

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



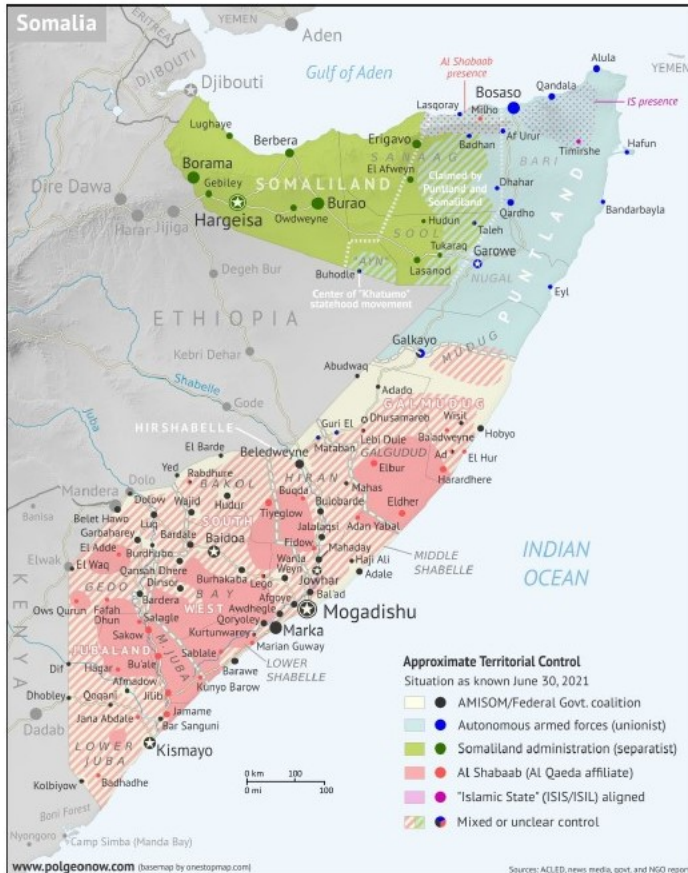
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# 1. GENERAL CONTEXT

## 1.1 SECURITY SITUATION



According to various UN Secretary General’s situation reports, covering the period May 2021 - August 2022, the security situation in the country ‘remained volatile’. In the course of 2021 Somalia experienced a monthly average of 265 security incidents, 236 during the first four months of 2022, and 227 in the period May – July 2022. Based on ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project) data, in the period January – November 2022, the monthly average of security incidents recorded in the country – while considering only battles, explosions/remote violence and

violence against civilians - were about 239. Against this backdrop, as of August 2022, a joint government “macawisley” local militia military offensive was launched against Al-Shabaab. The military campaign started in Hiraan, at the beginning of that month. Originally it was a targeted operation with the objective to liberate the main supply route between Mataban and Beletweyne. Once Danab forces and local clan militias had successfully pushed-back Al-Shabaab, the operation changed into a popular uprising.

Reportedly, in retaliation to the offensive, in the period August-November 2022, Al-Shabaab staged attacks in various locations in South Central Somalia.

During the election period that led first to the composition of the House of the People, between November 2021 and April 2022, and then to the Presidential Election on 15 May 2022,

Al-Shabaab also targeted civilians associated with the electoral process, including electoral delegates, candidates, government authorities, government officials, and clan elders. Among others, the group resorted to indiscriminate methods, such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and suicide attacks, which resulted in a high civilian casualty toll.

Moreover, on the backdrop of the continued frictions between Somaliland and Puntland, in December 2022, a series of violent confrontations broke out in Las Anod (Sool region). Reportedly, civilians protested against the Somaliland administration accused of instigating political assassinations, usually targeting people believed to be against the “Somaliland” government. As a result, after a week of violent protests, more than 40 people were killed, mostly civilians, but also members of the Somaliland security forces who reportedly acted disproportionately and deployed lethal force unnecessarily. The clan factor of the protest was put forward by various sources that reported about the killing of members of the Dhulbahante clan, which is the most populous one in Las Anod.

## **1.2 HUMANITARIAN SITUATION**

The impact of the drought, widespread insecurity and increasing economic pressures will continue to drive humanitarian needs in Somalia in 2023.

Protracted displacement continues for more than 3.1 million Somalis. About 58 per cent of all IDPs remain dependent on humanitarian assistance. In 2022, the risk of famine in Somalia was propelled by conflict and climate change. At the same time, many structural challenges remain, beyond the acute humanitarian needs.

