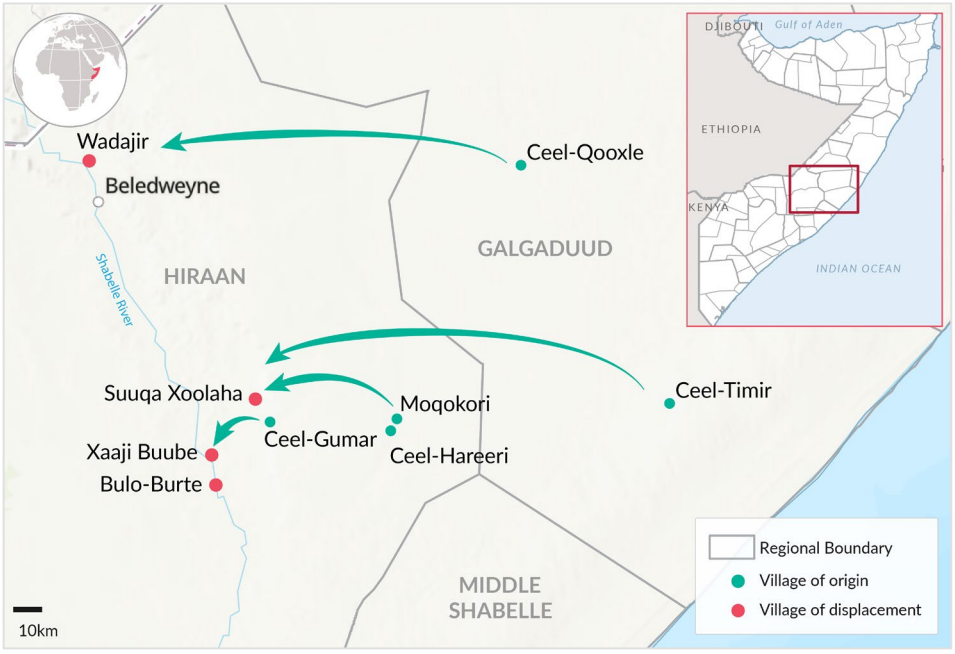
Escalating Conflict Between Government Forces and Non-State Armed Groups Displaces Thousands in Bulo-Burte, Hiraan Region

Displaced Families	1,130
Displaced Individuals	6,780
Deaths	0
Injuries	0
Coordinates	
Incident Date	1 July 2025



Background

In Hiraan region, ongoing and intensifying conflict between the Somali National Army (SNA), supported by local militias, and the non-state armed group, Al-Shabaab, has resulted in deterioration of the humanitarian situation. In particular, the security situation has rapidly worsened in districts including Bula Burte (Qayacad, Ceel-Timir, Sagaalgeed and Ceel-Yacquub villages), Moqokori (Libigaduud, Ceel-Qooxle, Ceel-Gumar and Ceel Hareeri villages) and Maxaas due to Al-Shabaab's expanding presence and aggressive operations.

Previous Location	Arrival locations	Households
Ceel-Gumar	Xaaji Buube	120 HH
Ceel-Yacquub	Xaaji Buube village, Bulo-Burte	150 HH
Moqokori	Suuqa Xoolaha village	250 HH
Ceel-Timir	Suuqa Xoolaha village	140 HH
Qayacad	Wadajir village,	80 HH
Ceel-Hareeri	Wadajir village,	140 HH
Libigaduud	Wadajir village,	120 HH
Ceel-Qooxle	Suuqa Xoolaha village	130 HH
(Total 6,780 individuals)		**1,130 households**

Several strategic towns and villages have become conflict hotspots involving armed confrontations between Al-Shabaab, local militias and the SNA. As a result, widespread displacement has been reported. Many families have fled to the outskirts of towns or IDP settlements, including Wadajir IDP site and nearby villages such as Xaaji Buube and Midnimo. Others have sought refuge with relatives in safer parts of the district.

The Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) has documented the displacement of 1,130 households, representing approximately 6,780 individuals. Most of the displaced have fled to villages in Bulo-Burte district, where they are now living in overcrowded shelters, makeshift camps, or open spaces without basic humanitarian assistance.

Protection Risks

Impediments to freedom of movement and forced displacement: While some households managed to flee conflict-affected areas, others remain trapped under siege-like conditions. Continued hostilities restrict safe passage, particularly for families in frontline areas, increasing the risk of forced displacement under duress and exposure to violence.

Increased exposure to violence: Displaced communities face heightened risks of violence, including physical attacks, sexual violence and recruitment by armed groups particularly in unprotected settlements.

Limited access to services and humanitarian assistance: The intensifying conflict is severely limiting access to previously reachable areas. Al-Shabaab's attempts to regain control over these locations has resulted in access constraints for humanitarian actors, thereby restricting life-saving assistance for already displaced or at-risk populations.

Urgent Needs

Emergency Shelter: Displaced families urgently require emergency shelter support, with many forced to live in the open or in severely overcrowded homes of relatives. Without adequate shelter, they remain exposed to harsh weather, health risks, and heightened protection concerns, compromising their safety and dignity.

Non-Food Items (NFIs): Most households fled without personal belongings or essential supplies. Immediate distribution of NFIs, including bedding, cooking utensils, clothing, and hygiene kits, is critical to restore minimum living conditions and preserve their health, safety and dignity.

Water and Sanitation: Access to clean drinking water and emergency sanitation facilities at makeshift camp locations where displaced families have settled are urgently required.

Protection Services:

- Psychosocial support and counselling, particularly for survivors of trauma and violence.
- Child protection services, including case management and referral pathways for children at heightened risk of abuse and neglect.
- Establishing or strengthening Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms (CFMs), including protection/help desks to ensure displaced communities can report protection incidents and access assistance.
- Cash-based assistance to facilitate access to basic needs and avert negative coping mechanisms.

Disclaimer: This alert serves as a call for an urgent and coordinated humanitarian response. For that purpose, preliminary information is reported outlining immediate priority needs. Assessments of the situation are ongoing and updates will be shared as further information becomes available.

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

The Protection and 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.

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