# COMPARATIVE LOCATION REPORT

IOM Somalia introduced the Community Stabilization Index (COSI) in a pilot trial from November-December 2020 in the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia. COSI uses weighted metrics to understand how stability is understood locally, identify the factors that influence it and assess how stable a particular community is. COSI is specific to Community Stabilization and assists in determining more efficient ways of allocating resources and designing/targeting activities according to COSI findings.

IOM Somalia conducted a new COSI survey in August and September 2022 in four locations across Somalia's Hirshabelle region: Mataban Town, Beer-Gadiid, Qodqod, and Takaraale.

Legend

● Target Locations

⬛ Mataban District
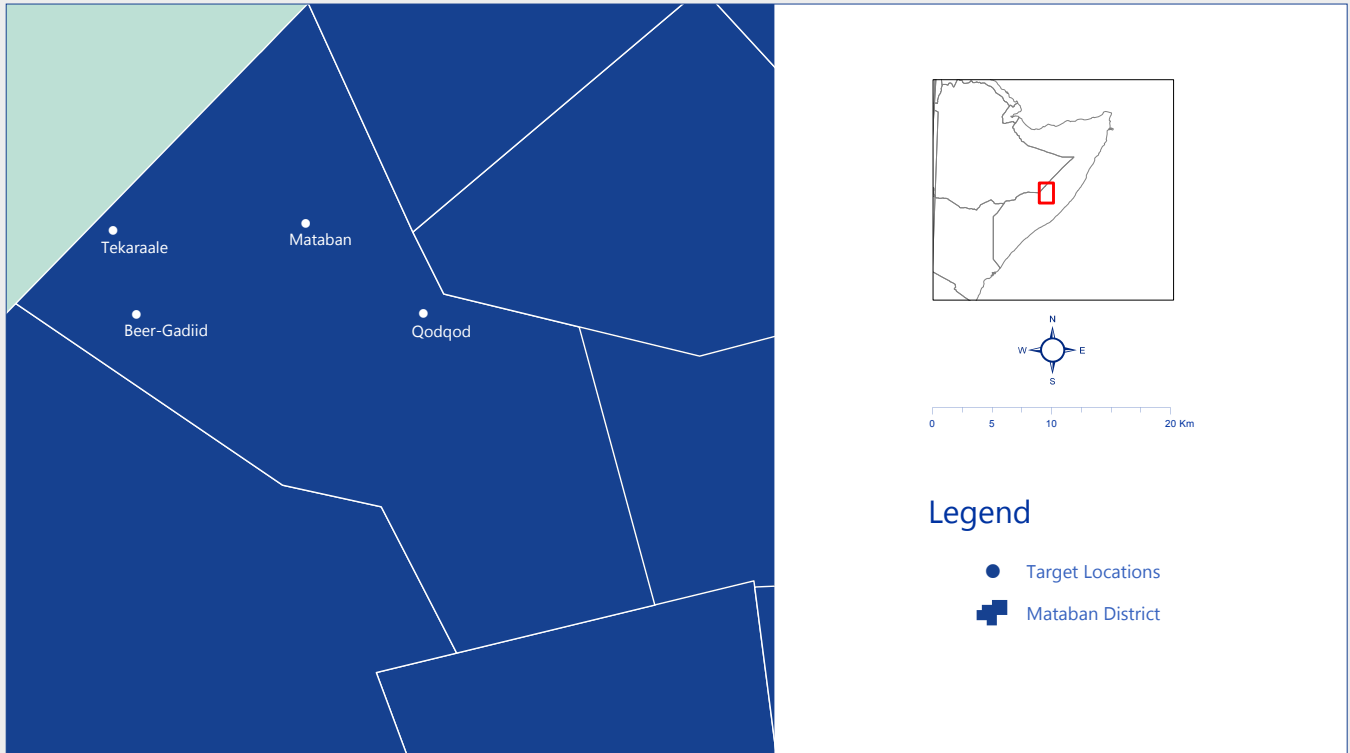
METHODOLOGY

The model selection is based on the clean COSI 2.0 Mataban dataset. The dataset includes 1474 observations across the four target locations. Using the statistical software STATA, we ran several types of models to explore the causal dynamics behind the factors that influence the perception of stability. In the end, we chose to apply one of our logistic regression models (LOG2) - Logistic regressions allow for the identification of explanatory variables ("predictors") that have a statistically significant ability to predict the outcome variable (perception of stability). Applied to the COSI dataset, a logistic regression identifies which variables have a positive or negative influence on the respondents' perception of stability. All the logistic models we ran included the following indicators: Rule of Law, Community Recovery, Social Cohesion, Local Governance, and Population Movement.

Each model also included a set of demographic variables, to ensure that the coefficients associated to each predictor are accurate, and not the reflection of an underlying demographic characteristic driving the perception of stability. These variables included: Location, displacement status, gender, age categories, clan, and household size.

Model LOG2, the model through which the findings in this report were produced, is a binary logistic regression with the following specifications:

- The outcome variable is the perception of stability, coded as a binary variable, i.e., respondents feel that their community is either stable (1) or unstable (0). The neutral option is coded as 0.
