Suuq Bulletin

ISSUE 02 · DAILY MARKET PRICES · NATIVE MEASURES

14 – 28 August 2026
Afgooye · Baidoa · Bakaaro

PERIOD	MARKETS	PRICE RECORDS	COLLECTION	CROPS	NEXT ISSUE
14–28 Aug 2026	3	524	Daily	16	11 Sep

Two farmers, one fortnight: maize fell by half on the river while sorghum rose in Bay

In the same fifteen days, white maize in Afgooye dropped from $50 to $26 a Loor as the Gu harvest landed — while red sorghum in Baidoa climbed from $18.00 to $25.20 as a thin harvest met disrupted trade. Two zones, opposite Augusts. This issue reads the split, checks it against last year's published prices, and follows one farmer through the middle of it.

THE TWO-WEEK READ

−48%
MAIZE, AFGOOYE
$50 to $26 per Loor, 14–28 August, touching $24 as the riverine harvest arrived all at once.

+40%
SORGHUM, BAIDOA
$18.00 to $25.20 per Loor across the fortnight in the rain-fed zone.

×2
PULSES, AFGOOYE
Mung bean doubled in the same market where maize halved; cowpea held at double until the 28th.

0%
WHEAT, EVERYWHERE
The imported cereal did not move. Whatever happened, happened to the harvest.

Photo: Pexels

"It's Fasal season arrived, Gu season — meaning it's harvest time."

— recorder's note on the Afgooye sheet, 12 August

PRICES THIS PERIOD

First and latest observation inside 14–28 August, plus the full range. Never a period average — a fortnightly mean would have erased the Afgooye drop entirely. All prices US$ in the measure the market actually trades.

AFGOOYE — SUUQA BADARKA · CEREALS & PULSES · 14–28 AUGUST

CROP	MEASURE	FIRST	LATEST	CHANGE	RANGE IN PERIOD
Maize (Galleey), white	Loor	50.00	**26.00**	▼ −48.0%	24.00 – 50.00
Sorghum (Moordi), red	Loor	26.00	**25.00**	▼ −3.8%	24.00 – 26.00
Cowpea (Digir)	Koombo	0.75	**0.75**	0.0%	0.75 – 1.50
Mung bean (Salbuko)	Koombo	0.50	**1.00**	▲ +100.0%	0.50 – 1.50
Sesame (Sisin)	kg	1.50	**2.00**	▲ +33.3%	1.50 – 2.00
Wheat (Qamadi)	Koombo	0.60	**0.60**	0.0%	0.59 – 0.60

BAIDOA CITY MARKET — CEREALS & PULSES · 14–28 AUGUST

CROP	MEASURE	FIRST	LATEST	CHANGE	RANGE IN PERIOD
Maize (Galleey), white	Loor	36.00	**28.80**	▼ −20.0%	28.00 – 36.00
Sorghum (Moordi), red	Loor	18.00	**25.20**	▲ +40.0%	18.00 – 25.20
Cowpea (Digir)	Koombo	0.80	**0.85**	▲ +6.3%	0.80 – 0.90
Mung bean (Salbuko)	Koombo	1.00	**1.00**	0.0%	0.90 – 1.00
Wheat (Qamadi)	Koombo	0.95	**1.00**	▲ +5.3%	0.90 – 1.00
Sesame (Sisin)	kg	2.00	**1.60**	▼ −20.0%	1.60 – 2.00

BAKAARO MARKET, MOGADISHU — CEREALS · FROM 22 AUGUST

CROP	MEASURE	LATEST	RANGE IN PERIOD
Maize (Galleey), white	Loor	**30.00**	30.00 – 30.00
Sorghum (Moordi), red	Loor	**39.00**	39.00 – 39.00
Wheat (Qamadi)	Koombo	**1.00**	1.00 – 1.00

Bakaaro cereal collection began 22 August; vegetables and fruit continue daily as in Issue 01.

> *Every price in this bulletin is quoted in the measure the market actually trades in — the Loor, the Koombo, the Jirgaan, the Xirmo bac. These are the measures farmers and traders buy and sell in every day, and prices quoted in them compare directly across markets.*

VEGETABLES & FRUIT THIS PERIOD

SELECTED HORTICULTURE · 14–28 AUGUST

CROP	MARKET	MEASURE	FIRST	LATEST	CHANGE
Cherry tomato (Yaanyo)	Baidoa	Jirgaan	2.00	**6.00**	▲ +200.0%
Cherry tomato (Yaanyo)	Bakaaro	Jirgaan	5.00	**6.00**	▲ +20.0%
Bottle gourd (Bocor)	Baidoa	Loor	11.00	**15.00**	▲ +36.4%
Bottle gourd (Bocor)	Bakaaro	Loor	11.50	**5.00**	▼ −56.5%
Lemon (Liin)	Baidoa	Loor	35.00	**35.00**	0.0%
Watermelon (Qare)	Bakaaro	piece	3.00	**5.00**	▲ +66.7%
Potato (Baradho)	Bakaaro	kg	1.00	**0.50**	▼ −50.0%
Onion (Basal), red	Afgooye	kg	1.25	**0.75**	▼ −40.0%

Where the recorder gave a low–high range, First and Latest use the midpoint and Range uses the outer bounds. ▲ green *marks a price that rose;* ▼ red *marks a price that fell. Read the colour from your side of the trade: a rising price favours the farmer or trader with produce to sell, and a falling price favours the buyer stocking up.*

THE BASKET

Maize · $26.00 /Loor Afgooye

Sorghum · $25.20 /Loor Baidoa

Banana · $0.10 /piece Bakaaro

Sesame · $2.00 /kg Afgooye

Tomato · $6.00 /Jirgaan Baidoa

Lemon · $35.00 /Loor Baidoa

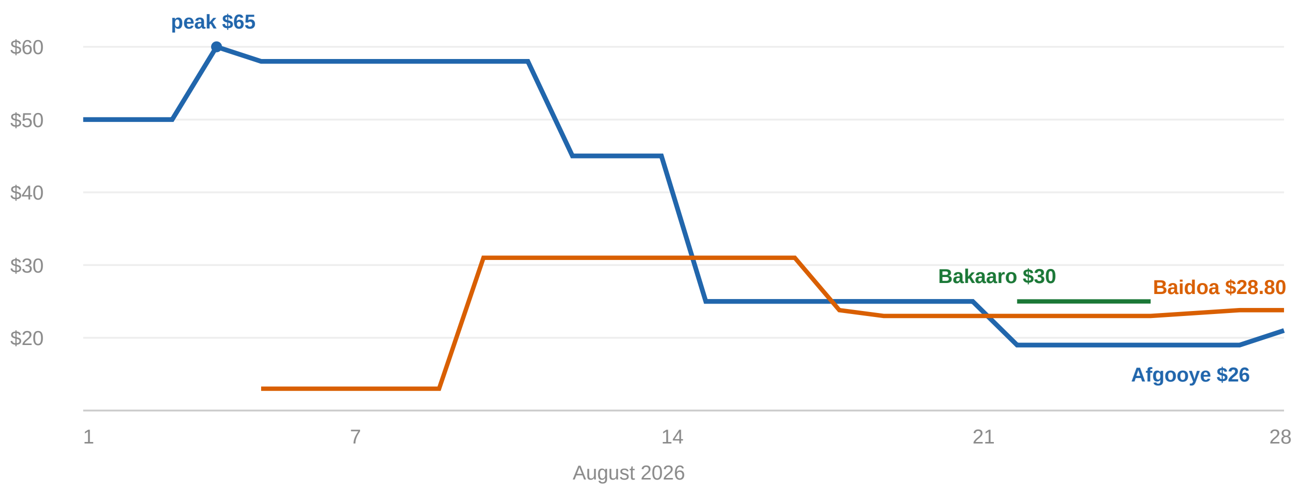
The reading that matters: the fall is confined to the harvest

In the same Afgooye market, over the same fortnight, maize halved while mung bean doubled, cowpea held at double for nine days and sesame rose a third — and wheat, which arrives by ship, did not move at all. A market-wide shock moves everything together. This moved one group of crops one way and the rest the other, with the imported cereal flat. The signal is supply arriving in the harvested crops, not a change in the market as a whole.

THE MAIZE LINE

Two zones, one crop, the same measure — opposite Augusts

Both markets quote white maize by the Loor, so the two lines below compare directly. Afgooye — riverine, irrigated — ran from $55 up to $65 and then stepped down to $24 as the Gu harvest arrived, ending the window at $26. Baidoa (orange) doubled from $18 to $36 in early August and eased only to $28.80. Bakaaro, the Mogadishu terminal market, entered collection on 22 August at $30.



Daily price per Loor, US$. Afgooye 1–28 August; Baidoa 5–28 August; Bakaaro 22–25 August. Lines join observed days only.

> ***Why this matters to a farmer, not a trader.*** *A farmer holding harvested maize watched the value of every Loor in his compound fall by half in under three weeks without touching a single sack. Nothing about the grain changed — only the number of farmers standing in the market beside him. The farmer who could hold for three weeks could decline the worst day; the farmer with a loan due could not. Which is the subject of this issue's feature story.*

BETWEEN MARKETS

SAME DAY, SAME MEASURE · 22 AUGUST

CROP	MEASURE	AFGOOYE	BAIDOA	BAKAARO	READ
Maize (Galleey), white	per Loor	24.00	28.00	**30.00**	Bakaaro 1.3×
Sorghum (Moordi), red	per Loor	24.00	21.60	**39.00**	Bakaaro 1.8×
Wheat (Qamadi)	per Koombo	0.60	1.00	**1.00**	close

The producing markets sit under the terminal market, as they should — but an 81% sorghum gap between Baidoa and Bakaaro on one day is the cost of moving grain along that corridor, written as a price.

AGAINST LAST YEAR

This fortnight against August 2025's published prices

Reference: *Sicirka Suuqa ee Dalaga Beeraha*, Warbixin 5.6, Wasaaradda Beeraha iyo Waraabka (FGS Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation), 8–14 August 2025 — 22 crops across 6 markets. Cereal comparisons converted at the register's grain Loor. Jowhar is the riverine reference for Afgooye; the Ministry series does not cover Afgooye or Marka.

CROP	MARKET (2026)	AUG 2026 $/KG	REFERENCE (AUG 2025)	AUG 2025 $/KG	CHANGE
Maize, white	Afgooye	**0.35**	Jowhar	0.43	▼ −19%
Maize, white	Baidoa	**0.40**	Beydhabo	0.27	▲ +48%
Maize, white	Bakaaro	**0.40**	Muqdisho	0.60	▼ −33%
Sorghum, red	Baidoa	**0.35**	Beydhabo	0.24	▲ +46%
Sorghum, red	Bakaaro	**0.52**	Muqdisho	0.60	▼ −13%
Sesame	Afgooye	**2.00**	Jowhar	0.86	▲ +133%
Sesame	Baidoa	**1.60**	Beydhabo	1.30	▲ +23%
Onion, red	Baidoa	**0.75**	Beydhabo	1.00	▼ −25%
Potato	Baidoa	**1.00**	Beydhabo	0.58	▲ +72%
Potato	Bakaaro	**0.50**	Muqdisho	1.00	▼ −50%

How to read it

The split follows the zones. Where the Gu delivered — the riverine belt — maize now sits a fifth under last August. Where it did not — Bay — maize and sorghum sit nearly half above. The same year, read from two zones, gives two opposite answers; a single national price would hide both.

The farm-gate reference

The same 2025 bulletin published farm-gate maize at 756,000 SOS per Loor (100 madaal). Afgooye's market price of $24 a Loor on 22 August sits at or below that level once converted — a market price at or under the previous year's farm-gate price, in the middle of the harvest window.

WHERE WE ARE IN THE SEASON

FEWS NET's June outlook recorded the April–June Gu as *"below average and atypically short, with a delayed onset and early decline,"* and projected July harvests below average in riverine areas and substantially below average in the agropastoral zones — with southern cereal prices running 81–114% above the five-year average into the harvest. Our early-August Afgooye readings sat inside that elevated band. What followed was the harvest-window fall on page 4.

Security context, Baidoa: armed clashes broke out inside Baidoa on 17 August, with heavy weapons used in several districts, damage to homes, and disruption to communications and movement in the South West capital — inside the second week of this reporting window. Baidoa's cereal readings in this bulletin span that period: a rising sorghum price through a disrupted market reflects thin supply and constrained trade together, not the season alone.

Looking forward: FAO Somalia warned on 2 June of a greater than 90 percent likelihood of El Niño conditions in the October–December Deyr, with elevated risk of extensive flooding along the Juba and Shabelle river basins.

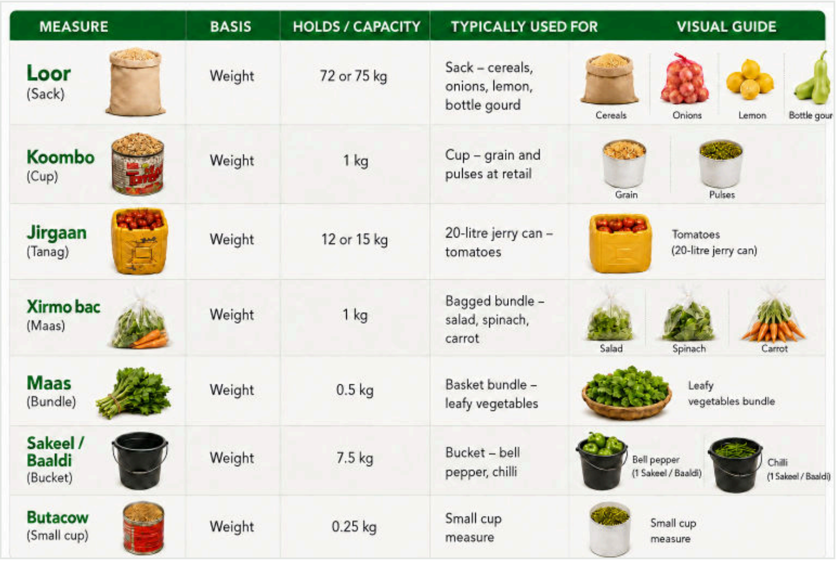
WHAT TO DO WITH THIS, IF YOU FARM

- **Cereal growers, riverine:** the main Gu harvest is landing and prices normally fall through it. If you can store safely, holding is usually worth more than selling into the arrival week. If a loan forces a sale, sell the smallest share that covers the payment.
- **Cereal growers, Bay:** sorghum reached $25.20 a Loor — but part of that rise came with the disruption inside Baidoa, not the season alone. A price pushed up by blocked trade can fall as quickly as calm returns. Do not treat this fortnight's Baidoa prices as a reason to hold or to store; decide on your household's needs and safety first.
- **Cereal buyers:** Afgooye is the cheapest maize window we have recorded this year. In Baidoa, treat current prices as unsettled rather than a trend — they reflect the disruption as much as the harvest.
- **Pulse growers:** mung bean doubled and cowpea spent nine days at double at Afgooye while cereals fell — mixed plots earned their keep this fortnight.

Based on price observation only. Not agronomic advice; not reviewed by an agronomist.

THE MEASURES

Common Markets Measures (Bakaara, Afgooye & Baidoa Market)



MEASURE	BASIS	HOLDS / CAPACITY	TYPICALLY USED FOR	VISUAL GUIDE
Loor (Sack)	Weight	72 or 75 kg	Sack – cereals, onions, lemon, bottle gourd	Cereals, Onions, Lemon, Bottle gour
Koombo (Cup)	Weight	1 kg	Cup – grain and pulses at retail	Grain, Pulses
Jirgaan (Tanag)	Weight	12 or 15 kg	20-litre jerry can – tomatoes	Tomatoes (20-litre jerry can)
Xirmo bac (Maas)	Weight	1 kg	Bagged bundle – salad, spinach, carrot	Salad, Spinach, Carrot
Maas (Bundle)	Weight	0.5 kg	Basket bundle – leafy vegetables	Leafy vegetables bundle
Sakeel / Baaldi (Bucket)	Weight	7.5 kg	Bucket – bell pepper, chilli	Bell pepper (1 Sakeel / Baaldi), Chili (1 Sakeel / Baaldi)
Butacow (Small cup)	Weight	0.25 kg	Small cup measure	Small cup measure

Coming in September

The measurement study: every container weighed in Afgooye, Bakaaro and Baidoa, plus trader interviews on where each measure comes from — so that every price series can also be published with a verified kilogram equivalent from October onward.

Photo: M-tacab

The Harvest With Nowhere to Sleep

Photo: M-tacab

Two farmers, one country, the same fortnight. In Bay, sorghum climbed as scarcity met a disrupted market. On the Shabelle, maize fell by half because it all arrived at once. Adan farms on the river. This is what it cost him.

"If only the government, the private sector and development partners worked together to address the challenges farmers face, one storage facility at a time, our lives would change."

