**WHAT HAPPENED?**
Tensions rose as the political opposition denounced manipulation of the Lower House of Parliament’s election process; calm returned to Galmudug State after the Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama’a (ASWJ) militia’s re-emergence in September; and Al-Shabaab continued attacks notably in the capital Mogadishu.

**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**
Ongoing elections are encountering major problems, with the opposition threatening to stop recognising the process Without a change, the country is headed toward a new electoral impasse and potentially a significant crisis, with the possibility of renewed clashes in Mogadishu.

**OCTOBER TRENDS**
The indirect elections process inched forward as the power struggle between President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed “Farmajo” and Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble quietened. The ASWJ militia re-emerged, capturing towns in Somalia’s centre, and Al-Shabaab violence continued.

### TRENDS TIMELINE

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<th>2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>APR</td>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>JUN</td>
<td>JUL</td>
<td>AUG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Election-related violence, risk of escalation</td>
<td>Jubaland clashes; election-related violence likely</td>
<td>Election-related violence, risk of escalation</td>
<td>Election-related violence, risk of escalation</td>
<td>Agreement on new electoral schedule</td>
<td>Power struggle, risk of clashes</td>
<td>New setback for electoral process</td>
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**SOMALIA**

### Electoral process at risk of derailing
Lower House elections kicked off slowly on 1 November. On 11 November, the federal election committee announced a new timeline for completion of the process by 24 December, though that appears highly aspirational. In late November, the opposition voiced concerns regarding the process’s legitimacy amid reports of significant manipulation – the replacement of clan elders involved in candidate selection and denial of registration for certain candidates – and interference by federal member state presidents to boost favoured candidates.

### Tensions in Galmudug and Puntland states
Calm returned to Galmudug State in early November after the ASWJ militia vacated the outskirts of Guricel town. Wider mediation efforts to reach an agreement between the Galmudug administration and ASWJ over the latter’s status, however, stalled in mid-November.

Puntland President Deni on 24 November removed the Bosasso-based commander of the Puntland Security Forces (PSF), who is related to a key political rival. Elements of the PSF rejected the dismissal and rival security forces took up positions in the port city.

### Al-Shabaab continued to launch deadly attacks
In Mogadishu, separate suicide attacks killed three in Wadajir district (11 November); a prominent journalist in Bondhere district (20 November) and eight in Hodan district, while destroying a nearby school (25 November).

The killing by suspected Al-Shabaab militants of a traditional elder, Mohamed Hassan Nur, in Yaqhidd district on 17 November raised concern over the protection of elders and delegates during elections.

Al-Shabaab also launched two attacks in South West State’s capital Baidoa as Lower House elections began there.

### WHAT TO WATCH
The reported manipulation in the Lower House elections is a major challenge. Electoral institutions appear unable to counter the alleged political interference, while the opposition might not recognise the process without changes. The dispute is likely to further delay the timeline, and could spur a new crisis.

The failure of mediation between ASWJ and Galmudug authorities may result in further clashes.

The PSF-related dispute in Puntland could increase tensions around Lower House elections in Bosasso.