

2.2.4. South West - Checkpoints and road security

A report published by the RVI and other organisations noted that, as of October 2023, 26 % of all of Somalia's checkpoints were located in South West State, the majority (66 %) in Lower Shabelle region.^{[837](#)} IPIS mapped multiple checkpoints on routes located between Mogadishu and Baraawe (where Al-Shabaab controlled several checkpoints in Qoryooley town and around Janale), on the Mogadishu–Afgooye–Baidoa–Doolow road (mostly under non-Al-Shabaab control), and along routes in Bakool (where Al-Shabaab held checkpoints in Yeed and Tayeeglow).^{[838](#)} Major checkpoints in the state included Daynuunaay near Baidoa (held by Al-Shabaab as of October 2023), Jamecada in Buur Hakaba, and Bar Ismail, an entry point to Afgooye.^{[839](#)} For an overview on checkpoints at country level see section [1.7](#) and [Map 4](#).

Al-Shabaab controlled a number of key supply routes across the state, including the road between Aawdiinle and Bardale (Bay region),^{[840](#)} and aimed to gain control over the main routes connecting Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Banadir regions.^{[841](#)} The group carried out multiple attacks on key supply routes heading into Mogadishu, including the Mogadishu–Afgooye road.^{[842](#)} The numerous Al-Shabaab-imposed sieges of cities in South West State made travel on roads 'difficult and dangerous'.^{[843](#)}

Particularly the key supply and transit route from Mogadishu to Baidoa,^{[844](#)} running through Wanla Weyn (Lower Shabelle) and Buur Hakaba (Bay),^{[845](#)} has been a focal area of Al-Shabaab attacks that mostly took the form of small-scale raids and ambushes,^{[846](#)} while the group has also ambushed the main supply route around Janale.^{[847](#)} In Bakool, the SNA reclaimed control of the strategic Xudur–Qurajome road from Al-Shabaab in August 2024.^{[848](#)}

^{[837](#)}

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