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4.2.5. Healthcare and socio-economic conditions

COMMON ANALYSIS
Last update: October 2025

The analysis below is based on the following EUAA COI reports: Security 2025, 1.4.3.; Country Focus 2025, 1.2.1., 2.1.1., 2.2.1., 2.3.1.; Country Guidance should not be referred to as a source of COI.

Somalia faces a prolonged humanitarian crisis fueled by conflict, climate shocks, disease outbreaks, and mass displacement. In 2025, 9.1 million people -47 % of the population- were affected, with nearly 6 million needing humanitarian aid. Socio-economic conditions remained dire, especially in urban centres like Mogadishu, Hargeisa, and Garowe; widespread poverty, informal employment, and lack of access to food, clean water, and secure housing are common, especially among IDPs, who make up the most vulnerable group.

Half of the population is water-insecure, and over 1.7 million children suffer from acute malnutrition. IDPs often live in informal settlements without land rights, exposing them to forced evictions and exploitation by informal camp managers. Healthcare is limited due to inaccessible facilities, high costs, and medicine shortages. Ongoing conflict has severely damaged essential infrastructure, with more than 25 attacks on hospitals and numerous incidents targeting schools reported between 2023 and 2024.

Women, children (who constitute 80% of the IDP population), minority groups, the elderly, and people with disabilities face heightened risks. In areas controlled by Al-Shabaab, residents suffer from extreme restrictions and lack of services. The ongoing destruction of infrastructure and the lack of public support systems deepen the crisis, leaving many reliant on humanitarian aid for survival.

It is important to note that serious harm must take the form of conduct of an actor (Article 6 QD/QR). In itself, unless there is intentional conduct of an actor, the general unavailability of healthcare, education or other socio-economic elements (e.g. situation of IDPs, difficulties in finding livelihood opportunities, housing) is not considered serious harm meeting the requirements of inhuman or degrading treatment under Article 15(b) QD/QR in relation to Article 6 QD/QR. When such conditions are the result of an intentional conduct of an actor, they may qualify under Article 15(b) QD/QR.

Personal circumstances such as: the home area of the applicant as well as his/her gender, being in an IDP situation, belonging to a minority are to be taken into account in the assessment of real risk of inhuman or degrading treatment based on the socio-economic conditions. Where there is the intentional conduct of an actor and no nexus to a reason for persecution is substantiated, the treatment may qualify under Article 15(b) QD/QR, depending on the severity of its consequences in the individual case.

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