



# AFRICA DAILY INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

Sahel | Horn of Africa and Red Sea | Great Lakes | Southern Africa | Gulf of Guinea

| REPORTING WINDOW                                    | SOURCE CHANNEL                            | OVERALL CONFIDENCE                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 17 Aug 2026 10:00 CEST<br>to 18 Aug 2026 10:00 CEST | OSINT ONLY<br>No current HUMINT reporting | MODERATE-HIGH<br>Variable by item |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key judgement 1 - Somali federal forces retained Baidoa after the 17 August assault: Four residents told Reuters that opposition fighters had been driven out after the heaviest city-centre clashes since March. The defence ministry's claim that about 30 attackers were killed remains an official figure; one local elder reported seeing ten dead, including four civilians. **HIGH CONFIDENCE ON FEDERAL CONTROL; MODERATE ON CASUALTIES**

Key judgement 2 - The DRC Ebola response is being overtaken by transmission: Government data showed 4,945 confirmed cases and 2,325 deaths, making the outbreak the deadliest in Congolese history and the second-most lethal Ebola outbreak globally. Conflict, late detection, overstretched surveillance and the absence of an approved Bundibugyo vaccine or treatment are reinforcing each other. **HIGH CONFIDENCE**

Key judgement 3 - Angola's new Block 0 discovery strengthens the case for infrastructure-led production growth: Chevron confirmed a substantial oil and condensate column and will assess a tie-back to nearby facilities. Commerciality is not yet established, but existing infrastructure may shorten development time and reduce cost. **HIGH CONFIDENCE ON DISCOVERY; MODERATE ON IMPACT**

Key judgement 4 - Sudan's war continues to internationalise while long-range drone use persists: The Sudanese army claimed it downed an RSF FH-95 drone in North Kordofan; separately, Sudan and Saudi Arabia established a strategic coordination council, while South Sudan offered renewed mediation. These diplomatic moves do not yet indicate a negotiated de-escalation. **MODERATE CONFIDENCE**

## REPORTING BASIS

**HUMINT:** No authorised HUMINT reporting was available for this edition. Previously authorised local-source reporting on Mali is not repeated because no new human-source increment was supplied inside the reporting window.

**OSINT:** Findings derive from Reuters, official or attributed government statements, Chevron corporate reporting and Sudan Tribune. Official casualty, equipment and control claims remain attributed unless supported by independent accounts or verified imagery.

**Window discipline:** The Baidoa attack began before the formal cut-off, but the confirmed outcome and expanded casualty reporting emerged after the previous edition and constitute a meaningful update.

## HORN OF AFRICA AND RED SEA

### 1 | SOMALIA - Federal forces repel Baidoa opposition assault

OSINT | RELIABILITY B | CREDIBILITY 2 | OUTCOME CORROBORATED

Reuters reported that federal troops drove forces loyal to former South West state president Abdiiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen out of Baidoa after hours of fighting on 17 August. Four residents independently described the opposition withdrawal. Reuters-verified video showed federal soldiers firing from an armoured vehicle and civilians carrying wounded people through the streets.

Somalia's defence ministry said the pre-dawn attackers used vehicles laden with explosives and claimed about 30 were killed. A local elder told Reuters that he saw ten bodies - four civilians and six combatants from both sides. These figures are partial and not a comprehensive casualty count. Laftagareen's camp had earlier claimed control of the city centre; the subsequent resident accounts contradict that claim.

Assessment: The federal tactical outcome does not resolve the underlying federal-regional dispute over elections and constitutional centralisation. Repeated armed attempts to retake a major state capital can divert forces from counter-al-Shabaab operations and threaten aid access in a city hosting hundreds of thousands of displaced people.

### 2 | SUDAN / SOUTH SUDAN - Drone contest continues as diplomatic channels widen

OSINT | RELIABILITY C | CREDIBILITY 3 | OFFICIAL CLAIMS / LIMITED CORROBORATION

The Sudanese army said on 17 August that air defences shot down an RSF-operated FH-95 long-range drone near Gereikh in North Kordofan, describing it as the second advanced drone downed in the region during August. Sudan Tribune reported the statement; no independent visual or RSF confirmation was located. The report follows intensified drone activity around Bara, Jabrat al-Sheikh and the export road toward El Obeid.

Sudan and Saudi Arabia also signed an agreement in Riyadh establishing a Supreme Council for Strategic Coordination and Cooperation across political, commercial and investment sectors, according to their foreign ministries as reported by Sudan Tribune. In Juba, President Salva Kiir offered to mediate the Sudan conflict after meeting Darfur governor Minni Arko Minawi; the South Sudanese presidency said a Sudanese delegation would review the stalled 2020 peace agreement.

Assessment: The drone claim indicates continued competition over the El Obeid corridor, while the Saudi and South Sudanese initiatives expand formal engagement channels. Neither development presently demonstrates an accepted mediation framework or operational ceasefire leverage over both SAF and RSF.

## CENTRAL AFRICA AND GREAT LAKES

### 3 | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - Ebola outbreak becomes country's deadliest

OSINT | RELIABILITY A-B | CREDIBILITY 1-2 | GOVERNMENT DATA / REUTERS ANALYSIS

Government data published on 16 August recorded 4,945 confirmed Ebola cases and 2,325 deaths, including 101 new cases in the preceding 24 hours. Reuters reported on 17 August that the toll had surpassed the 2018-2020 Congolese outbreak, making the current event the country's deadliest and the second-most lethal Ebola outbreak on record after West Africa in 2014-2016.