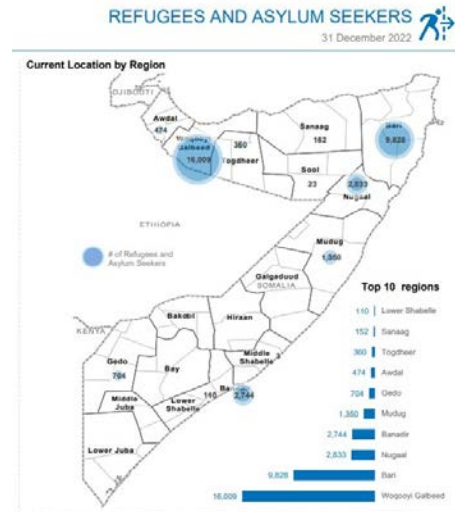
### **REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

UNHCR, in collaboration with the FGS and Somaliland authorities, registered 2,803 new asylum seekers (2.8% decrease compared to 2021) and 2,071 refugees (2.7% increase compared to 2021). As of 31 December, Somalia hosted 34,595 refugees and asylum-seekers, among which 70% are women and children. Most refugees and asylum-seekers are from Ethiopia (67%),

followed by Yemen (29%), Syria (4%) and other countries (1%). 75% refugees and asylum-seekers reside in urban or peri-urban settings across Woqooyi Galbeed and Bari regions, in the northern part of the country.

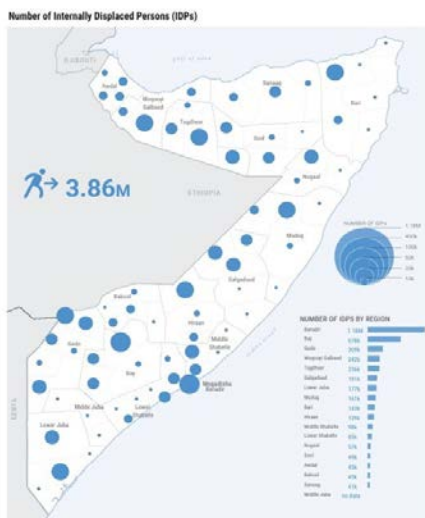
Today, there are 714,390 Somali refugees and asylum seekers living in neighboring countries like Kenya (308,367), Ethiopia (276,412), Uganda (69,533) and Yemen (46,750).

The number of Somali refugees returning to Somalia in 2022 (1,198) far exceeded the numbers returned in 2021 (347) and 2020 (600) due in part to the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions and resumption in September 2022 of the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) program for Somali refugees in Yemen.



## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Insecurity and conflict-induced displacement continue to be of concern in Somalia. Over 80 per cent of displaced people are women and children. Displacement has increased drastically since the beginning of 2022. The increase is attributable to the historic drought and increased



insecurity. Drought induced displacement has increased fivefold with more than 1.3 million people displaced in 2022. In September 2022 alone, 102,000 people were displaced due to the military offensive in Hiraan, Galgaduud and Lower Shabelle region. Recurrent inter-clan conflicts still affect many households, particularly minorities as they are linked to land and other resources (water and pastures). The predominance of the clan system has left minority clan members vulnerable to violence led by clan militias, abuse, exploitation and

structural inequalities with limited state protection and reduced access to humanitarian services. Somali women and girls are exposed to heightened levels of conflict-related sexual violence when travelling to and in IDP sites – where overcrowding is an issue - as well as within host communities. The five regions that received the biggest numbers of newly displaced people are Banadir, Hiraan, Galgaduud, and Gedo regions. Around 75 per cent of newly displaced people have entered existing or newly formed IDP sites putting immense pressure on existing IDPs and services. Overcrowded IDP sites with poor service provision such as access to water and sanitation facilities exacerbate the risk of disease outbreak and particularly affect children under the age of five.

## **CHILDREN AND VIOLATION**

Violations and abuses remain characteristic features of the conflict in Somalia. The report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Somalia that covers the period from 1 January to December 2022 reveals that children continued to be disproportionately affected by armed conflict, and the number of children verified as affected by grave violations increased compared with 2021.

In particular the Secretary-General has registered<sup>1</sup>during this period:

- 1,094 cases (1,022 boys, 72 girls)of recruitment and use of children;
- 712 cases (550 boys, 162 girls)of killing and maiming of children;
- 219 girls and two boys have been victims of sexual violence. Cases included rape, attempted rape and forced marriage.
- 694 children (639 boys and 55 girls)have been abducted;
- 44 attacks against schools and hospitals (39 schools and 5 hospital);
- 18 incidents of humanitarian access' denial.

