

2.3.2. Benadir and Mogadishu - Checkpoints and road security

As of October 2023, Benadir region had the country's highest density of checkpoints. A report published by the RVI and other organisations identified 22 checkpoints located along key access roads, while citing other sources that pointed to the existence of dozens or even hundreds of more checkpoints in the region.^{[931](#)} IPIS mapped multiple checkpoints located around Aden Adde International Airport, in the city centre, and along roads connecting the city with Afgooye, Merka (Lower Shabelle), Balcad, and Warsheikh (Middle Shabelle).^{[932](#)} For an overview on checkpoints at country level see section [1.7 and Map 4](#).

Al-Shabaab, aiming to gain control over the main routes connecting Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Benadir regions,^{[933](#)} carried out multiple attacks on key supply routes heading into Mogadishu, especially the Mogadishu–Afgooye road and the Mogadishu–Balcad road.^{[934](#)}

The group's attacks targeted security checkpoints in Daynile (September 2023),^{[935](#)} Garasbaley (August 2024)^{[936](#)} and Kaxda districts (September 2024),^{[937](#)} causing a number of casualties^{[938](#)} and briefly enabling the group to gain control of Kaxda's Burta Ali Janaale checkpoint, a strategic entry gate into the city.^{[939](#)} Roadside bombings reportedly also resulted in several casualties in Daynile^{[940](#)} and Huriwa,^{[941](#)} as well as in the March 2025 attack targeting the convoy of President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud near Villa Somalia.^{[942](#)} Moreover, Al-Shabaab reportedly set up checkpoints of its own in the Mogadishu suburbs.^{[943](#)} On the night of 21 October 2024, federal forces launched a security campaign in the Hamar-Weyne district. They executed house-to-house searches and installed checkpoints to control traffic of vehicles and pedestrians, mainly targeting young males, some of whom were arrested.^{[944](#)}

^{[931](#)}

Schouten, P., Paying the Price: The political economy of checkpoints in Somalia, RVI et al., October 2023, [url](#), p. 26

^{[932](#)}

IPIS, Mapping the political economy of checkpoints in Somalia, 20 December 2023, [url](#)

^{[933](#)}

ACLED, What's next for the fight against al-Shabaab?, 4 September 2024, [url](#)

[934](#)

Somali Digest (The), Al-Shabab Tightens Grip Around Mogadishu's Suburbs, 24 March 2025, [url](#)

[935](#)

AA, 8 injured as car bomb targets army checkpoint in Somali capital, 13 September 2023, [url](#)

[936](#)

Mogadishu24, Al-Shabaab claims deadly attacks on security checkpoints, 21 August 2024, [url](#)

[937](#)

Somali Digest (The), Al-Shabab Launches Attacks on Security Targets in Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle, 28 September 2024, [url](#)

[938](#)

Mogadishu24, Al-Shabaab claims deadly attacks on security checkpoints, 21 August 2024, [url](#); AA, 8 injured as car bomb targets army checkpoint in Somali capital, 13 September 2023, [url](#)

[939](#)

Somali Digest (The), Al-Shabab Launches Attacks on Security Targets in Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle, 28 September 2024, [url](#)

[940](#)

AA, Roadside bomb blast kills 3 in Somali capital, 13 November 2024, [url](#)

[941](#)

SONNA, Police statement: Terrorist explosion attack kills 5 civilians, 20 February 2024, [url](#)

[942](#)

AP, A roadside bomb in Mogadishu targeted the president's convoy, Somali government says, 19 March 2025, [url](#)

[943](#)

Somali Digest (The), Al-Shabab Tightens Grip Around Mogadishu's Suburbs, 24 March 2025, [url](#)

[944](#)

SMN, Somalia: Mogadishu Security Sweep Targets Potential Threats, 22 October 2024, [url](#)

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu