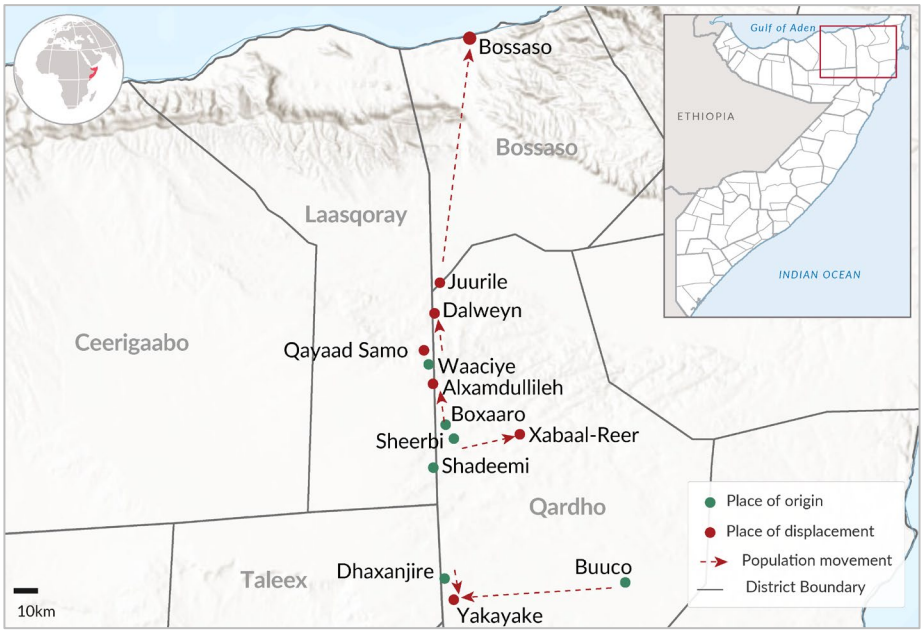
Drought-Induced Displacement in Qardho District, Bari Region

Displaced Families	919
Displaced Individuals	5,514
Deaths	0
Injuries	0
Coordinates	
Incident Date	Dec 16, 2025,



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

Background

Communities in Qardho District in Bari Region are among the hardest hit by the prolonged drought affecting Puntland. The Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) has recorded the displacement of approximately 919 households (around 5,514 individuals) from Qardho District and neighbouring villages as drought conditions continue to deteriorate. Pastoralist families have been forced to move in search of water and pasture, relocating toward the Ceeriye and Walale valleys in Karkaar Region within Qardho District, to Bosaso District, and to remote areas of Sanaag Region, particularly the rural zones of Yubbe and Ceergaabo. Some households have also crossed into Ethiopia's Somali Regional State.

Previous location	Arrival location	HHs
Ceeriye, Waaciye	Togga Dalweyn	185 HH
Kurkujaxo	Togga Qayaadsame	125 HH
Daraley	Dacar Xabaalreer	105 HH
Shadeemi	Juurile	110 HH
Booxaaro	Alxamdulilah	85 HH
Xirxir	Yubbe-Ceerigaabo	130 HH
Buuco	YakaYake	18 HH
Dhaxanjire	Yakayake	17 HH
Sheerbi	Bossaso	20 HH
Hulal	Dawlad Deegaanka, Ethiopia	124 HH
919 HHs of approx. 5,514 Individuals		

Because of the mountainous terrain and long distances travelled, displaced families face heightened risks of family separation—particularly affecting children, older persons, and individuals with disabilities. The arrival of newly displaced households is adding further pressure to already overstretched displacement sites and host communities. In the affected areas, primary water sources have largely dried up. As a result, communities must travel long distances to Qardho and Dhuure Juurile to access water, exposing them to additional protection risks. Reduced funding has also forced several humanitarian partners to scale down activities in IDP-hosting locations. Cash assistance has been suspended since October, and in-kind support remains very limited. The absence of specialized protection services has further increased protection risks within communities, leaving people more susceptible to violence, abuse, and exploitation.

Protection Risks

Forced Displacement: Prolonged drought has forced rural communities to leave their areas of origin in search of water and pasture for both households and livestock.
Risk of Mines and Explosive Ordnance: Some areas of origin and displacement routes include locations recently liberated from ISIS, where the local reports of presence of mines and explosive remnants of war remain a concern.
Psychological and Emotional Distress: The loss of livestock, often the primary source of food and income combined with long-distance movement in search of food, water and protection has resulted in significant psychological and emotional distress, as well as physical exhaustion among affected populations.

Urgent Humanitarian Needs

Safe Water Supply: Access to safe water is the most urgent need due to the failure of the expected rainy season and the drying up of water sources.

Food Assistance: Affected households primarily depend on livestock and small-scale farming, both of which have collapsed as a result of water scarcity. Immediate food assistance - through unconditional cash transfers or in-kind for remote communities is critically required.

Protection Services: Displaced populations are facing multiple protection risks, including family separation, exposure to gender-based violence and psychological distress. These risks are more pronounced in hard-to-reach and inaccessible areas, where limited partner capacity hinders effective and timely monitoring of protection concerns, violations, and responses. Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), establishment of mobile protection desks for case management and referrals, and provision of psychosocial support services are urgently needed.

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

The Protection & Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) 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.

Data Attribution:

All data and information in this Flash Alert are sourced from UNHCR's Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) and its partners. The following citation is required when referencing any part of this report:

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