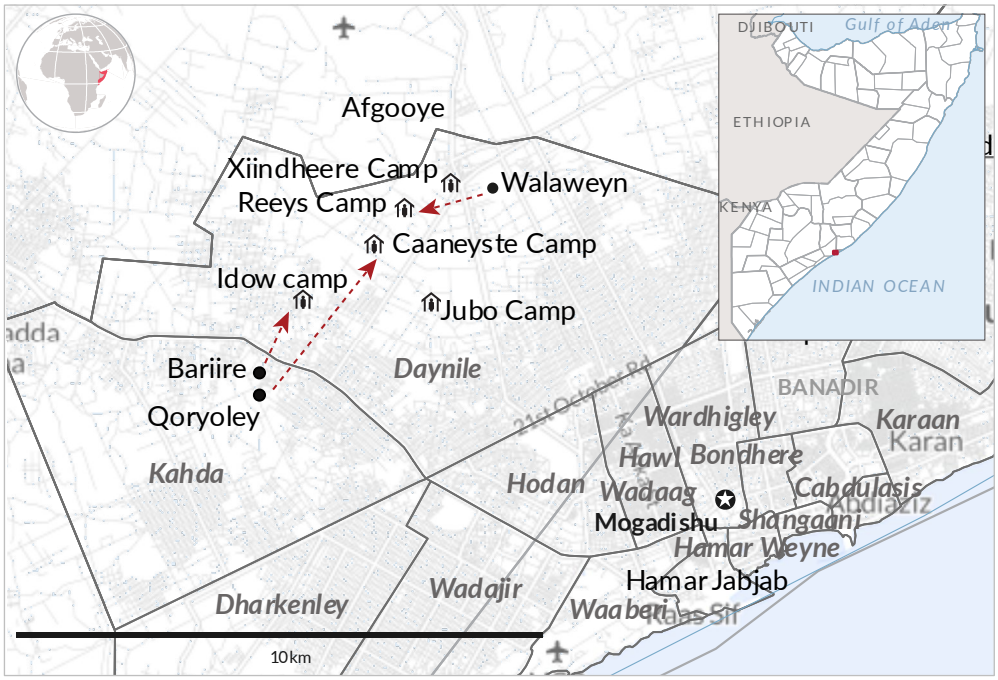
Severe Drought Displaces over 5,500 Individuals in Banadir Region

Displaced Families	949
Displaced Individuals	5,694
Deaths	0
Injuries	0
Coordinates	
Incident Date	Feb 16, 2026



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Background

The Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) have observed a significant surge in newly displaced households arriving in Banadir, with approximately 949 households (5,694 individuals) reaching Daynile district alone, in search of humanitarian services. This represents the largest influx recorded within such a short timeframe in the region, signalling a rapidly deteriorating displacement situation and increasing pressure on already overstretched humanitarian services.

Previous Location	Arrived Location	Households
Buur-hakaba	Xiindheere Camp, Daynile District	191
Walaweyn, Buur-hakaba	Reeys Camp, Daynile District	220
Qoryoley	Caaneyste Camp, Daynile District	260
Qansaxdhere	Jubo Camp, Daynile District	179
Bariire	Idow camp, Daynile District	99
(5,694 Individuals)		**949 HH**

Information from protection monitoring and key informant interviews suggests that these movements are ongoing, with thousands more individuals reportedly en route to Banadir in search of safety, assistance, and basic services. The scale and pace of the influx signal a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and protection situation in drought-affected areas.

Somalia's agropastoral communities continue to experience the compounded effects of prolonged, recurrent dry spells, resulting in severe drought conditions that have significantly weakened household resilience. The situation is further aggravated by declining humanitarian funding, which has constrained the scale and timeliness of life-saving interventions. Over time, affected communities have lost critical livelihood assets, including livestock, crops, and productive land, leading to deepening food insecurity, increased reliance on negative coping mechanisms, and heightened exposure to protection risks.

As drought conditions worsen, vulnerable populations, particularly farmers and pastoralists, have exhausted their remaining coping capacities and have been compelled to leave their places of origin in search of assistance, essential services, and safer living environments.

The deteriorating humanitarian situation has triggered increased displacement toward urban and peri-urban districts within the Banadir region, particularly Kahda, Daynile, and Garas Baley, which continue to host high concentrations of displaced populations. These districts already host large numbers of internally displaced persons from neighboring regions, including Middle and Lower Shabelle, and in some cases from more distant areas such as the Bay region and Jamame district in Lower Juba. Many of the new arrivals report loss of livelihoods due to sustained crop failure, livestock mortality, and severe shortages of water and grazing land. For populations already living in protracted displacements and fragile conditions, the drought has further compounded pre-existing vulnerabilities.

The sudden increase in displacement has significantly strained the absorption capacity of existing settlements. Overcrowding in camps has intensified, with limited space available to accommodate new arrivals. Many newly displaced households are residing in makeshift shelters constructed from sticks, plastic sheets, and worn clothing, while some individuals are sleeping in open areas. These conditions expose displaced populations, particularly women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, to increased risks of violence, exploitation, theft, and other protection concerns. In addition, access to basic services remains critically inadequate. The number of available latrines is far below minimum humanitarian standards, and open defecation has been observed in and around settlements, increasing public health risks and protection concerns, especially for women and girls.