- All the predictors are coded as binary variables, with the "yes" answer coded as 1, and the "no" answer coded as 0. For example, access to lighting is coded as 1, while no access being coded as 0. Neutral answers are also coded as 0.

Ultimately, the metrics and findings detailed in this report are informed by mixed data collection methods, including community mapping, qualitative perception research, and our quantitative surveys.

However, we recommend exercising caution when interpreting the data and using these scores for programming, as the explanatory power of the model remains relatively low in comparison to previous iterations (35%), and a few of the results appear counter-intuitive.

MODEL RESULTS

The COSI model generates scores for each of the themes at target location level as well as an overall Community Stabilization score. The category scores provide a more nuanced understanding of each location, breaking down the overall score into five important themes, enabling targeted planning for interventions and theme-specific monitoring.

Scores by location are displayed in the following table:

| LOCATION	COMMUNITY RECOVERY SCORE	RULE OF LAW SCORE	LOCAL GOVERNANCE SCORE	CLIMATE CHANGE SCORE	OVERALL COSI SCORE
Mataban Town	59%	67%	49%	48%	61%
Qodqod	34%	64%	57%	52%	54%
Takeraale	48%	77%	51%	49%	63%
Beer-Gadiid	45%	75%	77%	53%	65%
Overall	48%	72%	58%	50%	62%

NOTABLE FINDINGS PER INDICATOR:

COMMUNITY RECOVERY

The COSI Sub-Index for Community Recovery is based on responses to queries about access to water; presence of a farmers' collective; access to irrigation canals; presence of irrigation committees; access to health; ownership of land documents; involvement in land disputes; school attendance of children; access to electricity; access to lighting; and occurrences of natural disasters.

Overall, the survey data shows that **residents are struggling to make ends meet.** Only 9% of individuals report that they are able to meet their needs and 57% of the population relies in part on assistance. The main barrier to accessing livelihoods is lack of opportunity (46%).

The most significant individual predictor for community recovery averaged across all locations was access to adequate lighting. The results across locations are as follows:

