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ASSESSMENT REPORT ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE GEDO REGION OF SOMALIA

July 2024

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1. Overview

1.1 Introduction

Disability and its associated challenges pose significant barriers to the well-being and integration of affected individuals in society, especially in contexts marked by displacement and humanitarian crises. In Gedo, Somalia, the compounded effects of displacement, conflict, and limited resources exacerbate the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities (PwDs). This report provides a detailed analysis of the disability-related issues in four key districts:

Baardheere, Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq, and Luuq. It examines the prevalence and types of disabilities, access to healthcare and assistive devices, protection concerns, and food security challenges among the surveyed populations. The findings aim to inform targeted interventions and policymaking to improve the living conditions and support mechanisms for PwDs in these regions.

1.2 Background

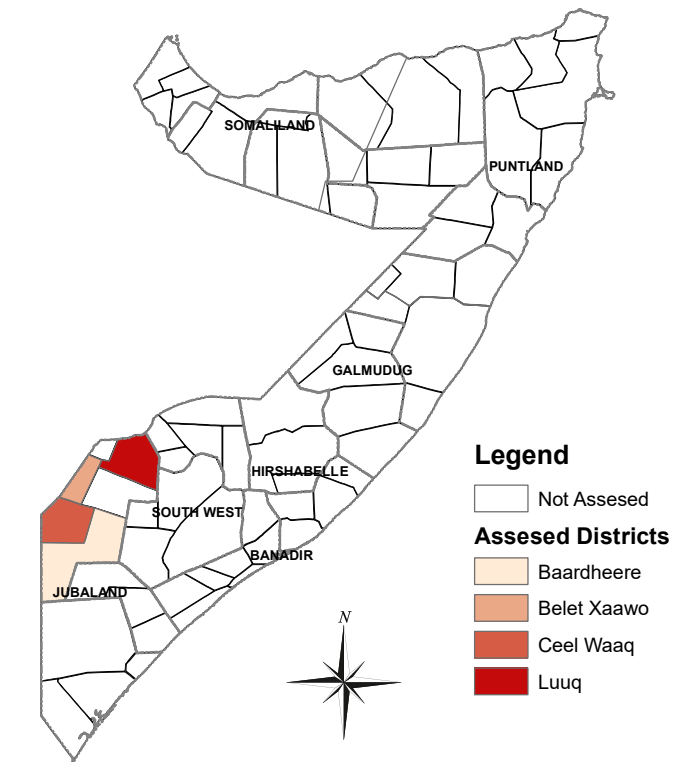
The **“Lidosom Disability Analysis Report”** is based on a comprehensive needs assessment conducted among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host community populations in Gedo, Somalia. The assessment, carried out by The Somali Livelihood Initiative and Disability Organization (LIDOSOM) with support from iMMAP Inc., aims to identify the impacts of displacement and the needs of the populations in these communities. The focus is on various dimensions including disability, healthcare access, protection, and food security. Somalia, and specifically the Gedo region, has been profoundly affected by decades of conflict¹, recurrent droughts², and more recently, floods³. These events have led to significant population displacement, resulting in numerous IDP camps and a heavy strain on host communities. The challenges faced by these populations are multifaceted, with PwDs being particularly vulnerable. Disabilities in these contexts are often exacerbated by a lack of access to medical care, assistive devices, and other essential services, contributing to a cycle of poverty and marginalization.

The data for this report was collected through surveys administered by trained interviewers in the districts of **Baardheere, Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq, and Luuq**. The survey covered various aspects such as the prevalence of disabilities, access to healthcare facilities, availability of assistive devices, experiences of violence and protection, and food security status. The information gathered provides a granular view of the conditions in these districts and highlights the specific needs and challenges faced by PwDs.

This report not only presents the quantitative data collected but also provides qualitative insights into the lived experiences of PwDs in these districts. By understanding the intersection of disability with other socioeconomic factors, the report aims to inform stakeholders,

including humanitarian organizations, government agencies, and policy makers, about the critical areas requiring intervention. The ultimate goal is to improve the living conditions and support mechanisms for PwDs, ensuring their inclusion and participation in society.

Additionally, this assessment will contribute to the broader objective of mapping the needs and resources in Gedo, facilitating a more coordinated and effective response to the humanitarian crisis in the region. By highlighting the specific needs of PwDs, the report advocates for inclusive policies and programs that address the unique vulnerabilities of this population group. The findings from this report will also serve as a baseline for future assessments and interventions, helping to track progress and adjust strategies as needed.



A map showing the assesment of the 4 Districts assesed in Gedo Region, Jubaland State of Somalia.

1. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/901031516986381462/pdf/122991v1GSURR-Somalia-DINA-Report-Volume-I-180116-Digital.pdf>

2. https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/09/20-01079-gltn-land-and-conflict-in-jubaland_final.pdf

3. <https://immap.org/product/somalia-rapid-multi-sectoral-needs-assessment-of-populations-affected-by-deyr-flooding-luuq-district/>

2. Baardheere

2.1 Disability analysis

In Baardheere, the survey reveals that a significant majority (78%) of respondents do not wear glasses, with a smaller proportion (13%) reporting that they do. (Fig. 1)

Do you wear glasses? (n*=32)

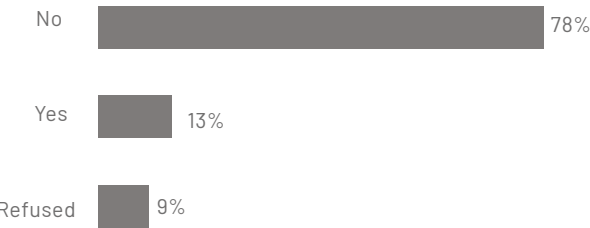


Figure 1 : Percentage of Respondents Wearing Glasses

Regarding visual difficulties, none of the respondents reported having a lot of difficulty seeing, while 25% indicated no difficulty, and a substantial 75% reported some difficulty, even after wearing glasses.

When it comes to seeing someone’s face across a room after wearing glasses, 25% of respondents experienced a lot of difficulty and 50% had some difficulty. (Fig. 2)

Do you have difficulty clearly seeing someone’s face across a room, even after wearing glasses? (n*=4)

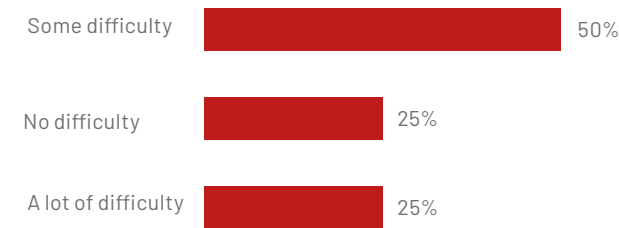


Figure 2: Percentage of respondents struggling with their visions

Similarly, for recognizing the picture on a coin, 25% cannot do it at all, 50% had some difficulty, indicating significant visual challenges.

This indicates many more of the reported population in Baardheere might require an eye correction since significant portion of the population faces vision impairments even after wearing glasses.

The assessment indicates that 75% of respondents do not use a hearing aid, 13% do, and 13% refused to answer (Fig 3). hearing aid, 13% do, and 13% refused to answer (Fig. 3).

Do you use hearing aid? (n*=32)

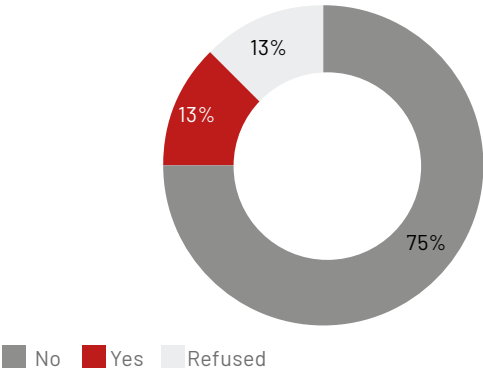


Figure 3 : Percentage of respondents wearing hearing aid in Baardheere

Regarding hearing difficulties, among those who use a hearing aid, 50% reported a lot of difficulty, and 50% reported some difficulty. (Fig. 4)

Do you have difficulties hearing, even after using a hearing aid? (n*=4)



Figure 4: Percentage of respondents with hearing impairment in Baardheere.

In terms of difficulty hearing in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room, all the respondents said that they face some difficulty. For difficulty hearing in a noisier room, 75% reported they face some difficulties.

When asked how often they use their hearing aid, 31% of the respondent said that they use the hearing aid some of the time, 13% said they rarely use it and 28% never use it. In terms of difficulty hearing in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room, all the respondents said that they face some difficulty. For difficulty hearing in a noisier room, 75% reported they face some difficulties.

*n indicates number of respondents

6% of respondents reported having a lot of difficulty walking or climbing steps, with another 3% indicating they cannot do it at all. A significant portion (47%) reported some difficulty, while 25% experienced no difficulty at all.

Regarding the use of equipment or help for getting around, 72% of respondents did not use any equipment or help. This indicates that there are many people who face difficulties in mobility but do not use any kind of equipment for getting around. 13% reported using some form of assistance (Fig. 5).

Do you use any equipment or receive help for getting around? (n*=32)

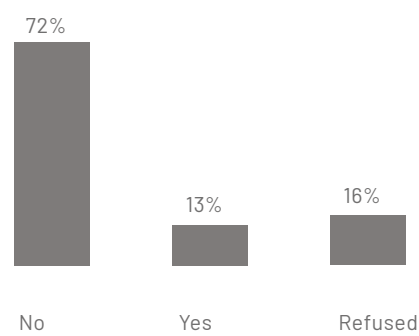


Figure 5: Percentage of respondents with mobility challenges

Notably, 25% of those who used assistive devices reported using an artificial limb or foot, cane or walking stick, wheelchair or scooter, and assistance from someone.

When asked about walking half a kilometer on level ground while using their assistive devices, 100% of respondents reported having a lot of difficulty, showing a significant mobility challenge over longer distances.

When it came to walking up or down 12 steps, 3% had a lot of difficulty, and another 3% could not do it at all. A larger group (44%) reported some difficulty, and 28% indicated no difficulty. For walking 100 meters on level ground, 9% had a lot of difficulty, and 3% could not do it at all. Another 38% experienced some difficulty, while 28% reported no difficulty.

2.2 Healthcare

In Baardheere, healthcare accessibility is notably varied. 47% of the respondent are located within a kilometer away from a health care facility while 44% reside within 1-2 kilometers away. A smaller fraction, 9%, lives 3-5 kilometers away. This indicates relatively good accessibility for a significant portion of the population.

The primary barrier to accessing healthcare services for persons with disabilities (PwDs) in Baardheere is the distance to healthcare facilities, affecting 69% of respondents. Financial constraints and the lack of Information also pose challenges, with 16% and 16% of the population reporting these issues, respectively. Availability of medications 25%, and the availability of healthcare providers is a concern for 31% of the PWDs (Fig. 6).

Baardheere faces significant health challenges, particularly with malaria and diarrheal diseases, each affecting 84% of households. Malnu-

trition is also a major issue, reported by 69% of the respondents, while respiratory infections and chronic illnesses like hyper tension and diabetes affect 28% of the population. This coupled with lack of availability of healthcare services and long distance to the healthcare facilities impose a critical challenge in accessing healthcare facilities to the PwDs.

What are the main barriers PwDs face in accessing healthcare facilities? (n*=32)

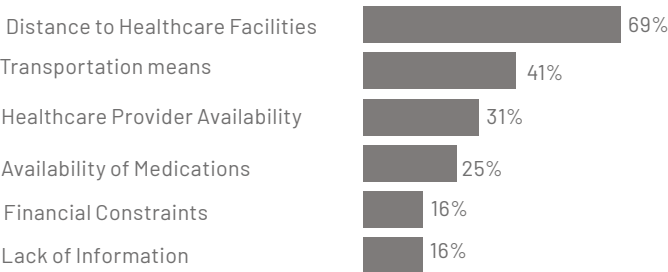


Figure 6: Primary barriers PwDs face in accessing healthcare facilities

2.3 Protection

In Baardheere, the data indicates that 44% of persons with disabilities (PwDs) feel they have freedom of movement in their campsite/location, which is considerably lower compared to other districts such as Belet Xaawo (82%) and Luuq (83%). When it comes to experiencing violence, all surveyed members from Baardheere reported no instances of violence, which is a positive indicator of relative safety in this respect.

Concerning the perception of safety, 13% of PwDs in Baardheere do not feel safe and 66% reported not receiving any protection support or services. Regarding protection from crime and violence, 34% rely on local authorities, while a substantial 78% depend on community leaders, which is the highest reliance rate on community leaders across the surveyed districts.

Only 34% stated that there is adequate lighting in public spaces at night, and 88% confirmed that public facilities such as classrooms and toilets are not disability friendly.

In terms of needed protection support or services, most assessed household prefers establishment of community-based support network (41%). Moreover, distribution of assistive devices and empowering PwDs to participate in decision-making processes was also requested, both at 25%.

2.4 Food Security

In Baardheere, 91% of assessed population reported not having enough food to eat in May 2024, indicating significant food insecurity. A majority of these reported households, 56%, eat only once a day, which could be a reflection of this scarcity. No household reported to eat three times a day in Baardheere. The primary types of food consumed here include maize/corn (53%), sorghum (59%), and rice (34%). Despite of the ongoing food security issues, only 3% of the assessed population have reported to receive food assistance in Baardheere district

28% never use it. In terms of difficulty hearing in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room, all the respondents said that they face some difficulty. For difficulty hearing in a noisier room, 75% reported they face some difficulties.

