residential, commercial, and recreational spaces. To foster commercial activity, promote efficient land use, and enhance the social fabric of the city and include:

- **Urban Centers and Corridors:** Developing key corridors and urban centers with a mix of businesses, domestic restaurants, and housing. This design supports a live-work-play environment, reducing the need for long commutes and enhancing the urban vibrancy.

- **Community Hubs:** Establishing community hubs that include public services such as libraries, healthcare facilities, and cultural centers, creating focal points for community interaction and engagement among the hosting communities and the IDPs.

5. Commercial Zones

Commercial zones will be strategically located to support economic growth and accessibility. To provide the infrastructure and environment necessary for a thriving commercial sector, supporting overall economic development. This includes:

- **Central Business District (CBD):** Developing a CBD that serves as the economic heart of Xudur, attracting businesses, investments, and employment opportunities. The CBD will be equipped with modern infrastructure and services, including public transportation and broadband connectivity.

IMPLEMENTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

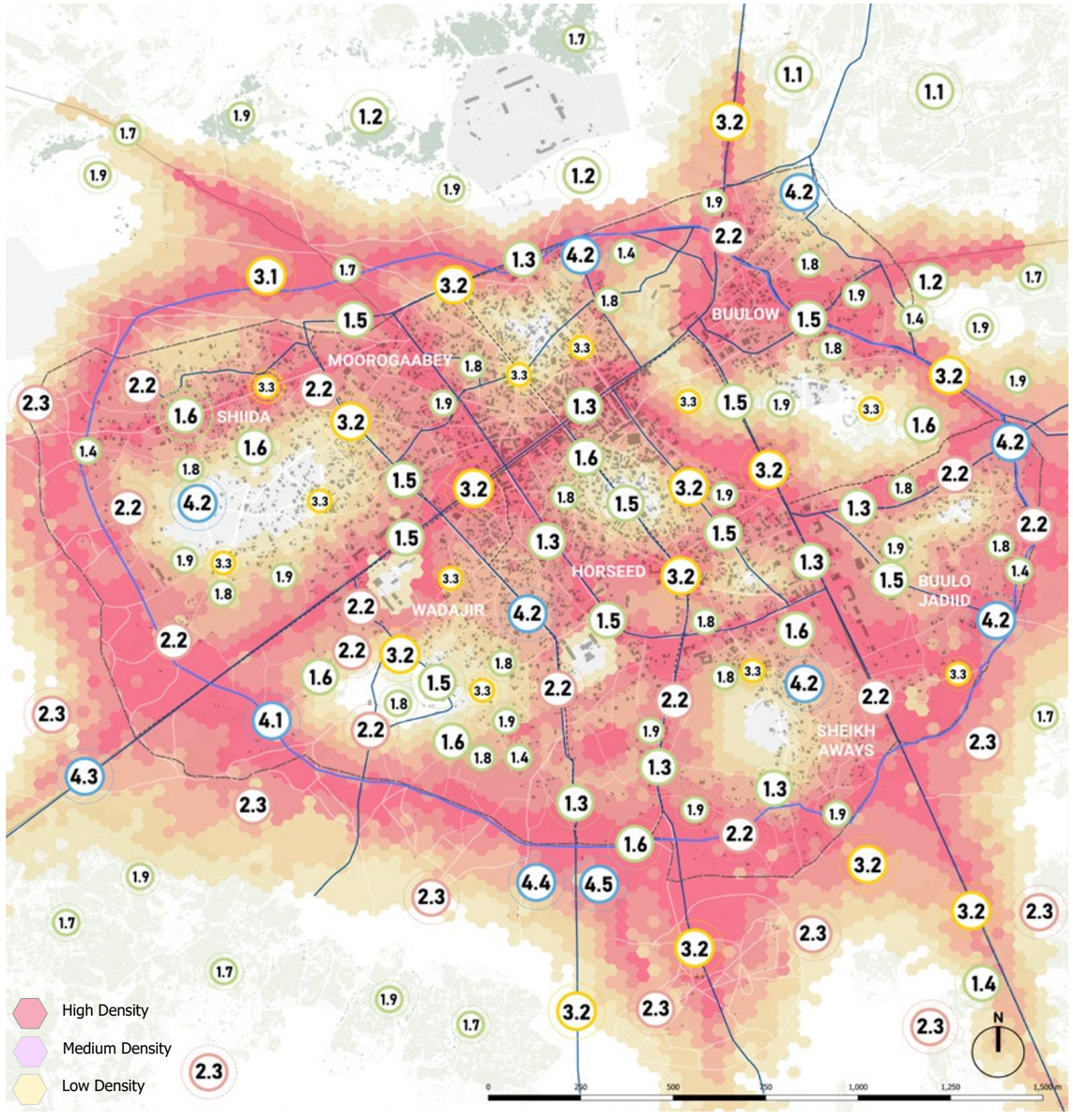
1. Integrated Planning and Governance: Establishing a dedicated urban planning committee that includes representatives from local government, community groups, businesses, and international organizations to oversee the implementation of the land use plan.

2. Sustainability Measures: Integrating sustainability into all aspects of the plan, including energy-efficient building practices, water conservation techniques, and green infrastructure such as parks and renewable energy installations.

3. Monitoring and Adaptation: Implementing a robust monitoring system to track progress, evaluate the impact of development projects, and make necessary adjustments. This adaptive management approach ensures the plan remains responsive to changing needs and challenges.

4. Strengthen Legal & Institutional Frameworks: Create clear policies on land ownership, tenure, and dispute resolution to avoid conflicts. It is also key to train local government officials and urban planners in land use management and enforcement.

"Establishing community hubs that include public services such as libraries, healthcare facilities, and cultural centers, creating focal points for community interaction and engagement among the hosting communities and the IDPs"



Map 32: The Strategic Action Plan

LEGEND

- 1.1 Construction of a Dam in Buulow
- 1.2 Construction of new Boreholes
- 1.3 Implementation of green energy and public street lighting
- 1.4 Implementation of solid waste management system & dumping sites in each Sub-Village
- 1.5 Implementation of blue corridors with a drainage and sewerage system
- 1.6 Implementation of green corridors with urban vegetation and NBS
- 1.7 Designated Areas for Land Preservation (Non-developable areas)
- 1.8 New Public Spaces & Floodable Areas
- 1.9 Urban & Rural Water Catchments
- 2.2 IDPs Resettlement Projects, Urban Infill Strategies & New Services
- 2.3 Elaboration of a New City Extension Plan with Roads Hierarchy, Urban Form and High Density
- 3.1 Airport Upgrading, Fencing, Renovation, Widening and Extension of the Airstripe
- 3.2 Extension of Tarmacked Roads, & Rehabilitation of Existing Roads and Streets
- 3.3 Implementation of Social Corridors to Link the New Community Centers and Social HUBs
- 4.1 Construction of a New Referral Hospital for the Region
- 4.2 Implementation of New Community Centers and Social HUBs in the 7 Sub-Villages
- 4.3 Construction of a New Public University
- 4.4 Construction of New Livestock Markets & Veterinary Clinics
- 4.5 Construction of a New Slaughterhouse

6.3 Transforming Land Governance in Xudur: Strategic Recommendations

"Establishing a land management system requires a coordinated approach involving key governmental bodies such as the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction, and Housing"

Land governance in Xudur is essential to implement the proposed land use and strategic plan in order to establish sustainable urban development and resolving land disputes in the city. Establishing a land management system requires a coordinated approach involving key governmental bodies such as the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction, and Housing (MoPWRH). By implementing a minimal functional structure, including dedicated roles like a land clerk and stronger regional engagement, Xudur can build a foundation for efficient land management. This effort aligns with existing legal frameworks, such as the Urban Land Law of South West State, and benefits from ongoing support from programs like UN-Habitat's Saameynta Programme and Danwadaag-supported initiatives. By prioritizing different activities such as public land mapping, capacity development for local officials, and integrated urban planning, it ensures the effective alignment with strategic plans and enhances resource mobilization for implementation.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Land Administration Functions

To enhance land administration functions and capacities, it is recommended to establish a foundational structure for a functional land department in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction, and Housing (MoPWRH). This initiative should commence with the recruitment and sustained support of a land clerk position, followed by increased engagement with the regional officer of MoPWRH in South West State. The Urban Land Law of South West State provides a comprehensive framework for establishing land administration processes and resolving disputes. MoPWRH is currently receiving support from the UN-Habitat Saameynta Programme. To advance these efforts, it is advised to convene a joint meeting with the Director General of MoPWRH to outline the next steps and capitalize on potential synergies.

2. Land Mapping Exercise

A practical starting point for land governance activities is to map and analyze public properties in Xudur. This includes assessing their current status, usage, future plans, development potential, and resource needs. These properties, managed by various state ministries under the oversight of the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction, and Housing, should be integrated with the urban planning efforts supported by the Danwadaag project. This initiative aligns with the Ministry's Strategic Plan (2023–2025) and complements the Danwadaag approach to neighborhood-level service delivery and solutions (Derisnimo). Initial land use mapping indicates that a significant portion of Hudur's urban land is publicly owned.

