

# BELEDWEYNE

## URBAN PROFILE

Working Paper and Spatial Analyses for  
Urban Planning Consultations and  
Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises



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Beledweyne Urban Profile  
Working Paper and Spatial Analyses for Urban Planning Consultations and Durable Solutions for Displacement Crises  
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Prepared by

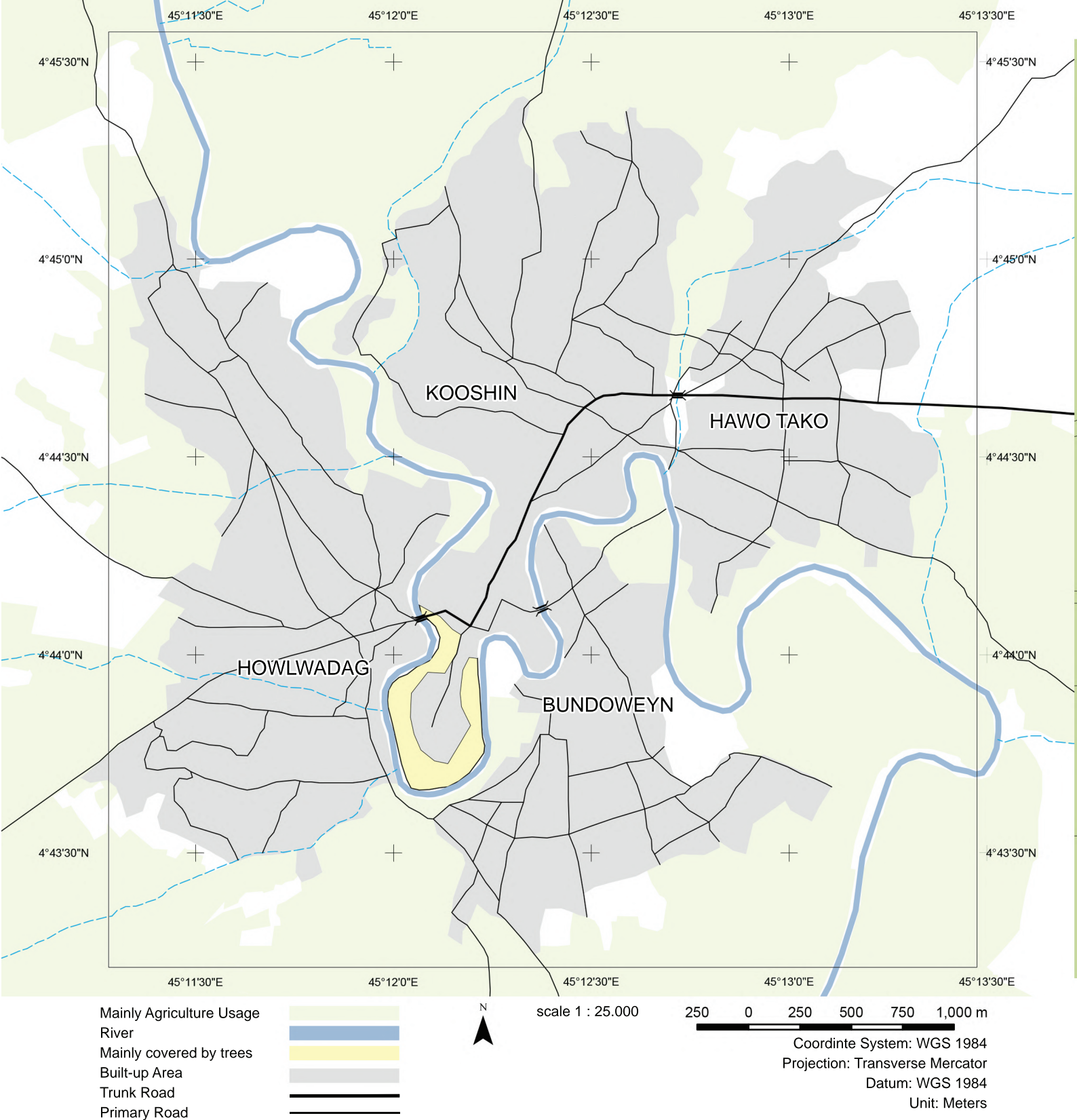


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# 1. INTRODUCTION



“You can have data without information, but you cannot have information without data.”

