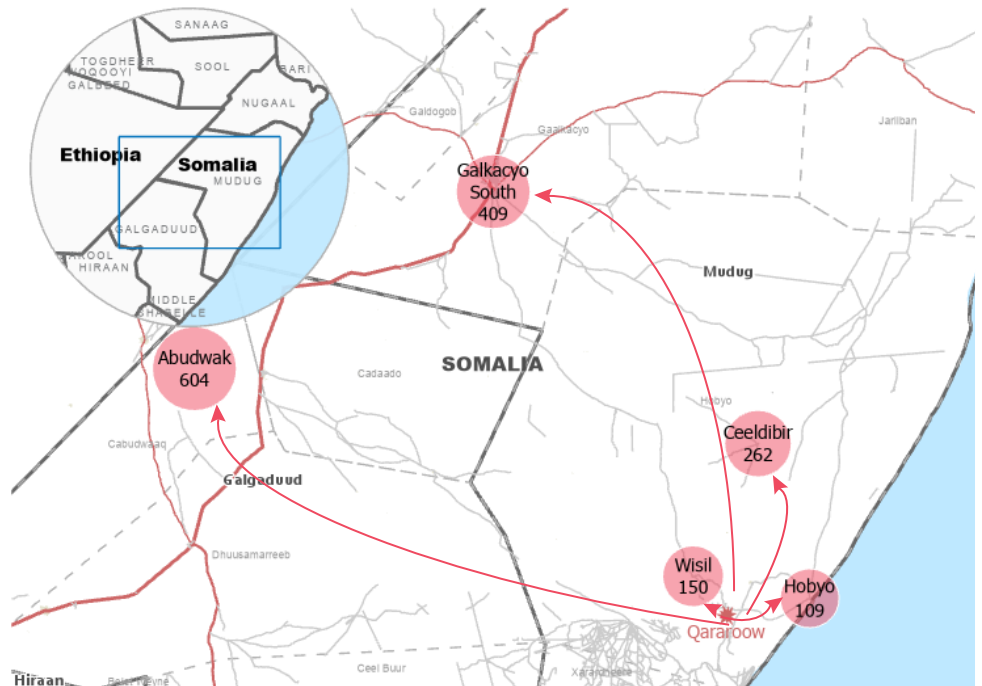
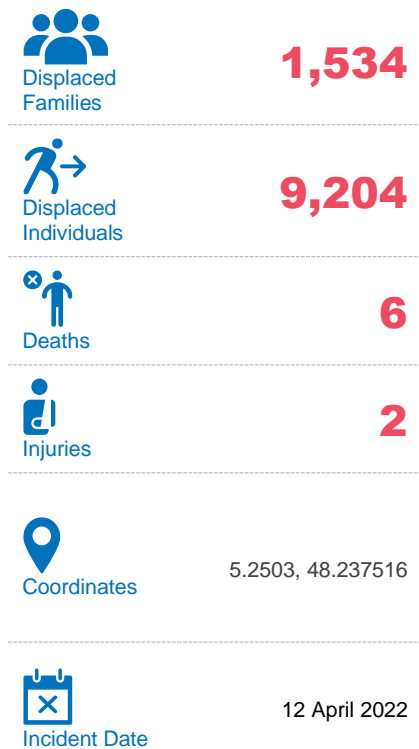


More than 9,204 persons displaced by conflict and drought amid looming risk of famine in Galmudug state



Background

On 11 April 2022, Al Shabaab conducted operations in Qararow village, Hobyo district, Mudug region. A confrontation with the Galmudug Daraawesh forces, who arrived to the village from Hobyo the same day to respond to the insurgency threat, resulted in casualties of six civilians, injuries of another two, and the displacement of 5,580 persons (930 households). The displaced families fled to Galkacyo South, Wisil, Hobyo, and Ceel-Dibir. The primary supply road linking Wisil and Galkacyo to Hobyo passes through Qararow village, 40km from Hobyo and 11km from Gawan. Al Shabaab aimed to cut off Hobyo town, the state's only port and also the main source of goods and revenue for Galmudug State. Of the total affected households that arrived in Galkacyo South, approximately 25 households settled in the newly established Daryeel IDP settlement, while another 20 households were integrated into the host community where they are mainly living with relatives and friends. Most of the newly displaced persons, however, have joined existing IDP settlements in Galkacyo South and have not yet received any humanitarian assistance. The Galkacyo local administration has asked for life-saving humanitarian aid for people forced to leave their homes.

Previous location	Arrival villages	Households
Qararow and Gawan Somali region	Galkacyo South	409
	Ceel-Dibir	262
	Hobyo	109
	Wisil	150
	Abudwak	604
Total households		1,534

In addition, Al Shabaab tried to impose economic restrictions on the villages surrounding Hobyo town to pressure the clans living in these locations to surrender. On 30 March, Al Shabaab forcefully seized 306 camels from the pastoral communities in the region and torched properties and homes. For unknown reasons, Al Shabaab also kidnapped eight people, including two children. The displaced households left their belongings behind, while others sold or exchanged them for transportation costs. Linked to the war in Ukraine which has caused a surge in gasoline and oil prices, the cost of transportation was inflated from \$15 to \$35 for each person fleeing to Galkacyo. Some displaced persons arrived in Hobyo and Wisil by foot, taking one and a half days due to high transportation costs.

Furthermore, the ongoing drought has devastated Galmudug following the failed rains for the third consecutive season. About 3,624 individuals (604 families) fled the Ogaden region in Ethiopia and joined the IDP sites of Abudwak. Linked to the drought, two new IDP settlements were formed in the last month in Abudwak. The new arrivals joined the following existing IDP camps: Farjano, Zamzam, Garasle, Nasiye, Baredheere, Dayacan, Wadajir, Jaqafabir, Danwadaag, Xurfada, Alla-amin and Kulmiye. Newly established IDP camps include Qalanqale and Qoraxay.

Protection Issues

- **Child protection issues:** Many children were recruited into clan militias, while others fled to towns for survival.
- **Heightened protection risks:** The lack of adequate physical protection continues to expose women and girls to heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV). Women and girls lack privacy and dignity as they sleep in open areas. GBV risk is anticipated to increase as the situation prolongs. Humanitarian intervention is required to mitigate current risks and address identified protection gaps. According to PRMN monitors, there are unconfirmed cases of sexual abuse.
- **Kidnappings:** Eight civilians, including two children, were kidnapped to threaten their families, and they were later punished for unknown reasons.
- **Starvation:** Affected households have faced restricted supplies of goods and extortion of resources and properties.
- **Heightened vulnerabilities:** Families were trapped between the fighting sides without an escape route. This resulted in six deaths and two injuries. According to PRMN monitors, a civilian from a minority clan lost his life in the fight while working as a herdsman in the conflict area.
- **Violation of fundamental human rights:** Including forced taxation, forced recruitment of children and youth, harassment, intimidation, destruction of properties, infringement of free movement rights, and GBV.
- **Lack of basic services and adequate housing:** PRMN field monitors reported that existing and newly established IDP settlements do not have adequate access to basic services and housing.

Urgent Needs



Food



Emergency Shelter



Non-Food Item



Communal Latrine



Safe Drinking Water



Treated Mosquito Net



Displaced families worried of the new urban life



Homes burned during the conflict



Newly arrived families in Daryeel ID, Galkacyo South

The PRMN (Protection & Return Monitoring Network) is a UNHCR-led project which identifies and reports on displacements as well as protection risks and incidents underlying such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 38 local partners in the field in Somalia (South Central regions, Puntland and Somaliland) undertake data gathering (primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants) and monitoring at strategic locations.

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

Implementing Partner