3. Capacity Building on Land Management

Continued capacity development for district councillors and public servants involved in land administration is required; all capacity building should be aligned with interventions by other humanitarian and development partners and led by the Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MoIFAR) in collaboration with MoPWRH. Capacity gaps and challenges should be articulated in the District Development Plan, but also under the Community Action Plan for Hudur, to support resource mobilization and continued commitment by government.

4. Interventions with an Area-based Approach

All interventions in land governance need to be coordinated and aligned with an area-based approach led by the local authorities and supported by a "coalition" of state actors and humanitarian and development actors. A task force set up by the mayor could be instrumental in bringing all Durable Solutions actors together but requires technical assistance based upon the agreed concept for the next 1-2 years.

5. DANWADAAG CONSORTIUM SUPPORT

Independent of the question to implement STDM or not, the Danwadaag consortium should look in partnership with the respective state-line ministries, the governor and the district authorities. This partnership should focus on fit-for-purpose investments to strengthen formal land administration. Key areas of investment include human resources, equipment and other essential infrastructure. Over several years, we have aimed to sustain a lasting effect in land governance and provide land tenure security services in close collaboration with other Durable Solutions actors.

6. IDPs Engagement in the Process

IDP and village committees are crucial to be engaged during the preparation phase and the subsequent planning and land administration matters, for example, land registration, conflict resolution, and support for housing and shelter. While the data has shown that addressing immediate shelter needs is a crucial factor that drives the effects of investments in durable solutions on Displacement Dynamic decision-making by IDPs in displacement, in the medium-term, this needs to transition into increasingly sustainable and permanent HLP solutions to create durable solutions. Without greater programming around long-term housing for IDP return and local integration, there is "a risk of IDPs moving from one temporary shelter to another via multiple experiences of displacement.

7. Engage the Hosting Community

When preparing the STDM application, it's important to capture the entire population in town, not just the IDP, to avoid potential conflicts with host communities. The STDM process will require careful concept preparation with the local government and a local project committee, which should include councillors and local and religious leaders. Technical assistance could be provided by the Danwadaag consortium, with further partners being considered for resource mobilization and implementation. Project implementation will involve engaging and training enumerators from both hosting and IDP communities, as well as the district administration. A comprehensive community mobilization and engagement plan is crucial, taking into account the sensitive local clan complexities and establishing risk mitigation measures. Depending on the scope of the data exercise, it's reasonable to consider up to 7,000 permanent and non-permanent building structures as a baseline for the data set.

Therefore, it's time to consider more effective means to achieve the same objective. By engaging local leaders from the Jiroon and Leysan clans in the three sub-districts most affected by displacement (Wadajir, followed by Horsed and Sheikh Aweys), can show respect for their leadership. Especially religious leaders, who play a significant role in local affairs, can lead in organizing Shariikas (local assemblies). This engagement should be directed towards consensus building, such as achieving a robust local eviction moratorium, which will keep peace, and benefit from infrastructure and essential service delivery.

"Technical assistance could be provided by the Danwadaag consortium, with further partners being considered for resource mobilization and implementation. Project implementation will involve engaging and training enumerators from both hosting and IDP communities, as well as the district administration"

6.4 The Action Plan & Prioritization Table

Goal #1: Resilient City							
Intervention	**Actions**	**Priority**	**Timeframe**	**Responsible Entity**	**Potential financing**	**Estimated cost (USD)**	**SDG Alignment**
1.1 Construction of a Dam in Buulow to contain flooding	1.1.1 Hydrological Assessment, understand water availability and flow patterns and rainfall analysis, stream flow measurement, water balance	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Mayor's office	Local contributions, donor funds	80,000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.1.2 Topographical Survey, Map physical features of the land elevation, soil type, vegetation cover					95,000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.1.3 Geological Assessment, ensuring structural integrity and subsurface investigation, water modelling					100,000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.1.4 Environmental Impact Assessment, Identify and mitigate environmental effects biodiversity impact, water quality, ecosystem services					100,000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.1.5 Engineering Assessment, Design canal and catchment area to technical specifications and hydraulic design, structural design, construction methods					150,000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.1.6 Stakeholder Consultation, Engaging stakeholders in the planning process and public meetings, feedback mechanisms					100, 000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
1.2 Construction of water management system, boreholes, water catchments and desalination plants	1.2.1 Feasibility Study, Determining technical and economic viability and water demand analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and technology selection	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Mayor's office	Local contributions, service fees, donor funds	90, 000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.2.2 Site Selection and Assessment, Identifying appropriate location and proximity to water source, land suitability, environmental considerations					100,000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.2.3 Designated areas for rural and urban agriculture as well as land preservation areas					50,000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.2.4 Implementation of urban and rural water catchments for human and livestock consumption					60, 000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.2.5 Engineering and Design Assessment, Design the plant to meet requirements and plant capacity, process design, infrastructure design					125, 000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.2.6 Implementation of public spaces and floodable areas to manage water					50, 000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
	1.2.7 Legal and Regulatory Assessment, Ensuring the compliance with laws and regulations and permitting requirements, water rights, environmental regulations					50, 000 USD	6, 9, 11, 10
1.3 Development of solid waste management system and dumping sites in each neighborhood	1.3.1 Site Selection and Assessment Identify potential locations for facilities, including land availability, accessibility to waste sources, and environmental concerns.	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Local Government	Local contributions, service fees, donor funds	60, 000 USD	9,10,11, 12, 13
	1.3.2 Environmental Impact Assessment, identifying and mitigating environmental impacts, as well as land, water, and air pollution mitigation techniques.					50, 000 USD	9,10,11, 12, 13
	Technical evaluation, selecting appropriate waste management technologies, collection systems, processing technologies, and disposal techniques					60, 000 USD	9,10,11, 12, 13
	1.3.3 Economic and financial assessment, ensuring economic feasibility and sustainability, as well as cost analysis, funding sources, revenue generation					50, 000 USD	9,10,11, 12, 13
	1.3.4 Risk Assessment, Identifying and mitigate potential risks operational, environmental, health and safety risks					50, 000 USD	9,10,11, 12, 13
	1.3.5 Infrastructure Assessment, Ensuring adequate infrastructure and transportation infrastructure, facility design, maintenance requirements					50, 000 USD	9,10,11, 12, 13
	1.3.6 Stakeholder Engagement, Engaging and involve stakeholders and public consultations, feedback mechanisms					25, 000 USD	9,10,11, 12, 13
1.4 Construction of green energy/ solar energy	1.4.1 Technical Assessment, Select appropriate technologies and design the system and system design, equipment selection, energy storage	Medium	Medium term 3-5 yrs	Local Government	Public-Private-Partnership, service fees, donor funds	50, 000 USD	7,9,11
	1.4.2 Social Impact Assessment, Understand impact on communities and ensure social acceptance and community benefits, public awareness, community engagement					30, 000 USD	7,9,11
	1.4.3 Risk Assessment, Identify and mitigate potential risks and technical, environmental, socio-economic risks					20, 000 USD	7,9,11
	1.4.4 Infrastructure Assessment, Ensure adequate infrastructure and transportation infrastructure, grid connection, maintenance requirements					25, 000 USD	7,9,11
	1.4.5 Stakeholder Engagement, Engaging and involve stakeholders and public consultations, feedback mechanisms					30, 000 USD	7,9,11

*The costs and prices provided are approximate and intended solely for general informational purposes. These figures are subject to variation based on factors such as location, timing, market conditions, and individual circumstances.

Goal #2: Compact City							
Intervention	**Actions**	**Priority**	**Timeframe**	**Responsible Entity**	**Potential financing**	**Estimated cost (USD)**	**SDG Alignment**
2.1 Land availability assessment and relocation strategy for IDPs: Wadajiir, Shiida, Horseed and Buulo Jadiid	2.1.1 Conduct land availability assessment together with community leaders	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Local Authority	Community contributions, donor funds	35, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
	2.1.2 Prepare a map of the land availability and develop a strategy for IDP relocation					25, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
	2.1.3 Land Availability Assessment, Identifying suitable land for relocating IDPs, land identification, ownership, suitability, environmental impact, legal compliance					25, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
	2.1.4 Socio-Economic Assessment, Understand socio-economic context and needs of IDPs demographic analysis, livelihoods assessment, access to services, community integration					30, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
	2.1.5 Legal and Regulatory Assessment, Ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, permitting requirements, land rights, human rights compliance					25, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
	2.1.6 Relocation Strategy Development, Developing a comprehensive and sustainable relocation strategy relocation plan, community participation, support services					100, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
2.2 Elaboration of a City Extension Plan with a 10 years vision for the Southern-west area of Xudur	2.2.1 Land Availability Assessment and plots mapping	Medium	Medium term 3-5 yrs	Local Authority	Community contributions, donor funds	25, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
	2.2.2 Define the ownership of land in a land management system or a cadaster					25, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
	2.2.3 Establish a Land Management Officer with a Legal and Regulatory Assessment, Ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, permitting requirements, land rights, human rights compliance					25, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
	2.2.4 Elaborate the plot lotification layout for the new city extension with provision of services, public facilities, and infrastructure					100, 000 USD	1, 9,10,11,16
2.3 Establishment of a land management system	2.3.1 Land Use Assessment Understand current land use patterns and identify areas for improvement current land use mapping, land use classification, land capability and suitability	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Local Authority	Community contributions, donor funds	80, 000 USD	8,11,10,17
	2.3.2 Technological Assessment, Identify technological tools and systems for effective land management GIS, remote sensing, database management to elaborate a city mapping and land information system					85, 000 USD	8,11,10,17
	2.3.3 Stakeholder Engagement, Involve stakeholders in the planning and implementation process and public consultations, stakeholder mapping, participation mechanisms					50, 000 USD	8,11,10,17
	2.3.4 Establishment of land management office					200, 000 USD	8,11,10,17
	2.3.5 Capacity training of the staff					100, 000 USD	8,11,10,17
	2.3.6 Revenue collection system					150, 000 USD	8,11,10,17

*The costs and prices provided are approximate and intended solely for general informational purposes. These figures are subject to variation based on factors such as location, timing, market conditions, and individual circumstances.

