AFGOYE

DISTRICT CONFLICT AND SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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District Conflict and Security Assessment Report

AFGOOYE DISTRICT

September 2015
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Finally, we are grateful to the local authority in Afgoye District for giving us the permission to conduct this assessment in its constituency.
# ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>DCSA</td>
<td>District Conflict and Security Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGDs</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussions</td>
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<td>IDPs</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Persons</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIIs</td>
<td>Key Informant Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCVP</td>
<td>Observatory of Conflict and Violence Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODK</td>
<td>Open Data Kit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRU</td>
<td>Rapid Response Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRS</td>
<td>Systematic Random Sampling</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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DISTRICT PROFILE

Afgooye District lies in Lower Shebelle Region (Shabellaha Hoose) of Somalia and its center, Afgooye town, lies 25 kilometers west of Mogadishu. Between the 13th and 17th century, the district and much of the surrounding area formed part of the Ajuran Sultanate, a Somali Muslim empire with a strong centralized administration and an aggressive stance towards external invaders, which successfully resisted an Oromo invasion from the west and a Portuguese incursion from the east during the Gaal Madow and the Ajuran-Portuguese wars.\(^1\) Towards the end of the 17th century, a series of rebellions caused the empire to break up into multiple successor kingdoms, the most prominent of those being the Geledi Sultanate under whose administration Afgooye fell.\(^2\) In the 20th century Afgooye became part of Italian Somaliland and later part of the independent Somali Republic.

Following the outbreak of civil war in 1991, the town was in the hands of numerous warring factions, warlords and militias and eventually the Al-Shabaab, from whom it was recaptured by Somali government forces backed by troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on May 25, 2012. As the country moves towards the establishment of a federal system of governance, Afgooye has been incorporated into the newly formed South West State of Somalia, with its capital at Baidoa.

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SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The District Assessment is designed to gather people’s perceptions regarding service providers and accessibility and effectiveness of the services they provide. Information is gathered according to four progress indicators relating to service provision: justice, governance, security and conflict. While a district may consist of a major urban settlement (main town) and a number of satellite villages, it is the unfortunate reality that the type of public services this assessment is aiming to measure are concentrated primarily within the main town of the district, while at the village level they are either inadequate or completely absent. Keeping this in mind, this assessment was designed and carried out in the major urban settlement of the district, the AFGOYE town.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Continual assessment of issues directly affecting the community’s safety and security is critical for effective evidence-based programming, informed decision making and measuring the impact of related programmatic interventions. It enables a better understanding of what works and does not work at the community level. With this in mind, the district level assessments map out and provide a better understanding of issues that affect targeted communities across the Somali regions. By using key indicators for selected thematic areas, this report provides an assessment on the state of conflict, governance, justice as well as safety and security in AFGOOGYE District. This assessment was conducted in the Afgooye District during 29th August and 3rd September 2015.

The following summarizes the key findings of the assessment:

Security

At the time of data collection there was a single police station servicing Afgooye town and the surrounding villages. While awareness of police presence was high among respondents in the household survey, it was opined that in proportion to the size and population of the district, neither the number of stations nor the number of police officers was sufficient for effective security provision. In addition to this, survey participants identified other challenges facing security providers. Among the challenges to security provision mentioned were the lack of professional training for the police, an under-resourced police force and the lack of coordination between security providers. Informal security providers, particularly the traditional elders, were the most preferred reporting agents for civil, petty and serious crimes as well as the most mentioned security provider when respondents in the household survey were asked whom among the various providers they trusted the most. More than half the respondents reported low levels of trust in the police and almost as big a proportion felt that there had been no change in police performance compared with the year prior to the assessment.

Justice

As in most regions of Somalia, both formal and informal justice systems are in use in Afgooye District. There is a District Court which, at the time of data collection, had also been housing the Regional Court on a temporary basis; the latter having been moved from Marka District for security reasons. More than one-half of the household survey respondents were aware of the court’s presence. However, traditional elders who provide justice in accordance with customary law were observed to have been the most used justice provider among the household survey respondents in the 12 months prior to the assessment. However, Religious Leaders, followed by Traditional Elders and then the Court, were the most trusted among the justice provider. Overall, only a small portion of the respondents expressed confidence in the formal justice system and most felt that its performance had not changed in the past year.

Governance

Afgooye has been adversely impacted by the protracted power struggle in south-central Somalia. The district was liberated from Al-Shabaab in May 2012 after being under their leadership for four years. At the time of data collection, a district administration had recently been appointed by the South West State of Somalia and most respondents reported an awareness of its existence. However, with little available resources, the administration had invested in security and infrastructure. Evidence of the awareness of channels of
communication between the community and the administration was very low among the respondents, as was the level of participation in consultation meetings with the council.

**Conflict and violence**

The awareness of the occurrence of conflict among clans in Afgooye was reported by a very small portion of the household survey respondents, of whom only one, a female respondent from Hawo Tako had actually witnessed the said conflict. A larger portion had, however, witnessed crime or violence against someone outside of their homestead. Some of the safety concerns highlighted in qualitative interviews included interpersonal disputes over land, injuries at the illegal checkpoints and clashes among the security entities with women, children, the poor and people with disabilities being pointed out as the most vulnerable groups to the violent actions.
1. METHODOLOGY

1.1. Overview

As part of its continual assessment of issues directly affecting community security and safety, OCVP conducted an extensive collection of primary data in the AFGOOEY District of Somalia.

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the thematic areas under investigation, a mixed-method approach was employed to allow the research team to triangulate information uncovered in both the data collection and subsequent analysis phase. The household survey aims at obtaining a representative picture of the target populations’ perceptions regarding the thematic areas under exploration, and Key Informant Interviews were used to probe deeper into, and cross-validate issues that emerged from the Focus Group Discussions.

The quantitative data was analysed by the OCVP Research and Analysis team using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 22, after it had been collected using smart tablets (Samsung Tab 4 mini) that were running ODK Collect, a mobile data collection tool developed by Open Data Kit (ODK). The qualitative data was subjected to thematic analysis, using a largely deductive approach (qualitative research being a smaller component of a larger quantitative study). The main themes of coding were developed before the mission, in line with the questions, but further coding was done during analysis.

1.2. Sampling Methodology

The study took into account certain statistical parameters such as the level of confidence desired (95%), sample design effect (1.5), margin of error (+ or − 8%) and the assumption that some security correlations of (0.3) existed within the sub-divisions.

The p-value of 0.3 in the formula assumes a security correlation above a random normal distribution of 0.5 within the district clusters (sub-division). This is a reasonable assumption based on the topic of the survey – respondents within the district are likely to exhibit a correlational relationship between their perceptions and the surrounding security environment. This is further backed by OCVP’s past experience in which individuals from the same area tend to exhibit similar perceptions on security, justice, governance and conflict and violence.

Finally, a total sample of 180 households was derived from the calculation detailed above.

1.3. Household Survey

A face-to-face quantitative survey was conducted in which questions relating to personal demographics, security, justice and governance provision, and conflict and violence were asked of respondents from randomly selected households. OCVP trained data enumerators and two local supporters (with local acquaintances and knowledge on borders between sub-divisions) under the supervision of an OCVP supervisor, managed to conduct 180 interviews in three main sub-divisions: Hawo Tako, 21 October and Dhagaxtuur from August 29 to September 3, 2015.

OCVP employed Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) where enumerators randomly selected any 4th household after a random start point and interviewed one respondent above 18 years old in each selected household. A gender balance was emphasized across the entire survey. Table 1 illustrates the distribution of respondents across the three sampled sub-divisions in Afgooye town.
1.4. Focus Group Discussions

The second research tool utilised was a series of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) aimed at capturing participants’ perception on security and justice providers (formal and informal), governance providers and the dynamics and experiences of conflict and violence. The FGDs were conducted between 29th August and 2nd September 2015 at Afgooye District Safety Committee (DSC) Hall. Each discussion group lasted for about an hour.

A total of five groups were involved in the FGDs: women, elders, religious leaders, youth (male and female in one group), and governance providers. Each group consisted of 10 participants. (See Table 2). A local organiser assisted in the recruitment of the participants based on clan-lines, geographic coverage, social class, gender and age (as well as profession in the case of justice and governance providers).

An OCVP researcher moderated the discussions with the assistance of a note taker. Digital recorders were used to record the discussions only where the participants’ consent was obtained. Following a verbatim transcription, the data was cleaned, organised and finally further coding was done.

1.5. Key Informant Interviews

The third method utilized for data collection was personal interviews with key informants who possessed experiential knowledge on the themes of the study. The aim was to go deeper into the subject areas and cross-validate the issues raised in the FGDs.

The interviews were conducted between September 1 and 3, 2015 at the respective offices of the interviewees. A convenient venue was selected for those who did not have offices. Each interview lasted for about half an hour. Six key informants were interviewed, including: the deputy district commissioner, the District Police Commissioner, District Court Commissioner, a key Religious Leader, a key Traditional Elder, and a businessman (See Table 3).

A local organiser assisted in the scheduling of the interviews which were then conducted by OCVP researchers. Interviews began with questions that were tailored to the interviewee and then generally cut-across the thematic areas of governance, justice, security, and conflict and violence.
Table 3: Key Informant Interview participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Gender</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy District Commissioner</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>District Court Commissioner</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>District Police Commissioner</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Leader</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Leader</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businessman</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>
2. PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The proportions of male and female respondents in the household survey were almost equal, 94 responses (52%) and 86 responses (48%) respectively (Fig. 1). This gender balance was pivotal in allowing a clear depiction of the differences in experiences, views and insights between the two genders in relation to the thematic areas under investigation.

The respondents were further disaggregated into age cohorts. Over one-half of the respondents (52%) were in the age range of 20-39 years. Close to two in every ten respondents (19%) were aged between 40 and 49 years, while 14% were in their fifties, and 12% were 60 years or more (Fig. 2).

Regarding the marital status of sampled respondents, over three-quarters (77%) was married; 10% singles; and 10% either divorced or widowed. In addition, 3% did not disclose their marital status (Fig. 3).

The majority of the respondents in the household survey (63%) had never been educated, had been self-schooled or studied in Quranic madrasas. A cumulative 14% of respondents had attained either
primary or intermediate level education, 18% had attained secondary level education; and only 6% had acquired tertiary education (Fig. 4).

**Figure 4: Respondents' level of education**

Women appeared to be more marginalised in terms of educational attainment; 38% of female respondents had never been educated compared with 13% among male respondents. Conversely, a bigger proportion of women (36%) that that of men (24%) had attended Quranic madarasa. At the intermediate level of the formal schooling, women were leading male respondents by 6% to 2% and at the secondary level the proportions were fairly close (16%: females compared with 19%: males). However, only 1% of the female respondents were educated at the tertiary level compared with 11% among male respondents.