*n indicates number of respondents

The top challenges faced by residents in Baardheere regarding food access include destruction of crops, livestock, and food stocks by floodwaters, reported by 44% of the assessed population and malnutrition and waterborne diseases, reported by 38% of respondents, highlighting health-related issues as a major concern. This is followed by depletion of water sources, affecting 31% of the population, which exacerbates the difficulties in obtaining both drinking water and water for agricultural purposes. The third major challenge is the continuation of crop failures and livestock deaths, which 31% of households identified as a critical problem affecting their food supply (Fig. 7).

Challenges do you face in accessing food?
(top 5) (n*=32)

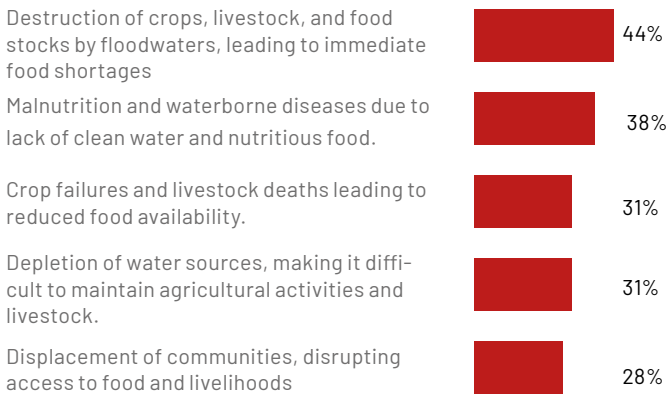


Figure 7: Challenges in accessing food in Baardheere district

3. Belet Xaawo

3.1 Disability analysis

In Belet Xaawo, 89% of respondents do not wear glasses and 11% do (Fig. 8).

Do you wear glasses? (n*=28)

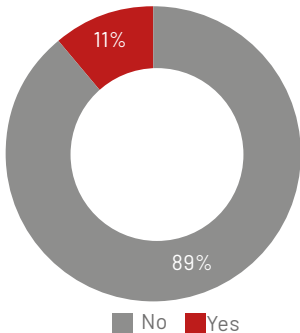


Figure 8 : Percentage of respondents wearing glasses in Belet Xaawo.

*n indicates number of respondents

When asked about visual difficulties, 33% reported a lot of difficulty seeing, and 67% reported some difficulty, suggesting prevalent visual impairments. For seeing someone’s face across a room, 33% had a lot of difficulty, and 67% had some difficulty. Regarding recognizing the picture on a coin, 67% reported a lot of difficulty, and 33% reported some difficulty (Fig. 9).

Do you have difficulty clearly seeing someone’s face across a room, even after wearing glasses? (n*=3)



Figure 9: Percentage of respondents in Belet Xaawo struggling with their visions

This indicates that visual challenges are significant in Belet Xaawo, with a majority of respondents experiencing some or a lot of difficulty seeing.

In Belet Xaawo, 93% of respondents do not use a hearing aid, and 7% do (Fig. 10).

Do you use hearing aid? (n*=28)

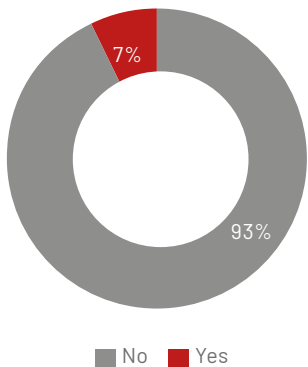


Figure 10 :Percentage of respondents wearing hearing aid in Belet Xaawo.

In Belet Xaawo, 93% of respondents do not use a hearing aid, and 7% do (Fig. 10).

Do you have difficulties hearing, even after using a hearing aid? (n*=2)



Figure 11: Percentage of respondents with hearing impairment in Belet Xaawo.

This indicates that visual challenges are significant in Belet Xaawo, with a majority of respondents experiencing some or a lot of difficulty seeing. In Belet Xaawo, 93% of respondents do not use a hearing aid, and 7% do(Fig 10).

Do you use hearing aid? (n*=28)

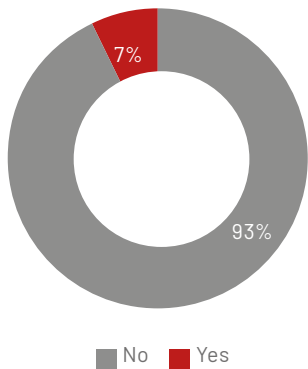


Figure 10 : Percentage of respondents wearing hearing aid in Belet Xaawo.

Regarding hearing difficulties, among those who use a hearing aid, 50% reported a lot of difficulty, and 50% reported some difficulty (Fig. 11).

Do you have difficulties hearing, even after using a hearing aid? (n*=2)



Figure 11: Percentage of respondents with hearing impairment in Belet Xaawo.