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<sup>1</sup>The information is based on the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed children (A/77/895-S/2023/363) issued on 5 June 2023.

## **2. CARITAS SOMALIA'S ACTIVITIES**

### **2.1. AT THE SCHOOL OF RIGHTS: PEACEBUILDING'S PROJECT**

The project was divided into two parts:

- the first part was implemented in Djibouti with teachers from Catholic schools in collaboration with Caritas Djibouti;
- the second part was online course for journalists in Puntland (Somalia). The course was delivered by the Milan School of Journalism.

#### **2.1.1. CONTEXT**

In Somalia, the profession of journalism is one of the most dangerous activities because an independent journalist seeking truth and respect for human rights is a troublesome figure. The death of journalists undermines the human right to freedom of expression and the right of people to be informed. The reconciliation of Somalia and the reconstruction of the country will not happen without ensuring that these two rights are respected. This is why Caritas Somalia, in collaboration with the Catholic University of Milan, has decided to provide training on freedom of expression and freedom of the press in the first place, but also to avoid disinformation.

Another problem we find in Somalia, but also in Djibouti, is clan or ethnic affiliation. In Somalia, tribal issues are at the root of the Somali conflict. In Djibouti, ethnicity is less of a problem than in Somalia. In Djibouti, there are often conflicts, sometimes violent, between Ethiopians and Djiboutians. Djibouti, although a small state, receives many migrants and the population often feels overwhelmed. As a result, there can be clashes. In addition, Ethiopians are considered "inferior" and therefore many Ethiopian women, especially of Oromo origin, work as housekeepers or in the various shops.

This discrimination is exacerbated against street children, most of whom are Oromo. Often, because of their "vagrant" status and ethnicity, children are insulted and harassed by adults or by Djiboutian children themselves.

This is why Caritas Djibouti, in collaboration with Caritas Somalia and the Catholic University of Milan "Sacro Cuore", decided to train teachers in conflict management, acceptance of diversity and respect for human rights, with a focus on children's rights. These same teachers, once trained, will sensitize children on these same issues in order to promote the human being in all his integrity.

## **2.1.2. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim is to contribute to a change of mentality and a better acceptance of the "different" other and to avoid closing in on oneself.

The objectives of the training for journalists was:

- to promote the right to information and the protection of vulnerable groups through awareness of the role of journalists.

The objective of the training for teachers were:

- to enable teachers to explore the dynamics of conflicts, how they are generated and how to manage them, up to the theme of peace building;
- to share their own experiences in the field of conflict management especially between children of different ethnic backgrounds.

## **2.1.3. BENEFICIARIES**

- 34 journalists and media personnel working in local TV and radio stations in Puntland.
- School of Journalism of the Università Cattolica – Sacro Cuore of Milan
- 23 teachers working in Catholic and public schools in Djibouti.
- 300 students from Catholic schools in Djibouti

## **2.1.5. RESULTS**

The project was implemented and its objectives were successfully achieved.

1. Teachers learned to manage conflicts, turning them into positive and enriching moments. This approach created a more relaxed climate in the classroom. Instead, students had moments of sharing in which they discussed issues of diversity and how a more peaceful and welcoming world can be built.

2. Puntland TV & Radio (Puntland Media Co.) provided 5 training units and trained 34 journalists and media workers from the main media outlets in Puntland (Somalia). They improved their understanding of international and national laws on freedom of expression, press freedom and human rights and learned how to effectively address censorship and security issues. Journalists gained skills and competencies to use existing digital tools to counter misinformation, fake news and unreliable content. They gained knowledge of digital safety and learned how to use relevant digital tools to deal with increasing digital threats and to do their vital work safely and effectively, while making their families and sources considerably safer. In addition, the journalists understood their role in protecting vulnerable groups in their reporting.

## **2.2. EDUCATIONAL PROJECT FOR SELECTED CHILDREN FROM IDP CAMPS AND MINORITY SETTLEMENTS IN HARGEISA**

### **2.2.1. CONTEXT**

#### **DAAMI MINORITY SETTLEMENT**

Daami settlement is located inside Hargeisa, in Somaliland, and it holds an estimated population of 15,000 people. Although the neighbourhood did not form as a consequence of the

war, most of the current residents and displaced people arrived during the mid-1990s, after the war started in Southern Somalia.