— Adan, farmer, Marka district

Travel inland from Marka and the ocean gives way to farmland. Dusty roads wind toward Janaale, where palm trees rise above the fields and the Shabelle and its canals sustain communities whose year turns on water arriving at the right moment. Maize sways in the fields. Cowpea spreads across the soil. Watermelon, onion and tomato grow in a place where farming is not simply an occupation but memory, identity and survival.

Adan is 37. He farms three hectares in Marka district, without heavy machinery, without cash reserves, without a guaranteed buyer. Every season opens with the same questions. Will the river carry enough water? Can he find good seed? Can he afford tillage? Will birds take the crop, or thieves? And after all of it — will the market pay enough to make the year worth living through?

This season he borrowed $700. For a smallholder that is not a casual sum. It is a commitment made before a single plant has broken the soil. He bought certified maize seed from agricultural suppliers in Marka, paid roughly $18 an hour for tractor tillage, and hired two watchmen: one by day against birds, one by night against theft. He planted in early May and waited about a hundred days.

His maize came in. So did everyone else's.

TWO AUGUSTS

Three hundred kilometres away, in Bay, a farmer around Baidoa spent the same fortnight watching the opposite happen. His rains had failed. His sorghum was thin. And in the market, sorghum climbed — from $18 a Loor to $25.20 across the fortnight. Partly because there was not enough of it, and partly because, from the middle of the month, fighting inside the city made moving grain harder still.

On the river, Adan's maize fell from $50 a Loor to $24 across the same days.

Both men farm. Both had a difficult year in the terms the season deals in. One is short of grain in a market that is paying more for it. The other has grain in a market that has stopped paying for it. Neither outcome is a reward for skill, and neither is punishment for failure. **They are geography.**

The farmers we speak to along the river say this Gu was good to them — the canals ran, the water came on time, the maize answered. They are right. And that is exactly the trap: the river rewarded them all at once.

How can the same season be good on the river and cruel in Bay? Because this Gu did not fall evenly. The rains came late, stopped early, and skipped whole districts on their way. A farm in Bay drinks straight from the sky — when the clouds thin, the sorghum thins with them. A farm at Marka or Janaale drinks from the Shabelle, and the river carries rain that fell far upstream, gathered week after week from highlands the dry spell never touched. So in a year when the sky disappointed, the canals did not. The river farmers got the harvest — and then they all got it in the same week.

And it was specifically the harvested crops that fell. In the same Afgooye market, over the same fortnight, cowpeas doubled and held for nine days. Mung bean doubled. Sesame rose by a third. Wheat, which comes in by ship, did not move at all. Nothing was wrong with the market. Something arrived in it.

Grain sold the day it is harvested: a trader fills sacks at the market gate. Every sack that leaves the farm this way is a sack that had nowhere else to go.

WHAT ADAN LOST, AND WHAT HE ACTUALLY LACKED

He needed to sell. The $700 was due, and a loan does not wait for a better week. At Marka on 20 August, the price farmers there reported was $18 a Loor. The same day, Afgooye paid $30 — and Marka's Loor is the heavier sack, 80 kg against Afgooye's 75. Selling where he stood meant accepting barely half the going rate up the road, per kilogram of the same grain.

That is the whole mechanism, and it is worth stating plainly, because it is easy to describe this as a story about low prices. It is not. It is a story about **timing**. A farmer who can hold his crop for three weeks is a farmer who can decline an offer. A farmer who cannot is a price-taker on the single worst day of his year — the day the whole district harvests at once.

Storage is usually sold as protection against spoilage, and that is real enough: grain kept without drying, pest control and clean handling deteriorates until buyers discount it further. But the thing storage actually buys a smallholder is the right to say *not today*.

Adan does not have that right. So on the day the market turned against him, he took what it offered.

WHAT FARMERS USE INSTEAD

For generations, grain in southern Somalia has gone into the *bakhaar* — the underground storage pit, sealed and buried. It works, after a fashion, and it fails in predictable ways: moisture seeps, fungus takes hold, and stored grain can spoil in ways no farmer can see and no buyer can test for at a market gate.

Above ground, farmers improvise. Some use *fuusto*, the 200-litre drums repurposed to hold grain. Many use the yellow 20-litre *tanag* — the jerry can that carries water, carries tomatoes, and in a household with no store becomes a miniature granary. A season's labour, divided into plastic.