Daniel Keys Moran

The Beletweyne Urban Profile provides for an overview about the main features of the city. It shortly analyses the current development challenges with a special focus upon displacement and urban resilience with regard to the Shebelle river floods.

It is a complementary technical document to a several other planning studies and reports to shape the future of Beletweyne in a more sustainable way, providing basic urban services to all communities and to leave no one behind.

This Urban Profile summarizes major results of the Community Action Planning process (CAP), government consultations and urban planning exercises from a spatial and socio-economic perspective. It is assumed that Beletweyne as the largest urban center of Hiiran Region and the entire Hirshabelle State of Somalia continues to growth rapidly over the next years. Therefore, proper urban planning based upon solid urban data, resource mobilization and government led coordination becomes more important to layout foundation work for infrastructure improvements, livelihood opportunities, housing, education, health and other services.

It is hoped that this working paper contributes to the necessary public discussion on Beledweyne’s future development and facilitates decision making by local, regional and state and federal authorities.

Reference is being made to other studies and data updates undertaken by UN agencies and other international stakeholders, such: Fragility Index Maturity Model (FIMM), UNFPA Population Estimation Survey, Atlas of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers in Somalia, SWALIM, Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and Emergency Tracking Tool data (IOM).

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Midnimo II is jointly implemented by The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nation Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and funded by United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.



“Waxa aad heli kartaa xog adiga oo aan haysan warbixin, laakiin ma heli kartid warbixin adiga oo aan helin xog”.

Daniel Keys Moran

Warbixin-magaaleedka Beledweyne, waxa ay soo bandhigaysaa warbixin guud oo ku aaddan tilmaamaha ugu mudan ee magaaladu leedahay. Waxa ay si kooban u dhiraan-dhirinaysaa caqabadaha hortaagan horumarka magaalada iyada oo firo gaar ah loo yeelanayo saameynta fatahaadda wabiga Shebeelle, barakicinta uu keeno iyo adkeysiga magaaladu ay leedahay.

Waa xog – farsameed kaabaysa daraasado kale oo ku saabsan dhinaca qorsheynta qaabaynaysana muuqaalka mustaqbal ee Beledweyne oo ku taagan lugo xooggan iyada oo maaamulka magaaladu na bixinayo adeegyada aasaasiga ah ee ay ku leeyihiin dhamaan bulshada ku nool Beledweyne.

Qorsho magaaleedkan, waxa uu soo koobayaa natiijooyin ka soo baxay kullannadii hannaanka qorsho – shaqeedka bulsho, wadatashiyadii hey'adaha dowladda iyo dhammaan howl-galladii wajiyada badan lahaa kuwaas oo diiradda lagu saarayey qaabeynta qorshaha deggaameed iyo horumarinta mustaqbalka bulshada iyo dhaqaalaheeda. Beledweyne waa magaalada ugu weyn gobolka Hiiraan iyo guud ahaan maamul goboleedka Hir-shabeelle, sannadaha soo socdana waxa la qiyaasayaa koriin - degaameed xoogan. Sidaas daraadeed, qorshe dagaameed hufan oo ku salaysan xog deggaameed sugan, isu-keenid dhaqaale iyo isku dubarid

ay horseed u tahay dowladda ayaa lafdhabar u noqoneysa aasaaska shaqo ee lagu hagaajinayo kaabayaasha kala duwan, fursadaha nololeed ee bulshada, guriyeynta, waxbarashada, caafimaadka iyo addegyada kale.

Waxaa la rajeynayaa in qorshe howleedkan uu ku dari doono fikrado mirodhal ka dhiga, fududeeyana go'aannada ka soo baxa wadahaladda mahuraanka ah ee ay bulshada iyo hogaankeeda (heerarka kala duwan ee dowladda) ay ka yeeshaan mustaqbalka magaalda Beledweyne iyo horumarinteeda.

Tixraaca qoraalkan waxaa laga soo xigtay daraasadihii kale iyo xogihii kala danbeeyey ee ay sameeyeen xafiisyadiisa kala duwan ee UN ka iyo danyeeyayaasha kale ee caalamiga ah sida: FIMM, SWALIM, Waaxda Lafagurka Sugnaanshaha Cuntada iyo Nafaqada FSNAU, UNFP, Waaxda Qiyaasta Dadweynaha, Maababka Webiyada Shabeelle iyo Juba iyo Waaxda Xogta U kuurgalka Gargaarka ee (IOM).

Howshan (Qaabayn – magaaleedka) qoraalkeeda waxaa gacan ka geystay Kooxda Lafdhabarta u ah hawl socodsiinta barnaamimka Midnimo ee ujeedadiisu tahay: “In la taageero qorshaha xal waara loogu raadinayo deegaamada barakacu saameeyey ee Galmudug iyo Hirshabeelle.”

Midnimo II waxa si wadajir ah u wada fulinaayo The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), waxaana maalgalinaayo United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

## 2. BELEDWEYNE CITY INFORMATION

### LOCATION AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Beledweyne is located in central Hirshabelle State and is the capital of Hiraan region. The town is strategically situated on the Shabelle river 340 kms north of Mogadishu and 50 kms to the Ethiopian border

The district consists of four urban villages namely: Bundoweyn, Howlwadag, Hawo Tako and Kooshin.

The first two villages are located on the south side of Shabelle river, and the last two are on the north side. (See map of page 2)

Beledweyne has strategic importance because it is located in the main road that crosses the country and connects Mogadishu to the rest of the central regions.

### GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The current Hirshabelle State is the youngest state of the Federal Government of Somalia.

The District Administration is led by its Mayor who was appointed by the Hirshabelle State and became the first female mayor in Somalia.

Beledweyne also has a district council. According to FIMM respondents, the council is representative of local sub-clans and is partially gender-plural.

District authorities struggle to maintain a positive reputation in Beledweyne, primarily due to poor perceptions over their ability to maintain security and law and order in the town.<sup>1</sup>

Local revenue is generated through taxes and registration fees for businesses and NGOs.

A Council of Elders exists in Jowhar and is relatively influential, particularly on matters concerning clan conflict and resource disputes. The council reportedly works with the local government to help with local stability and peace processes. The full council consists of 40 members from a wide range of sub-clans.<sup>1</sup>

An operational budgetary support fund is given by Hirshabelle state and by external actors, such as the S2S project. Local revenue is generated through taxes and registration fees for businesses and NGOs.<sup>1</sup>

### HISTORY

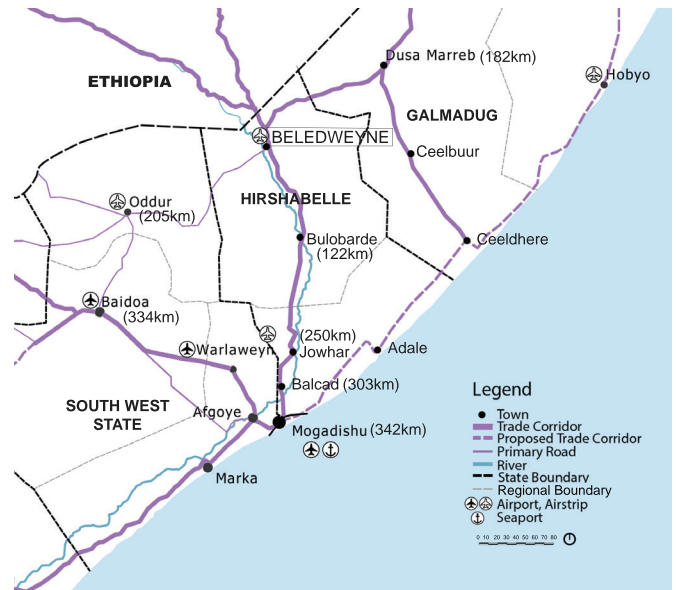
In the Middle Ages, Beledweyne was part of the influential Ajuran Sultanate, that covered much of southern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia extending from Mareeg in the north to Qelafo in the west and Kismayo in the south.