The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo species, is spreading roughly five times faster than previous Congolese outbreaks at the same stage, according to health officials cited by Reuters. The case fatality ratio has risen to about 47 percent. Experts interpret the increase as evidence of late detection and access failures rather than a more lethal virus. There is no licensed vaccine or proven treatment for this species.

The response is constrained by armed conflict, attacks on health facilities and teams, disrupted transport, weak contact tracing and funding shortfalls. WHO officials estimated in July that around 80 percent of new infections were outside known transmission chains. Eastern Congo's trade, displacement and migration routes raise cross-border and internal propagation risks.

Assessment: The combination of conflict and uncontrolled transmission is now a strategic stability issue, not solely a public-health emergency. Further spread could restrict transport, disrupt mining and commercial operations, intensify community resistance and increase pressure on Uganda and other neighbouring states to harden screening and movement controls.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### 4 | ANGOLA - Chevron confirms oil and condensate discovery in Block 0

OSINT | RELIABILITY A | CREDIBILITY 1 | CORPORATE CONFIRMATION

Chevron confirmed on 17 August that its 105-4X exploration well in offshore Block 0 encountered an oil and gas-condensate column exceeding 600 metres in the Pinda reservoir, including more than 90 metres of net pay in high-quality rock. Chevron subsidiary Cabinda Gulf Oil operates the block with a 39.2 percent interest; Sonangol E&P; holds 41 percent, TotalEnergies 10 percent and Azule Energy 9.8 percent.

Chevron will evaluate whether the discovery can connect to nearby facilities. No recoverable-resource estimate, development sanction or production timeline was announced. Assessment: A commercially viable tie-back would support Angola's effort to slow mature-field decline while reinforcing Cabinda's strategic importance. Near-term indicators are appraisal results, partner approvals and infrastructure-capacity decisions.

## REGIONAL AND COUNTRY SCAN

| REGION                | COUNTRIES                                   | 24-HOUR STATUS                                                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sahel                 | Mali; Burkina Faso; Niger; Mauritania; Chad | No material, independently verified new development identified in the strict window. |
| Horn / Red Sea        | Somalia; Sudan; South Sudan                 | Baidoa outcome, Sudan drone claim and diplomatic initiatives reported above.         |
| Horn / Red Sea        | Ethiopia; Eritrea; Djibouti; Somaliland     | No material, independently verified new development identified in the strict window. |
| Central / Great Lakes | DRC                                         | Ebola milestone and acceleration reported above.                                     |
| Central / Great Lakes | Cameroon                                    | No material, independently verified new development identified in the strict window. |
| Southern Africa       | Angola                                      | Chevron Block 0 discovery reported above.                                            |
| Southern Africa       | Mozambique                                  | No material, independently verified new development identified in the strict window. |
| Gulf of Guinea        | Togo; Côte d'Ivoire                         | No material, independently verified new development identified in the strict window. |

## REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

**Governance-security interaction:** Baidoa shows that political disputes inside a federal system can generate combat intensity comparable to insurgent attacks, creating exploitable gaps for al-Shabaab and immediate humanitarian disruption.

**Conflict-health interaction:** Eastern DRC demonstrates a self-reinforcing cycle in which insecurity weakens surveillance and care, undetected transmission expands, and emergency restrictions further strain movement, trade and trust in institutions.

**External engagement:** Saudi-Sudanese institutional coordination and South Sudan's mediation offer reflect continued competition to shape Sudan's diplomatic and reconstruction landscape. Their operational value depends on access to both belligerents and enforceable incentives.

**Strategic economy:** Angola's discovery is a positive supply indicator, but appraisal and tie-back economics - rather than geological headlines - will determine whether it materially offsets national production decline.

## INDICATORS TO WATCH | NEXT 24-72 HOURS

- Somalia: renewed opposition movement toward Baidoa; verified casualty totals; aid suspensions; federal reinforcement or clan-mediated de-escalation.
- Somalia: any al-Shabaab exploitation of forces diverted to federal-regional fighting or attacks on exposed routes and positions.
- DRC: daily case growth, geographic expansion beyond current transmission zones, infections among health workers, new border screening and mining or transport restrictions.
- Sudan: imagery or wreckage supporting the FH-95 shootdown claim; renewed RSF drone operations against the El Obeid corridor.
- Sudan / South Sudan / Saudi Arabia: evidence that new diplomatic mechanisms engage both SAF and RSF or produce concrete humanitarian-access commitments.
- Angola: appraisal drilling, recoverable-resource estimates, tie-back feasibility and partner investment decisions for Block 0.
- Sahel, Mozambique and Gulf of Guinea: delayed confirmation of attacks or cross-border militant activity not visible at cut-off.

## ANALYTIC STANDARDS AND CAVEATS

**Confidence:** High = strongly corroborated by credible reporting or direct documentary evidence. Moderate = credible but with meaningful gaps. Low = single-source, contested or weakly corroborated.

**Attribution and collection caveat:** Official, opposition and armed-group statements remain attributed unless independently verified. Corporate discovery data do not establish commerciality. Reporting delays can obscure conflict events.