Refers to the question: "Think of the main street in your community/village/town where people congregate and have small businesses. Does this location have lighting in the evening and night?"
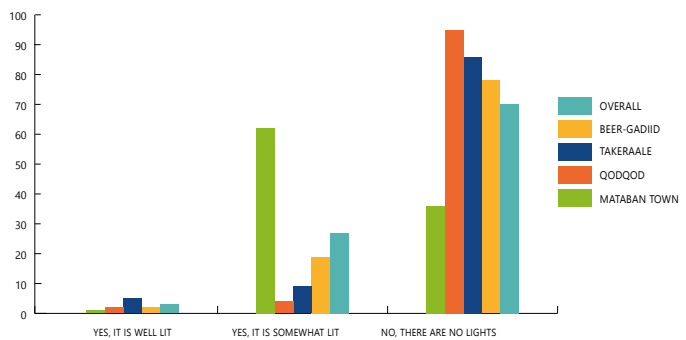
Refers to the question: "Please select relevant concerns about the lack of lighting in town""
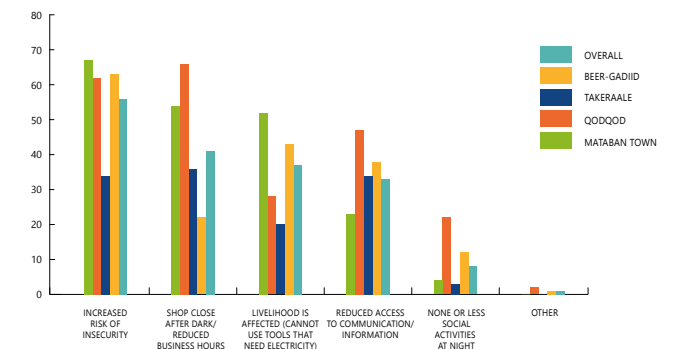

Graph where 0 = no access and 1 = access to regular community lighting in the evening with the outcome being perceived overall stability of the community.
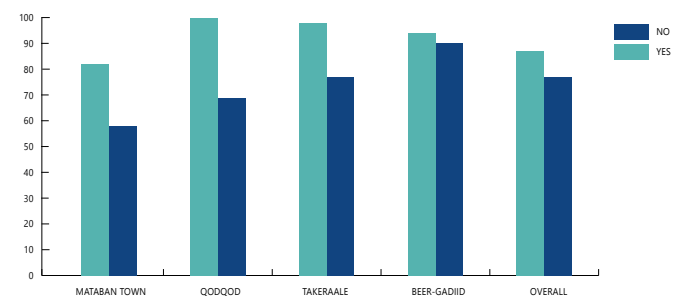

The particular concern for insecurity after dark across the region (56% of survey respondents) is indicative of the significant threat posed by al-Shabaab in Mataban District. KIIs reveal that several incidents involving killings, water source poisonings, and the burning of buildings and other local infrastructure in recent months across the region have contributed to pervasive security concerns and fear in our target communities.

The second most significant predictor across the Community Recovery Sub-Index was access to water. Across locations, respondents answered questions regarding access to water as follows:

Refers to the question: "Does your household have enough access to drinking water?"
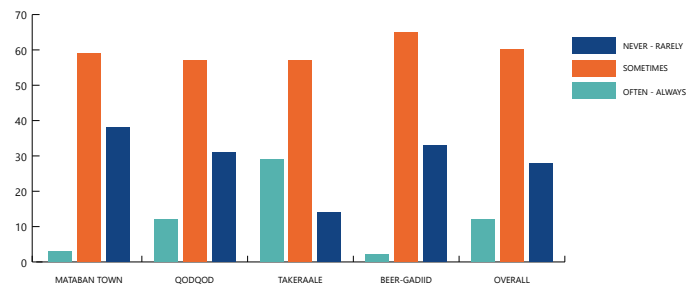
Refers to the question: "What is the MAIN barrier to access to drinking water?"
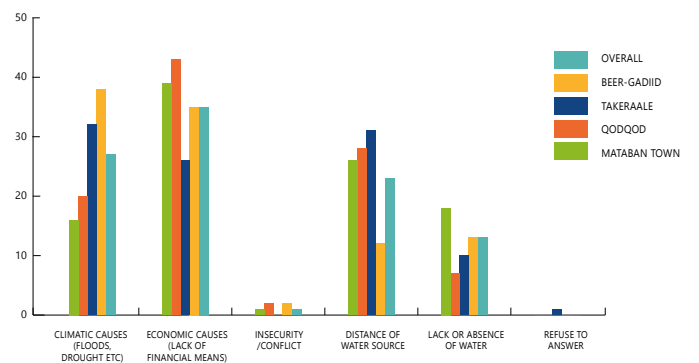
The survey data shows that the host community has better (though limited) access to drinking water: 15% of host community members have sufficient access to drinking water compared to 6% of IDPs and 3% of returnees. Similarly, 16% of Hawadle have access to water compared to 6% of Ayr.

