



SOMALIA

WHAT HAPPENED IN SEPTEMBER?

As a **large-scale offensive against Al-Shabaab** by local clan militias and government forces gained ground, the UN and others warned of looming famine in the southern Bay region. Tensions between Mogadishu and federal member states persisted over resource-sharing.

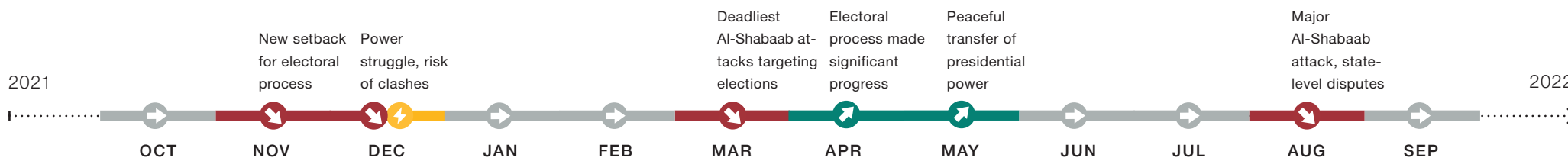
WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The renewed mobilisation against Al-Shabaab carries risks of increased violence against civilians with little prospects of full military victory on either side. It further complicates the drought response at a time when **hundreds of thousands face starvation in coming months**.

AUGUST TRENDS

Al-Shabaab killed more than twenty people in its **first major assault in the capital Mogadishu** since President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's return to power. A new government formed, and tensions rose over possible presidential term extensions in South West and Jubaland states.

TRENDS TIMELINE



1 ➡ Large-scale offensive against Al-Shabaab made territorial gains

On 25 September, the federal government said the army and the Ma'awisley clan militias had recaptured 40 settlements in **Hiraan region** and six in **Galgaduud region** from Al-Shabaab in less than three weeks. U.S. airstrikes supported the large-scale offensive in central regions, notably killing 27 militants on the outskirts of Hiraan's Bulobarde town on 18 September.

Further south, on 26 September, a local militia acting with support from national forces reportedly captured four settlements outside **South West state capital Baidoa**, in the Bay region.

2 ⚠ Risks of mass starvation rose in south

Amid spreading fighting, on 5 September the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification projected famine for **Baidoa and Burhakaba districts** in the southern Bay region of South West state, stating that agropastoral and displaced populations risk facing famine before the end of the calendar year, unless humanitarian aid is significantly scaled up.

The UN children's agency in mid-September reported that **over 500,000 Somali children under five** risk death from hunger, a number unseen in any country this century.

3 ➡ Centre-periphery relations remained strained

On 13 September, state finance ministers withdrew their **threat to stop cooperation** with the federal finance ministry after finding agreement on allocating \$94 million from the World Bank. The following day, state humanitarian ministers complained they had **not received their share of funding** the **United Arab Emirates** sent to Mogadishu three months ago; the prime minister's office pledged to address the issue.

State-level term extensions continued; on 13 September, Galmudug's state parliament added a year to the administration's term.

WHAT TO WATCH

The historic drought risks pushing hundreds of thousands into starvation before the end of the year, increasing the urgent need for donor support. Only about **two-thirds of the UN's \$1.5 billion 2022 appeal for Somalia** has so far been funded.

The military offensive against Al-Shabaab, which is spreading further south into South West and Jubaland states, could **complicate aid efforts**, in particular food relief, by **making the main routes perilous and driving further displacement**.