There are two different problems inside this. The first is commercial surplus — farmers like Adan holding fifty Loor or more, who need shared, managed, fee-based capacity within reach of the field. The second is the household reserve: the grain a family eats and sells in small amounts across the year. That store is overwhelmingly managed by women, at a scale where the useful things are drying, sealed containers and pest control rather than a warehouse. Both are storage gaps. A programme built for the first will not reach the second.

Any specific storage treatment or pest-control guidance requires review by a qualified local agronomist before it is issued to farmers.

WHY THIS HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN SOLVED

Somalia's storage shortage is not news, which raises the more useful question: why does it persist?

Part of the answer is that a building full of grain in Lower Shabelle is not a neutral asset. Where it sits, how produce moves between the fields and the terminal markets, and who along that road is in a position to tax or interdict it are not afterthoughts — they belong in the business case from the first page. Part of it is management: storage without disciplined weighing, quality control and transparent records loses farmers' trust once, and does not get it back.

And part is finance. Stored grain only becomes useful working capital when a deposit is documented in a form a financial institution will recognise — trusted weights, clean records, quality a buyer does not have to argue with. Build that documentation layer, and a sack in a store can open doors that a sack in a compound never could.

None of that shrinks the gap. It makes it specific. A specific gap is one a partner can plan against.

And there is a clock on it. FAO warned on 2 June that the October–December Deyr carries a greater than 90 percent likelihood of El Niño conditions, with elevated risk of extensive flooding along the Shabelle and Juba. Adan's maize is currently in his compound. If that forecast holds, the grain that survived a bad market has a flood season ahead of it, in a district that sits on the river, held in drums and jerry cans. The window for doing something about that closes in about eight weeks.

THE GAP · ISSUE 02

- **What we observed.** White maize at Afgooye fell 48% inside the fortnight while pulses doubled mid-month and imported wheat sat flat in the same market — a fall confined to the crops being harvested. In the same fortnight, Baidoa sorghum rose 40% through a market disrupted by fighting inside the city. On 22 August the same-day maize spread across our three collection points ran $24 to $30 a Loor.
- **How big it is.** The most recent Somalia-specific estimate — the Somali Agriculture Technical Group with FAO — put grain losses at 20–30% of harvest in southern Somalia, 50,000–80,000 tonnes and $15–20 million a year, with a Bay Region survey attributing roughly 40% of loss to storage. That work dates from 2011; that nothing newer exists is itself part of the gap.
- **Who could close it.** Warehousing operators and storage builders; local manufacturers — SATG showed metal grain silos adapted from water tanks; financial institutions structuring deposit-backed working capital; ministries and regional authorities on siting, standards and weights; development partners funding durable infrastructure; farmer cooperatives aggregating volume.
- **What M-tacab contributes.** Daily, unit-disclosed prices from named collection points, published in this bulletin. Reach to 31,236 active subscribers via SMS, USSD and IVR. Evidence of where and when surplus concentrates, by zone and by crop. Farmer identity and deposit records to make stored produce documentable — and the measurement capacity to answer what an investment case needs answered.
- **To discuss this gap:** info@mtacab.so

The tragedy in the fields beyond Marka's coastline is not that Somalia's farmers cannot grow enough food. It is that after growing it, they still have nowhere safe to put it. A good harvest should be the beginning of a farmer's prosperity — never the reason he falls further behind.

Photo: Pexels

Photo: Pexels

HOW WE MEASURE

Prices are collected daily by M-tacab recorders at Suuqa Badarka Afgooye, Baidoa City Market and Bakaaro Market, Mogadishu, in the measures the markets trade in. Where a trader gave a low–high range, the midpoint is recorded and the range kept. Missing days are recorded as missing, never estimated. Horticulture collection at Afgooye began on 22 August and enters the full tables from Issue 03. Comparisons to August 2025 use the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's published weekly bulletin (Warbixin 5.6) as the reference.

Sources this issue: M-tacab daily collection, 31 July – 28 August 2026 · Wasaaradda Beeraha iyo Waraabka JFS, *Sicirka Suuqa ee Dalaga Beeraha*, 8–14 August 2025 · FEWS NET Somalia Food Security Outlook, June 2026 · FAO Somalia, 2 June 2026 · press reporting on the Baidoa clashes of 17–18 August 2026 · SATG/FAO post-harvest and grain storage losses, 2011 · World Bank, Somalia Country Economic Memorandum.

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