Goal #3: Connected City							
Intervention	**Actions**	**Priority**	**Timeframe**	**Responsible Entity**	**Potential financing**	**Estimated cost (USD)**	**SDG Alignment**
3.1 Airport upgrading, & fencing and widening and extension of the airstrip runway	3.1.1 Feasibility Study, Determine technical and economic viability and current runway assessment, demand analysis, cost-benefit analysis	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Ministry of Transport & Aviation, Local Authority	Donor funds	100,000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.1.2 Site Assessment Assess physical characteristics and constraints, topographical survey, soil and geotechnical investigation, land availability					40, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.1.3 Regulatory and Legal Assessment, Ensure compliance with regulations and laws aviation standards, permitting requirements, zoning regulations					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.1.4 Safety Assessment, Ensure project meets safety requirements and runway safety areas, obstacle limitation surfaces, emergency services access					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.1.5 Risk Assessment, Identify and mitigate potential risks, construction risks, operational risks, environmental risks					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.1.6 Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment, Ensuring adequate infrastructure and utilities and the utility services, access roads, drainage and storm water management					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.1.7 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development a detailed design and engineering plans, runway design, structural design, construction plan					150, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
3.2 Rehabilitation of tarmacked roads & existing roads and streets within the city center	3.2.1 Road Condition Assessment, Evaluation the current road condition, pavement condition survey, structural assess-ment, traffic analysis	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Mayor's office	Local contributions, donor funds	25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.2.2 Site Assessment Understand physical and geographical characteristics and topographical survey, soil and geo-technical investigation, drainage assessment					50, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.2.3 Socio-Economic Assessment, Understand socio-economic context and impacts and the community impact, economic benefits, public consultation					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.2.4 Risk Assessment, Identifying and mitigate potential risks Construction risks, environmental risks, operational risks					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.2.5 Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment Evaluate infrastructure and utilities and the utility services, drainage and storm water management, connectivity					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.2.6 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development detailed design and engineering plans and pavement design, structural design, construction plan					90, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.2.7 Financial Assessment, Ensuring economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis					90, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
3.3 Implementation of the new social corridors and commercial & economic HUBS	3.3.1 Elaborate a comprehensive assessment with analysis of needs by neighborhood, socio-economic studies and surveys,	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Mayor's office	Local contributions, donor funds	25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.3.2 Identify key locations and plots that have potential for transformation					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.3.3 Create a detailed land use plan and a zoning framework for each neighborhood HUB					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.3.4 Risk Assessment, Identifying and mitigate potential risks construction risks, environmental risks, operational risks					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.3.5 Design the social corridors that are pedestrian friendly, with bike lanes and integrate public spaces with the new HUBS					40, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.3.6 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development detailed design and engineering plans and pavement design, structural design, construction plan					200, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.3.7 Financial Assessment, Ensuring economic viability and sustainability and the Cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis					50, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
3.4 Construction of ring road and rehabilitation of connecting roads at the city´s periphery	3.4.1 Feasibility Study, Determine technical and economic viability and the current road network assessment, demand analysis, cost-benefit analysis	Medium	Medium term 3-5 yrs	Mayor's office	Local contributions, donor funds	50, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.4.2 Socio-Economic Assessment, Understand socio-economic context and impacts and the community impact, economic benefits, public consultation					25, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.4.3 Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment Evaluate infrastructure and utilities and the utility services, drainage and storm water management, connectivity					30, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.4.4 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development detailed design and engineering plans and pavement design, structural design, construction plan					100, 000 USD	2,8,9,11
	3.4.5 Financial Assessment, Ensuring economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis					50, 000 USD	2,8,9,11

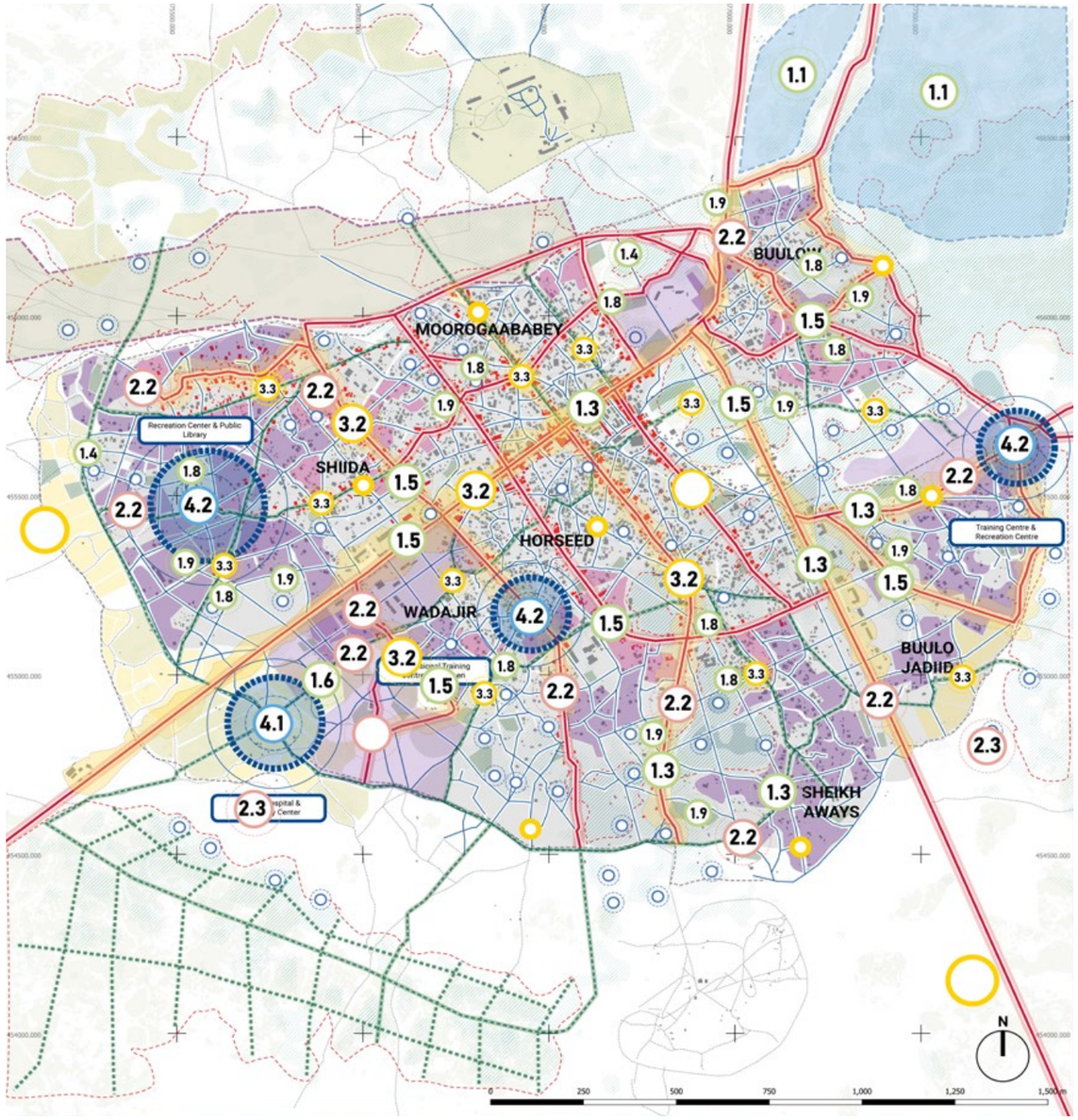
Goal #4: Inclusive and Vibrant City							
Intervention	**Actions**	**Priority**	**Timeframe**	**Responsible Entity**	**Potential financing**	**Estimated cost (USD)**	**SDG Alignment**
4.1 Construction of a referral hospital for the region and a mental hospital	4.1.1 Site Selection and Assessment, Identify suitable location land availability, accessibility, topography and soil quality, utilities and infrastructure	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Ministry of Health, Local authority	Community Contributions, Federal Government transfer, donor funds	50, 000 USD	3,10,16
	4.1.2 Healthcare Services Assessment Determine required services and facilities and the service demand analysis, facility planning, staffing requirements					50, 000 USD	3,10,16
	4.1.3 Financial Assessment, Ensure economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis					50, 000 USD	3,10,16
	4.1.4 Design and Engineering Assessment, Develop detailed design and engineering plans and architectural design, structural design.					250, 000 USD	3,10,16
4.2 Development of sub-center/community service HUBs in: **1.Shiida** **2.Moroogaabey** **3.Buulow** **4.Horseed** **5.Wadajiir** **6.Sheik Aways** **7.Buulo Jadiid**	4.2.1 Site Selection and Assessment, Identify suitable location land availability, accessibility, topography and soil quality, utilities and infrastructure	High	Short term 1-2 yrs	Local authority, Ministries	Community Contributions, donor funds, private sector	50, 000 USD	8,9,11
	4.2.2 Financial Assessment, Ensure economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis					60, 000 USD	8,9,11
	4.2.3 Design and Engineering Assessment, develop detailed design and engineering plans and architectural design, structural design.					200, 000 USD	8,9,11
4.3 Construction of the Public University for the region	4.3.1 Site Selection and Assessment, Identify suitable location land availability, accessibility, topography and soil quality, utilities and infrastructure	Medium	Medium term 3-5 yrs	Local Authorirty	Community Contributions, donor funds	50, 000 USD	5,9,11
	4.3.2 Financial Assessment, Ensure economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis					60, 000 USD	5,9,11
	4.3.3 Design and Engineering Assessment, Develop detailed design and engineering plans and architectural design and plans, structural design.					200, 000 USD	5,9,11
4.4 Construction of a livestock market, slaughterhouse and veterinary clinic	4.4.1 Site Selection and Assessment, Identify suitable location land availability, accessibility, topography and soil quality, utilities and infrastructure for the three projects	Medium	Medium term 3-5 yrs	Local Authorirty, Ministry of Youth and Sports	Community Contributions, Federal Government transfer, donor funds	50, 000 USD	5,9,11
	4.4.2 Financial Assessment, Ensure economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis for the three projects					35, 000 USD	5,9,11
	4.4.3 Design and Engineering Assessment, Develop detailed design and engineering plans and architectural design, structural design for the three projects					190, 000 USD	5,9,11

*The costs and prices provided are approximate and intended solely for general informational purposes. These figures are subject to variation based on factors such as location, timing, market conditions, and individual circumstances.

6.5 Short Term Actions & Impact Scenario

Short-term Actions	Interventions
1.1 Construction of a Dam in Buulow to contain flooding	1.1.1 Hydrological Assessment, Understand water availability and flow patterns and Rainfall analysis, stream flow measurement, water balance
	1.1.2 Topographical Survey, Map physical features of the land Land elevation, soil type, vegetation cover
	1.1.3 Geological Assessment, Ensuring structural integrity and Subsurface investigation, seismic risk assessment
	1.1.4 Environmental Impact Assessment, Identify and mitigate environmental effects Biodiversity impact, water quality, ecosystem services
	1.1.5 Engineering Assessment, Design canal and catchment area to technical specs and Hydraulic design, structural design, construction methods
	1.1.6 Stakeholder Consultation, Engaging stakeholders in the planning process and Public meetings, feedback mechanisms
1.2 Construction of water management system and desalination plants	1.2.1 Feasibility Study, Determining technical and economic viability and Water demand analysis, cost-benefit analysis, and technology selection
	1.2.2 Site Selection and Assessment, Identifying appropriate location and proximity to water source, land suitability, environmental considerations
	1.2.3 Environmental Impact Assessment, Identifying and mitigate environmental impacts and terrestrial impact, mitigation strategies
	1.2.4 Hydrological Assessment, Understand water conditions and water quality, currents, hydrodynamic modeling
	1.2.5 Engineering and Design Assessment, Design the plant to meet requirements and plant capacity, process design, infrastructure design
	1.2.6 Energy Supply Assessment, Ensuring reliable and sustainable energy supply and energy demand, energy source options, energy efficiency measures
	1.2.7 Legal and Regulatory Assessment, Ensuring the compliance with laws and regulations and permitting requirements, water rights, environmental regulations
1.3 Development of solid waste management system and dumping sites in each neighborhood	1.3.1 Site Selection and Assessment Identify potential locations for facilities, including land availability, accessibility to waste sources, and environmental concerns.
	1.3.2 Environmental Impact Assessment, identifying and mitigating environmental impacts, as well as land, water, and air pollution mitigation techniques.
	1.3.3 Technical evaluation, selecting appropriate waste management technologies, collection systems, processing technologies, and disposal techniques
	1.3.4 Economic and financial assessment, ensuring economic feasibility and sustainability, as well as cost analysis, funding sources, revenue generation
	1.3.5 Risk Assessment, Identifying and mitigate potential risks Operational, environmental, health and safety risks
	1.3.6 Infrastructure Assessment, Ensuring adequate infrastructure and transportation infrastructure, facility design, maintenance requirements
	1.3.7 Stakeholder Engagement, Engaging and involve stakeholders and public consultations, feedback mechanisms
2.1 Land availability assessment and relocation strategy for IDPs: Wadajiir, Shiida, Horseed and Buulo Jadiid	2.1.1 Conduct land availability assessment together with community leaders
	2.1.2 Prepare a map of the land availability and develop a strategy for IDP relocation
	2.1.3 Land Availability Assessment, Identifying suitable land for relocating IDPs, Land identification, ownership, suitability, environmental impact, legal compliance
	2.1.4 Socio-Economic Assessment, Understand socio-economic context and needs of IDPs Demographic analysis, livelihoods assessment, access to services, community integration
	2.1.5 Legal and Regulatory Assessment, Ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, Permitting requirements, land rights, human rights compliance
	2.1.6 Relocation Strategy Development, Developing a comprehensive and sustainable relocation strategy Relocation plan, community participation, support services
2.2 Establishment of a land management system	2.2.1 Land Availability Assessment, Identifying suitable land for relocating IDPs, Land identification, ownership, suitability, environmental impact, legal compliance
	2.2.2 Socio-Economic Assessment, Understand socio-economic context and needs of IDPs Demographic analysis, livelihoods assessment, access to services, community integration
	2.2.3 Legal and Regulatory Assessment, Ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, Permitting requirements, land rights, human rights compliance
	2.2.4 Relocation Strategy Development, Developing a comprehensive and sustainable relocation strategy Relocation plan, community participation, support services
3.1 Airport upgrading, & fencing and widening and extension of the airstrip runway	3.1.1 Feasibility Study, Determine technical and economic viability and current runway assessment, demand analysis, cost-benefit analysis
	3.1.2 Site Assessment Assess physical characteristics and constraints, Topographical survey, soil and geotechnical studies
	3.1.3 Regulatory and Legal Assessment, Ensure compliance with regulations and laws Aviation standards, permitting requirements, zoning regulations
	3.1.4 Safety Assessment, Ensure project meets safety requirements and runway safety areas, obstacle limitation surfaces, emergency services access
	3.1.5 Risk Assessment, Identify and mitigate potential risks, Construction risks, operational risks, environmental risks
	3.1.6 Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment, Ensuring adequate infrastructure and utilities and the utility services, access roads, drainage and storm water management
	3.1.7 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development a detailed design and engineering plans, runway design, structural design, construction plan
3.2 Rehabilitation of tarmacked roads & existing roads and streets within the city center	3.2.1 Road Condition Assessment, Evaluation the current road condition, Pavement condition survey, structural assessment, traffic analysis
	3.2.2 Site Assessment Understand physical and geographical characteristics and topographical survey, soil and geotechnical investigation, drainage assessment
	3.2.3 Socio-Economic Assessment, Understand socio-economic context and impacts and the Community impact, economic benefits, public consultation
	3.2.4 Risk Assessment, Identifying and mitigate potential risks Construction risks, environmental risks, operational risks
	3.2.5 Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment Evaluate infrastructure and utilities and the utility services, drainage and storm water management, connectivity
	3.2.6 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development detailed design and engineering plans and pavement design, structural design, construction plan
	3.2.7 Financial Assessment, Ensuring economic viability and sustainability and the Cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis

3.3 Implementation of the new social corridors and commercial & economic HUBS	3.3.1 Land assessment and plot identification
	3.3.2 Site Assessment Understand physical and geographical characteristics and topographical survey, soil and geotechnical investigation, drainage assessment for construction purposes
	3.3.3 Socio-Economic Assessment, Understand socio-economic context and impacts and the Community impact, economic benefits, public consultation
	3.3.4 Risk Assessment, Identifying and mitigate potential risks Construction risks, environmental risks, operational risks
	3.3.5 Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment Evaluate infrastructure and utilities and the utility services, drainage and storm water management, connectivity
	3.3.6 Design and Engineering Assessment, Architectural and structural drawings needed for construction
	3.3.7 Financial Assessment, Ensuring economic viability and sustainability and the Cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis
4.1 Construction of a referral hospital for the region and a mental hospital	4.1.1 Site Selection and Assessment, Identify suitable location Land availability, accessibility, topography and soil quality, utilities and infrastructure
	4.1.2 Healthcare Services Assessment Determine required services and facilities and the service demand analysis, facility planning, staffing requirements
	4.1.3 Financial Assessment, Ensure economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis
	4.1.4 Design and Engineering Assessment, Develop detailed design and engineering plans and Architectural design, structural design.
4.2 4.2 Development of sub-center/community service HUBs in: 1.Shiida 2.Moroogaabey 3.Buulow 4.Horseed 5.Wadajiir 6.Sheik Aways 7.Buulo Jadiid	4.3.1 Site Selection and Assessment, Identify suitable location Land availability, accessibility, topography and soil quality, utilities and infrastructure
	4.3.2 Financial Assessment, Ensure economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis
	4.3.3 Design and Engineering Assessment, Develop detailed design and engineering plans and Architectural design, structural design.
4.3 Construction of the Public University for the region	4.4.1 Site Selection and Assessment, Identify suitable location Land availability, accessibility, topography and soil quality, utilities and infrastructure
	4.4.2 Financial Assessment, Ensure economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis
	4.4.3 Design and Engineering Assessment, Develop detailed design and engineering plans and Architectural design, structural design.
4.4 Construction of a livestock market, slaughterhouse and veterinary clinic	4.5.1 Site Selection and Assessment, Identify suitable location Land availability, accessibility, topography and soil quality, utilities and infrastructure
	4.5.2 Financial Assessment, Ensure economic viability and sustainability and the cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis
	4.5.3 Design and Engineering Assessment, Develop detailed design and engineering plans and Architectural design, structural design.



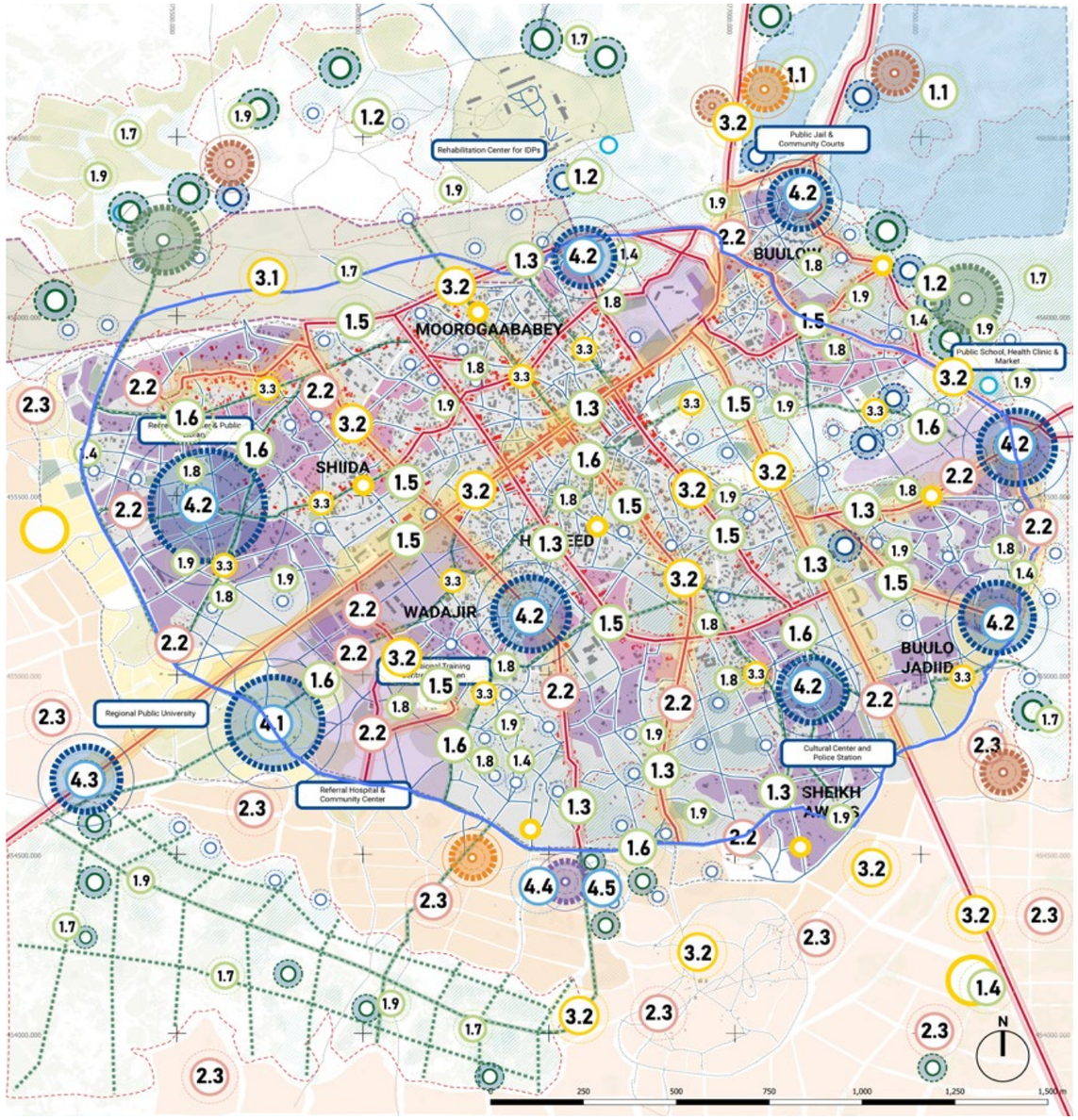
Map 33: Short Term Actions & Impact Scenario

LEGEND

- 1.1 Construction of a Dam in Buulow
- 1.2 Construction of new Boreholes
- 1.3 Implementation of green energy and public street lighting
- 1.4 Implementation of solid waste management system & dumping sites in each Sub-Village
- 1.5 Implementation of blue corridors with a drainage and sewerage system
- 1.6 Implementation of green corridors with urban vegetation and NBS
- 1.7 Designated Areas for Land Preservation (Non-developable areas)
- 1.8 New Public Spaces & Floodable Areas
- 1.9 Urban & Rural Water Catchments
- 2.2 IDPs Resettlement Projects, Urban Infill Strategies & New Services
- 2.3 Elaboration of a New City Extension Plan with Roads Hierarchy, Urban Form and High Density
- 3.1 Airport Upgrading, Fencing, Renovation, Widening and Extension of the Airstripe
- 3.2 Extension of Tarmacked Roads, & Rehabilitation of Existing Roads and Streets
- 3.3 Implementation of Social Corridors to Link the New Community Centers and Social HUBs
- 4.1 Construction of a New Referral Hospital for the Region
- 4.2 Implementation of New Community Centers and Social HUBs in the 7 Sub-Villages
- 4.3 Construction of a New Public University
- 4.4 Construction of New Livestock Markets & Veterinary Clinics
- 4.5 Construction of a New Slaughterhouse

6.6 Medium-term Actions & Impact Scenario

Medium-term Actions	Interventions
1.5 Construction of a ring road and secondary roads within the city	1.5.1 Feasibility Study, determine technical and economic viability for roads that can be upgraded
	1.5.2 Site Selection and Assessment Identify suitable locations, Land availability, soil quality, accessibility, environmental considerations
	1.5.3 Environmental Impact Assessment, Identify and mitigate environmental impacts Biodiversity, water use, ecosystem services, mitigation strategies
	1.5.4 Construction drawings for the implementation of the roads with all the urban elements deigned in the proposal
	1.5.5 Technical Assessment, Select appropriate plants and urban vegetation that can be planted and maintained with irrigation systems
	1.5.6 Infrastructure Assessment, Ensure adequate infrastructure, Water supply, waste management, accessibility for roads
	1.5.7 Stakeholder Engagement, Engaging and involve stakeholders and public consultations, feedback mechanisms, partnerships
2.3 Establishment of land management system	2.3.1 Land Use Assessment Understand current land use patterns and identify areas for improvement Current land use mapping, land use classification, land capability and suitability
	2.3.2 Technological Assessment, Identify technological tools and systems for effective land management GIS, remote sensing, database management
	2.3.3 Stakeholder Engagement, Involve stakeholders in the planning and implementation process and public consultations, stakeholder mapping, participation mechanisms
	2.3.4 Establishment of land management office
	2.3.5 Capacity training of the staff
	2.3.6 Revenue collection
3.4 Urban and rural watercatchments for human and livestock consumption	3.4.1 Analyze rainfall patterns, groundwater availability, and surface water flow in the region
	3.4.2 Conduct surveys and engage local communities to identify water usage patterns and demand
	3.4.3 Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment Evaluate infrastructure and utilities and the utility services, drainage and storm water management, connectivity
	3.4.4 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development detailed design and engineering plans and pavement design, structural design, construction plan
	3.4.5 Financial Assessment, Ensuring economic viability and sustainability and the Cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis
3.5 Rehabilitation of primary roads outside of the ring road	3.5.1 Feasibility Study, Determine technical and economic viability and the current road network assessment, demand analysis, cost-benefit analysis
	3.5.2 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development detailed design and engineering plans and pavement design, structural design, construction plan
	3.5.3 Infrastructure and Utilities Assessment Evaluate infrastructure and utilities and the utility services, drainage and storm water management, connectivity
	3.5.4 Design and Engineering Assessment, Development detailed design and engineering plans and pavement design, structural design, construction plan
	3.5.5 Financial Assessment, Ensuring economic viability and sustainability and the Cost estimate, funding sources, economic analysis



