



SOMALIA

GAPS AND NEEDS ANALYSIS (GNA)

ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contextual Information

Humanitarian needs in Somalia remain critically high, faced with limited funding and continuous droughts in the last few years. In addition, Somalia experienced severe flooding in 2023 due to El Niño. Funding remains challenging, with the Humanitarian Response Plan just 47% funded in 2024. The latest IPC projects that 4.4 million people will face high levels of food insecurity with an additional 1.6 million children under five likely experiencing acute malnutrition. The IPC findings forecast an 80% likelihood of La Niña conditions in Somalia, which could lead to further droughts. Frequent clan clashes and the drawdown of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) could result in increased displacement leading to limited access.

Humanitarian operations are encountered with poor road infrastructure because of severe floods in late 2023 and early 2024 (Jubaland, South-West, Hirshabelle States). Most airstrips were inaccessible to fixed-wing aircraft while overland supply routes remain closed. Also, critical bridges which connect primary access routes were washed away. This resulted in transport disruptions with higher fuel prices that have complicated further the delivery of aid. In 2025, the ATMIS drawdown is likely to complicate humanitarian operations, especially leading to diminished airstrips security and access to humanitarian supplies in hard-to-reach areas.

Identified Gaps

(Note: Please see the next pages for the details.)

Coordination	The humanitarian community has identified the need for broader coordination efforts beyond the existing logistics cluster bi-weekly coordination meetings. With an effective rating of 3.1 out of 5, this underscores the significant opportunity for improvement in collaborative initiatives.
Information Management	Survey responses show a need to improve logistics information sharing, with an average rating of 3 out of 5. This highlights the importance of better communication between government entities and humanitarian partners for more effective responses. The Somalia Logistics Cluster team will continue to support the humanitarian community with information management services.
Logistics Infrastructure/ Services	Storage Needs: An average score of 3 out of 5 (40%) indicates inadequate warehouse facilities in major hubs like Mogadishu and Baidoa, limiting the capacity to store humanitarian goods. Overland Transport: Scored 2.1 out of 5, with 68% of organizations reporting serious impediments due to poor road conditions and security issues. The Logistics Cluster is conducting a road feasibility study and cross-border transport trials between Kenya through Mandera, El Wak, and Dhobley. Water Transport: Surveys highlighted significant gaps, with an average efficiency score of 2.6 out of 5. Major seaports like Kismayo, Mogadishu, and Berbara are operational but lack commercial seaworthy operators meeting humanitarian standards. There is potential to utilize river transport along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, subject to security and physical access. Air Transport: 65% of respondents emphasized significant gaps in air delivery to hard-to-reach areas. High costs associated with air services, including commercial flights and UNHAS airlift options, restrict the quantity of supplies that can be procured and delivered, especially in regions with urgent humanitarian needs. Access – 90% of the respondents indicated that access to certain regions in South Central Somalia remains severely restricted due to ongoing insecurity and challenges posed by conflicts and non-state actors, compounded by poor road infrastructure. These access constraints hinder the delivery of humanitarian assistance significantly.

Capacity Building	Beside the available logistics training, the need for capacity building in logistics operations was underscored, with 69.5% of partners highlighting the necessity for tailored training programs. The Somalia Logistics Cluster team will continue to support the humanitarian community by facilitating customized training and simulation exercises within the Cluster mandate.
Bureaucratic & Administrative Impediments (BAI)	ATMIS Drawdown - Respondents interviewed expressed significant concerns regarding the upcoming ATMIS drawdown. They noted that restricted movements may be imposed by both government authorities and non-state actors, potentially reducing access to hard-to-reach areas. Customs Clearance: Scoring rating of 2.7 out of 5, this gap highlights the delays in customs processes that hinder the timely delivery of essential goods. 11 out of 23 respondents (47.3%) of the partners managing international procurement highlighted the challenges regarding the clearance processes for humanitarian cargo at customs checkpoints particularly in Puntland state affecting the timely delivery of humanitarian cargo.

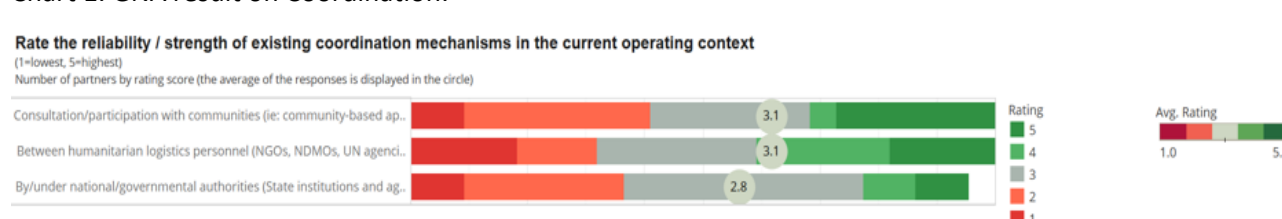
Key Recommendations	
Proposed Activities	1. Improve information sharing: In 2025, the Logistics Cluster plans to train partners on the use of critical information products like LogIE at sub-national, regional, and national levels to enhance logistics operations in Somalia. They will continue providing information management services, including analysis, assessments, and dissemination through their website. 2. Logistics Cluster common services: Partners emphasized the need to expand Logistics Cluster common services to hard-to-reach locations. The Logistics Cluster will support areas with access constraints and urgent needs for transporting lifesaving supplies, periodically reviewing these areas and assessing priority supplies. 3. Scale up storage facilities: Partners highlighted the need to invest in expanding storage facilities in key logistics hubs like Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Dollow to meet increasing humanitarian needs. 4. Advocacy for customs clearance: Partners stressed the importance of joint advocacy for streamlined customs processes, including tax exemptions and expedited clearance for humanitarian goods. 5. Assessment with local transporters: Partners emphasized the need for further market assessments to explore partnerships with local transport providers to improve logistics services to hard-to-reach locations. The Logistics Cluster will advocate for broader market assessments in collaboration with the WFP supply chain. 6. Capacity building: Partners highlighted the need to further enhance their capacity for contingency planning in emergency preparedness and response. The Logistics Cluster aims to strengthen partners' logistics capacities through tailored training, emergency preparedness simulations, and sharing best practices. This includes transitioning to field-based preparedness in collaboration with the Somali Disaster Management Agency and OCHA, with planned emergency simulation exercises in Mogadishu in early 2025. 7. Joint coordination meetings: Regular coordination meetings at local and national levels, at least once a month, to ensure all partners are aligned in their efforts. 8. Advocacy for funding: Engage with donor communities to secure capacity-building initiatives and logistics infrastructure financing. Advocacy efforts: Enhance the humanitarian response amid changes in the security mandate transfer of bases from ATMIS to the Federal Government of Somalia in early 2025.

PERCEIVED NEEDS AND VERIFIED GAPS

Coordination

Perceived Needs	Strengthening existing coordination mechanism – Partners have expressed a clear need for expanded coordination efforts beyond the existing bi-weekly Logistics Cluster meetings. Enhancing collaboration among humanitarian organizations, government entities, and local communities is essential. Improvements in local coordination efforts at the sub-national level in Southwest, Hirshabelle, and Jubaland states will facilitate this collaboration. Strengthening the relationship between the Logistics Cluster and government agencies is crucial for enhancing coordination with governments and improving emergency preparedness and response capacity.
Identified Gaps	Besides the existing bi-weekly Logistics Cluster coordination meetings, the humanitarian community has expressed a clear requirement for broader coordination efforts that extend beyond these platforms. Partners have emphasized the importance of enhancing collaborative efforts at the subnational level and among humanitarian organizations, government, and communities to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian aid delivery, highlighting a significant opportunity for improvement in the overall coordination efforts to maintain a proactive approach to address the coordination challenges and the concern of partners in the field. This need is underscored by an average rating of 3.1 out of 5 for coordination among humanitarian actors and 2.8/5 for coordination among government bodies regarding the effectiveness of current coordination mechanisms.

Chart 1. GNA result on Coordination.

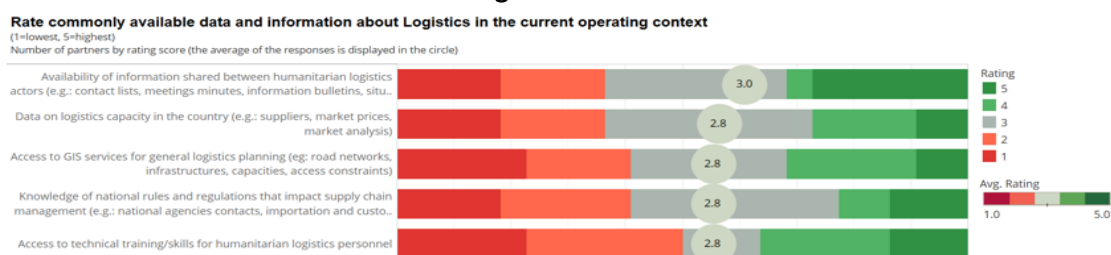


Information Management

Perceived Needs	Information Sharing: Partners survey responses indicate the need for more timely sharing of logistics information among humanitarian actors at the local level and governments. The average rating of 3 out of 5 highlights the importance of enhancing communication between government entities, Logistics Cluster and humanitarian partners to streamline responses effectively. To address this, the Logistics Cluster is committed to facilitating training programs focused on information management in 2025, along with providing inductions on its information products and tools, including LogIE, at sub-national and regional levels to promote overall efficiency and effectiveness in logistics operations in Somalia. Additionally, the Logistics Cluster will continue providing support to the humanitarian community with information management services, including analysis, assessments, and the dissemination of critical information through the Logistics Cluster website to strengthen the information management at field level.
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Identified Gaps	35% of the partners interviewed emphasized the need for more frequent and timely sharing of logistics information that extends beyond the current Logistics Cluster platform particularly at the local level. Improved communication between government entities and humanitarian partners is identified as crucial to prevent duplication of efforts and to ensure a more streamlined response to humanitarian needs, investment in GIS training and tools to enhance partners mapping capabilities, to streamline operations. This gap in information management is evident in the average rating of 3 out of 5, highlighting significant room for improvement in data-sharing practices among the humanitarian actors. To address this gap, logistics Cluster will provide refresher training on the existing information management products and tools including the LogIE and will continue to improve the timely dissemination of information products to humanitarian partners at the field level.
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Chart 2. GNA result on Information Management.



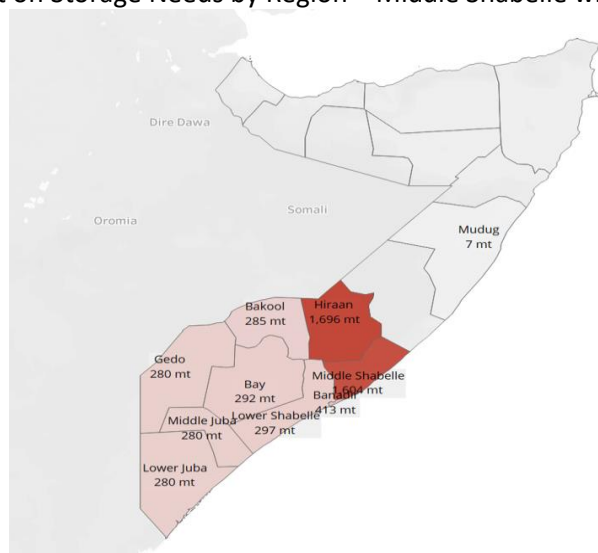
Logistics Infrastructure/ Services

Storage:

Perceived Needs	Humanitarian partners highlighted the need for additional storage capacity in key logistics hubs such as Mogadishu, Baidoa, Hargeisa, and Kismayu, where the average score of 3/5 indicates significant inadequacies. Partners emphasized that current facilities are insufficient to meet rising humanitarian demands, particularly in regions like Middle Shabelle, Hiran, Bakool, Bay, Lower Shabelle, Banaadir, Nugal, and Waqoyi Galbeed. These storage spaces are essential for effectively prepositioning various types of aid, including temperature-sensitive items, medicine, and food, especially during emergency responses.
Identified Gaps	The average score of 3 out of 5 reflects inadequate warehousing facilities in key logistics hubs such as Mogadishu, Baidoa, Hargeisa, and Kismayu. Partners highlighted the current storage infrastructure is insufficient to meet increasing humanitarian demands, particularly as many partners reported limited space and the need for additional storage facilities in regions such as middle Shabelle (2,578m²), Hiran region (1,681 m²), Bakol (1,259 m²), Bay (1,259 m²), Lower Shabelle (1,278 m²), Banaadir (731 m²), Nugal (450 m² and Waqoyi Galbeed (450 m²). Partners emphasized securing these additional storage facilities is essential for prepositioning various types of aid, including temperature-sensitive items, medicine, vaccines, and food, especially during emergency response to the cholera outbreak and floods to meet the growing demand for aid distribution and to effectively manage supplies in response to fluctuating community needs. Partners highlighted the need for temperature-controlled storage facilities within Somalia's humanitarian logistics. Specifically, there is a pressing requirement for medical and temperature-controlled storage, as affirmed by 34.7% of surveyed partners. Establishing a cold chain facility at Mogadishu's main airport is proposed to prevent temperature intrusions on medical supplies. Additionally, targeted training in cold storage management is necessary to enhance operational skills. Coordination among partners is lacking, particularly in sharing information about available

temperature-controlled storage options, which impedes effective planning and delivery of humanitarian aid. In addition, the Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SODMA) highlighted that they receive resources in the form of in-kind humanitarian cargo, and their current storage capacity is insufficient to accommodate this influx. They emphasized the need for increased storage facilities at their logistics hubs in Mogadishu, as well as additional storage options across Somalia's six states, to effectively manage the growing volume of aid.

Chart 3. GNA result on Storage Needs by Region – Middle Shabelle with the most needs.



Transport:

Perceived Needs

Key infrastructure specifically road network was captured to be in very bad conditions hence affecting overland mode of transport. Partners highlighted this with a rating score of 2.1/5, representing 45% of organizations. Further partners surveys indicated that there are no compliant commercial sea operators which meet humanitarian standards/ reliability leading to high costs in air delivery transport. Key perceived needs include improved road infrastructure, establishment of reliable sea transport options, and affordable air delivery solutions can enhance humanitarian efforts.

Identified Gaps

Humanitarian logistics highlighted the challenges they face across various transport modes. Overland transport received the lowest rating of 2.1 out of 5, with 68% of organizations reporting serious impediments due to poor road conditions and security issues affecting delivering humanitarian assistance by road. Local transporters were unable to transport humanitarian cargoes in certain areas due to security-related risks, particularly in regions of South-Central Somalia. Water transport is also hindered, scoring an average of 2.6 out of 5, as 45% of organizations noted a lack of reliable commercial sea operators that meet humanitarian standards/reliability. Additionally, air transport poses a major concern, with 65% of respondents highlighting the high costs of air delivery options, such as commercial flights and UNHAS airlift, which limits the volume of supplies that can be delivered to hard-to-reach areas amidst urgent humanitarian needs.

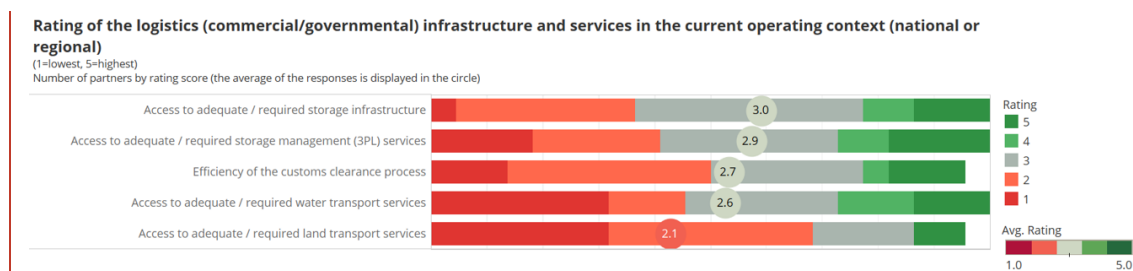
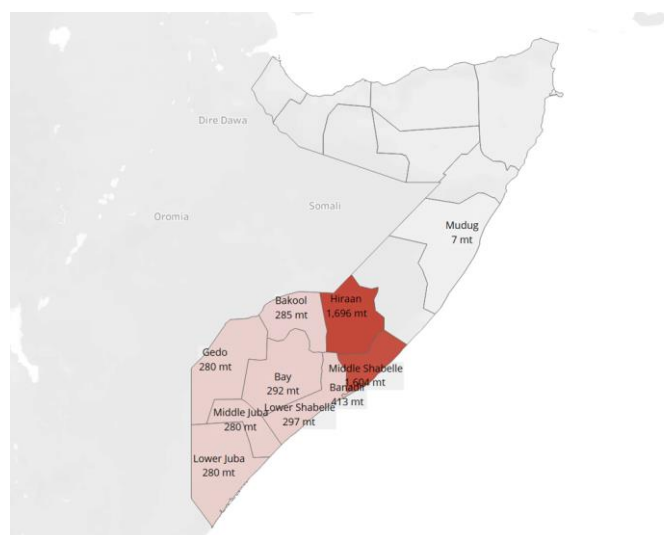


Chart 4. GNA Result on Transport Needs by Region – Hiraan region with the most needs followed by Middle Shabelle.



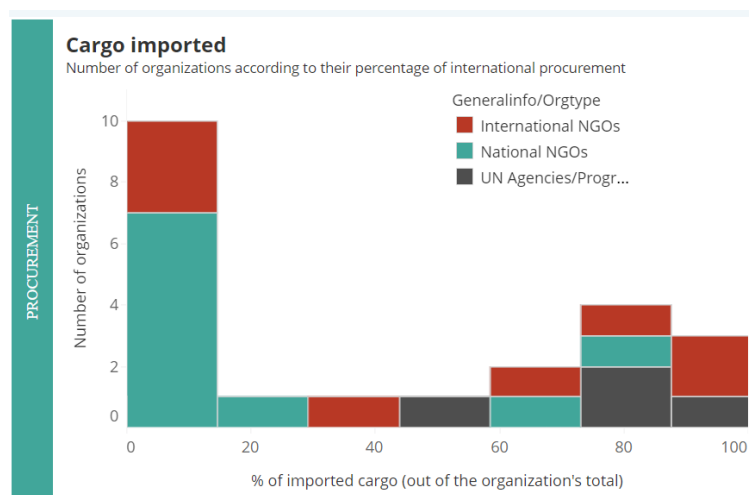
Cross-border corridor – Kenya – Somalia through Mandera Border:

Perceived Needs	45% of the respondents highlighted the potential of utilizing the Mandera border between Kenya and Somalia as a critical cross-border transport corridor to complement aid delivery. There is the need for further comprehensive assessments of the Mandera border crossing to identify logistical, security, and regulatory challenges. Respondents indicated that this corridor could serve as a cost-effective alternative for importing goods, thereby reducing transport costs associated with humanitarian deliveries to Jubaland and Southwest States.
Identified Gaps	During this GNA exercise, humanitarian partners reported several key gaps regarding the Mandera border between Kenya and Somalia, which is viewed as a crucial cross-border transport corridor for delivering humanitarian aid. The lack of sufficient assessments regarding the Mandera entry point's operational viability limits the understanding of logistical challenges. Security concerns related to non-state actors pose risks to safe movement, while bureaucratic hurdles and varying regulations between the two countries complicate transport and hinder the timely delivery of assistance. Additionally, the short notice of the Mandera border's opening from key government authorities exacerbates these challenges, as it does not provide adequate time for the procurement and transport of humanitarian items, ultimately affecting the effectiveness of response efforts. Improved and timely information sharing among Logistics Cluster partners regarding cargo movement from borders e.g. Kenya is essential to enhance coordination and facilitate smoother logistics operations.

Advocacy

Perceived Needs	The GNA exercise have identified several advocacy needs related to customs clearance procedures that requires close collaboration between the humanitarian community and government authorities. Most partners interviewed emphasized the importance of joint advocacy to streamline customs processes and harmonize regulations, particularly in Puntland State. This includes advocating for tax exemptions and expedite clearance for humanitarian goods to reduce administrative hurdles that delay assistance delivery. Advocacy for further investment in infrastructure improvements is identified as key needs for enhancing transport routes in south central Somalia. Additionally, advocacy for fundraising to support training opportunities for logistics personnel was also noted, with 52.5% of partners affirming this need.
Identified Gaps	Respondents managing international procurement highlighted the importance of joint advocacy efforts for streamlined customs processes, particularly in Puntland state, which includes securing tax exemptions and expedited clearance for humanitarian goods to facilitate timely delivery. In addition, partners highlighted significant challenges related to government processes for the importation of humanitarian cargo, particularly for medical items. Notably the long lead times for ministerial approvals, which can range from three days to a week, hindering timely logistics operations. Furthermore, engaging with donor communities to secure funding for capacity-building initiatives and logistics infrastructure is highlighted as a key gap for enhancing humanitarian logistics operations. Additionally, advocacy for clearer communication/ advance notice regarding Mandera border openings from Kenya authorities was highlighted to allow humanitarian organizations adequate time to prepare.

Chart 5. GNA result on Cargo imported - Percentage of International Procurement

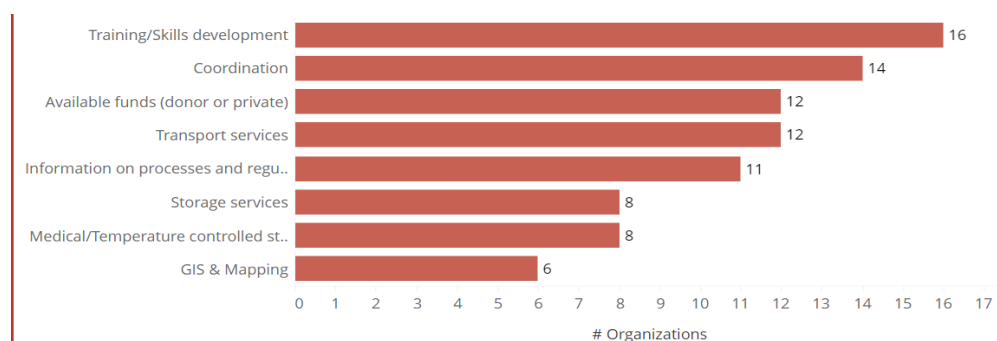


Capacity Building / Training

Perceived Needs	A significant majority of partners (69.5%) emphasized the necessity for tailored logistics capacity building training on data collection, warehouse, cold storage management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and mapping tools and logistics planning to enhance operational skills, both internally and externally.
Identified Gaps	Training and skills development emerged as a key priority among humanitarian partners, with 16 out of 23 (69.5%) emphasizing the necessity for tailored logistics training aimed at enhancing operational skills both internally and externally. In addition to logistics training, partners

recognized need for Information Management training to ensure partners can effectively gather, analyze, and utilize data in their operations. Furthermore, support for GIS and mapping services are identified as a key gap, 6 out of 23 partners (26%) confirmed this need, highlighting its importance in effectively navigating the logistics landscape in Somalia.

Chart 6. GNA result on remaining gaps.



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall Conclusions and Observations

The Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) highlights several gaps the humanitarian logistics operations face in Somalia. Ongoing climate shocks and escalating conflicts continue to worsen humanitarian operations. In summary, the key gaps identified revolve around: deteriorated transport infrastructure, insufficient storage capacity, customs clearance, and insufficient joint advocacy efforts. Important to highlight the high costs of air transport services, and how potential cross-border operations from Kenya could enhance humanitarian efforts.

One of the most pressing logistics gaps is the poor state of transport infrastructure e.g. roads. Furthermore, poor road conditions and limited access to hard-to-reach areas due to security concerns severely limit the movement of humanitarian goods and personnel. Upgrading road networks and establishing reliable water transport options are essential for timely access, particularly in hard-to-reach locations.

Storage capacity is another significant need. Partners have highlighted that current storage facilities in key logistics hubs, such as Mogadishu, Kismayo, and Baidoa, are inadequate to meet the increasing demands of humanitarian operations, particularly for items requiring temperature-controlled or cold chain for medical supplies and perishable goods. The report emphasizes the necessity of investing in the construction/expansion of these storage facilities to enhance prepositioning capabilities.

In addition, customs clearance processes represent another critical barrier for effective humanitarian logistics. The report identifies significant bureaucratic hurdles that delay the delivery of essential goods. Advocacy efforts to streamline these procedures, including securing tax exemptions and expediting the clearance of humanitarian goods.

On the other hand, access-related issues due to the security situation further complicates humanitarian efforts, particularly in the context of the anticipated drawdown of ATMIS. Strengthening partnerships with local authorities and communities, and investment in preparedness activities is essential to ensure safe access for humanitarians. A collaborative approach that engages governmental bodies, local leaders, and community members will foster a unified response. Considering the challenging country context and the prevailing security situation, Logistics Cluster

should consistently maintain the necessary operational readiness and strategic capacities to rapidly identify and respond to gaps in the logistics services, ensuring continuity of the supply chain and effective delivery of life-saving assistance by partners.

To address some of the gaps, we recommend a multi-faceted approach that prioritizes infrastructure, capacity building, and advocacy. Engaging with donor communities to raise awareness about the critical need for logistics capacity-building initiatives and infrastructure investments is crucial. Additionally, collaboration with government authorities is essential for creating an enabling environment for humanitarian operations.

Should a Cluster Remain Active

Yes

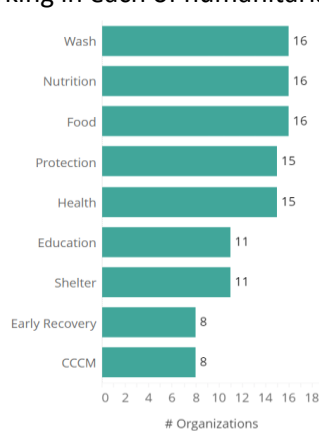
Note: Somalia and Global Logistics Cluster will do a review in July 2025 to decide on the next steps. The result will be discussed with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), and a potential transition strategy towards a Logistics Sector/Logistics Working Group (if applicable) will be assessed.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Participated Organizations.

Org. Type	Count
NGOs	11
INGOs	8
UN Agencies	4
Others	1
Total	24

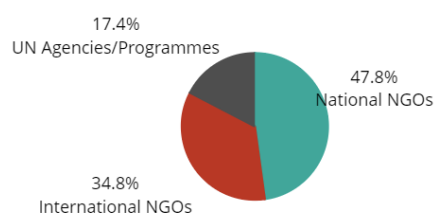
Annex 2. Number of organizations working in each of humanitarian sectors.



Annex 4. Partner Organizations (23) participated in GNA interview.

Organization type

Participating organizations by type



1. ACTED
2. ACTION AGAINST HUNGER-ACF
3. AYUUB NGO
4. BADBADO RELIEF AND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
5. Community Care Centre-CCC
6. COOPI
7. Hopel
8. IMC
9. Juba Foundation
10. Rural Education and Agriculture Development Org (READO)
11. Save The children International.
12. SERVING TOGETHER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (STS)
13. ShelterBox
14. SOLUTION FOR HUMANITARIAN
15. SOMALI AID MISSION
16. Somali Awareness and Social Development Organization (SASDO)
17. SOS children's villages Somalia
18. Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA)
19. UNFAO
20. UNHCR
21. Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
22. WHO
23. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
24. youth empowerment education lifeline organization