Its population is mainly formed by IDPs coming from South and Central Somalia, mainly from Baidoa, Wajid, Beletweine, and Mogadishu, who fled either the conflict or droughts in their places of origin.

According to a survey made by FAO and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Labour (MOHL) of Somaliland, Daami is one of the settlements with the most heterogeneous population; while many of them are part of the Ajuran sub-clan, there is also presence of Issa Musa, Is-haq, and a minority from Gabooye clan, specifically Tumul and Yibir. Moreover, there are also Ethiopians living in the settlement, mostly Oromo or Jarso, who consider themselves as “economic migrants”.

## **DIGALE IDP CAMP**

At the north of Hargeisa, Digale is one of the largest settlements for IDPs. According to Save the Children, it is home for more than 6,000 individuals, most of them children and youth.

Most of the IDPs living in Digale come from the Haud region, where the predominant clans are Habar Awal, Arab, Idegale and Habar Yoonis, all Is-haq. Life in the camp is well organized by the Camp Committee and the Educational Committee. There is a school, but not all children attend mainly because their parents cannot afford the fees, and because there is not enough capacity to receive all children.

### **2.2.2. OBJECTIVE**

The project aimed to provide daily transport, nutrition, books and their monthly fees to attend Salaama School in Hargheisa in order to give a possibility of access to education. The objective of the project is also to guarantee and to promote gender equality and girls' emancipation: the number of girls represents 50% of the total.

### **2.2.3. BENEFICIARIES**

- 35 Somali children living in two IDP camps in Hargheisa: Digaale and Daami. The beneficiaries are IDPs from poor communities in Digaale and Daami camps who have not any access to any learning institution.

### **2.2.4. RESULTS**

-25of the kids have passed to seventh grade and 5 children to sixth grade of primary school.

-One child attends the third grade because he is a special needs child and unfortunately the school hasn't an individual school plan for him. Finally,

-one has passed to second grade. She has started the school in 2021 because she has replaced her daughter who died in July 2020.



## **2.3. EMERGENCY SHELTER DISTRIBUTION TO 400 TARGETED VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS IN DAYNILE, MOGADISHU- SOMALIA. (Founded by Centro Missionario di Roma)**

### **2.3.1. CONTEXT**

Most IDPs in Mogadishu live in cramped settlements, in unsanitary conditions and without sufficient access to basic services. Malnutrition rates are persistently high and the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance is regularly interrupted due to several factors. Firstly, most IDPs live on private land and face the continuous threat of forced evictions when the landowner seeks to reclaim the land. In 2019 alone, more than 100,000 IDPs were evicted.

In addition to IDPs, the city's settlements are also home to numerous returnees, economic migrants and members of the host population. Obtaining a complete and accurate picture of the displaced populations in Mogadishu has proven difficult both for security reasons and also because of the constantly fluctuating number of IDPs. Many of the newly displaced are now living in overcrowded makeshift shelters, constructed from old clothes, plastic bags, cardboard and sticks, often located within already dilapidated displacement sites. These shelters offer little protection from inclement weather due to heat or riparian rains and leave families exposed to a greater risk of inclement weather. As the rainy season has only just begun, many displaced persons have already felt the effects of the rains, the shelters are in poor sanitary condition, the plastic sheeting is tattered and old and provides no protection, and disputes often arise to claim pieces from the demolition of other shelters, which are used to modify and fix those still standing. Most of the few communal latrines have been washed away by erratic rains, many of those that survived have been demolished, while the few that remain are still operational but saturated; without immediate intervention, the risk of an epidemic outbreak is extremely high.

### **2.3.2. OBJECTIVE**

The overall objective is to improve the living conditions of 400 families affected by the forced expulsion from Las'anod and Qoryooley that have settled in the Mogadishu area and strengthening their self-sufficiency.

The specific objectives are:

- provide emergency aid such as emergency shelter and essential household items;
- encourage the participation of beneficiaries in the identification and implementation of shelter solutions.

### **2.3.3. BENEFICIARIES**

The project has targeted:

- 400 newly displaced families ( 2400 indirect beneficiaries: 720 males and 1680 females) currently stranded in the Mogadishu-Dyaniile district.

## 2.3.4. RESULTS



- 400 families have received mosquito nets, plastic sheets and blankets.
- 5 community 's members were trained as enumerators to register beneficiaries

## 2.4. FROM WAR TO A NEW FUTURE OF HOPE AND RECONCILIATION in Nairobi - KENYA

### 2.4.1. CONTEXT

The population of urban refugees in Kenya continues to increase as more refugees move from the camps in search of better services and opportunities both for education and livelihoods. This has led to increased pressure on scarce resources available to support refugees and asylum seekers through humanitarian actors in the urban context. The situation was worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic that disrupted every sphere of life, and the refugees and asylum seekers were not left behind. Economic activities suffered a huge negative impact putting at risk access to education and skills training of refugees as meeting other basic needs was prioritised.