When asked how often they use their hearing aid, 11% said all of the time, 54% never use it while 21% use it some of the time. In terms of difficulty hearing in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room, 50% reported a lot of difficulty and the other 50% reported some difficulty. For difficulty hearing in a noisier room, 50% reported they cannot do it at all, and the other 50% reported that they face some difficulty.

In Belet Xaawo, 29% of respondents reported a lot of difficulty walking or climbing steps, with 7% unable to do it at all.

Half of the respondents experienced some difficulty, while 14% had no difficulty. Most respondents (82%) did not use any equipment or help for getting around (Fig. 12).

Do you use any equipment or receive help for getting around? (n*=28)

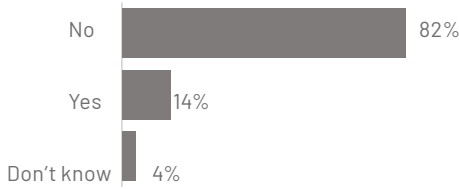


Figure 12: Percentage of respondents with mobility challenges

However, 14% reported using assistance, with 50% using a cane or walking stick and 25% using artificial limbs or wheelchairs/scooters. For walking half a kilometer using assistance, 100% of the responded who previously said they use assistance for getting around, reported being unable to do it, indicating severe mobility challenges over longer distances. Walking up or down 12 steps posed a significant challenge, with 32% having a lot of difficulty and 7% unable to do it. Some difficulty was reported by 39%, while 21% had no difficulty. Walking 100 meters on level ground was difficult for many, with 54% having a lot of difficulty and 7% unable to do it. Some difficulty was reported by 25%, while 14% had no difficulty.

3.2 Healthcare

In Belet Xaawo, a significant majority (68%) live less than a kilometer from a healthcare facility, suggesting moderate accessibility. Another 14% of the respondents are 1-2 kilometers away from a health facility, while 7% of the respondents live 3-5 kilometers away. This indicates moderate accessibility to a health facility. Financial constraints are the most significant barrier faced by PwDs while accessing medical facilities in Belet Xaawo, affecting 86% of the population. Distance to health-care facilities is a concern for 25%, while the availability of healthcare providers impacts 29%. Language or cultural barriers and lack of assistive devices are reported by 21% each (Fig 13).

What are the main barriers PwDs face in accessing healthcare facilities? (n*=28)

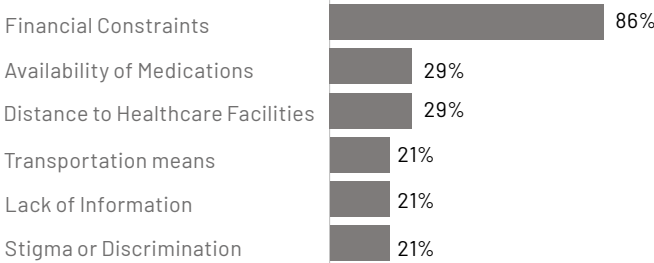


Figure 13: Primary barriers PwDs face in accessing healthcare facilities

Belet Xaawo faces severe issues with malaria, affecting 93% of reported households, and diarrheal diseases, affecting 64%. Malnutrition is reported by 25% of the population, while chronic illnesses affect 18% of the respondents' household

*n indicates number of respondents

3.3 Protection

Freedom of movement for PwD in Belet Xaawo stands at 82%. There were no reports of violence experienced by any household members. Also, 96% have reported that a person with disability feel safe in the camp or location. This suggests a generally safe environment for the residents in terms of personal security.

14% have received protection support or services. Safety from crime and violence is primarily provided by the local authorities (police/military)(100%)and community leaders(57%)

Lighting in public areas is reported as adequate by only 29%, which is higher than other districts. Public facilities have high accessibility with ramps and other aids reported by 46% of respondents. The most desired type of protection support includes distribution of assistive devices and mobility aids and establishment of community-based support network, cited by 36% and 25% respectively.

3.4 Food security

In Belet Xaawo, 46% of assessed households reported that they did not have enough food in the last month. The eating frequency in this district varies significantly, with 89% of households eating twice a day. This district shows a heavy reliance on maize/corn and rice (100%) and beans (89%), indicating a less diverse diet compared to other regions. Despite of the ongoing food security issues, no assessed families have reported to receive food assistance in this district.

The leading challenge in Belet Xaawo is crop failures and livestock deaths, which affect 75% of the respondents. The second most cited issue is displacement of communities (36%), which disrupts access to food and livelihood. Another challenge faced by the assessed population includes malnutrition and waterborne diseases, which impacts 32% of households, suggesting that health issues related to food and water are significant (Fig. 14).

What challenges do you face in accessing food? (n*=28)

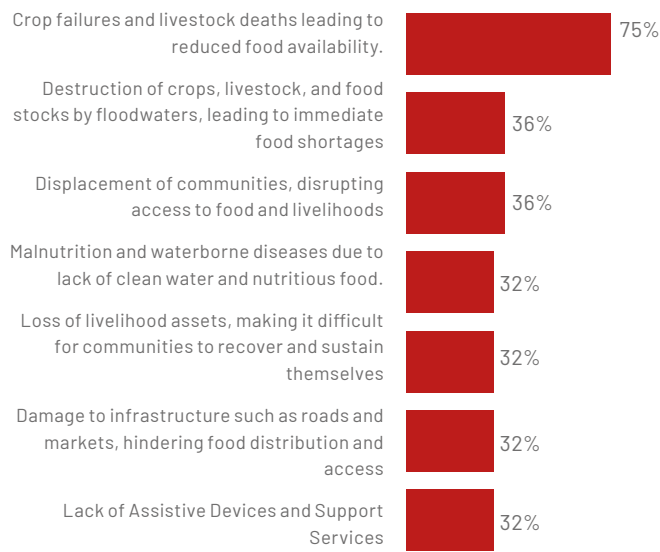


Figure 14: Challenges in accessing food in Belet Xaawo

4. Ceel Waaq

4.1 Disability analysis

In Ceel Waaq, all respondents (100%) reported not wearing glasses.In Ceel Waaq, the survey indicates that 50% of respondents use a hearing aid, with the other 50% not using one (Fig .15).

Do you use hearing aid? (n*=6)

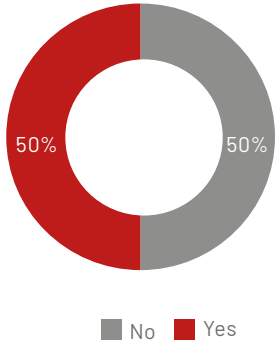


Figure 15: Percentage of hearing aid use among respondents in Ceel Waaq

Regarding hearing difficulties, among those who use a hearing aid, 100% reported some difficulty. When asked how often they use their hearing aid, 83% reported that they use it some the time. In terms of difficulty hearing in a conversation with one other person in both quiet and noisier room, 100% of the respondent said they face some difficulty.

In Ceel Waaq, none of the respondents reported a lot of difficulty walking or climbing steps, although 83% experienced some difficulty. The remaining 17% reported not knowing if they had difficulty. Regarding assistive devices, 83% did not use any equipment or help for getting around, while 17% did.

Among those using assistance, 100% reported using a device not listed among the common options provided. When asked about walking half a kilometer on level ground using assistive devices, 100% reported being unable to do it, showing significant challenges with longer distances. When it came to walking up or down 12 steps, none reported a lot of difficulty or inability to do it. However, 67% experienced some difficulty, and 17% had no difficulty. For walking 100 meters on level ground, none reported a lot of difficulty or inability to do it. However, 83% experienced some difficulty, while the remaining 17% refused to answer. When asked about walking half a kilometer on level ground, 100% reported being unable to do it, showing significant challenges with longer distances.

*n indicates number of respondents

4.2 Healthcare

In Ceel Waaq, accessibility is mixed. A third (33%) of the population lives within 1 kilometer of a healthcare facility, and the rest of 67% reside with-in 1-2 kilometers which indicates a well accessible healthcare system.

The main barriers faced by PwDs to access medical care in Ceel Waaq include the distance to healthcare facilities (83%), the availability of healthcare providers (33%), and lack of assistive devices (33%) of the re-reported households. Financial constraints affect 17% of the population, as well as the language or cultural barriers(Fig 16).

Main barriers to healthcare facilities access by the PwDs

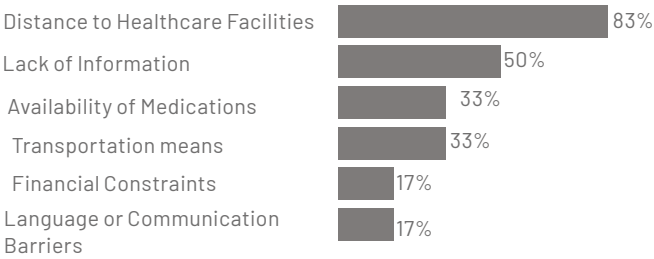


Fig 16: Primary barriers PwDs face in accessing healthcare facilities

4.3 Protection

In Ceel Waaq shows the lowest level of freedom of movement among the assessed districts, at 83%. On the contrary, there are no reports of violence from any surveyed household.