Map 34: Medium Term Actions & Impact Scenarios

LEGEND

- 1.1 Construction of a Dam in Buulow
- 1.2 Construction of new Boreholes
- 1.3 Implementation of green energy and public street lighting
- 1.4 Implementation of solid waste management system & dumping sites in each Sub-Village
- 1.5 Implementation of blue corridors with a drainage and sewerage system
- 1.6 Implementation of green corridors with urban vegetation and NBS
- 1.7 Designated Areas for Land Preservation (Non-developable areas)
- 1.8 New Public Spaces & Floodable Areas
- 1.9 Urban & Rural Water Catchments
- 2.2 IDPs Resettlement Projects, Urban Infill Strategies & New Services
- 2.3 Elaboration of a New City Extension Plan with Roads Hierarchy, Urban Form and High Density
- 3.1 Airport Upgrading, Fencing, Renovation, Widening and Extension of the Airstripe
- 3.2 Extension of Tarmacked Roads, & Rehabilitation of Existing Roads and Streets
- 3.3 Implementation of Social Corridors to Link the New Community Centers and Social HUBs
- 4.1 Construction of a New Referral Hospital for the Region
- 4.2 Implementation of New Community Centers and Social HUBs in the 7 Sub-Villages
- 4.3 Construction of a New Public University
- 4.4 Construction of New Livestock Markets & Veterinary Clinics
- 4.5 Construction of a New Slaughterhouse

6.7 Wadajiir Neighborhood Derisnimo Approach

The Derisnimo approach for Xudur aims to foster an inclusive and integrated neighbourhood by strategically implementing IDP relocation interventions, developmental housing provision for IDPs, and the expansion of public services such as schools and health clinics. The intervention proposes to address the needs of both the host and displaced populations with a long-term vision.

Wadajiir neighbourhood has a total population of approximately 16,959pp. From which 2,480 are composed by the hosting population and 14,472 pp by IDP population. This means that the IDP population represents 85.3% of the total neighborhood population, which is more than 6 times the host community. The IDP population is distributed in 26 formal and informal IDP sites and other camps that are not yet registered.

Wadajiir, with an area of 59.5 hectares, presents a significant opportunity for urban regeneration and future inclusive development. Almost 60% percent of this area is vacant and can be potentially used for expanding public services, implement urban infill strategies, as well as IDP realocation and collective housing projects.

The key strategies proposed for Wadajiir are:

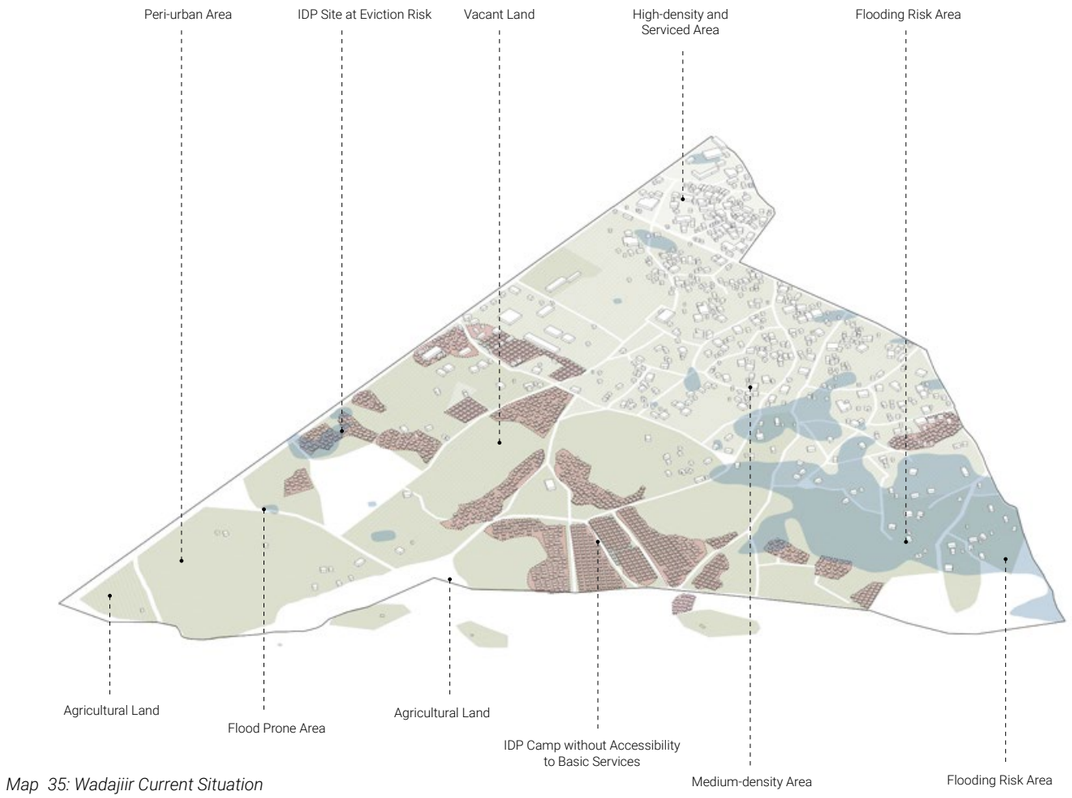
- **Implementation of Green and Blue Infrastructure:** As part of these strategies, creating artificial wetlands to naturally manage stormwater, filter pollutants, and release high-risk flooding areas is essential. It establishes multi-functional public spaces that can absorb excess rainwater during periods of heavy rainfalls, such as parks, playgrounds, plazas, soccer fields, etc. Lastly, strengthening urban agriculture and preserving land along the neighborhood outskirts. The implementation of urban agricultural can improve the food security issue in Xudur.

- **Affordable Housing for Host Community:** Propose to develop different affordable and permanent housing solutions for the local community creating social mix with the IDPs. The housing designs should considerate cultural appropiateness and community acceptance and good standards for living.

- **IDP Realocation Interventions:** Propose the relocation of 20 different IDP sites into planned housing areas with consolidated densities and good accessibility to basic services and infrastructure such as water, sewerage, sidewalks, and electricity.

- **Increment of Population Density and Urban Infill Strategies:** Planned densification projects are part of the overall strategy with the new housing projects that aim to gradually increase densities by implementing vertical housing solutions. It is essential to identify and develop the available underutilized and vacant land with residential and commercial projects to avoid urban sprawl. It is important to specify that the population density should increase at the same pace as creating new public spaces, schools, health clinics, and community centres, promoting social cohesion and improving living standards.

- **Mixed-use development and New Commercial HUBS:** Introduce new areas that integrate residential, commercial, and recreational spaces, promoting economic development and reducing travel times for residents. New mixed-use zones can encourage local entrepreneurship, job creation and livelihood opportunities, benefitting both the IDPs and host community.



Map 35: Wadajiir Current Situation

Map 36: Wadajiir Proposed Interventions

6.8 Financing Sources & Mechanisms

The economic and financial situation of Xudur highlights the broader challenges confronting urban areas across Somalia, including rapid population growth, inadequate infrastructure, and the effects of climate change. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), Xudur's financial capacity to invest in critical infrastructure, public services, and economic development remains severely limited. The key challenges are:

Underdeveloped Tax System: The city struggles with weak revenue generation due to a lack of a structured and efficient tax collection framework. **Large Informal Economy:** The dominance of informal economic activities limits taxable income and complicates financial planning. **Dependence on External Aid:** Xudur relies heavily on international aid and remittances from the Somali diaspora to address both developmental and humanitarian needs, including support for IDPs.

"To improve Xudur economic and financial situation, there is a need for targeted investment in infrastructure, enhancement of the local tax base, and development of financial services"

To improve Xudur economic and financial situation, there is a need for targeted investment in infrastructure, enhancement of the local tax base, and development of financial services that can support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). International support, including from development banks and donor agencies, remains crucial in bridging the gap between local needs and available resources.

To finance the comprehensive strategies proposed for Xudur Strategic Plan, various sources of funding can be considered, each aligned with specific aspects of the city's development goals. These sources include:

INTERNATIONAL DONORS AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

- **World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB):** These institutions offer loans and grants for large-scale infrastructure projects, including road networks, water catchments, and urban infill initiatives. They also support environmental projects like the creation of blue and green corridors.

- **United Nations Agencies:** Agencies like UN-Habitat, IOM, UNDP, and UNHCR can provide technical assistance for projects related to housing, IDP integration, environmental sustainability, and urban planning.

- **The UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (UKFCDO):** UKFCDO can fund different projects in Hudur by providing financial support through grants or development assistance programs aimed at promoting sustainable urban development, social inclusion, and resilience. UKFCDO could also collaborate with other international donors and agencies, leveraging its expertise in governance, infrastructure development, and humanitarian aid to ensure the effective implementation of the project.

- **USAID and European Union (EU) Development Funds:** These donors often finance humanitarian efforts, including projects that improve living conditions for IDPs and provide resources for sustainable agriculture and water management.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) AND CIVIL SOCIETY

- **Environmental and Agricultural NGOs:** Organizations focused on environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, and community development can provide grants and expertise for projects related to blue and green corridors, agricultural land protection, and urban water catchments.

