5,670 individuals displaced from rural to urban areas due to the deteriorating drought situation in Sool region

The Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) reported increased population movement due to the protracted drought and extreme water deficits in Sool region. PRMN partners reported 945 households (approx. 5,670 individuals) displaced between 18 and 24 August primarily from rural to urban and peri-urban areas in Taleh and Hudun districts, Sool region, in search of water and pasture. The displaced communities have travelled long distances from remote villages such as Halin, Shaxda, Karindabaylweyn, Bali-hadhac, Dhaxan, Kalabaydh and Hudun. Most displaced individuals have moved to Taleh, Hudun, Jidbaale and Sarmaayo villages, while others have joined existing IDP settlements in Taleh and Hudun districts. Field monitors reported that most affected communities are arriving on foot, while others use rented trucks and lorries. There is currently no humanitarian assistance being provided to the affected families aside from some Emergency Water Trucking (EWT). Both Hudun and Taleh district mayors and the Office of the Regional Coordinator of the Somaliland National Displacement and Refugee Agency (NDRA) have called for immediate humanitarian assistance, including water, food, shelter/NFIs and protection.

Protection Issues

- **Heightened vulnerabilities**: The displaced individuals are mainly women, children and elderly persons who travel for long hours on foot to the new location, suffering from extreme exhaustion, hunger and thirst.
- **Child protection issues**: During and after displacement, children are those most affected. For instance, PRMN monitors reported that they identified two unaccompanied and separated children who were later reunited with their families after support from PRMN monitors. Additionally, affected families can no longer send their children to school, which puts them at risk of child labour and abuse.
- **Violence against women**: Vulnerable women and girls travel long hours in search of food and water with no physical protection, which exposes them to heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV).
- **Risk of forced evictions and lack of access to an effective remedies**: The affected families have joined existing IDP settlements with no secure tenure arrangements, placing them at risk of forced evictions. Moreover, the affected communities have limited access to justice for resolving housing, land and property (HLP) issues.
The PRMN 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 SOMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG