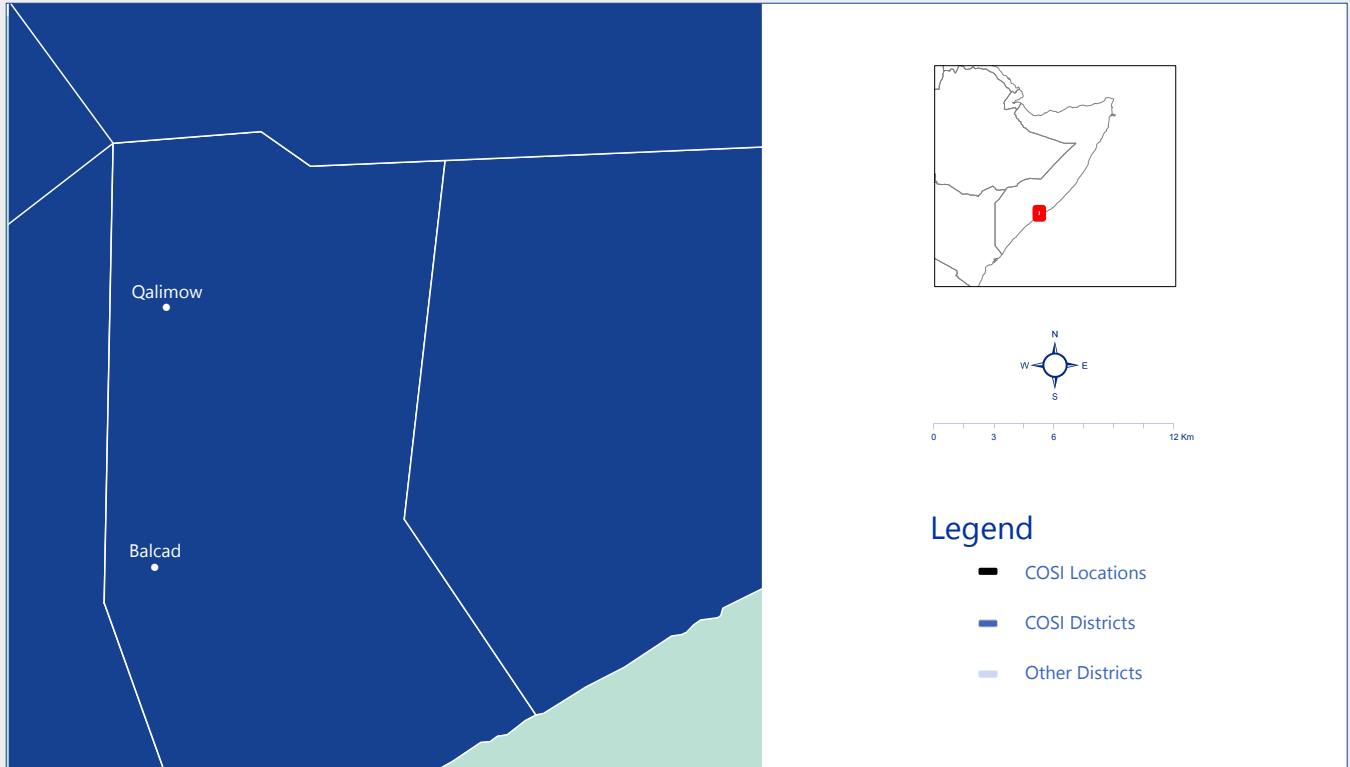


COMPARATIVE LOCATION REPORT

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 iterated a new version of COSI in April 2022 in two locations across Somalia’s Middle Shabelle region: Balcad and Qalimow.



METHODOLOGY

The model selection is based on the clean COSI 2.0 Middle Shabelle dataset. The dataset includes 852 observations across the two 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 (LOG1) - 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 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	SOCIAL COHESION SCORE	POPULATION MOVEMENT SCORE	OVERALL COSI SCORE
Balcad	52%	76%	38%	64%	44%	64%
Qalimow	58%	71%	58%	79%	40%	62%
Overall	55%	74%	48%	72%	42%	63%

Model LOG1, 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.

Of note: while LOG1 performed well when running on our COSI 2.0 Lower Shabelle iteration data, the results with the Middle Shabelle data are less robust, and **several aspects have appeared to be counter intuitive**. Therefore, **we recommend exercising caution** when interpreting the data and using the COSI scores.

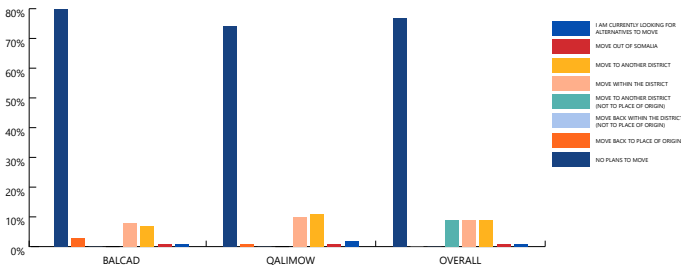
NOTABLE FINDINGS PER INDICATOR:

POPULATION MOVEMENT

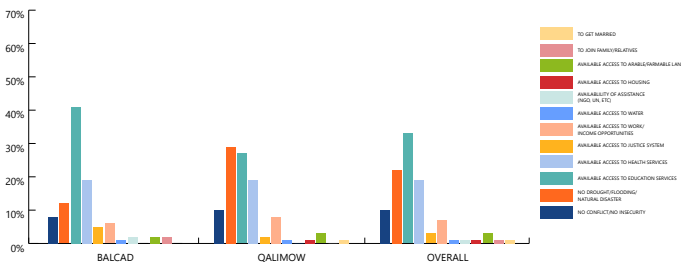
The COSI Sub-Index for Population Movement is based on responses to queries about if the respondents have plans to leave the place which they currently live in.

The most significant predictor for population movement averaged across both locations was whether or not respondents had plans to move in the 12 months following the survey. Across both locations, respondents answered as follows:

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?”



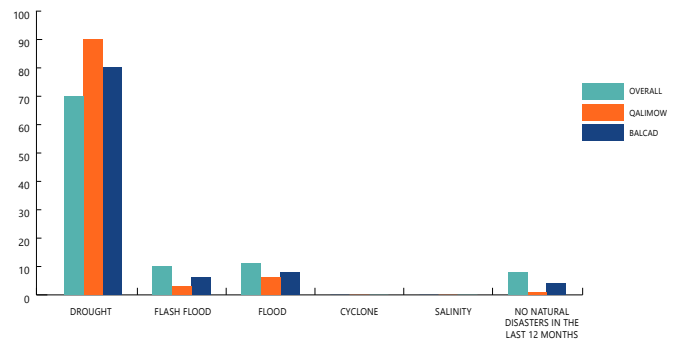
Only an overall 23% of respondents reported any sort of intention to move across both locations. The top two reasons for moving for those who reported an intention to move were the availability of access to educational services (33% averaged across both locations) as well as the move away from drought, flooding, or other types of natural disasters/hazards (22% averaged across both locations) which – as established throughout the following sections of this report – is indicative of the negative effects Somalia’s current drought situation has on the livelihoods of its population. KIs report that there are several functioning schools in both Balcad and Qalimow with both primary and secondary education available. However, reports suggest that many of these institutions lack basic facilities and, therefore, it is likely that residents could be looking to resettle in places with schools that have a more complete/robust physical infrastructure.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY

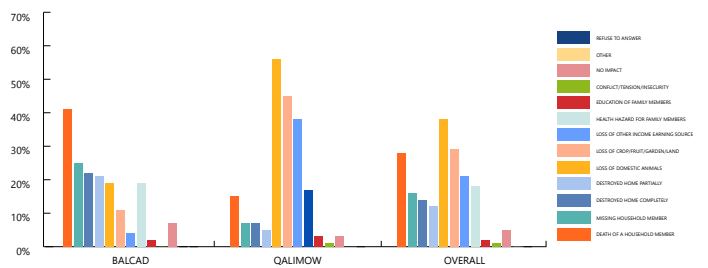
The COSI Sub-Index for Community Recovery is based on responses to queries about access to water; presence of a farmers’ collective; access to irrigation canals; presence of irrigation committees; access to health; ownership of land documents; involvement in land disputes; school attendance of children;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

The most significant predictor for community recovery averaged across both locations was whether or not respondents had experienced a natural disaster in the last 12 months. The result across locations is as follows:

Refers to the question: “What natural hazard occurred with the highest frequency in this community in the last 12 months?”



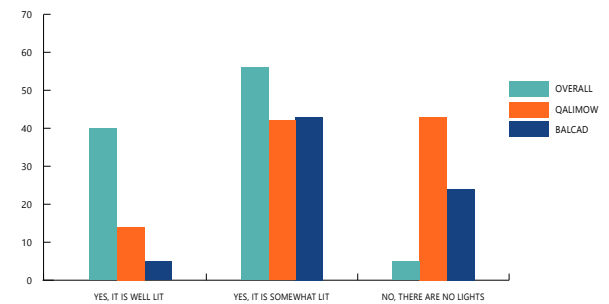
Refers to the question: “What were the impacts of the last natural hazard on your life and livelihood?”



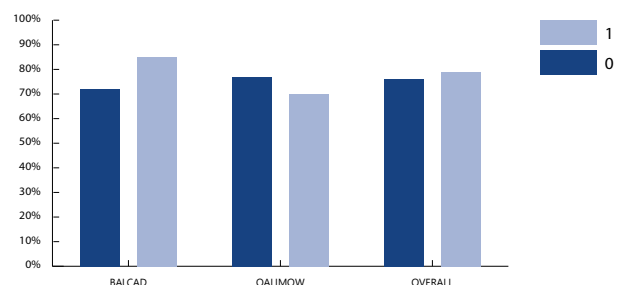
While death of a household member was the top response in Balcad, the clear economic repercussions of the drought in Somalia is reflected across the Qalimow answers. With 56% reporting loss of domestic animals, 45% reporting loss of crops/gardens/land, and 38% reporting losses from other income sources, it is evident that the pastoralist agricultural lifestyle of the local population has been severely affected and the impacts to their livelihoods significant.

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

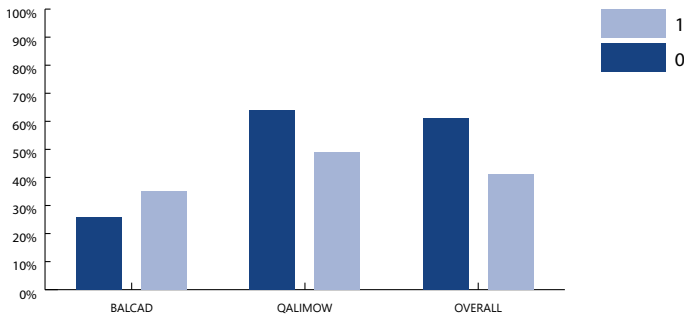
Refers to the question: “Think of the main street in your community/village/town where people congregate and have small businesses. Does this location have lighting in the evening and night?”



Graph where 0 = no access and 1 = access to regular community lighting in the evening with the outcome being perceived fairness and non-discrimination in accessing livelihoods and services.



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.



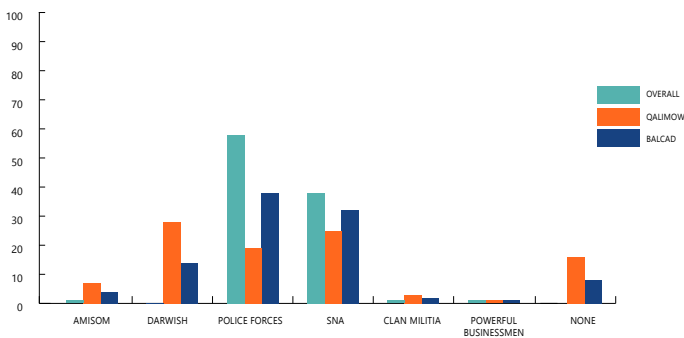
Though the above results for Qalimow seem counter intuitive, when conducting follow-up FGDs, both male and female respondents in Qalimow and Balcad noted that they believe the lack of community lighting contributes to danger and an unsafe environment in their community during the evening with a particular concern for their families. We were unable to establish why the original survey results for the location resulted as such. KIIs reported that there is 24-hour lighting service provided at a cost by private companies and a fully functional solar street in Balcad while Qalimow only has 4 hours of lighting services provided by private companies at a cost. IOM is currently looking to install a solar street in Qalimow Town.

