



SHARP+ resilience assessment in Somalia, in the districts of Jowhar and Balcad

CONTEXT

The **Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of Climate Resilience of Farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP+)** is a comprehensive approach and tool developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to assess the resilience of smallholder farmers at the household level. It considers various factors that influence resilience, including environmental, economic, social, and governance aspects. Implemented through a modular numerical survey, SHARP+ can be tailored to the specific context of the country or project in which it is utilized.

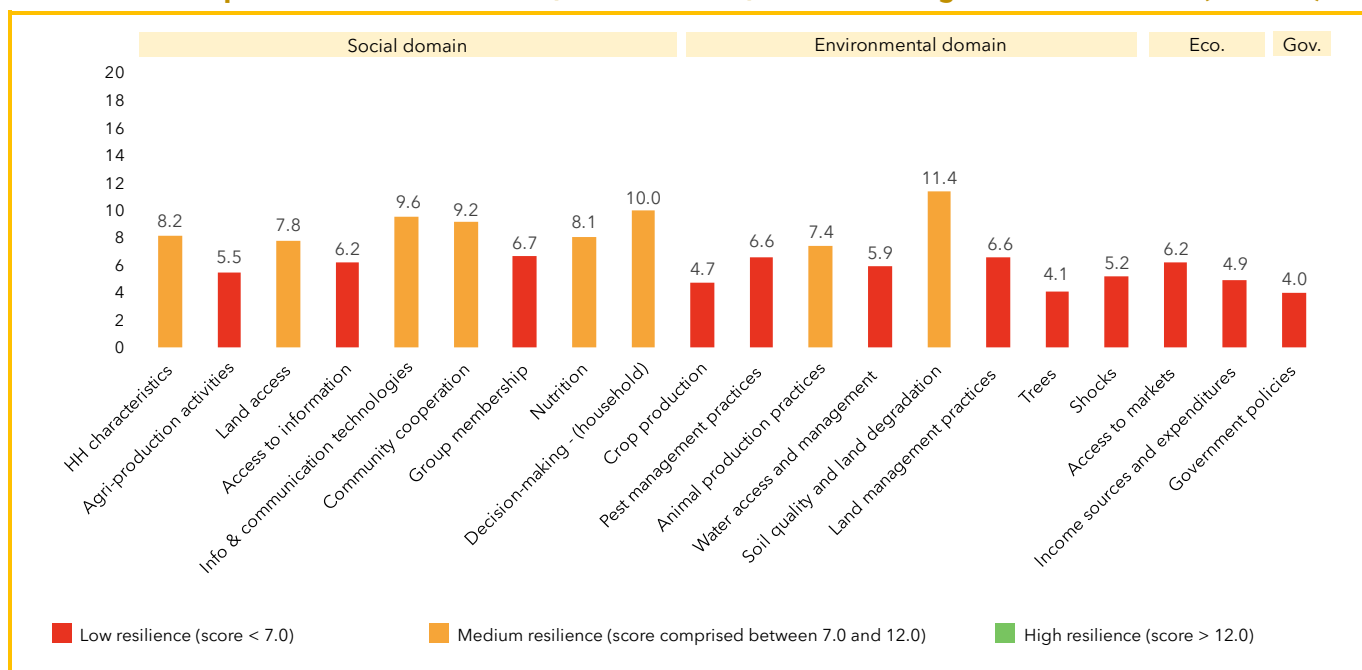
The tool is mainly used to **identify the aspects of the farming system in need of intervention, inform the design of projects activities as well as to monitor and evaluate the resilience and adaptive capacities of the agroecosystem.** This is made possible by an automatic calculation of resilience scores per assessed module as depicted in the Figure below. Furthermore, SHARP+ facilitates the assessment of existing adaptation capacities, providing valuable insights for informed decision-making and strategy development.

APPLICATION IN THE FIELD

Somalia has faced increasingly volatile climate and political conditions. Data from FAO's Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) show that in 19 of the past 20 years, Somalia has experienced either drought, flooding, or both, with these extreme events becoming more frequent over the last decade. While conflict in Somalia is largely driven by the presence of armed non-state actors, conflict and insecurity in the origin areas of displacement have multiple causes, with 79.3% attributed to disputes over natural resources such as land, water, and/or pasture.

The SHARP+ tool has been deployed in Somalia as part of a baseline study for the **Jowhar Off-stream Storage Programme (JOSP)**. This is a multi-actor programme led by FAO and involving UNEP, UNIDO, IOM, UNHABITAT, and World Vision, funded by USAID, FCDO, and UN Joint Fund. It aims to rehabilitate a flood canal and reservoir to reduce flood risks and mitigate drought for 1.65 million people in Hirshabelle and Southwest Somalia while restoring water infrastructure, promoting sustainable agriculture and strengthening resilience and food security in local communities.

Resilience scores per module from the social, environmental, economic and governance domains (N=1610)



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Key findings

The results indicate that households from the study zone display low resilience scores across the environment (6.7/20), economic (5.1/20) and governance (4.0/20) domains, as averaged from related modules. Only the social aspect shows average medium resilience (7.9/20).

Agricultural practices and crop cultivation

- Agrobiodiversity is low, with limited species and varieties of seasonal crops, and an even greater lack of diversity among perennial crops.
- Restricted access to seeds and limited post-harvest management capacity contribute to significant losses and missed opportunities for value addition.
- A large proportion of farmers have not taken any measures to improve soil quality, with fewer than one out of five engaging in agroecological practices.
- Households report a shortage of both crop quantity and diversity to meet their needs, further exacerbated by a lack of technical capacity to overcome agricultural challenges, leading to low and declining yields.

Income sources and expenditures

- Income sources are not diversified, with limited participation in non-farming activities. This contributes to an inability to save money or afford essential expenses such as children's education.
- Financial constraints make it difficult for farmers to purchase seeds, and there is a heavy reliance on self-produced seeds, which may hinder crop production.
- Respondents perceive the income generated from farm and non-farm activities as insufficient to cover food and other basic expenses.

Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Farming households face high vulnerability to climate shocks, driven by increasing exposure, severe impacts, and the perceived ineffectiveness of current coping strategies.
- Flooding is the most frequent and damaging shock, leading to significant productivity losses and crop failures in many households.
- While access to water for agriculture is generally high, the adoption of water conservation practices remains very low, contributing to widespread dissatisfaction with water availability.

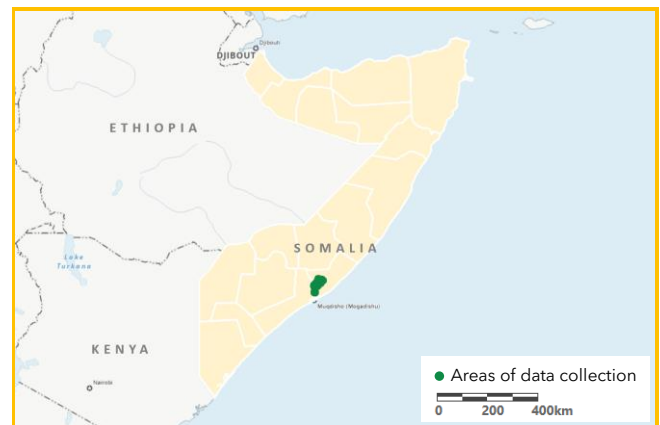
Access to information

- Most farmers express dissatisfaction with the sufficiency of available information to predict and respond to weather events and climate changes.

To meet the project's needs and address the specific field context, the questionnaire was first adapted. As such, the core set question-modules that composes the standard survey were used with three additional modules (access to information, information and communication technologies, and animal production practices) as well as specific projects' indicators.

Data collection took place in September 2024, with a total of 1610 surveys administrated within the districts of Jowhar and Balcad (Lower and Middle Shabelle regions). To meet the project's needs and allow comparative study. The analysis encompassed two categories: beneficiaries of RESTORE, TRANSFORM, MAAREYANTA, and YOUTH-Act PBF projects and compare groups. The measure of the contribution of each project were distributed among two districts Jowhar for TRANSFORM and Balcad for RESTORE.

Geolocation of the survey, Somalia



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WAYS FORWARD

Key elements of JOSP include the Shuun Barrage restoration, a canal network known as FAO canal, and a reservoir designed to regulate water flow—preventing flooding in the rainy season and supplying water during dry periods. Additionally, this infrastructure will ensure that downstream farming communities have controlled irrigation when needed, enhancing adaptation to climate change.

Moving forward, in collaboration with the program's consortium Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning (MEL) team, the SHARP+ tool will be utilized for midline and endline surveys. By comparing the results with this baseline, we will monitor the programme's impacts and outcomes using difference in difference (DID) approach.

For more information:

- SHARP website: www.fao.org/in-action/sharp
- Project presentation: <https://www.fao.org/somalia/news/detail-events/en/c/1696466/>
- sharp@fao.org



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