**Figure 5: Respondents' level of education by gender**
3. SECURITY, JUSTICE AND GOVERNANCE PROVIDERS

3.1. SECURITY PROVIDERS

Being at the outskirts of the capital city, Mogadishu, Afgooye has received more than its share of civil strife since the collapse of the central government in 1991. Moreover, over 20 clans and sub-clans cohabit in and around Afgooye town. As a result, competition over scarce resources and power struggles have largely characterised life in the district since then.

Over the decades, the district has fallen into the hands of rival organised groups such as warlords, the Union of Islamic Courts (IUC), Al-Shabaab and, at the time of this assessment, the Federal Government backed by AMISOM. As it is one of the districts in Lower Shabelle region, Afgooye is now under the South West State of Somalia whose administrative city is Baidoa.

As with most Somali regions, there are both informal and formal providers working in various capacities within the security sector. On the formal side, the police includes two paramilitary units: darawish – administrative police and birmad - Rapid Response Unit (RRU). Also providing security were intelligence personnel, including those affiliated to the regional government as well as AMISOM troops. The assessment seeks to establish the public perception towards the security providers in Afgooye, their effectiveness and accessibility.

3.1.1 Level of deployment

Afgooye District has one police station to service the town and surrounding villages. At the time of data collection, the number of police officers was said to be insufficient to respond to all the security requirements of the district. According to the focus group discussions with governance providers and interview with the District Police Commissioner, the police lacked proper training and discipline to handle security issues professionally. Moreover, the police station does not have basic facilities including transport, adequate prisons, and sufficient resources to efficiently document cases. The Police Commissioner emphasised:

*In the absence of transport facility, the police station is inadequate to service the whole district. Moreover, suspected and convicted [persons] are jailed in weak structures which are not suitable for human life.*

As illustrated in figure 6, the majority of the respondents (77%) were aware of the existence of police in the district. On the other hand, 13% were not aware of police presence in Afgooye, while 10% did not give an indicative response.

**Figure 6: Respondents’ awareness of the presence of the Police**

The portion of male respondents who were aware of police service in the district was larger than the portion of female respondents that were – 81% and 73% respectively (Fig. 7).

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3. *Afgooye District Police Commissioner, Key Informant Interview, 1st September 2015*

4. *Ibid*
The sampled respondents in the three subdivisions of the Afgooye town were generally aware of police service. In Hawo Tako and 21 October, the level of awareness was fairly similar at 79% and 81% respectively. In the case of Dhagaxtuur, it was two thirds (67%) of the respondents, with one-third (33%) either claiming that there was no police presence or not providing a definitive response (Fig. 8).

More than one-half (55%) of the respondents could access the police station in less than 20 minutes, 35% could reach it in between 20 and 40 minutes, whereas 4% estimated that it would take over 40 minutes to walk to the police station from their homes (Fig. 10).

Among the subdivisions, Dhagaxtuur, which is where the police station is located, had the largest proportion (88%) of respondents who indicated that they could walk to the police station within 20 minutes, followed by 21 October (69%) and Hawo Tako (28%) (Fig. 11).
3.1.2. Choice of security providers

Approximately one-half (49%) of the household survey respondents stated that they would prefer to report incidences involving civil matters to traditional elders. Participants in the focus group discussions pointed out that traditional elders settle socio-economic disputes. However, 20% of the respondents identified the police as the institution that they would prefer to have deal with these types complaints. (Fig. 12).

No major variations were observed with regard to reporting preference in the event of incidents involving civil matters when the data was disaggregated by gender (Fig. 13).

The traditional elders were also mentioned as the entity to which they would prefer to report petty crimes by 47% of the respondents. The police was the preferred choice for 19% of respondents, while one in every ten respondents (10%) mentioned religious leaders and 7% mentioned the local authority (Fig. 14).

---

5 Afgooye Traditional Elders, Focus Group Discussion, 31st August 2015
Once more, there were no variations of significance observed with regard to the preferred entity to whom to report petty crimes among the household survey respondents when the data was disaggregated by gender (Fig. 15).

In the event of an incident involving a serious crime, the traditional elders (44%) remained the most mentioned entity to whom the respondents stated they would prefer to report, followed, as in the case of civil matters and petty crimes, by the police (23%) and then religious leaders (7%). The court was mentioned by a further 6% of the sample (Fig. 16).

Upon gender disaggregation, largely similar proportions of men and women were observed to have mentioned each of the various providers with the exception of traditional elders, who were pointed out by 49% of female respondents compared with 40% of male respondents. However, traditional elders were most frequently mentioned by both men and women as the entity to which they would prefer to report serious crimes (Fig. 17).

3.1.3. Most trusted security provider

When asked who among the security providers they trusted most to respond to crime and violence, household survey respondents mentioned traditional elders most frequently (27%), followed closely by the police (23%) and religious leaders...
In the focus group discussions, the traditional elders were considered the most accessible, cheapest and timely option for addressing civil disputes as well as petty and serious crimes in the district. On the other hand, the police were accused of being corrupt and at times actually perpetrating crime. For instance, during the focus group discussion with the women as well as the discussion with the youth, it was stated that the police demand 10-15 dollars to register and investigate a case. The women’s group blamed the police for a culture of “come back tomorrow, your case is under investigation.”

Among the respondents in the household survey who had selected traditional elders as their most trusted security provider, accessibility, respect and fast response were the most frequently cited reasons for this selection. Accessibility and fast response were also among the top reasons for selection of the police, while respect and unbiased enforcement were the leading factors influencing selection of religious leaders. Table 4 illustrates.

### Table 4: Reasons for choice of most trusted security provider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for choice of most trusted security provider</th>
<th>Most trusted security provider in responding to crime and violence</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast response</td>
<td>Traditional Elders 12%  Police 22%  Religious Leaders -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unbiased enforcement</td>
<td>Traditional Elders 2%  Police -  Religious Leaders 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are respected</td>
<td>Traditional Elders 33%  Police 2%  Religious Leaders 59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of access</td>
<td>Traditional Elders 45%  Police 61%  Religious Leaders 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is their job</td>
<td>Traditional Elders -  Police 5%  Religious Leaders -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They have the power/authority</td>
<td>Traditional Elders -  Police 2%  Religious Leaders -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are the head</td>
<td>Traditional Elders 2%  Police -  Religious Leaders -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are feared</td>
<td>Traditional Elders -  Police 7%  Religious Leaders -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are from the same clan</td>
<td>Traditional Elders 2%  Police -  Religious Leaders -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are organised</td>
<td>Traditional Elders 2%  Police -  Religious Leaders -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbourhood</td>
<td>Traditional Elders 2%  Police -  Religious Leaders -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>49</strong>  <strong>41</strong>  <strong>39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.1.4. Trust in the police

When it was asked of the household survey respondents what level of trust they had in the police to respond to crime and violence in the district, only 6% of them had very high levels of trust and one quarter (25%) stated that they had fairly high trust. However, more than one-half of the respondents (54%) indicated that they had either very low or fairly low levels of trust in the police (Fig. 19).

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6 Afgooye Religious Leaders, Focus Group Discussion, 30th August 2015: Afgooye Women, Focus Group Discussion, 29th August 2015 and Afgooye Youth, Focus Group Discussion, 29th August 2015

7 Ibid

During the discussions, participants identified a perceived lack of proper training and professionalism as key issues affecting trust in the police. Commenting on this, religious leaders in their FGD noted:

*Security can only be ensured by disciplined and trained army and police men. The police here lack proper training or an academy to foster proper skills and ways of working with the public.*

9

Moreover, it was asserted that most of the police officers were former militias who had taken on the police uniform without the requisite discipline or a system of accountability. Nonetheless, those who put their trust in the police felt that their absence would have been much worse.10

No variations of analytical significance were observed with regard to the level of trust in the police to respond to crime and violence when the data was disaggregated by gender (Fig. 20).

Likewise, no major variations were observed upon disaggregation by subdivision. Dhagaxtuur was the subdivision with the highest proportion of respondents who expressed low levels of trust in the police – 61% compared with 54% in 21 October and 49% in Hawo Tako. However, approximately one in ten respondents in Dhagaxtuur (11%) stated that they had a very high level of trust in the police, while only 6% and 3% of respondents in 21 October and Hawo Tako expressed similar views (Fig. 21).


10 Ibid.
3.1.5. Change in police performance

The majority of the household survey respondents (52%) felt that there had been no change in the police performance in the 12 month period preceding the assessment; 17% were of the opinion that it had declined while a similar portion noted some improvement. In addition, 14% were unable to comment on the performance of the police during the reference period.

Figure 22: Respondents’ perception towards police performance

The police commander emphasized poor conditions in which detainees are jailed coupled with lack of remuneration for the security personnel. In their focus group discussion, women noted multiple uniformed groups such as police, RRU (birmad), and AMISOM roaming the streets and sometimes clashing with each other. Proliferation of illegal check points, where extortion money is collected, was also persistently cited as one of the biggest impediments to peace and trade activities.

No major variations were evident with regard to the respondents’ perception of the year to year change in police performance upon gender disaggregation (Fig. 23).

Figure 23: Respondents’ perception towards police performance by gender

Around one half of the sampled respondents in each subdivision of Afgooye felt that here had been no change in the police performance in the past year. However, despite the low trust in the police service, 19% in Hawo Tako, 15% in 21 October and 14% in Dhagaxtuur have felt some improvement. Among the subdivisions, Dhagaxtuur had the largest proportion (25%) of those who felt that there had been a decline in police performance, followed by 21 October and Hawo Tako (17% and 14% respectively). (Fig. 24.)

Figure 24: Respondents’ perception towards police performance by subdivision
3.2. JUSTICE PROVIDERS

3.2.1. Level of Deployment

Currently Afgooye has a district court which is physically accessible to the majority of the inhabitants. At the time of the assessment, the regional court was functioning on a temporary basis in the same premises as the District Court of Afgooye, having been relocated from Marka District due to insecurity. The are no legal aid clinics in the district.

The majority (58%) of the respondents were aware of the existence of a functioning court in Afgooye town. However, significant portions thought there was no court (20%) or were either unsure of its existence or would not make a comment as to its existence (22%) as shown in figure 25.

Across the three subdivisions, the portions indicating awareness were fairly similar – 58% each in Hawo Tako and 21 October and 56% in Dhagaxtuur. However, the Dhagaxtuur subdivision had the largest proportion of respondents who were unaware of a functioning court in the town (28%), whereas the portion of respondents who either did not know or refrained to give opinion was highest in Hawo Tako at 29% (Fig. 27).

There were no variations of analytical significance with regard to the awareness of the presence of functioning courts when the data was disaggregated by gender (Fig. 26).