RULE OF LAW

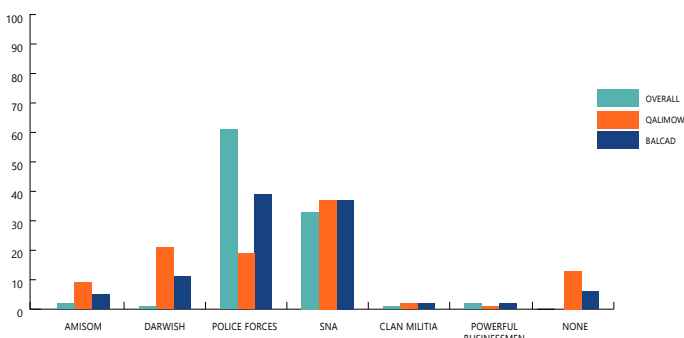
The COSI Sub-Index for Rule of Law is based on responses to queries about trust in SNA, AMISOM, Darwish, the police, and clan militias; the safety of males, females and children; fair sharing of power among different clans in security management; if a family member has been injured or killed in the last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

The most significant predictor for community recovery averaged across both locations was whether or not respondents trusted local security enforcement forces/actors. Across both locations, respondents answered as follows:

Refers to the question: "Imagine one of your friends was kidnapped. From whom would you seek assistance?"

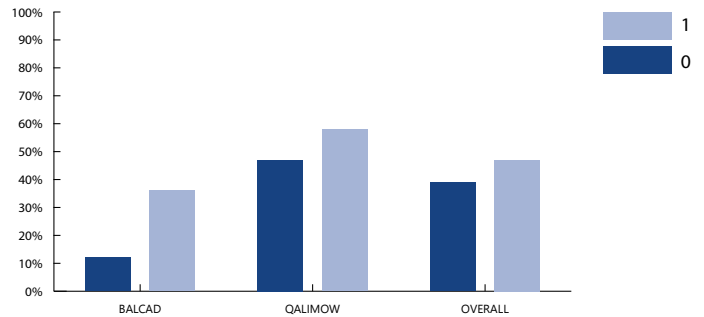


Refers to the question: "Imagine that armed group was launching attacks in the territory where you live and disrupting the local market and transportation of goods in and out of your area. Who would you expect to be most effective at securing the area?"



Cross-referencing with other sources, we are able to confirm that the Somali National Army (SNA) and Darwish forces are based closely and have checkpoints at the entrance and the exit of Balcad. The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) is also present within the district. A police station does exist but it is not currently in use by the police due to its poor condition.

Graph where 0 = not trusting and 1 = trusting local SNA forces with the outcome being perception of overall stability.



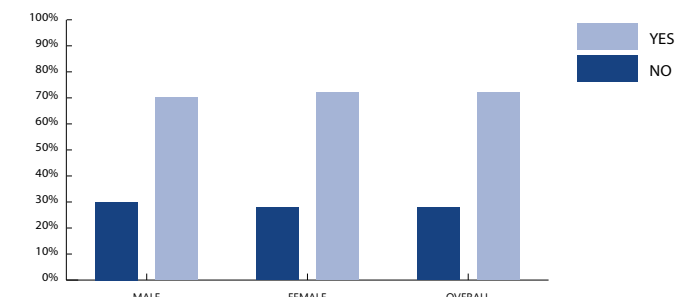
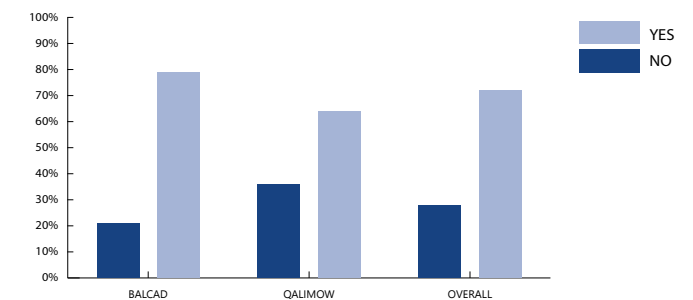
In both locations, but specifically Balcad, those who reported trusting local SNA forces (32% overall across both locations) reported a higher perception of overall stability in their communities. Trust in other security forces had less impact on the perception of overall stability across both locations and did not result in any statistical significance.

