



## 2.1.3. Lower Juba

Lower Juba region is divided into four districts: Afmadow, Jamaame, Badhaadhe, and Kismayo, the latter three districts all located along the Indian Ocean coast.[272](#) The city of Kismayo, home to a major port,[273](#) is Lower Juba's regional capital[274](#) and has also been the de facto capital of Jubbaland.[275](#) As of January 2026, Lower Juba's population was estimated at 1 204 269.[276](#) For more detailed background information on Lower Juba, see section 2.1.3. of the EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation (May 2025).

### ○ **Actors presence and conflict dynamics**

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Al-Shabaab controlled the towns of Jamaame, Hagar, Mido, Berhani and Badhaadhe as well as swaths of rural territory in the region's east and north-east encompassing Jamaame and parts of Afmadow district. The group further controlled rural areas stretching northward from the Badhaadhe area into Afmadow. Meanwhile, 'autonomous armed forces' (Jubbaland forces, Jubbaland-aligned FGS units and Kenyan/Ethiopian forces) controlled the cities and towns of Kismayo, Bulo Xaji, Koday, Ras Kamboni, Kolbiyow, Jana Abdale, Afmadow, Dhobley, Dif, as well as the town of Bar Sanguni, where control shifted from mixed FGS-Jubbaland control to full Jubbaland control. In the rural areas not fully dominated by Al-Shabaab, control was mixed between the group and Jubbaland forces.[277](#) The security landscape of Kismayo city was dominated by the Jubbaland authorities, who held a monopoly on violence.[278](#) The reference period saw the deployment of additional Jubbaland forces to Lower Juba.[279](#) Federal-aligned forces, while no longer in control of any territory in Lower Juba,[280](#) nonetheless remained involved in security operations in the region.[281](#)

Lower Juba was one of the regions with the highest numbers of reported IED incidents.[282](#) Local authorities noted an increase in roadside bombs planted by Al-Shabaab to hinder movements of civilians and military forces.[283](#) Civilians were among the casualties of IED explosions.[284](#) In January 2026, amid an escalation of Al-Shabaab

attacks on security forces across several regions, the group launched a major complex attack on bases of the Jubbaland regional forces in Koday,[285](#) a strategic island town. [286](#) Heavy fighting lasted between 'more than 24 hours'[287](#) and four days[288](#) before the attackers were repelled by SNA and Jubbaland forces.[289](#)

[296](#)

## ○ Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 500 security incidents in Lower Juba region, including battles, explosions/other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 1 334 fatalities.[302](#)

Figure 13: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Lower Juba per month, based on ACLED data.

Figure 13: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Lower Juba per month, based on ACLED data.[303](#)

Figure 14: Evolution of security events in Lower Juba per type, based on ACLED data.

Figure 14: Evolution of security events in Lower Juba per type, based on ACLED data.[304](#)

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either 'Actor 1' or 'Actor 2') were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 350 security incidents against Military or Police Forces of Somalia (including 208 incidents against Jubbaland forces) and 70 incidents of violence against civilians.[305](#)

## Illustrative security incidents

- In July 2025, four people were killed when a roadside bomb struck a civilian vehicle in the Bulo Xaji area.[306](#)
- On 26 November 2025, at least 21 civilians were killed in an unclaimed airstrike and/or ground operation in the Jamaame area.[307](#)
- On 21 January 2026, Al-Shabaab conducted a large-scale complex attack on one or more bases of the Jubbaland regional forces in Koday town. Al-Shabaab media claimed that 113 Jubbaland troops had been killed in the ensuing clashes,[308](#)

while ACLED pointed to reports estimating that over 80 soldiers had died in the attack.[309](#) According to the MoD, the SNA, Jubbaland troops and international forces repelled the attack, allegedly killing more than 130 Al-Shabaab members.  
[310](#)

- **Conflict-related displacement**

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 34 081 individuals were newly displaced in Lower Juba region due to conflict or insecurity during the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of them were displaced from areas located in Jamaame (25 629) and Badhaadhe (6 000) districts. Nearly all displacement in Lower Juba occurred within the same region (33 945). During the same period, 5 042 displaced individuals arrived in Lower Juba from other regions.[311](#) The UN Panel of Experts held that over 90 % of conflict-related displacement recorded between September 2024 and October 2025 was linked to Al-Shabaab activities.[312](#)

### **Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation**

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘heavy’ and ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in all of Jamaame and most of Kismayo, Badhaadhe and Afmadow districts. ‘Moderate restrictions’ were seen in central and western parts of Afmadow, in the western and northwestern edges of Badhaadhe, and along the coastal areas of Badhaadhe and Kismayo.[313](#) 2025 saw a further deterioration in humanitarian access in Lower Juba,[314](#) with UNOCHA recording 25 humanitarian access incidents over the year. Road blockages, armed fighting and security incidents affecting humanitarian staff hampered access to parts of Lower Juba and delayed deliveries.[315](#) As of January 2026, the IPC reported that about 50 % of the total analysed population of 1 204 269 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 31 %), 3 (crisis, 15 %) or 4 (emergency, 4 %).[316](#) NRC recorded the eviction of 4 304 individuals in Lower Juba region in 2025 and early 2026.[317](#)

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