33% of the assessed PwDs feel unsafe in the camp or the location. None have received any form of protection support or services. The main providers of safety are community leaders, indicated by 50% and 33% reported that nobody provides safety from crime and violence in the re-reported areas.

All the assessed household in Ceel Waaq reported that, there are no public facilities being equipped to support PwDs. Moreover, all respondents indicated no night-time lighting in public spaces, which could contribute to feelings of unsafety. There is a strong desire for distribution of assistive devices, indicated by 50%.

4.4 Food security

In Ceel Waaq, a concerning 100% of surveyed households reported that they did not have enough food. Eating habits in this district show that 68% of the population eats twice a day. The staple foods here include millet (67%), rice (33%) and sorghum (32%), with a complete absence of maize/corn consumption. Despite of the ongoing food security issues, no assessed families have reported to receive food assistance in Ceel Waaq.

The challenges in Ceel Waaq are primarily malnutrition and waterborne diseases, reported by a stark 100% of respondents, indicating a critical public health crisis related to food insecurity. The next significant issues are the lack of assistive devices and support services(33%), and continuation of crop failures and livestock deaths(17%) (Fig. 17).

What challenges do you face in accessing food? (n*=6)

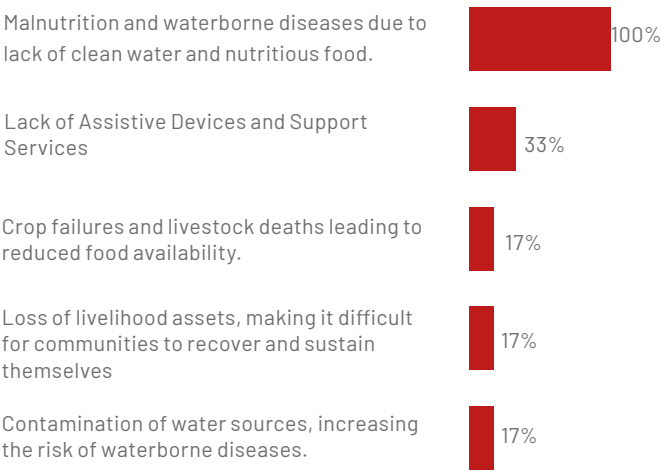


Figure 17: Challenges in accessing food in Ceel Waaq district

*n indicates number of respondents

5. Luuq

5.1 Disability analysis

In Luuq, 85% of respondents do not wear glasses, and 6% do (Fig. 18).

Do you wear glasses? (n*=82)

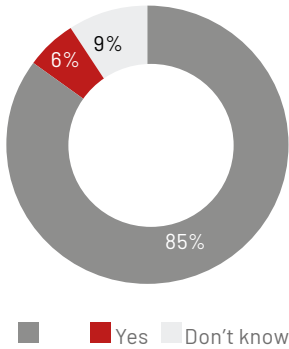


Figure 18: Percentage of respondents wearing glasses in Luuq district.

For visual difficulties, 60% of respondents reported a lot of difficulty seeing, and 40% reported no difficulty (Fig. 19).

Do you have difficulty clearly seeing someone’s face across a room, even after wearing glasses ? (n*=5)



Figure 19: Percentage of respondents in Belet Xaawo struggling with their visions in Luuq

When asked about seeing someone’s face across a room, 80% had a lot of difficulty and 20% had no difficulty. For recognizing the picture on a coin, 80% reported a lot of difficulty and 20% reported no difficulty. This data indicates that while the use of glasses is low in Luuq, visual difficulties are prevalent, with a significant number of respondents experiencing high level of impairment.

In Luuq, no respondent reported to use a hearing aid.

52% of respondents reported a lot of difficulty walking or climbing steps, with 1% unable to do it at all. Another 29% experienced some difficulty, while 13% had no difficulty. Most respondents (87%) did not use any equipment or help for getting around (Fig 20). **However, 9% reported using assistance**, with 71% using a cane or walking stick, 14% using a walker or Zimmer frame, and 14% receiving someone’s assistance. **For walking half a kilometer on level ground using assistance, responses showed 25% having a lot of difficulty and 75% being unable to do it, indicating severe mobility**

issues over longer distances. Walking up or down 12 steps was notably challenging, with 49% having a lot of difficulty and 4% unable to do it. Some difficulty was reported by 32%, while 16% had no difficulty. Walking 100 meters on level ground posed a challenge, with 34% having a lot of difficulty and 1% unable to do it. Some difficulty was reported by 37%, while 28% had no difficulty.

