

# Somalia: Snapshot on resilience

*The following analysis is based on the outcomes of the Resilience Systems Analysis workshop, hosted by the Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP) and the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) consortia, February 2015. The workshop was held with the assistance of the OECD and the active participation of the Ministries of the Federal Government of Somalia, NGOs civil society, the Red Cross movement, donors and the United Nations. The full report from the workshop can be accessed here:*

[www.oecd.org/dac/risk-resilience](http://www.oecd.org/dac/risk-resilience)

## Outlook and trends

Twenty-four years after the start of Somalia's civil war and just three years since parts of Southern Somalia faced famine, the country continues to face inter-connected and complex challenges that **constrain development progress**. Around 3 million Somalis continue to face food insecurity; suspected cases of measles have tripled since 2013; and an estimated 40 per cent of the Somali population still depend on money that friends and family send from abroad to meet their needs for food, clothing, medicine and education (*Humanitarian Bulletin for Somalia*, UNOCHA, February 2015).

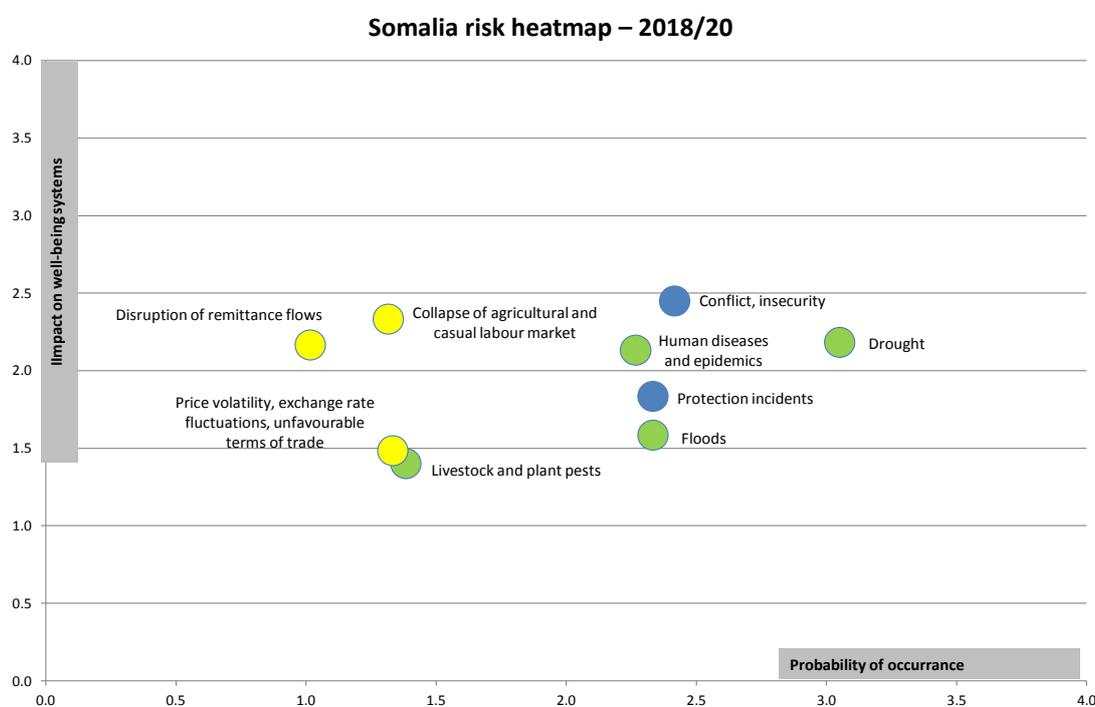
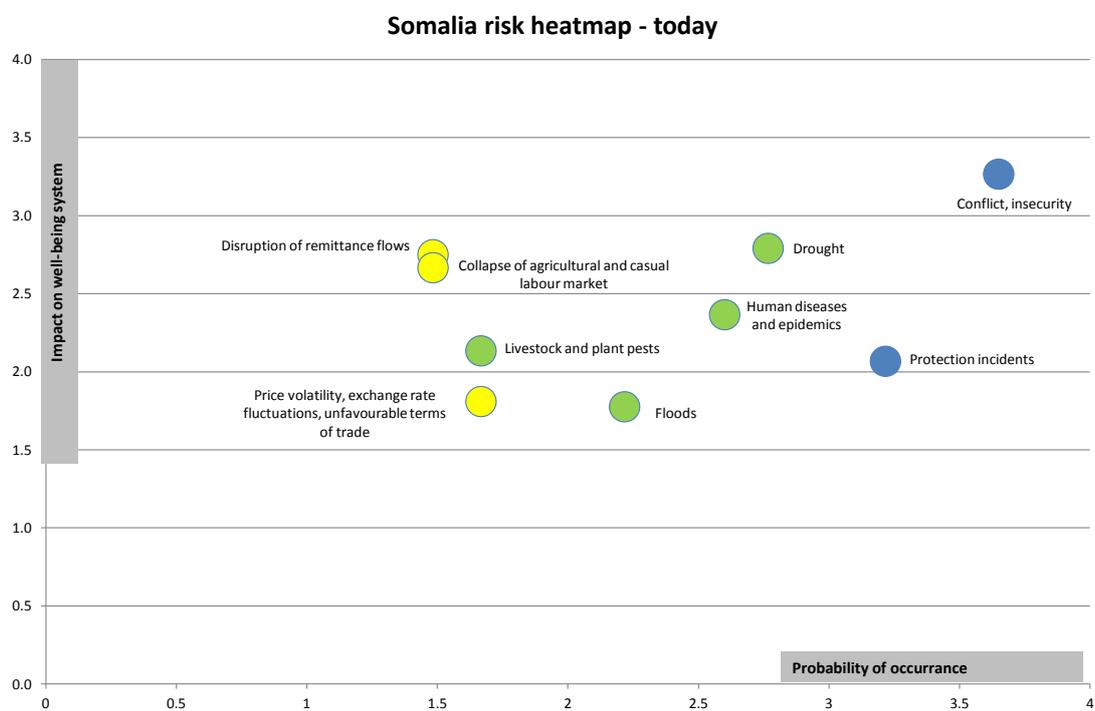
The on-going challenges facing Somalia demonstrate that communities and institutions still have **limited capacity to deal with a broad spectrum of risks and shocks** and struggle to absorb or adapt to risks; let alone recover from the impacts of the resulting shocks. This lack of resilience at different layers of Somali society continues to have an adverse impact upon the political, economic, physical, social, human and natural capital of the country as a whole.