RULE OF LAW

The COSI Sub-Index for Rule of Law is based on responses to queries about trust in SNA, AMISOM, Darwish, the police, and clan militias; the safety of males, females and children; fair sharing of power among different clans in security management; if a family member has been injured or killed in the last year; and the presence of illegal tax points.

Important to consider, violence (revenge killings, fighting between armed groups, kidnapping, sexual assault, and other gender-based violence) is a major security concern in the community. Approximately 58% of residents across all locations say it is their main security concern, followed by explosives (mines, IEDs, UXO) (32%).

The most significant predictor for community recovery averaged across locations was whether or not respondents felt that their children could move freely and without fear in the community. Across locations, respondents answered as follows:
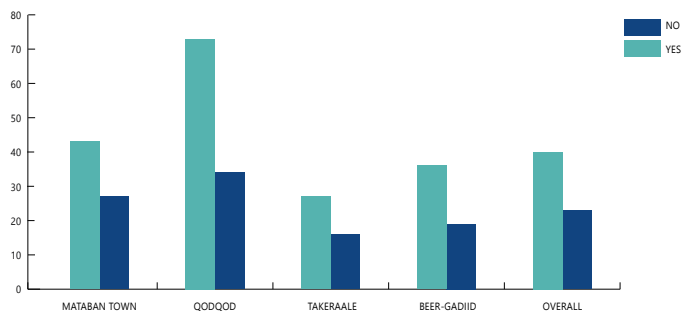
Refers to the question "Can the children in your household play outside after dark?"
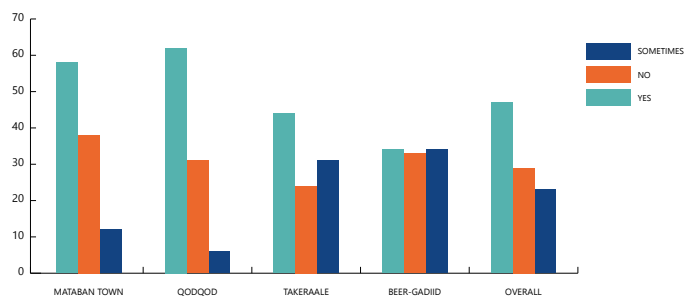
By displacement status:
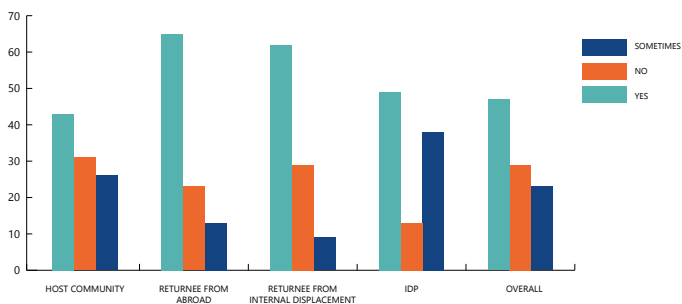
Graph where 0 = does not and 1 = does feel that their children can move freely and without fear in the community with the outcome being perceived overall security of the community.


Freedom of movement is limited by the aforementioned security constraints/concerns. 47% of respondents reported that children can move freely and without fear in the community, and 53% say that women can but we see that clan affiliation and displacement status influences the perception of freedom of movement with returnees feeling the most secure regarding women and children. For the clans, 60% of Ayr say their children can move freely and without fear, compared to 42% of Hawadle and 24% of other clans. 61% of Ayr say women can move freely and without fear, compared to 49% of Hawadle and 45% of other clans.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The COSI Sub-Index for Local Governance is based on responses to queries about presence of women, youth and peace collectives; recent visits from a member of the local government; if the government manages finances well; if the government responds to the needs of the community; and if the clan composition of the government is perceived as fair.

The only statistically significant predictor for local governance across all locations was whether or not respondents felt that their local government responded to their community's needs. Across locations, respondents answered as follows:

Refers to the question: "Does your local administration respond to the needs of the community?"
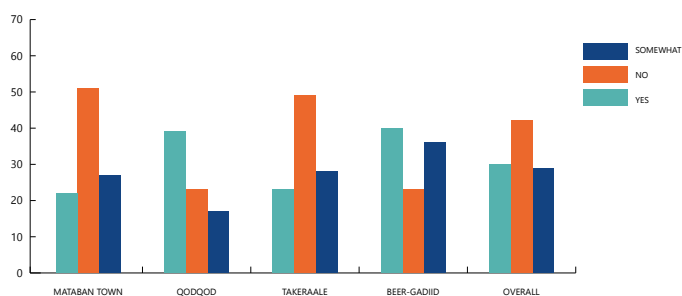
Refers to the question: "Does your local administration manage finances well?"
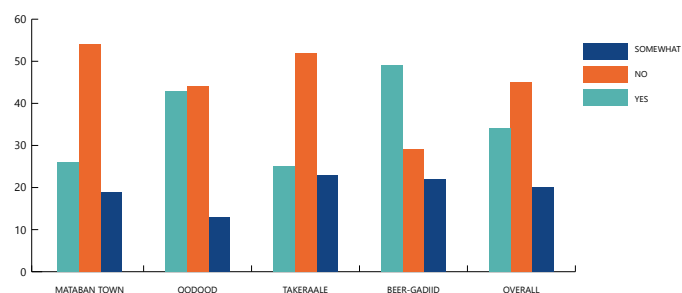
Overall, **the government inspires little confidence in the population.** Approximately 49% of people think that the clan composition of the government is not fair, and residents are pessimistic about the capacity of the government to finish its projects on time. For example, only 34% of respondents believe their local government can finish a borehole construction project on time.

Further, we saw that minority clan members are less satisfied with the government. Only 15% think the clan composition of the government is fair compared to 33% of Hawadle and 26% of Ayr. Only 16% say the government meets their needs compared to 33% of Hawadle and 20% of Ayr.
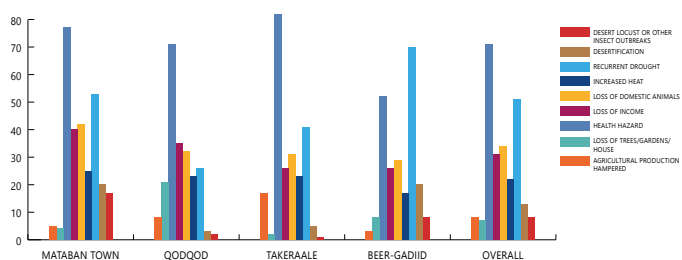
CLIMATE CHANGE

The COSI Sub-Index for Climate Change is new to the COSI model and is based on responses to queries about patterns of recent natural hazards and weather pattern changes; their impacts on livelihoods; impacts at the household level; measures taken to mediate climate change impacts; as well as reasons for not addressing impacts, if any.