- **Humanitarian NGOs:** NGOs working with IDPs, such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), The US Agency for International Development (USAID) or the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), can provide funding and resources for improving living conditions in IDP camps and facilitating their integration into the city.

COMMUNITY-BASED FINANCING

- **Local Cooperatives and Community Savings Groups:** Mobilizing local resources through cooperatives and savings groups can finance small-scale, community-driven projects, particularly in urban agriculture, small infrastructure upgrades, and the creation of public spaces.

- **Social Impact Bonds:** Implementing social impact bonds where private investors fund projects with measurable social benefits, such as housing for IDPs or urban environmental projects, and receive returns from the government based on the project's success.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

- **National and Local Government Budgets:** Allocating funds from Somalia's national budget and Xudur municipal budget can support infrastructure projects, housing, and public services. Specific allocations might focus on road upgrading, housing construction, and public facilities like schools and hospitals.

- **Special Development Funds:** Establishing or tapping into existing government-backed development funds dedicated to urban development, environmental sustainability, and infrastructure projects.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPS)

- **Infrastructure Development:** Partnering with private sector companies to co-finance road construction, public lighting, and commercial area development can reduce the financial burden on the government while ensuring the efficient execution of projects.

- **Housing and Real Estate Development:** Engaging private developers to invest in residential and mixed-use projects, particularly in urban infill and densification, can be facilitated through incentives like tax breaks and fast-tracked permits.

"Establishing a tax revenue system in Somalia is a complex but essential task to fund public services, support development, and stabilize the local economies"

CONCLUSION

By leveraging a diverse mix of these funding sources, Xudur can successfully finance its strategic plan, addressing the city's needs across various sectors. This approach not only ensures the availability of financial resources through collaborative efforts between the government, private sector, international donors, and local communities.

6.7.1 Establishing a City Tax Revenue System:

Establishing a tax revenue system in Xudur is a complex but essential task to fund public services, support development, and stabilize the local economies. Here's a comprehensive approach the government could take to initiate and strengthen tax revenue generation in the Somali context:

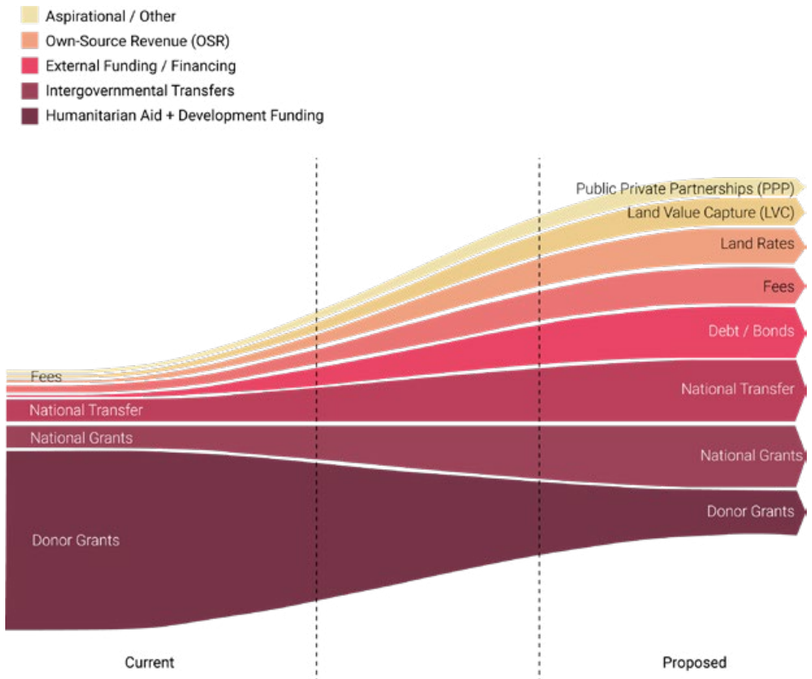


Figure 41: Municipal financing transition, from current to proposed model

"Establishing a tax revenue system in Xudur is a complex but essential task to fund public services, support development, and stabilize the local economies"

BUILDING LOCAL INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- **Establish a Local Revenue Authority:** Create a local tax authority responsible for managing and collecting taxes. This body should be equipped with the necessary tools, technology, and trained personnel to manage tax systems effectively.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Invest in the training of tax officials to improve their understanding of tax laws, collection methods, and enforcement mechanisms. This will help in building a professional and efficient tax administration.

LEGAL & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- **Develop Tax Legislation:** Draft and implement clear tax laws that define various tax types (e.g., income tax, sales tax, property tax), rates, and procedures for collection. These laws should be transparent and consistently applied across the city.
- **Simplify Tax Codes:** Simplify the tax code to make it understandable for businesses and individuals. A simplified tax code reduces compliance costs and encourages voluntary tax payments.

EXPANDING THE TAX BASE

- **Formalizing the Informal Sector:** Encourage businesses in the informal sector to formalize by offering benefits such as access to credit, business support services, and market opportunities. Formal businesses are easier to tax and regulate.
- **Property and Land Taxes:** Implement property and land taxes, particularly in urban areas where property values are higher. Properly assessed property taxes can provide a significant source of revenue.
- **Introducing Consumption Taxes:** Implement value-added tax (VAT) or sales tax on goods and services, which can be a reliable source of revenue with a broad tax base.

TAXPAYER EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch campaigns to educate citizens and businesses about the importance of paying taxes, how the tax system works, and the benefits of compliance. This could include radio programs, town hall meetings, and social media outreach.
- **Incentives for Compliance:** Offer incentives such as tax credits, deductions, or reduced rates for early or voluntary tax filings to encourage compliance.

TAX COLLECTION & ENFORCEMENT

- **Digital Tax Collection Systems:** Invest in digital systems for tax filing and payment to streamline the process, reduce corruption, and improve efficiency. Mobile payment systems could be particularly effective in Somalia, where mobile money is widely used.
- **Enforcement Mechanisms:** Strengthen enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance. This could include penalties for non-compliance, audits, and the establishment of a tax court to handle disputes.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT & COOPERATION

- **Seek Technical Assistance:** Partner with international to receive technical assistance in building and reforming the tax system.
- **Combat Illicit Financial Flows:** Work with international partners to combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion, which can significantly undermine revenue collection efforts.

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Transparent Reporting:** Ensure that tax revenues are transparently reported and publicly disclosed. This transparency builds trust among taxpayers, showing them how their taxes are being used to fund public services and infrastructure.
- **Use of Funds:** Clearly demonstrate the use of tax revenue in providing essential services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Visible improvements funded by tax revenue can increase public willingness to comply with tax obligations.

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

- **Pilot Programs:** Start with pilot programs in selected neighborhoods to test and refine tax collection methods before rolling them out citywide.
- **Gradual Expansion:** Gradually expand the tax system, focusing on areas with the highest potential for revenue generation and compliance. This allows the government to build capacity and address challenges incrementally.

CONCLUSION

Establishing an efficient tax revenue system in Xudur requires a strategic approach that includes building institutional capacity, developing clear legal frameworks, expanding the tax base, and improving enforcement. By engaging with international partners, educating taxpayers, and ensuring transparency, the municipal government can gradually develop a sustainable and effective tax system that supports local development and improves public services.

"The municipal government can gradually develop a sustainable and effective tax system that supports local development and improves public services"

6.7.2 Exploring Land Value Capture To Finance Urban Interventions & Collecting Taxes:

Implementing a tax revenue system at the city level using land value capture (LVC) can be an effective way to generate funds for urban development projects in Xudur, particularly in the context of expanding infrastructure, improving public services, and supporting economic growth. Land value capture is a mechanism that allows governments to collect part of the increase in land value that results from public investments or regulatory changes. Here's how this could be implemented:

ESTABLISHING A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR LAND VALUE CAPTURE (LVC)

- **Create Enabling Legislation:** The local government needs to pass laws that enable the collection of taxes based on the increased value of land. This could include property taxes, betterment levies, or special assessment districts where landowners contribute to the cost of public improvements that benefit their properties.

- **Define Value Capture Mechanisms:** Clearly define the types of LVC mechanisms that will be used, such as development impact fees, tax increment financing (TIF), and land value taxes. These mechanisms should be tailored to the specific needs and context of Xudur.

"Land value capture is a mechanism that allows governments to collect part of the increase in land value that results from public investments or regulatory changes"

CONDUCTING LAND VALUATION

- **Baseline Land Valuation:** Implement a system to regularly assess the value of land throughout the city. This will involve surveying land parcels, updating property registries, and establishing a transparent valuation process that reflects market conditions.

- **Assessing Incremental Value:** Identify and document increases in land value resulting from public investments, such as new roads, utilities, or zoning changes. This increase forms the basis for applying LVC.

IMPLEMENTING LAND VALUE CAPTURE MECHANISMS

- **Property Taxation:** Introduce or strengthen property taxes where landowners pay taxes based on the assessed value of their land and buildings. As public investments increase land value, property tax revenues will rise, providing a sustainable source of funding.

- **Betterment Levies:** Charge landowners a fee based on the increase in land value due to specific public projects, such as road improvements or new public amenities. This levy can be directly linked to the benefits received by the landowner.