Stresses, including: climate variability; the unsustainable exploitation of resources; limited economic and market diversity; and weak, non-inclusive formal and informal governance structures, underly many of the risks facing Somalia. These stresses generate critical risks, of which the following are seen as having a fundamental impact upon Somalis' livelihoods and well-being – particularly for agro-pastoral, pastoral and per-urban communities:

- Conflict and insecurity
- Drought
- Disruption of remittance flows
- Collapse of agricultural and casual labour markets
- Human disease
- Livestock and plant pests
- Protection incidents
- Price volatility
- Flooding

Despite this broad spectrum of risks, **the perception of trends for Somalia is optimistic**. Figure 1, on the following page, indicates that for each of these nine critical risks, the impact on people's well-being is likely to be less acute in three to five years' time. This is particularly notable for the risk of conflict and protection issues. While the probability of flooding and drought is seen to increase, this is seen as having less of an impact on people's well-being and livelihoods than it does today – suggesting that communities are likely to be better placed to absorb or adapt to these risks in coming years.

Figure 1: Changes in perceptions of risk – now to three/five years' time



## Key assets for resilience

Sustaining the optimistic outlook for Somalia involves further strengthening the country's political, economic, physical, social, human and natural assets. Key assets at the household, community and national levels include:

- **Political assets:** Both traditional and formal governance systems
- **Economic assets:** Trade and remittances
- **Physical assets:** Telecommunications, market and health infrastructure
- **Social assets:** Kinship ties and trust
- **Human assets:** Education, entrepreneurship and traditional knowledge
- **Natural assets:** Water, livestock and land

It is important that any efforts to strengthen resilience in Somalia take these key assets into account, or at least do not undermine the positive aspects of these assets for the well-being of Somali society.

## Priorities for resilience

Increasing the capacity of the system to absorb shocks; adapting the system so that it is less exposed to shocks; or transforming the system, so that it is no longer susceptible to identified shocks and emerging risks, requires action **at all layers of society**.

The following priorities for programmes and policies to strengthen resilience recognise that the ability of the system to cope with risks and shocks are inter-linked and that actions at one layer of society, without corresponding actions at other layers of society, will not be sufficient to boost resilience in Somalia.

### Regional level

- Develop transboundary agreements for water and livestock

### National level

- Scale up of gender-sensitive youth education and technical training for diversified livelihoods
- Improve the value chain (storage processing, transport, export marketing)
- Strengthen government revenues and capacities

### District level

- Increase investment in basic social infrastructure (schools, clinics, water)
- Improve the governance of service delivery (inclusive, transparent and accountable)

### Community and household level

- Expand the reach of early-warning systems and risk reduction programmes
- Support local inter-clan reconciliation programmes – coordinated and supported by a national framework

### New Deal peace & statebuilding goals

The New Deal's Somali Compact, is a key strategic framework for coordinating political, security and development efforts in Somalia until 2016.

The identification of key risks and assets at national, community and household levels in Somalia, and the priority programmes and policies needed to strengthen the resilience of these assets, can be an important contribution to operationalising and achieving the Somali Compact's goals on inclusive politics, security, justice, economic foundations and revenue and services.

## Next steps

Now is a critical time for Somalia. With a new government in place, a draft constitution under discussion and renewed efforts to address the cycle of fragility and disasters, there is a real sense of optimism for the future. This optimism is underpinned by a broad level of consensus for the *Somali Compact* under the New Deal and supported by the multi-donor *Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility*.

The implementation of concrete programmes and policies to strengthen the country's resilience at all layers of society will be a crucial

step in ensuring that the Somali people can capitalise on this optimism and the supporting mechanisms that are in place.

The *Roadmap for Resilience* that underpins this analysis will help to guide the planning processes of both the Federal Government of Somalia and their development partners and should inform key up-coming consultations, including the High-Level Mission by the OECD-DAC at the end of March 2015 and the Somalia Donor Group meeting, scheduled for April 2015.

The complete *Roadmap for Resilience* for Somalia can be accessed here:

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/risk-resilience.htm>



For further information on the OECD's work on risk and resilience, please visit <http://www.oecd.org/dac/risk-resilience.htm>

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