



SOMALIA

WHAT HAPPENED IN JUNE?

Newly elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud took steps to **mend ties with federal member states** and appointed his prime minister. **Al-Shabaab suffered a serious setback** in central Somalia, while military operations elsewhere picked up pace. The **risk of famine** persisted.

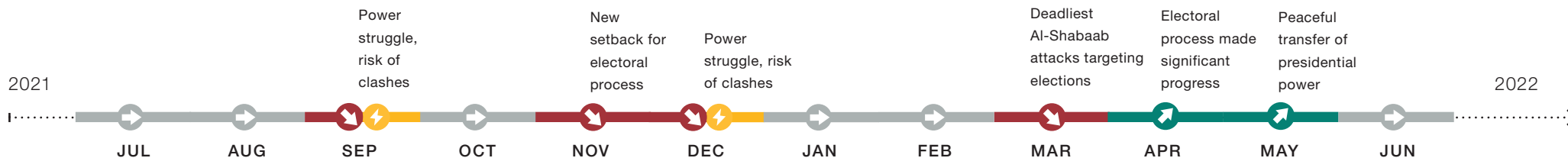
WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Post-election **reconciliation** between the federal government and federal member states is necessary for President Mohamud to advance his ambitious agenda, including making **progress in the struggle against Al-Shabaab's** fifteen-year insurgency that has wreaked havoc in large parts of the country.

MAY TRENDS

Somalia **concluded its prolonged electoral cycle** with the election of Mohamud as president. Outgoing President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed "Farmajo" accepted defeat and formally handed over power. Al-Shabaab launched its **largest attack on the African Union mission** since 2019.

TRENDS TIMELINE



1 ➡ President Mohamud's government took shape

In an effort to **reset relations with federal member states**, Mohamud during his early days in office travelled to South West and Galmudug states, whose leaders were aligned with his predecessor. He also presided over a meeting with all member state leaders on 11-12 June in Mogadishu. The participants developed a seven-point communiqué outlining government priorities.

Mohamud on 15 June appointed Hamza Abdi Barre, a long-time close associate and recently elected MP representing Jubaland state, as his prime minister.

2 ➡ Al-Shabaab suffered losses in country's centre

On 17 June, residents aided by a local militia repulsed Al-Shabaab's raid on Bahdo town in Galmudug state, **killing up to 70 militants**. The incident marks a **significant defeat for the group**, which had also attacked the town in January of this year.

In Hirshabelle state, government forces in mid-June launched operations to reverse Al-Shabaab's recent gains in Hiraan region's Mataban district.

Al-Shabaab targeting of recent electoral participants continued, with nearly twenty killed to date.

3 ➡ The UN warned of the risk of famine

In early June, UN agencies said 7.1 million Somalis, nearly half of the population, are facing acute levels of food insecurity and **over 200,000 are at risk of starvation**, particularly in the country's southern regions where insecurity makes humanitarian aid access more challenging.

This situation comes as **consecutive droughts** have withered crops and killed scores of livestock, while grain imports from Ukraine and Russia have dramatically dropped since February and **global food prices hover near record highs**.

WHAT TO WATCH

New Prime Minister Barre is expected to unveil his cabinet in the coming weeks. **Appeasing all political factions will prove impossible** and some actors may step up their criticism of the new government if they do not receive coveted positions.

Supporters of the previous president, Farmajo, may seek to team up with those who lose out and **form a wider coalition against the new administration**.

Al-Shabaab may focus its attention on Hirshabelle and Galmudug states.