The most significant predictor for climate change averaged across all locations was the number of weather pattern changes in recent years. The results across locations are as follows:

Refers to the question: "Have you observed any of the following changes in weather patterns over the last 10-30 years in this community?"
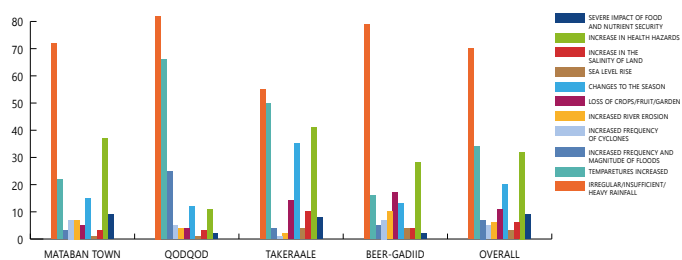
Refers to the question: "What were the impacts of these weather change patterns at the household level?"


Results show that inhabitants are strongly affected by natural disasters and climate change. Drought was reported by 99% of households, 70% of households report that there have been more heavy or scarce rainfall in the last 10-30 years, 34% notice an increase in temperature and 32% an increase in health hazards.

The most important damage of recent climate change patterns across Hirshabelle was the loss of animals and crops (63%). These losses affected returnees and IDPs more: 81% of returnees and 74% of IDPs cited them as an impact. Further, many households report complete or partial destruction of their house (49%) and loss of household members (49%).

The second most significant predictor across the Climate Change Sub-Index was regarding individual measures taken to mitigate climate change impacts on their lives. Across locations, respondents answered questions regarding mitigation measures as follows:

**Refers to the question: "What measures did you take?"**
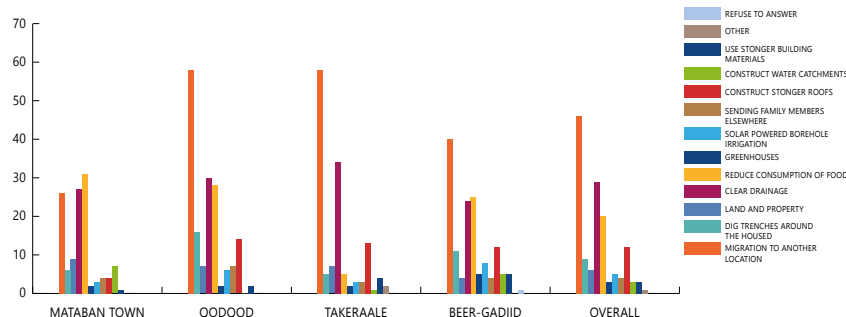
In Mataban Town, reducing the consumption of food is the primary mitigation measure (31%), while the other three locations cited migration as their main measure. Of significance, when asked for reasons why they would not take or have not taken mitigation measures against climate change issues, respondents in Mataban Town (59%), Qodqod (53%), and Takaarale (75%) answered "did not know what to do" while respondents in Beer-Gadiid responded "know what to do but not enough money" (49%).
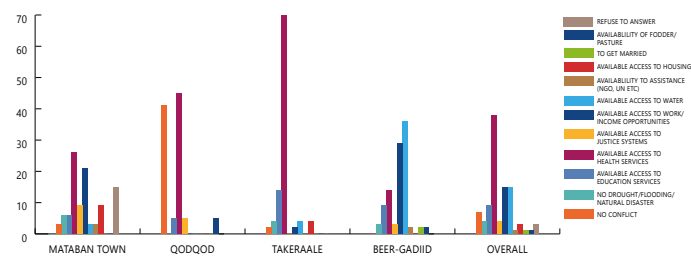
POPULATION MOVEMENT

In our chosen model, the Population Movement Sub-index did not return any statistically significant variables. Logistic regressions, such as our model, allow to identify explanatory variables ("predictors") that have a statistically significant ability to predict the outcome variable – as seen in the sections above. Applied to the COSI dataset, LOG2 identifies which variables have a positive or negative influence on the respondents' perception of stability and, ultimately, determined that no predictor in this category had significant influence either way on overall perception of stability across locations. However, the survey still demonstrated the following interesting and relevant descriptive findings:

Refers to the question: "What is your plan to move in the next twelve months?"
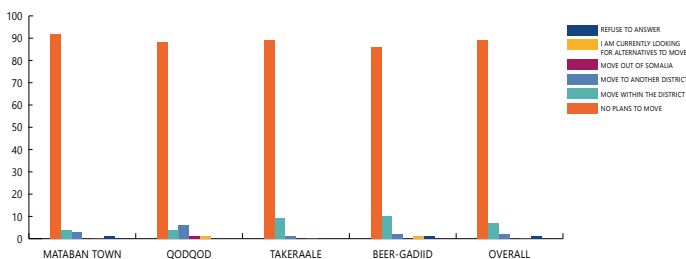
Refers to the question: "what is the MAIN reason you want to move to the location/ destination?"


Survey results show that **72% of the population belongs to the host community, and a minority of people have plans to move in the next 12 months.** The most significant results here being that 89% of the population has no plans to move and 7% plan to move within the district. Those who do plan to move want to do so to have better access to health services (38%), work opportunities (15%) and water (15%).

SOCIAL COHESION

In our chosen model, the Social Cohesion Sub-Index did not return any statistically significant variables. Logistic regressions, such as our model, allow to identify explanatory variables ("predictors") that have a statistically significant ability to predict the outcome variable – as seen in the sections above. Applied to the COSI dataset, LOG2 identifies which variables have a positive or negative influence on the respondents' perception of stability and, ultimately, determined that no predictor in this category had significant influence either way on overall perception of stability across locations. However, the survey still demonstrated the following interesting and relevant descriptive findings:

Refers to the question: "Do you feel that people live peacefully together in your community?"
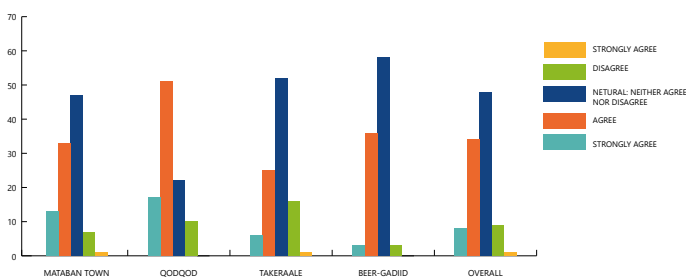
Refers to the question: "Have there been physical attacks and/or incidents between groups (IDPs/Returnees/Host Community, Clans/Sub-Clans, and Pastoralists/Farmers) in this community in the last six months?"
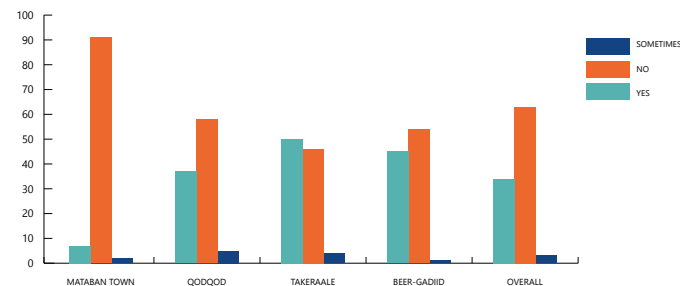
Across locations, the Hawadle appear more integrated than the other clans. Survey results show that the Hawadle are more likely to be married to members of other clans or sub-clans: 76% of Hawadle have a family member married to a member of another clan or sub-clan compared to 69% of Ayr and 49% of other clans. While 34% of Hawadle regularly participate in community activities/celebrations/social events (e.g. Eid, weddings, etc), only 14% of Ayr and other minority clans do so.

Importantly, tensions between clans are frequent. While 65% of the population reports having heard of violence in the community during the 6 months preceding the survey, 61% of individuals report that tensions are most frequent between clans. KIIs and follow-up qualitative interviews revealed that a majority of violence is between clan and sub-clan-based pastoralist groups and occur almost exclusively within a pattern of revenge killings.