

## 2.1.4. Jubbaland - Checkpoints and road security

A report published by the Rift Valley Institute (RVI) and other organisations noted that, as of October 2023, 34 % of all of Somalia's checkpoints were located in Jubbaland State, the vast majority (80 %) in Lower Juba region.<sup>[613](#)</sup> The International Peace Information Service (IPIS), a Belgium-based humanitarian research institute<sup>[614](#)</sup> that had contributed to the above-mentioned report, identified multiple checkpoints located on the Kismayo–Afmadow–Dhobley road (with those between Kismayo and Afmadow under Al-Shabaab control), on the Kismayo–Badhaadhe road (where Al-Shabaab controlled most checkpoints, including in Badhaadhe town), and on the Kismayo–Jamaame–Jilib–Bardhere road (where Al-Shabaab was likewise in control of most checkpoints).<sup>[615](#)</sup> For an overview on checkpoints at country level [see section 1.7](#) and [Map 4](#).

ACLED reported that Al-Shabaab mobilisation in Jubbaland increased in September 2024 as the group set up two new checkpoints and bases along the roads between Kismayo and Afmadow and Jamaame. Moreover, Al-Shabaab imposed a transport blockade on Bardhere town (Gedo) which allowed the group to extort funds from traders and travellers.<sup>[616](#)</sup>

Jubbaland witnessed a number of roadside bombings during the reference period, including an attack near Bulo Haji (targeting a Jubbaland official),<sup>[617](#)</sup> the road between Luuq and Doolow (targeting SNA troops),<sup>[618](#)</sup> the Belet Xaawo–Doolow road (targeting government forces<sup>[619](#)</sup> and civilians<sup>[620](#)</sup>). Al-Shabaab planted IEDs on roads leading into Kismayo city<sup>[621](#)</sup> and in Gedo region to ambush the armed forces.<sup>[622](#)</sup>

<sup>[613](#)</sup>

Schouten, P., *Paying the Price: The political economy of checkpoints in Somalia*, RVI et al., October 2023, [url](#), pp. 25-26

<sup>[614](#)</sup>

IPIS, *About IPIS*, n.d., [url](#)

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

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ACLED, *Controversy over electoral reform sparks debate in Somalia amid al-Shabaab operation*, 28 October 2024, [url](#)

<sup>[617](#)</sup>

Mustaqbal Media, Jubaland State Minister Injured in Roadside Explosion En Route to Bulo Haji, 22 July 2024, [url](#)

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VOA, 11 Somali Soldiers Killed as AU Forces Start Second Round of Troop Drawdown, 19 September 2023, [url](#)

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Somali Digest (The), Deadly blast targeted government forces in Beled Hawo, Gedo, 9 October 2023, [url](#)

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SMN, Jubaland Forces Intensify Security Operations in Kismayo and Surrounding Areas, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

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