SOCIAL COHESION

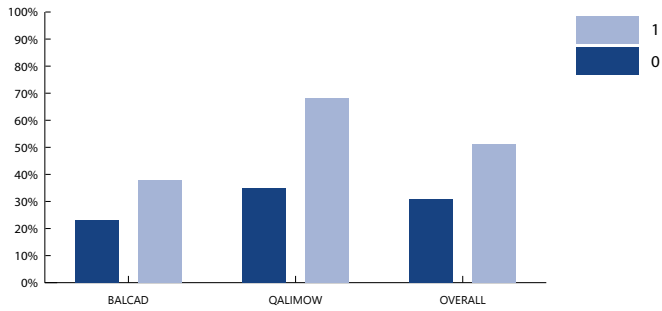
The COSI Sub-Index for Social Cohesion is based on responses to queries about playing football with other clan members; having a family member married to someone from another clan; and recent occurrences of tensions between groups.

The most significant predictor for social cohesion averaged across both locations was whether or not respondents were married to a member of a different clan. Of note, in all other COSI surveys to date, the most significant indicator of social cohesion was whether or not children played football with children from other clans – this result presents an interesting variation which speaks to the relative level of trust and lack of high-level inter-clan conflict in the area. Across both locations, respondents answered as follows:

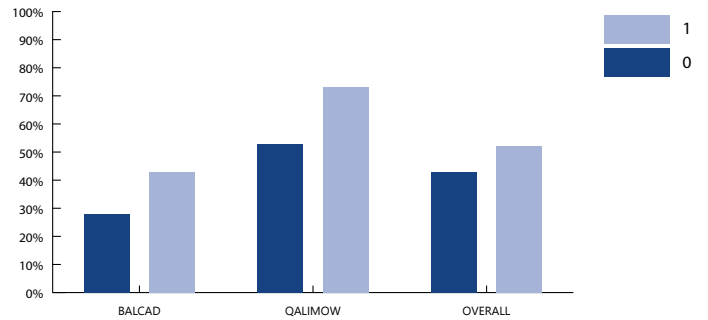
Refers to the question: "Are you or anyone in your family married to someone from a different clan/sub-clan?"



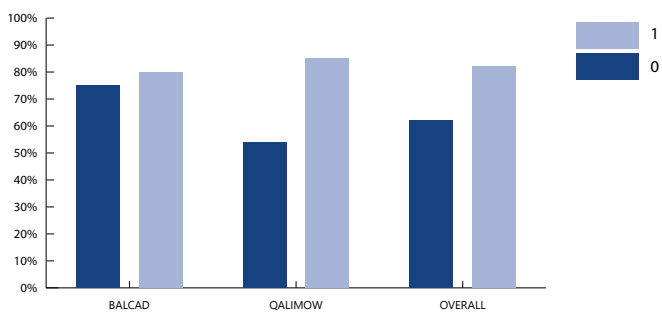
Graph where 0 = is not and 1 = is married to someone from a different clan/sub-clan with the outcome being perceived overall stability of the community.



Graph where 0 = does not and 1 = does report the presence of a peace collective in the community with the outcome being perceived overall stability.

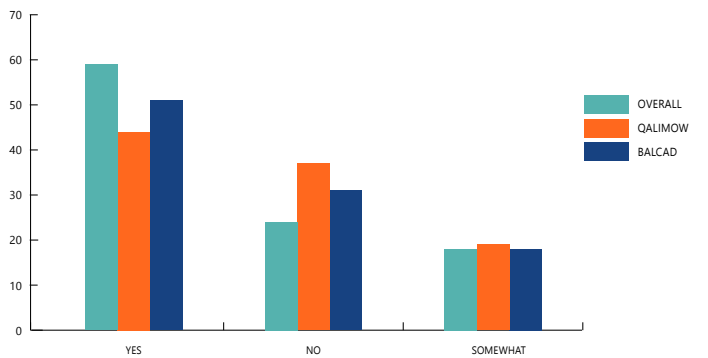


Graph where 0 = is not and 1 = is married to someone from a different clan/sub-clan with the outcome being perception that people within the community live peacefully together.



The second most significant predictor across the Local Governance Sub-Index was whether or not respondents felt that the clan composition of their local government was fair. Across both locations, respondents answered as follows:

Refers to the question: “Do you think that the current clan composition in the local government is fair?”



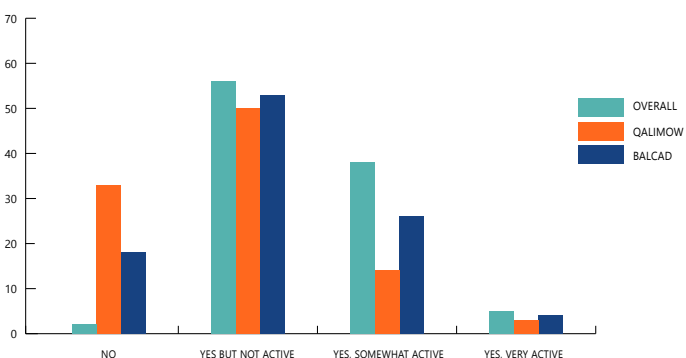
Across both locations in the survey, those who have an inter-clan marriage (an overall 72% of respondents) tend to have a more positive perception that people in their community live peacefully together than that the community itself is stable overall. This aligns with the general pattern of responses indicating that the respondents – and communities at large - largely trust their communities but that the significant presence of al-Shabaab is what most negatively affects their perception of stability in the area.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

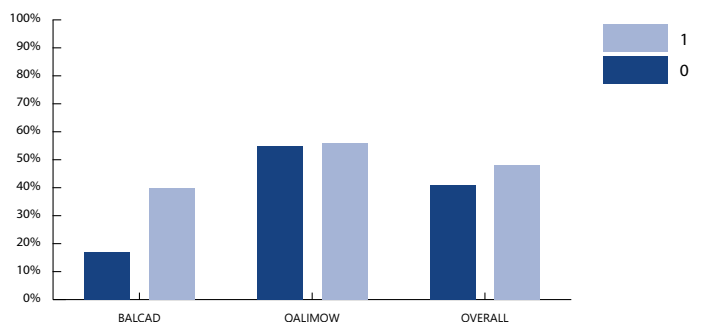
The COSI Sub-Index for Local Governance is based on responses to queries about presence of women, youth and peace collectives; recent visits from a member of the local government; if the government manages finances well; if the government responds to the needs of the community; and if the clan composition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

The most significant predictor for local governance averaged across both locations was whether or not a peace collective was present in the area. Across both locations, respondents answered as follows:

Refers to the question: “Does your community have a peace committee group(s) that actively works towards peacebuilding in your local area (not the government)?”



Graph where 0 = does not feel and 1 = does feel that the clan composition of the local government is fair with the outcome being perceived overall stability of the community.



Known low-level tension and localized skirmishes take place between each of the different sub/clans in/around Balcad, which contributes to the low level of perceived overall stability amongst those who don't think the clan composition of the local government is fair. In Qalimow, though there are existing tensions between clans, KIs confirm that the influence of al-Shabaab's extensive presence surrounding the community and across the district has suppressed any significant skirmishes in the town. This contributes to the relative similarity in perception of overall stability amongst both those who do and do not think the clan composition of the local government is fair as this is not their main point of insecurity.