Furthermore, insecurity along displacement routes and in areas of origin continues to aggravate the situation. The presence of Al-Shabaab in several drought-affected areas and along key movement corridors restricts civilian movement, limits safe access to humanitarian assistance, and exposes displaced populations to extortion, forced recruitment, and other protection violations. These constraints hinder timely access to life-saving services and further increase vulnerabilities. The situation underscores the urgent need for coordinated, multisectoral, and protection-centered humanitarian response to address immediate needs while strengthening resilience and protection mechanisms for affected populations.

Protection Risks

Forced Displacement and Loss of Property: More than 5,500 individuals, including women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, have been displaced due to severe water shortages, depletion of pasture for livestock, and loss of livelihood opportunities. As coping capacities were exhausted, affected households were compelled to leave their areas of origin in search of assistance and basic services. The displacement has resulted in the loss of shelters, erosion of productive assets, and disruption of social support systems, thereby increasing exposure to multiple protection risks, including exploitation, marginalization, and limited access to essential services.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Women and girls are at heightened risk of violence, assault, and exploitation in displacement settings. Contributing factors include inadequate shelter and privacy, insufficient lighting in and around settlements, overcrowding in limited spaces, and weak community protection mechanisms. Female-headed households, particularly those led by single mothers without sufficient protection or support, face disproportionate vulnerabilities. These conditions increase exposure to harmful coping strategies, including transactional sex and other forms of exploitation.

Child, Early, and Forced Marriage: During periods of economic hardship and displacement, adolescent girls face increased risks of child, early, and forced marriage as families adopt negative coping strategies to address financial constraints. In some cases, early marriage is perceived as a survival mechanism to secure bride price and reduce household economic burden. This practice exposes girls to long-term protection risks, including interruption of education, early pregnancy, domestic violence, and reduced future opportunities. Strengthened protection interventions, along with community awareness and engagement, are essential to mitigate these risks.

Child Recruitment by Armed Actors: In contexts of economic distress, insecurity, and limited livelihood opportunities, boys are at increased risk of recruitment by armed actors, including Al-Shabaab. In Banadir, many adolescent boys residing in IDP settlements are out of school, while families continue to face declining income and limited livelihood options. These factors increase susceptibility to coercion, manipulation, and recruitment through financial incentives. In

some cases, this is further associated with exposure to substance abuse and other harmful behaviors. Preventive programming, including education, livelihood support, and psychosocial services, remains critical.

Child Labour and Exploitation: Due to the ongoing drought and large-scale displacement into Banadir, child labour has increased as a coping mechanism among vulnerable households. Many children are sent by parents or caregivers to engage in income-generating activities such as shoe polishing, washing clothes, and domestic work in host communities. In some cases, children receive little or no payment, increasing their risk of exploitation and abuse. The disruption of education and limited access to child protection services further exacerbate these risks. Urgent, coordinated interventions are required to ensure immediate access to safe and inclusive education, strengthen child protection systems, and support affected families. Education and protection cannot wait, and timely response is essential to safeguard children's rights and wellbeing.

Urgent Priority Needs

Emergency Shelter: Displaced households are currently residing in makeshift shelters that do not provide adequate protection from harsh weather conditions, extreme heat, and insecurity, thereby exposing them to both shelter and protection risks. The lack of safe and durable shelter increases vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and health risks. Immediate support is required to provide emergency shelter materials and non-food items (NFIs) to enhance safety, privacy, and dignity, particularly for women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

Food Assistance: Urgent food assistance is required to address acute food insecurity among newly displaced populations and prevent further deterioration in nutritional status. Children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and other vulnerable groups are at heightened risk of malnutrition due to loss of livelihoods and limited access to food. Timely and sustained food support is essential to prevent negative coping mechanisms and protect household resilience.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services remains severely constrained in displacement sites. Women and girls are disproportionately affected, facing increased risks to their dignity, privacy, and safety due to the lack of adequate and gender-sensitive sanitation facilities. Observations indicate limited availability of latrines and increased reliance on open defecation, both of which elevate public health and protection risks. Immediate WASH interventions are required to ensure access to safe drinking water, emergency sanitation, and hygiene services, while integrating dignity and protection considerations to prevent disease outbreaks and mitigate protection concerns.

Protection Services: Protection services are urgently needed to address the heightened risks faced by displaced populations, including gender-based violence, child protection concerns, psychosocial distress, and vulnerabilities among older persons and persons with disabilities. Strengthening protection outreach, case management, and referral pathways is critical to ensure timely identification and response to protection needs. In addition, access to child protection and GBV services, tailored assistance for older persons and persons with disabilities, and community-based protection mechanisms should be prioritized to promote safety, dignity, and well-being among affected populations.

Photos: These are some of the displaced families who reached in Banadir with their small items thinking about where to settle in Xindheere IDP camp-Daynile district. The number displaced were very huge so less space for some households and individuals.

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL | United Nations CERF Central Emergency Response Fund | Internal Displacement Solutions Fund | From the People of Japan

The PSMN (Protection & Solutions Monitoring Network) is a UNHCR-led project that identifies and reports on displacements, as well as the protection risks and incidents driving such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 10 local partners across Somalia conduct data gathering—primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants—and monitor displacement trends at strategic locations.

To request further details on displacement, please contact **SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG**