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2.5.3. Galmudug - Checkpoints and road security

In Galmudug, the relative scarcity of checkpoints can be attributed in part to the success of the local actors revenue sharing mechanism¹¹³⁸ and in part to under-reporting issues.¹¹³⁹ For an overview on checkpoints at country level see section [1.7](#) and [Map 4](#).

UNOCHA reported on humanitarian partners in Xarardheere who experienced 'extended' delays at checkpoints, demands for bribes and other protection concerns.¹¹⁴⁰ In another case, a humanitarian team was reportedly stopped at a checkpoint by clan militia and denied passage while the militia was looking for members of another clan.¹¹⁴¹ In February 2025, government forces and allied militias attacked an Al-Shabaab-controlled checkpoint in Xarardheere district that was allegedly used to extort money from civilians and travellers.¹¹⁴²

In September 2023, Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for two car bomb attacks in Dhuusamarreeb, targeting the road to the town's main airport and a checkpoint within the town. The attack happened while President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was residing in the town to continue the mobilisation against Al-Shabaab.¹¹⁴³ In July 2024, Al-Shabaab stole arms and ammunition in an attack on a government-escorted convoy in Abudwak district near the Ethiopian border. The weapons had been smuggled into the country and had been seized by the government forces.¹¹⁴⁴ In July 2024, the SNA reportedly cleared the road between Mesagaway and Barak-Sheikh Amir in Galgaduud region from landmines planted by Al-Shabaab.¹¹⁴⁵ Mine clearing operations by government forces were also taking place in Ceel Dheere district in December 2023,¹¹⁴⁶ and on the roads along the Hirshabelle-Galgaduud border regions in May 2024.¹¹⁴⁷ Several local media reported on landmine explosions killing or injuring civilians, including near Galcad in July 2023,¹¹⁴⁸ near Ceel Dheer district,¹¹⁴⁹ and in the Heraale area in July 2024.¹¹⁵⁰

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