Do you use any equipment or receive help for getting around?(n*=82)

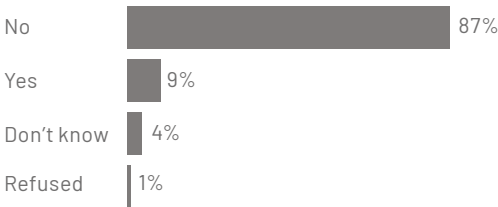


Figure 20: Percentage of respondents with mobility challenges in Luuq

5.2 Healthcare

In Luuq, a significant portion, 66% of the respondents lives within 1 kilometer of a healthcare facility, while 27% reside within 1-2 kilometers. Only 5% of the respondents live 3-5 kilometers away.

The primary barriers in Luuq for PwDs while accessing medical facilities include distance to healthcare facilities (71%) and financial constraints (60%). Moreover, 39% of the respondents said that PwDs face issues due to transportation means (Fig. 21).

What are the main barriers PwDs face in accessing healthcare facilities? (n*=82)

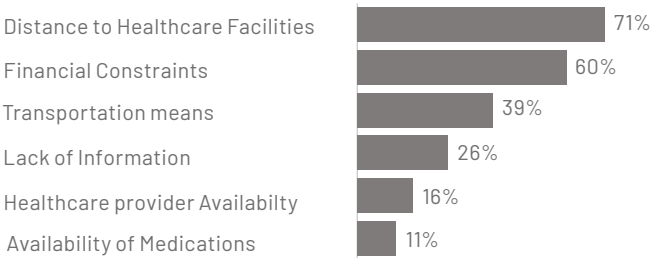


Figure 21: Primary barriers PwDs face in accessing healthcare facilities

The most common health issues in Luuq include diarrheal diseases (74%) and malaria (73%). Malnutrition is reported by 62% of the population, while respiratory infections and chronic illnesses affect 27% and 20%, respectively. Malaria and malnutrition is a major health concern, affecting 100% of the respondents’ households. Diarrheal diseases impact 83%, while chronic illnesses affect 62%.

5.3 Protection

In Luuq, 83% of PwD report freedom of movement, with 21% of households experiencing any form of violence, which is the highest among the assessed population compared to other districts. 9% of the assessed PwD do not feel safe with 12% reported receiving protection support or services. Safety is provided by community leaders (54%) and local authorities (27%). Adequate lighting is reported by only 2%, while facilities having PwD friendly facilities (ramps) are reported by only 12%. The major demand in protection support is for empowering individuals with disabilities to participate in decision making processes, as reported by 34% of the respondents.

5.4 Food security

88% of households reported not having enough food in the last month in Luuq. A majority of residents in Luuq (68%) eat twice daily. The most commonly consumed foods are maize/corn(51%) and rice(68%), showing a slightly more varied diet than in Ceel Waaq but less so than in other districts. Despite of ongoing food security issues, only 9% of the assessed population have reported to receive food assistance. The primary challenges faced by Luuq’s residents include malnutrition and waterborne diseases due to lack of clean water and nutritious food (55%), indicating significant health challenges linked to food scarcity. This is closely followed by crop failures and livestock deaths (49%) and depletion of water sources (41%)(Fig. 22).

What challenges do you face in accessing food?
(n*=82)

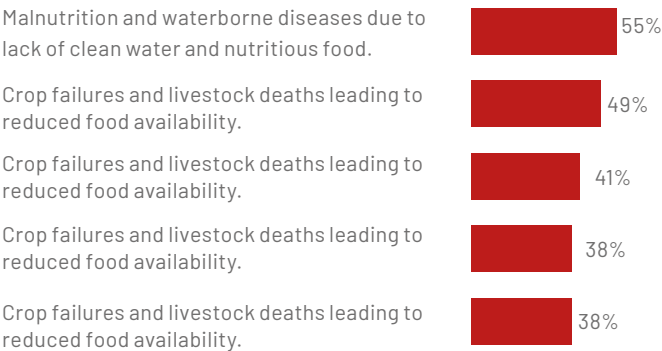


Figure 22: Challenges in accessing food in Luuq

6. Conclusion

The findings of this needs assessment highlight significant challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Gedo, Somalia. Key issues include limited access to healthcare and assistive devices, significant visual and mobility impairments, and a lack of protection and support services. Additionally, food insecurity remains a critical concern, exacerbated by health issues and inadequate assistance. Each district exhibits unique challenges, necessitating tailored interventions to address the specific needs of the populations. Enhanced support for healthcare accessibility, protection measures, and food security is essential to improve the quality of life for PwDs in Baardheere, Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq, and Luuq. These findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive and inclusive policies that prioritize the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in humanitarian contexts.

*n indicates number of respondents



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