12Afgooye Deputy District Court Commissioner, Key Informant Interview, 2nd September 2015.
they were aware of the existence of only one court (Fig. 28).

Figure 28: Respondents’ estimation of the number of courts

Furthermore, a majority (84%) of the household respondents who reported an awareness of the existence of the court had knowledge of its location (Fig. 29).

Figure 29: Respondents’ knowledge of the location of the closest court

Over two-thirds (69%) of those who knew the location of the closest court estimated that they were within 20 minutes walking distance to it, whereas 29% thought that it would take them between 20 and 40 minutes and a small proportion (2%) felt that it would take them between 41 minutes and an hour to get there (Fig. 30).

Figure 30: Respondents’ estimation of the distance to the closest court

Upon disaggregation by subdivision, it was observed that all (100%) of the sampled residents in Dhagaxtuur subdivision stated that it would take them less than 20 minutes to get to the closest court. In 21 October, 81% indicated a similar level of proximity, whereas 19% stated that the court was within a 20 to 40 minute walking distance from their homesteads. However, less than one-half (44%) of those sampled in Hawo Tako lived close enough to the court to reach it in less than 20 minutes by foot while one-half (50%) stated that it would take them between 20 and 40 minutes and 6% stated that it would take more than 50 minutes to get there (Fig. 31).

Figure 31: Respondents’ estimation of the distance to the closest court, by sub-division
3.2.2. Use of different justice providers

When it was inquired of the household survey respondents whether they had used any of the justice providers within the 12 month period prior to the assessment, traditional elders were the most mentioned, having been used by 16% of the sample. The court had the second highest reported rate of usage at 6% while 4% stated that they had used religious leaders for a matter of justice in the past year (Fig. 32).

Figure 32: Respondents’ usage of justice providers in the past 12 months

The order of usage was similar among both males and females. Traditional elders had been utilised most as indicated by 19% of women and 14% of men. The court followed, having been used by 7% of men and 4% of women, while religious leaders had been least utilised - 5% of men and 2% of women (Fig. 33).

Figure 33: Respondents’ use of justice providers by gender

With the exception of those who had used the court, all the respondents who had used a justice provider in the 12 month period preceding the assessment reported that they had received a judgement. Among those who had used the courts, 10% declared that they had not received a judgment (Fig. 34).

Figure 34: Respondents’ account of the issuance of judgements

Among the respondents who had received judgements, all (100%) of those who had used the religious leaders and the courts went on to state that judgements had been enforced, while 14% among those who had used traditional elders stated that the judgement had not been enforced as at the time of data collection (Fig. 35).
When asked what recommendations he might offer to enhance service delivery in the formal justice system, the Deputy District Court Commissioner opined that there should be greater collaboration between the courts and security providers. He also added that the skills, remuneration and accountability of the legal personnel also need to be enhanced for effective delivery.13

3.2.3. Most trusted justice provider

When asked to identify the justice provider that they trust most for solving cases, respondents generally indicated a greater level of trust in the informal justice providers. Most respondents (62%) mentioned religious leaders, while traditional elders were mentioned by 16%. Only one in ten respondents (10%) stated that they trust the court most. Figure 36 illustrates respondents’ choice of most trusted justice provider.

Respondents were further asked to state reasons for their choice of most trusted security provider. Most of the respondents who identified informal providers (religious leaders and elders) as well as the courts as their most trusted justice provider, stated fair judgements as a factor that influenced their decision. Independence from politics was the second most frequently cited reason for selection of traditional elders and religious leaders, while fast decisions and accessibility were among the leading factors influencing selection of the court. Table 5 illustrates reasons given by respondents for their choice of most trusted justice provider.

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Table 5: Reasons for choice of most trusted justice provider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for choice of most trusted justice provider</th>
<th>Most trusted justice provider in responding to crime and violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast decisions</td>
<td>Religious Leaders: -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair judgments</td>
<td>Religious Leaders: 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence from politics</td>
<td>Religious Leaders: 11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less costly</td>
<td>Religious Leaders: 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Religious Leaders: 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>Religious Leaders: 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They use religious law</td>
<td>Religious Leaders: 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Religious Leaders: 111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.4. Confidence in the formal justice system

When it was asked of the respondents in the household survey what level of confidence they ascribed to the formal justice system only 15% of the entire sample expressed a favourable level of confidence, with those feeling ‘very confident’ making up just 3% and those feeling ‘fairly confident’ representing 12%. Almost one half (46%) stated outright that they were not confident while 39% either did not know or gave no response (Fig. 38).

No major variations were evident when the level of confidence in the formal justice system was analysed along gender lines (Fig. 39).

3.2.5. Change in the performance of the court

Almost two thirds (64%) of all respondents in Afgooye were of the opinion that the performance of
the formal court had not changed over the 12 month period preceding the assessment. One in every ten respondents (10%) felt that there had been an improvement while 4% felt that there had actually been a decline. However, a significant portion (22%) of the respondents either had no opinion as to the change over time or refused to answer (Fig. 41).

Figure 41: Perception of the performance of the formal court-yearly trend

No major variations were observed when the data as to the perception of the performance of the formal court was analysed across gender lines (Fig. 42).

Figure 42: Perception of the performance of the formal court-yearly trend by gender
3.3 GOVERNANCE PROVIDERS

3.3.1. Presence of local council

The governance structure in the district was said to have evolved over the past decades of civil strife, passing from one group to another as power players changed in the region. At the time of the assessment, there was a District Commissioner in place who had been appointed by the newly formed South West State of Somalia and the local council had been in office for only two months. Despite the relatively young age of the council, a majority (78%) of respondents in the household survey were aware of its presence (Fig. 43).

Analysis along gender lines revealed similar levels of awareness among both male and female respondents (Fig. 44).

In the Dhagaxtuur and 21 October subdivisions, equal proportions of respondents (76% each) indicated an awareness of the local council while in Hawo Tako a slighter larger portion (82%) indicated awareness (Fig. 45).

The respondents who were aware of the council were further asked whether they were aware of any services provided by the local council, to which two in every five (40%) indicated security and one quarter (26%) indicated infrastructure. Sanitation, agriculture, justice, health, education and water were also mentioned, though by significantly smaller proportions. However, a significant portion (45%)

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stated that the council provides no services (Fig. 46). Participants in the women’s focus group, when asked whether they were aware of any services provided by the council, attributed the reopening of Hawo Tako Secondary School and a university in the subdivision to the local government.\footnote{Afgooye Women, FGD, Op. cit.}

Figure 46: Respondents’ awareness of services provided by the local council

![Bar chart showing the awareness of services provided by the local council. Security is the most recognized service at 40%, followed by infrastructure at 30%, sanitation at 5%, agriculture at 5%, justice at 5%, health at 5%, education at 5%, water at 5%, no services at 45%, and don’t know/no response at 5%.]

3.3.2. Communication with the local council

When it was enquired of the respondents who were aware of the council whether there were communication channels between the local council and the community, only 8% answered in the affirmative. A little more than three-quarters (78%) stated that there were no channels of communication, while 14% were not sure as to the answer (Fig. 45).

No significant variations were observed when the data regarding the respondents’ knowledge of channels of communication between the community and the local council was disaggregated along gender lines. The vast majority of both males and females were unaware of any communication channels (Fig. 47).

Figure 47: Respondents’ knowledge of channels of communication

![Pie chart showing the percentage of respondents aware of communication channels provided by the local council. 60% are aware, 30% are not aware, and 10% are unsure.]

Figure 48: Respondents’ knowledge of channels of communication station by Gender

![Bar chart showing the percentage of respondents aware of communication channels by gender. Males and females are equally unaware of communication channels.]

While the awareness of the existence of channels of communication remained low across the subdivisions, it was noted to be higher in Dhagaxtuur (15%) as compared with Hawo Tako (5%) and 21 October (5%). See figure 49.
When asked whether they had participated in any local governance consultations at any time within the past 12 months, 6% of the respondents answered in the affirmative (Fig. 50). It is worth mentioning however, that this figure should be viewed in light of the fact that the council had only been installed two months prior to the assessment. A key informant businessman also asserted that the local administration consults with them (business people) on revenue collection. 

Segmentation by gender revealed that 7% of male respondents had participated in consultations compared with 3% of female respondents (Fig. 51).

In the Dhagaxtuur subdivision, at least one in every ten respondents (11%) had participated in local administration consultations, a larger portion than those in Hawo Tako and 21 October (Fig. 52).

The majority of the respondents (89%) were of the opinion that it is important to have elected local representatives (Fig. 53). However, while attesting to the democratic importance of having elections, discussants expressed concern over the electoral process. It was felt that the process favoured individuals with wealth and social influence.

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16 Afgooye Businessman, Key Informant Interview, 2nd September 2015

further entrenched the marginalization of minority clans.  

**Figure 53: Respondents’ opinion regarding the importance of having elected local representatives**

No significant variations were observed with regard to the respondents’ opinions on the importance of having elected officials when the data was disaggregated along gender lines (Fig. 54).

**Figure 54: Respondents’ opinion regarding local elections by gender**

At 94%, Hawo Tako Subdivision had the largest portion of respondents stating that they believed having elected officials was important, followed by Dhagaxtuur at 89% and 21 October at 85% (Fig. 55).

3.3.3. Challenges facing the community

When respondents were asked to state issues that they believed to be most pressing in the community, lack of infrastructure, unemployment and poor health were each mentioned by more than three quarters of the sample. Poor sanitation, education and economy as well as drought, bad health centres, insecurity and shortage of electrical supply were also mentioned as issues facing the community. See figure 56.

**Figure 55: Respondents’ opinion regarding local elections by subdivision**

Despite the low levels of interaction observed above, slightly more than one third (36%) of the respondents expressed some level of confidence in

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the local council. Nevertheless, a larger proportion stated that they had fairly low or very low confidence in the council (42%) or did not offer an answer (12%). See figure 57.

Figure 57: Respondents’ level of confidence in the local council

![Figure 57](image)

No variations of significant analytical value were evident upon gender disaggregation (Fig. 58).

Figure 58: Respondents’ level of confidence in the local council by gender

![Figure 58](image)

Hawo Tako had the highest proportion (39%) of respondents who felt positive about the local council, followed by 21 October (36%) and Dhagaxtuur (31%). The highest rate of non-response (19%) was observed in 21 October while the largest portion (69%) of respondents expressing negative views was in Dhagaxtuur (Fig. 59).

Figure 59: Respondents’ level of confidence in the local council

![Figure 59](image)

3.3.4. Challenges faced by the local council in service delivery

During a key informant interview, the Deputy District Commissioner informed OCVP researchers that one of the local council’s main challenges was the slow pace of the recovery process in Afgooye’s post conflict environment. He euphemised thus:

*To demolish a home or house is quite easy but to construct one is difficult. A child born during the war has to become an adult too soon.*

He also bemoaned the inadequacy of funding by the central government, leading to a lack of sufficient remuneration for local governance officials and security officials. He further explained that the local council was in the process of initiating a new tax collection system in an attempt to bridge the funding gap. In addition, he stated that from time to time, internal conflict within the council adversely affected service provision. These sentiments were echoed in the focus group discussion with traditional elders, where a participant lamented:

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19 Afgooye Deputy District Commissioner, Key Informant Interview, 02nd September 2015
20 Ibid
21 Ibid
22 Ibid
There is internal conflict within local government. As a result of clannism, they believe they were brought to power by their clans and not the inhabitants of the district at large. They therefore cannot do anything in terms of service delivery.\textsuperscript{23}

\textsuperscript{23} Afgooye Traditional Elders, Op. cit.
4 CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

4.1. Dynamics of Conflict and Violence

4.1.1. Conflict Awareness

Only 3% of respondents in the household survey reported being aware of the occurrence of conflict between clans or groups in the 12 months preceding the assessment (Fig. 60).

Upon analysis along gender lines, it was observed that a greater proportion of women (5%) than that of men (1%) reported awareness of the occurrence of conflict in the 12 months preceding the assessment (Fig. 61). However, in the discussions it was observed that male participants generally spoke of major confrontations while female respondents spoke to a wider range of security issues including rape.24

Discussants revealed that while inter-clan or group conflict may not have been rampant in the year prior to the assessment, several other factors had continued to be drivers of insecurity in the district. Land tenure, Al-Shabaab attacks and illegal checkpoints were pointed out as major triggers of violence in Afgooye district.25 Widespread possession of small arms was considered another cause of interpersonal conflict. Rape coupled with an ineffective justice system was said to be a concern in the women’s focus group discussion.26 In addition, the efforts of the security groups were regarded as being poorly coordinated and, as a result, inter-army clashes caused loss of human lives and property damages.

Women, children, people with disability and very poor households were reported to be the most vulnerable social groups in the conflict situation.

In the Dhagaxtuur subdivision, the totality (100%) of respondents reported not being aware of the occurrence of conflict between clans or groups within the 12 month period prior to the assessment.

while only 1% and 6% in 21 October and Hawo Tako respectively reported awareness (Fig. 62).

Figure 62: Respondents' awareness of the occurrence of conflict by sub-division

Among those who reported awareness of the occurrence of conflict (n = 5), only one respondent (20%) – a female from the Hawo Tako subdivision - had actually witnessed the said conflict (Fig. 63).

Figure 63: Respondents’ account of witnessing conflict between clans or subgroups

No gender variations were evident regarding the likelihood of witnessing crime or violence against someone outside the homestead (Fig. 65).

Figure 65: Account of witnessing crime or violence against someone outside the homestead by gender

The highest incidence of witnessing crime and violence was reported in Hawo Tako Subdivision (15%) followed by 21 October (8%) and Dhagaxtuur (1%). See figure 66.

4.1.2. Experience of Crime and Violence

When it was enquired of the respondents whether they had witnessed crime or violence against someone outside their homestead in the year preceding the assessment, 10% answered in the affirmative (Fig. 64).
4.2 Perception of Safety

In the absence of active inter-clan conflict, 65% of the respondents felt that Afgooye district was safe. Nonetheless, 35% still considered it unsafe (Fig. 67).

More than one-half of the respondents in the three subdivisions of Afgooye felt safe in the area. In 21 October, more than three-quarters of the respondents (77%) stated that they felt very safe or rather safe whereas 57% and 55% of respondents in Hawo Tako and Dhagaxtuur respectively also reported similar perceptions of the level of safety. Nonetheless, significant portions of respondents across all three subdivisions felt unsafe in the town:

- 44% in Dhagaxtuur; 42% in Hawo Tako; and 22% in 21 October (Fig. 68).

Females generally had a more favourable perception of safety in the area than their male counterparts. Approximately 70% of females noted that they felt very safe or rather safe compared with 61% of males who expressed similar views (Fig. 69).

The majority (56%) of the respondents reported little or no change in the safety of the district in the 12 months leading up to the assessment, while 7% felt that there had been a decline in the level of safety. A traditional elder argued that the security was much better during the Al-Shabaab
time. However, a little more than one third (35%) of respondents felt that there had been an improvement (Fig. 70).

Figure 70: Change in perception of safety – yearly trend

At least one-third of the respondents in each of the three subdivisions felt that there had been some improvement; 21 October led with 38% while the other subdivisions had 33% each. On the other hand, 14% of the Dhagaxtuur respondents felt that there had been a deterioration of the safety and security (Fig. 69).

Figure 71: Change in perception of safety by sub-division yearly trend

At 38%, male respondents were observed to have a slightly higher likelihood of reporting that there had been an increase in safety than women (31%), while women, at 63% had a higher likelihood or reporting that there had been no change than men (50%) did (Fig. 72).

Figure 72: Change in perception of safety by gender – yearly trend

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27 Afgooye Traditional Elder, Key Informant Interview, 2nd September 2015
5 CONCLUSION

Governance
At the time of the assessment, there was an appointed local administration in Afgooye District which reports to the newly established South West State of Somalia. In the absence of systematic revenue collection and financial support from outside, the administration operates with minimal facilities. Despite these challenges, some efforts have been made in security, infrastructure and social service sector.

To improve accountability and representation within the local administration, people anticipate local elections through which they can chose preferred councillors.

Justice
In a situation where the public services are very weak, the informal justice system prevails. Nonetheless, these justice providers lack enforcement mechanisms unless assisted by the police and formal court. In turn, the district court needs basic facilities such as transport, security, remuneration and stationery for effective adjudication.

Furthermore, in order to enhance justice provision within the formal system, there is a need for greater collaboration between the courts and security providers. Recommendations for enhancing service delivery included capacity development for judges in the formal courts, increased remuneration, and accountability of legal personnel. There was also a need for the institution of legal aid services to help the poor and the marginalised in accessing the formal justice system.

Security
Multiple security providers operate in Afgooye district. The traditional elders are the most preferred in negotiating and mediating security issues among the social groups. The police are second priority to the elders in maintaining peace and stability.

One police station with scant facilities serves the people in Afgooye town and surrounding villages. Most of the police officers were said to be former militias who had been recruited into police service without due process or training and were accused of sometimes perpetuating insecurity instead of resolving it. Moreover, the efforts of security providers such as the police and AMISOM should be coordinated to avoid duplication of work and unnecessary clashes.

Conflict and Violence
The people in Afgooye enjoy general peace and stability. Inter-clan conflict has not been a major concern in the past one year. However, land tenure disputes, rape, Al-Shabaab attacks and clashes among the different security providers pose a threat to the security of the district. Illegal checkpoints in roads leading to the Afgooye town were also mentioned as causes of concern regarding general security.

To consolidate peace and harmony, the legal and security institutions ought to be strengthened; the illegal checkpoints curtailed; and the perpetrators of violence have to face the law regardless of social and political status.
6 ANNEXES

6.1. SAMPLE SIZE FORMULA

\[
\frac{z^2 (P) (1-P) (f)}{e^2}
\]

Where:
- \(z\) = confidence interval (95%)
- \(P\) = P-Value which assumed some security correlation within the cluster (0.3)
- \(f\) = is the sample design effect (1.5)
- \(e\) = the margin of error to be attained (+ or – 8%)
### 6.2 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Justice</strong></td>
<td>People’s ability to solve disputes and reach adequate remedies for grievances, using formal or traditional justice systems. The justice process has qualitative dimensions, and it should be in accordance with human rights principles and standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Civil case</strong></td>
<td>Non-criminal cases relating to civil wrongs and disputes between individuals, including generally property, business, personal domestic problems, divorces and such types where ones constitutional and personal rights are breached.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clan</strong></td>
<td>The clan is a system characterised by a chain of paternal ancestors reaching back to a perceived founding ancestor whose name all members of the clan share for identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conflict</strong></td>
<td>State of disharmony between incompatible persons, ideas, or interests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criminal case</strong></td>
<td>An action, suit, or cause instituted to punish an infraction of the criminal laws of a country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>District Safety Committee</strong></td>
<td>A representative body comprised of a broad cross section of civil society that acts in an advisory capacity to the local government in issues of community security and safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enforcement</strong></td>
<td>Relates to the implementation of orders, decisions and settlements emerging from formal or informal adjudication. Enforcement bodies include police and prisons, and administrative bodies in particular cases. Traditional systems may also have specific mechanisms of enforcement. Enforcement systems are the key to ensuring accountability and minimise impunity, thus preventing further injustices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Formal Justice System</strong></td>
<td>A codified system of laws and court proceedings enforced by recognised actors of lawyers, police and justice officials. The formal justice system involves civil and criminal justice and includes formal state-based justice institutions and procedures, such as police, prosecution, courts (religious and secular) and custodial measures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td>&quot;Gender&quot; refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance provider</strong></td>
<td>Formal institutions or Individuals that act, process, or possess the authority of governing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informal Justice System</strong></td>
<td>Dispute resolution mechanisms falling outside the scope of the formal justice system. The term informal justice system is used here to draw a distinction between state-administered formal justice systems and non-state administered informal justice systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justice Provider</strong></td>
<td>Formal or Informal Institutions or individuals that are responsible to provide fair and equitable treatment of all individuals under the law (customary, formal or Sharia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justice System</strong></td>
<td>Includes formal justice institutions and procedures, such as police, prosecution, courts and prisons, as well as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), and other informal and traditional systems (e.g. a council of elders). The justice system includes coordination and other arrangements among its different components that influence overall outcomes on access to justice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land/water disputes</strong></td>
<td>A state of debate or quarrel between/among persons, groups or communities over the property, the use, etc. of plots or swathes of land and water points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Authority</strong></td>
<td>Those invested with formal power, especially a government or body of government officials at district level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Petty Crimes</strong></td>
<td>Criminal offense that is less serious than a serious crime and generally punishable by a monetary fine, forfeiture or a jail term of up to a year, or a combination of both.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security Provider</strong></td>
<td>Formal or informal institutions or individuals that are responsible for the protection of persons, dwellings, communities or the nation from harm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serious Crimes</strong></td>
<td>Criminal offense that is more serious than a petty crime and which can be punished by one or more years in prison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Violence</strong></td>
<td>The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, or deprivation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Xeer</strong></td>
<td>A customary law system that has evolved from a basis of clan relations, with some influence of Islamic law (Sharia), that employs mediation and negotiation through the use of traditional elders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth</strong></td>
<td>Men and Women between the age of 15 and 30.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFGOOYE DISTRICT CONFLICT AND SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

www.ocvp.org
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