Currently, 83,977<sup>2</sup> (51.8% male and 48.2% female) refugees and asylum seekers reside in the urban centres of Nairobi, Nakuru and Mombasa with the vast majority being in Nairobi. This number makes up 16% of the 536,766 refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya as of January 2022. This is an increase from 79,785 recorded in January last year. Although this increase may

<sup>2</sup>UNHCR Kenya, KenyaStatisticsPackage31 January 2022

suggest that living conditions are better in the urban areas than in the camps, the reality is different as many urban refugees face a harsh environment requiring support to access some services, for instance paying for education remains a challenge for the majority of the refugees especially for tertiary and post-secondary levels. They still need protection through support to access quality education.

## **2.4.2. OBJECTIVE**

The goal of the project is to improve the living conditions of the Somali refugees and enhance self-reliance.

The specific objectives are:

- provide psychosocial support and emergency relief for vulnerable families with counselling services, material support and financial support (Rent, food, medical);
- provide academic courses to 40 youth.
- provide vocational courses for women
- establish daily care centre which accommodates children for the period that women are in the training sessions.

## **2.4.3. BENEFICIARIES**

The project has targeted:

- 60 families were issued with food vouchers,
- 33 individuals were supported to access medical services,
- 73 families are being processed for rent support.
- 60 individual received skills development trainings

## **2.4.4. RESULTS**

- 73 families (66f, 7m) have received rent support.
- 33 (29f and 4m) sought medical support.

- 60 families (52 f and 8m) were issued with food vouchers.
- 148 home visits were done to verify the needs of some of the beneficiaries.
- 4 cases that were determined to require specialised counselling services were referred to HIAS and CVT in the spirit of complementarity



- 30 students (16m and 14f) were selected and have pursued the following courses: 1 in HR management, 10 in ICT, 6 in Business Management, 4 in community health, 2 in journalism, 2 in international relations, 1 in cartography and GIS, 1 in advanced language, 1 counselling psychology, 1 in electrical engineering, and 1 in project management.

- 15 mothers have been selected and placed at Marianist Imani Training Centre in Eastleigh. The courses they have enrolled in are: 10 in beauty therapy, 2 in catering, and 3 in tailoring courses.

-15 more mothers have trained in business skills in January 2022.

- 13 Somali beneficiaries have been placed for basic language literacy classes where they are learning English and Swahili languages

-12 children between ages 1-9 years old were hosted in the daily care centre which accommodates children for the period that women are in the training sessions.

## **2.5 EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO DROUGHT- AFFECTED PEOPLE IN DAYNILE AND BRAVA**

### **2.5.1 CONTEXT**

At the launch, Nov 2022 first week, of the project VAD actively and widely engaged different stakeholders across the two districts with the view of enlightening them the scope of the project, duration, target population, beneficiary selection modality, coordination, safeguarding

policy, and finally the existence of a hotline number through which the beneficiaries can channel their complain and receive feedback.

In a span of five days five community mobilization meetings targeting a total of 1800 Beneficiaries were registered in 9 IDPs camps of the the two districts ( Kahda and Daynile ). 606 participants were targeted in Kahda, while 1194 beneficiaries were from Daynile district. 95 percent of this were female drought affected households while the remaining were 5% male. Based on recommendation by the district authority the 1800 participants of the community mobilization meeting were equally tasked with the responsibility of serving as project management committee overseeing and monitoring smooth implementation of the project while acting as intermediary between the organization and project beneficiaries.

During the distribution process VAD also utilized the opportunity to share with the participants, who represented various groups of the community such as women, girls, youth, minority and people living with disability, the existing needs of the community that the project intends to cover and the target population for each activity.

Communities in Brava and the neighbouring villages have been affected by the impacts of four consecutive failed rainy seasons that have led to a widespread and acute humanitarian crisis. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) escaping drought and conflict in the region is increasing daily, desperate for help. The IDP families arriving in Brava town are evicted victims from the Garowlay, Harshanley, Deemaay villages of the Kurtunwaareey and Brava districts. Their homes have been burnt down, and properties were looted and forcedly evicted by the Al-Shabab. They need urgent attention to meet all their basic needs, including providing food, NFI (shelter and utensils), WASH, and Health and Nutrition services. When IRF visited the IDP camps, they witnessed exhausted people and families with children who were malnourished and in dire situations, desperate for help. IRF provided medical assistance to 50 severely malnourished children under five years and 15 lactating mothers in the target IDP families of Garowlay and Deemaay villages. The mobile medical team reached their locations, screened the children and mothers and provided them with the necessary treatment. IRF health field staff in the area has effectively carried out the task. Brava, one of the province's hard-to-reach (HTR) districts, is highly populated and currently hosts 7,920 internally displaced persons (IDPs), which

is increasing daily with limited basic services. The town has been experiencing prolonged and complex crises characterised by frequent climatic shocks, violent conflict, insurgency, displacement, drought and disease. The target groups that benefited from this intervention are the most vulnerable communities. These include primarily women, children, elders and minorities. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are the most affected and require urgent support.

## 2.5.2. OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to provide assistance to 2,490 households affected by the drought in Mogadishu and Brava. The emergency aid will consist in: 1) Food to prevent hunger and malnutrition, 2) construction of 40 latrines and 3) shelter assistance.

## 2.5.3. BENEFICIARIES

- 1800 (10 800 indirect beneficiaries) most vulnerable households in Daynile and Kahda districts
- 450 families (3100 indirect beneficiaries) most vulnerable households in Brava
- 240 families (1440 indirect beneficiaries) in Daynile.
- 190 WaSH committees' members trained on positive health practices

## 2.5.4. RESULTS

- 190 WaSH committees' members trained on hygiene practices
- 50 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on hygiene promotion activities
- 40 Temporary Latrines have been constructed in Daynile
- 40 Hand washing stations have been installed in Daynile
- 450 families have received food kits and non-food items such as plastic sheets and mosquito nets in Brava



- 1800 families have received food kits in Daynile

## 2.6. OTHERS PROJECTS

### 2.6.1. Support to Mother and Child Health (MCH) Centres for procurement of nutrition supplies for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment in Mogadishu (Funded by ICMC)

Banadir Hospital is a Mother & Child hospital, also it is referral hospital in all Country and Public and Teaching Hospital. It covers an area of Mogadishu and surrounding areas of about 3,000,000 populations and more than 50% of the population served are IDPs.

In the second half of September, 2472 new cases of children under 5 with severely malnourished status and 3916 with moderately malnourished status were registered. Unfortunately, 99 children died. Our intervention (250 boxes of plumpy nut = 37500 bags) made it possible to start treating the new cases.



### 2.6.1 6. Health material to Mother and Child Health Centre in Waberi - Mogadishu



On 6 August 2022, Caritas Somalia, again with the logistical support of CIMIC, donated medical supplies to the MCH (mother and child health) Centre in Waberi, Mogadishu. The aim of the project was to equip the centre with specific equipment for gynaecological

examinations and obstetric examinations. The ceremony took place at the International Camp in Mogadishu, in the presence of the director of the MCH Centre Waberi and two representatives of the directorate of health and human service of the Benadir region.

### **3. EVENTS**

**22-25.02.2022** Sara Ben Rached has participated to AMECEA meeting. The objective was to discuss the implementation of various activities in their conferences including the Synodal process and preparations of the AMECEA Plenary Assembly.

**15.05.2022** Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was elected as the new president of Somalia by the Somali parliament.

**10-17.07.2022** Mgr. Giorgio Bertin and Sara Ben Rached have participate to the 20th AMECEA plenary assembly. The twentieth plenary was centered on, “Environmental Impact on Integral Human Development,” inspired by Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si”: Care for Our Common Home.

**07.08.2022** The Parliament endorsed the new Somali Government, comprising 26 Ministers, 24 State Ministers and 25 Deputy Ministers.

**04.08.2022** Mgr Giorgio Bertin, the Apostolic Nuncio, Mgr. Antoine Camilleri, and Sara Ben Rached have met the speaker of the Somali Lower House of the Federal Parliament of Somalia and the government representative for response to drought and other emergencies.

**27-28.10.2022** Sara Ben Rached has participated to CI and UNESCO conference in Paris. The theme was: “The Full Face of Humanity: Women in leadership for a just society”. She has represented the Horn of Africa.

**10-12.12.2022** Mgr Giorgio Bertin and Apostolic Nuncio, Mgr. Antoine Camilleri have met the Somali Minister of Interior and the Minister of Religious Affairs and the Speaker of the Parliament of Somalia.