- **Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Designate specific areas as TIF districts, where future increases in property tax revenue resulting from improvements are used to finance those improvements. This helps fund infrastructure projects without requiring immediate outlays from the government.

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- **Build Administrative Capacity:** Train local government officials in land valuation, tax collection, and financial management. This ensures that the system is implemented effectively and transparently.

- **Technology Integration:** Use GIS and other digital tools to map land values, track changes, and streamline tax collection processes. This increases efficiency and reduces the potential for corruption.

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

- Public Consultation: Engage with landowners, businesses, and residents to explain the benefits of LVC and how the funds will be used. Transparency and communication are key to gaining public support.

- Incentives for Compliance: Offer incentives such as phased tax increases or exemptions for low-income households to encourage compliance and reduce resistance.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

- **Regular Audits:** Implement regular audits and evaluations to ensure the LVC system is functioning as intended. Adjust the system based on feedback and changes in economic conditions.

- **Reporting and Transparency:** Provide regular reports to the public on how LVC revenues are being used, emphasizing improvements in infrastructure and public services.

POTENTIAL APPLICATION IN XUDUR

- **Infrastructure Projects:** Use LVC to fund road improvements, public transportation systems, and utility upgrades. For example, a new road project that increases access to certain areas could significantly raise property values, and part of this increased value could be captured through property taxes or betterment levies.

- **Urban Redevelopment:** Apply TIF to finance the redevelopment of underutilized urban areas. The future increase in property tax revenues can be used to pay for initial redevelopment costs, such as land acquisition, public space improvements, or environmental remediation.

- **Affordable Housing:** Direct a portion of LVC revenues to fund affordable housing projects, ensuring that development benefits all segments of the population, including low-income and displaced individuals.

CONCLUSION

Implementing a tax revenue system using land value capture in Xudur can provide a sustainable and equitable way to finance urban development. By effectively leveraging the increased value of land resulting from public investments, the city can support infrastructure improvements, enhance public services, and promote economic growth, all while ensuring that the benefits of development are shared across the community. It is essential to partner with international organizations for technical assistance, capacity building and funding support.

"By effectively leveraging the increased value of land resulting from public investments, the city can support infrastructure improvements, enhance public services, and promote economic growth"

6.9 The Way Forward

The way forward to transform concepts into projects is to find the needed financial resources and establish specific partnerships to initiate an implementation phase for each strategy. The guiding principles for funding and highlight mechanisms should focus on presenting innovative funding sources with specific costs, estimations, key partners involved, potential donors, and phases needed to address each action plan individually and the case scenarios.

1.- Leverage urban planning value. There is a need to improve urban planning capacity within the national and local governments to promote the importance of urban planning and design for cities and as a key solution to integrate IDPs into cities. The current capacity could be higher, which makes it challenging to engage with the ministries about investments with a long-term vision.

2.- Align the implementation phase with other ongoing projects or initiatives in Xudur. Various ongoing projects are being implemented in town by different international organizations, and it is imperative to align the strategic recommendations and sum efforts with investments already being made.

3.- Better positioning for outside funding. There are different grant applications available to apply for project funding. A core team to support and elaborate on different grant applications must be established with support of international organizations.

4.- Engage with the private sector and consider PPP funding mechanisms. This type of funding mechanism provides advantages to both parties. The private sector can bring technology and innovation to improve the operational efficiency of services and infrastructure for the inhabitants of Xudur and the local government can provide legal certainty.

Moving forward, the implementation of this plan will require coordinated efforts across several key areas:

- **Prioritization and Phased Implementation:** The plan should be executed in phases, starting with critical infrastructure projects, such as road upgrades, water supply, and housing for IDPs. Prioritizing these areas will address immediate needs while laying the foundation for future development.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Continued engagement with local communities, government agencies, and international partners is essential. Collaborative action ensures that the strategies align with the needs and aspirations of Xudur residents, particularly vulnerable groups such as IDPs.

- **Institutional Strengthening:** Building the capacity of local institutions to manage and oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan is crucial. This includes enhancing the administrative and financial capabilities of municipal authorities to efficiently manage resources, enforce regulations, and collect taxes.

- **Sustainable Financing:** Securing diverse funding sources, including government budgets, international aid, public-private partnerships, and land value capture mechanisms, will be key to financing the Strategic Plan. Establishing a robust tax system, including land-based taxes, will also provide a sustainable revenue stream for ongoing development projects.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** A monitoring and evaluation framework should be established to track progress, assess the impact of interventions, and adjust strategies as necessary. This will ensure that the Strategic Plan remains responsive to changing conditions and emerging challenges.

- **Public Awareness and Participation:** Raising awareness about the goals and benefits of the Strategic Plan among the public is important for gaining support and fostering a sense of ownership. Encouraging community participation in planning and decision-making processes will help ensure the success of the initiatives.

By focusing on these areas, Xudur can effectively implement its Strategic Plan for durable solutions to displacement, driving the city toward a future of sustainable growth, social inclusion, and economic resilience.

Figure 42: Discussing Xudur implementation strategies with government officials & key stakeholder´s. © UN-HABITAT, 2024

6.10 Lessons Learnt & Conclusion

The visioning and validation workshops held with key stakeholders, including local government officials, IOM, and UN-Habitat, were critical in shaping the Strategic Plan for Xudur. These sessions reinforced the value of inclusive and participatory planning, where the integration of perspectives from different participants ensured that the plan was not only technically sound but also culturally and contextually appropriate.

The workshops created a platform for stakeholders to voice their concerns and priorities, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to the plan's outcomes.

A critical lesson learned from these workshops was the importance of clear communication and consensus-building. The process revealed that alignment of priorities among several actors could be challenging, but essential for the plan's success.

"Through structured dialogue and collaborative decision-making, the workshops helped bridge gaps in understanding and created a unified vision for the city's future"

Through structured dialogue and collaborative decision-making, the workshops helped bridge gaps in understanding and created a unified vision for the city's future. This collaborative approach ensured that the strategic recommendations were both realistic and actionable, with broad support from all parties involved.

Furthermore, the workshops highlighted the necessity of blending local knowledge with technical expertise. Local government officials and community representatives brought invaluable insights into the specific needs and challenges of Xudur, while IOM and UN-Habitat provided the technical guidance needed to address these challenges effectively.

This combination of local and international expertise ensured that the strategic plan was both visionary and grounded in the practical realities of the day to day, setting a strong foundation for its successful future implementation.

If the proposed actions are executed in the near future, both UN-Habitat and IOM would play crucial roles in ensuring their success:

UN-Habitat Future Role for Implementing the Plan

UN-Habitat would lead efforts related to urban planning, infrastructure development, urban design, and sustainable urbanization. Providing the technical expertise in designing and elaborating land use plans, developmental housing projects, neighborhood pilot projects and public infrastructure improvements. UN-Habitat would also be instrumental in promoting institutional capacity building within the local government, ensuring that urban development is aligned with best practices in sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity at a city level.

IOM Future Role for Implementing the Plan

IOM would focus on the integration and support of internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the broader urban framework. This would include managing IDP housing and relocation projects, facilitating access to essential services, and promoting social cohesion between IDPs and the host community.

IOM would also contribute to livelihood programs, helping to create sustainable economic opportunities for displaced populations and supporting their integration into the urban economy.

Together, UN-Habitat and IOM would ensure that the strategic actions are implemented in a way that promotes sustainable development, social inclusion, and resilience in Xudur.

Several lessons can be drawn from Xudur experience when developing another strategic plan for a Somali city, but the main takeaways are:

1. **Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement:** Involving a diverse range of stakeholders early in the planning process ensures that the plan reflects local needs and priorities. This approach fosters ownership and support from the local community, IDPs, municipal government, and international partners.

2. **Clear Communication and Consensus Building:** Aligning the various interests and priorities of stakeholders is essential. Effective communication and structured dialogue help build consensus and ensure that the plan is actionable and widely supported.

3. **Integration of Local Knowledge with International Technical Expertise:** Combining local insights with international best practices results in a plan that is both contextually relevant and technically sound. This integration is crucial for addressing specific challenges while adhering to global standards for sustainable development.

4. **Adaptability and Flexibility:** The strategic plan should be adaptable to changing conditions and emerging challenges. Regular monitoring and evaluation, coupled with the flexibility to adjust strategies, are vital for the plan's long-term success.

5. **Capacity Building:** Strengthening local government capacity in urban planning and implementation is crucial. Ensuring that local authorities have the skills and resources needed to carry out the plan will enhance its effectiveness and sustainability.

6. **Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives:** Aligning the strategic plan with existing projects and initiatives in the region maximizes resources and avoids duplication of efforts. Collaborative efforts with international organizations and other stakeholders can amplify the impact of the plan.

"These lessons provide a roadmap for developing effective, sustainable, and inclusive urban strategies in Somali cities, ensuring that future plans are grounded in local realities while benefiting from global expertise"

These lessons provide a roadmap for developing effective, sustainable, and inclusive urban strategies in Somali cities, ensuring that future plans are grounded in local realities while benefiting from global expertise.

07

ANNEX

Endnotes

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