





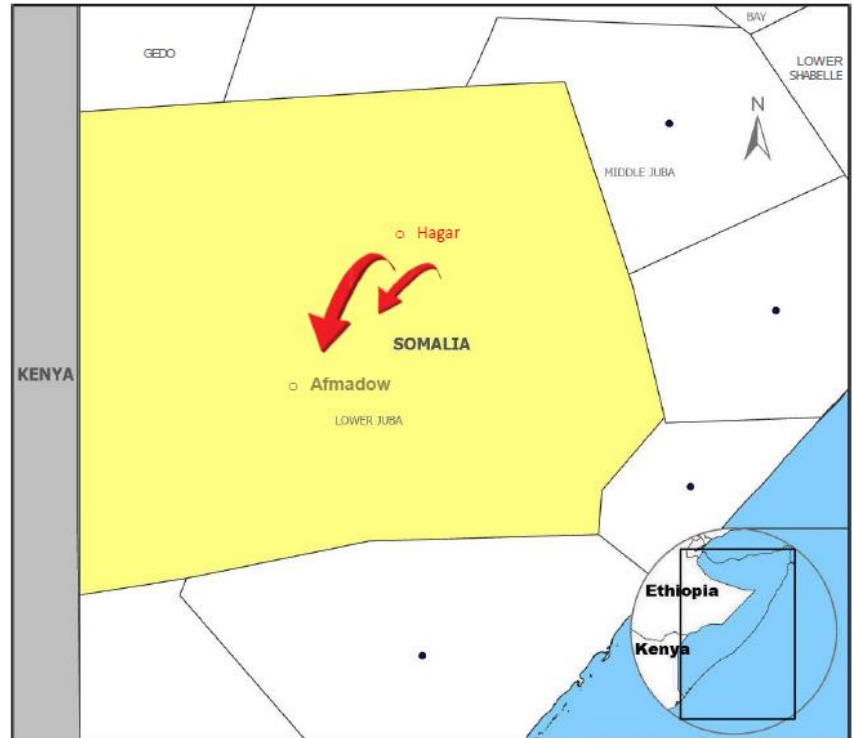


INSECURITY AND DROUGHT IN HAGAR DISTRICT DISPLACES 2,610 INDIVIDUALS TO AFMADOW TOWN

	435
Displaced Families	
	2,610
Displaced Individuals	
	2
Deaths	
	4
Injuries	
	Lat: -0.305636 Long: 42.432873
Coordinates	
	Ongoing
Incident Date	



Situation Overview:

Persistent drought and ongoing airstrikes in Hagar district have forced many to flee to Afmadow due to the deteriorating conditions, in search of basic services. The recent influx of displaced individuals in Afmadow has strained further, limited resources for both existing internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities. The steady influx of displaced individuals, an estimated five households arriving daily, has increased the demographic pressure in the Afmadow district, which is already home to many IDPs,

PSMN Monitors have identified vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly, lactating mothers, and people with disabilities and they are supporting them through referral mechanisms for support. The displacement is driven by the hope of finding better living conditions, which has created overwhelming challenges. Governmental authorities have also raised the appeal of urgent humanitarian needs, noting that access to water, food, and shelter has become critical. Below is the breakdown of the IDPs' previous locations of displacement, current IDP sites, and the number of households documented.

#	Previous Location	IDP Sites	Households
1	Aadey	Bari	234
2	Qaba	Bilicsan	37
3	Bula tuweer	Bilisa	41
4.	Aruba	Derisamah	123
		Total	435

Figures of new arrivals and the sites they settled in Afmadow

Protection Risks

PSMN monitors documenting displacement and interviewing new arrivals identified the following protection risks:

- ❖ **Attacks on Civilians and Civilian Objects:** Besides the persistent drought in the region, indiscriminatory airstrikes and other conflict-related incidents have been reported in the past few weeks resulting in the displacement of civilians, approximately 435 households as civilians fled the deteriorating situation in Hagar district. Two civilian deaths and four civilians injured were reported.
- ❖ **Psychological and Emotional Distress:** Several people were forced to flee the deteriorating situation in the district characterized by the lack of water, limited access to livelihood opportunities and the lack of access to humanitarian assistance in Hagar district. The displacement has caused significant psychological and emotional distress among various groups, particularly children and women. Many children in the IDP camp have displayed signs of distress. Numerous children are experiencing feelings of anxiety, Women, on the other hand, feel frustrated and helpless due to their displacement.
- ❖ **Child and Forced Family Separation:** Interviews with families revealed that they were separated from one another in different villages within Hagar district during the displacement.
- ❖ **Forced Recruitment and Association of Children with Armed Forces and Groups:** Monitors reported eight cases of children being forcibly recruited by Al-Shabaab into their armed groups. These incidents occurred in the villages of Qaba, Bula Tuwer, and Daima. Recruitment by Al-Shabaab has been ongoing and is frequently documented.
- ❖ **Abduction and Kidnapping:** According to the newly arrived individuals, three people were reportedly abducted and kidnapped by Al-Shabaab. They were forced to join Al-Shabaab as part of their regular armed group.

Urgent Humanitarian Needs



Food: According to the newly arrived individuals, food shortages are the main issue affecting internally displaced persons in the town. Most of the IDPs fled in a hurry, leaving them vulnerable without their source of livelihood. This concern was echoed by the local governmental authorities, who have requested urgent humanitarian intervention from organizations. It is recommended that food security organizations prepare for an immediate response and explore options for providing support.



Emergency Shelter: Many households documented by PSMN monitors reported that shelter is a critical issue that urgently needs to be addressed. Observations conducted in the camp revealed that most internally displaced persons and their children are living in open spaces, increasing risks of gender-based violence. The Shelter Cluster should conduct an urgent verification and provide emergency shelters, with temporary shelters being highly recommended.



Communal Latrines: It has been observed that the number of latrines available in the IDP camps is insufficient to accommodate the displaced population. This has resulted in overcrowding at the few existing latrines. Without proper support for sanitation facilities, there is a risk of disease outbreaks, as IDPs are resorting to alternative means for sanitation. Humanitarian organizations are urged to intervene in this area as soon as possible.



Safe Drinking Water: There is insufficient safe drinking water in the area and few water sources that are not adequate to accommodate the needs of the displaced population. The scarcity of water was raised by the governmental authorities who highly recommended urgent intervention. It is recommended that organizations providing safe drinking water should give this a priority.

NFI **Non-Food Items:** Many IDPs left their homes resulting in them being unable to carry essential non-food items. They were only able to bring a few belongings, which are insufficient to meet their living conditions. Reports indicate that even when their hosts do provide food, the IDPs often lack the means to cook or access clean water. It is highly recommended that humanitarian organizations prioritize the distribution of non-food items to better support these individuals.



Photo of newly displaced households camping in a new site in Afmadow town.



The PSMN (Protection & Solution 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), 10 local partners in the field in Somalia (South Central regions, Jubaland Puntland and Somaliland) undertake data gathering (primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants) and monitoring at strategic locations. Requesting further details on displacement, please contact SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG