



SOMALIA

WHAT HAPPENED?

Progress toward indirect elections inched forward as the power struggle between President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo” and Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble quietened. The Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama’a (ASWJ) militia re-emerged, capturing towns in Somalia’s centre, and Al-Shabaab violence continued.

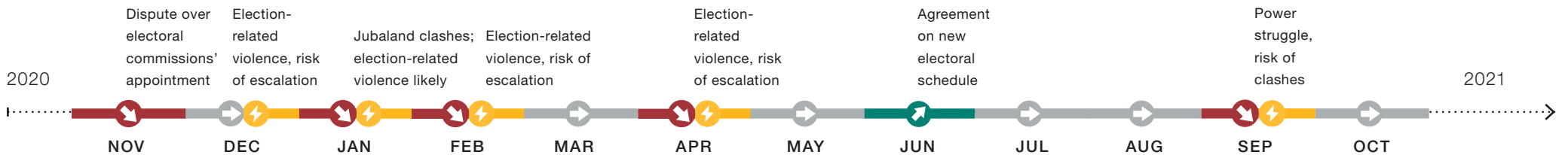
WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Although tensions between the country’s top two political leaders eased, the **slow-moving electoral cycle** continues to suffer from myriad political and technical issues that create delays while armed actors like Al-Shabaab seek to benefit from the public’s frustration.

SEPTEMBER TRENDS

The struggle between President Farmajo and Prime Minister Roble escalated in early September when each tried to install his own replacement for the national intelligence chief and rival security units came close to blows. Tensions remained high all month.

TRENDS TIMELINE



1 ➡ Electoral process made limited progress

Following September’s near confrontation between forces aligned with President Farmajo and Prime Minister Roble, both leaders agreed on 21 October to de-escalate and focus on accelerating the country’s long-delayed electoral cycle.

Upper House elections progressed with Somaliland, Hirshabelle and Jubaland states completing the selection of their representatives. By the end of October, only two seats for Galmudug state remained open. The more complex Lower House process remained behind schedule, however, and was due to kick off in early November.

2 ↘ ASWJ militia re-emerged in Galmudug

In early October, the Sufi ASWJ militia, which has been clashing sporadically with federal forces, captured Galguduud region’s Guricel and Ceel Dheer towns along the main road to Galmudug’s state capital Dhusamareb, and Mataban town in Hirshabelle state’s Hiraan region.

In mid-October, ASWJ clashed with Galmudug and federal forces in Guricel, leaving **scores dead**, and **around 100,000 persons displaced**. On 27 October, after local mediation, ASWJ vacated Guricel. Dialogue between ASWJ and the Galmudug administration on further de-escalation has stalled.

3 ➡ Al-Shabaab continued to launch attacks

Al-Shabaab attacks persisted in the capital Mogadishu. On 12 October, a **suicide attack** at a restaurant in Yaqshid district left at least three people dead and an **IED explosion** targeting security forces killed another three.

On 5 October, in Hirshabelle state’s capital, Jowhar, Al-Shabaab planted an IED targeting state parliament members who were returning from a celebration of the five-year anniversary of Hirshabelle’s establishment. The attack, which reportedly injured two, demonstrates the group’s determination to undermine even symbolic government milestones.

WHAT TO WATCH

While the first two Lower House representatives were seated on 1 November, delays in completing the selection process may raise tensions. Moving ahead without addressing grievances over local power-sharing arrangements in **Galguduud, Hiraan and Gedo regions** could also result in violence. Although it does not appear to be an immediate risk, a resurgence of the Farmajo-Roble power struggle could fuel instability.

A lack of mediation between ASWJ and Galmudug authorities could result in further clashes.