The town later came under the administration of the Hawadle Sultanate in the late 17th century after the collapse of the powerful Ajuran Empire.

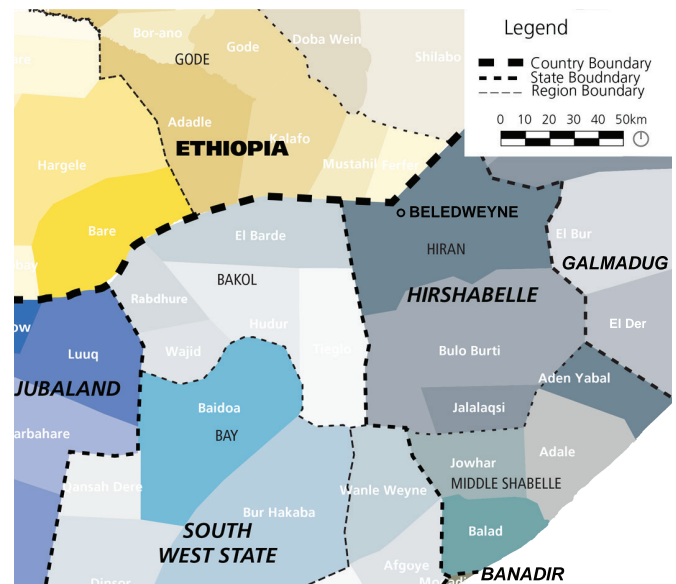
At the turn of the 20th century, Beledweyne was incorporated into the Italian protectorate.

After independence of Somalia in 1960, the city was made the center of the official Beledweyne District.

In 2006 the Islamic Courts Union assumed control of Beledweyne and other parts of southern Somalia, but the



Beledweyne's regional context



Administrative boundaries around Beledweyne

Transitional Federal Government supported by troops from Ethiopia and the African Union re-established its authority on December of the year.

in 2009, the Islamist al-Shabab militia took the town and imposed new rules.

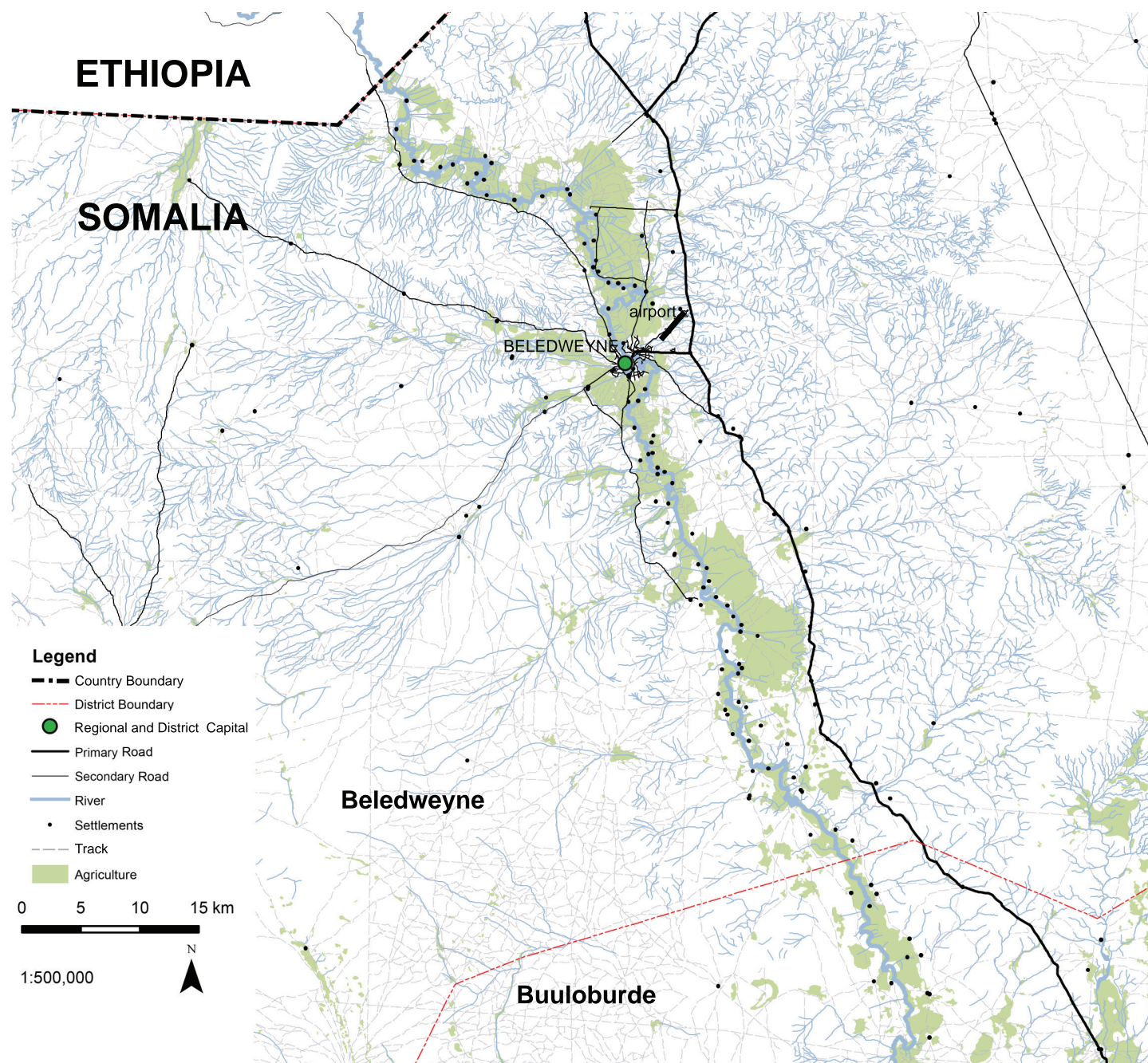
The town was recovered from Al Shabaab by the Somali National Army (SNA) with the help of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in 2012.

In 2016, Beledweyne became part of the Hirshabelle State of Somalia.

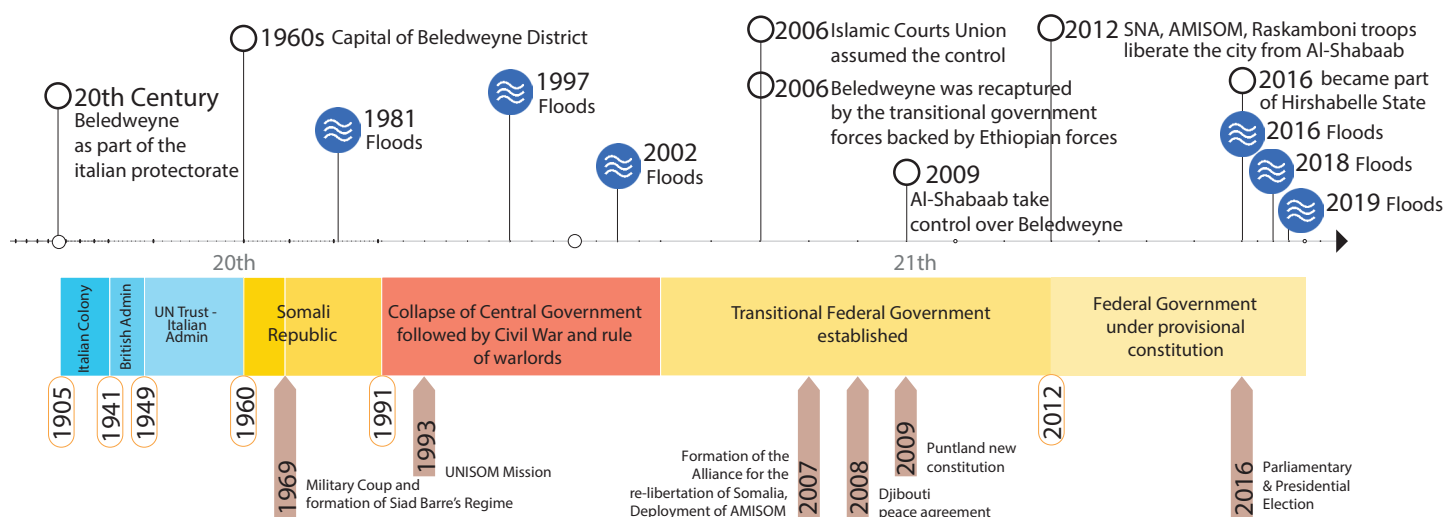
Floods have often been present in the history of beledweyne. The floods of 1981, 1997, 2002, 2012, 2016, 2018 and 2019 were particularly devastating.<sup>2</sup>

1. Fragility Index Maturity Model (FIMM), Round 3 - March 2019

2. Beledweyne Community Action Plan, 2019



Beledweyne and its hinterland



Timeline of significant event of Beledweyne in the last century

### 3. URBAN GROWTH AND DEMOGRAPHICS

#### PEOPLE AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

UNFPA Somalia population estimates of 2014 indicate that Hiraan has a total population of 520,685; comprising an urban population of 81,379, a rural population of 135,537, 252,609 nomads and 51,160 IDPs.<sup>3</sup>

Hiraan has the lowest percentage of urban population (15.6%) after Bay (11.7%) and Middle Juba (15.5%). Also, almost half of Hiraan's total population is nomadic. This represents the highest percentage after Sanaag (65%), Sool (57%) and Nugaal (54%)

The population of the town is estimated at 67,200 inhabitants<sup>4</sup> but is no reliable demographic data on the four urban villages.

#### POPULATION ESTIMATION OF HIRAAN - 2014<sup>3</sup>

<b>Urban Population</b>	<b>81,379</b>	<b>15.6%</b>
Male pop.	44,045	54.1%
Female pop.	37,334	45.9%
Households:	13,254	
Household size:	6.1 (national average: 6.4)	
<b>Rural Population</b>	<b>135,537</b>	<b>26%</b>
Male pop.	73,338	54.1%
Female pop.	62,199	45.9%
Households:	27,092	
Household size:	5.0 (national average: 5.8)	
<b>Nomadic Population</b>	<b>252,609</b>	<b>48.5%</b>
Male pop.	134,101	53.1%
Female pop.	118,508	46.9%
Households:	15,635	
Household size:	6.2 (national average: 6.5)	
<b>IDP:</b>	<b>51,160</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
Male pop.	24,831	48.5%
Female pop.	26,329	51.5%
Households:	4,909	
Household size:	10.4 (national average: 3.7)	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>520,685</b>	

#### URBAN FORM AND URBAN GROWTH

The urban form of Beledweyne is totally defined by the course of the river Shabelle. In the central part of the city, surrounded almost entirely by the meanders of the river, is one of the most dense areas characterized by having the main urban services of the city: hospitals, markets and government facilities.

The built-up area in Beledweyne has grown steadily at an average rate of 5% per year over the last fifteen years, (see graph on page 9)

This growth has mainly taken place in two urban villages and towards two directions: Howlwadag to the west and southwest, and Hawo Tako to the east and northeast, (see urban villages map on page 3)

Most likely the city has grown in these directions by fleeing the north and south areas that are prone to continuous flooding (see map on page 11).

These two urban villages, Kooshin in the north and Bundoweyn in the south, are not expected to grow much further in the future as they border large areas of crops, (see map on page 10).

The growth of the city has also been conditioned by IDP influx, especially by a large IDP settlement in the west side of the city called Ex Airport and a group of spontaneous IDP sites in the northwest, both in Howlwadag urban village.

In the last five years, due to the lack of any planning system, a dispersed, organic development has sprawled towards the east, along the road that connects the city center with the trade corridor that goes from Mogadishu to Ethiopia. (See picture below)



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