

Kismayo Population Movements & Protection Monitoring

01 September 2012 - 26 September 2012



Effects of military activities in Lower and Middle Juba

Total displaced: 12,000

Key Events

Since August, AMISOM/SNAF contingents have been closing in on Kismayo, reaching Bibi on the 5th of September. People in the port-city reported that Al-Shabaab fighters were leaving Kismayo. The next two weeks saw frequent confrontations at Al-Shabaab defense positions surrounding the city. Kenyan naval forces reportedly shelled Al-Shabaab strongholds in Kismayo on several occasions. On Monday 17th September, Al-Shabaab reportedly broadcast a call to arms to fight against the AMISOM / SNF forces on their Kismayo-based radio station, Andalus FM. On the 20th of September an Al-Shabaab commander reiterated that Kismayo would be defended and fleeing civilians reported Al-Shabaab militants coming back into the city, taking up fortified positions. On the 26th of September Kenyan fighter jets reportedly bombed the airport in Kismayo targeting Al-Shabaab's arms and supplies, while people in the city also reported instances of shelling from the sea.

Population Movements & Protection Monitoring

Population Movement Tracking (PMT) data indicates that over 12,000 individuals left Kismayo from the 1st to 26th of September. Major movements started to take place after AMISOM/SNAF began to advance on Kismayo in mid-September. Al-Shabaab's radio announcement resulted in a large increase in displacement from Kismayo. Reports indicate that in addition to conflict-related insecurity, many of those displaced are doing so to avoid being used as human shields or to be forcefully recruited by Al-Shabaab. The majority of people who fled from Kismayo went to the neighboring districts of Jamaame (2,600), Jilib (2,300), and Bu'aale (1,000). In addition, 1,800 people are reported to have moved to Banadir. 2,200 people moved out of the port-city but stayed within villages in Kismayo district. Their stated intention is to return to Kismayo once the situation stabilizes.

About 500 people moved to Afmadow, most of them temporarily settling in Afmadow town. Similarly, 500 movements are reported to Badhaadhe district, with the majority heading for Kuda. 600 people moved to Shabelle Hoose region. Around 300 people moved to Baardheere district of Gedo region. Despite movement of people out of Kismayo, Protection Monitoring partners indicate that movement, in some instances, is restricted by Al-Shabaab. There have been regular confirmed reports of Al-Shabaab targeting adult males as well as boys in a large-scale forced recruitment drive, in order to boost its military capacity.

