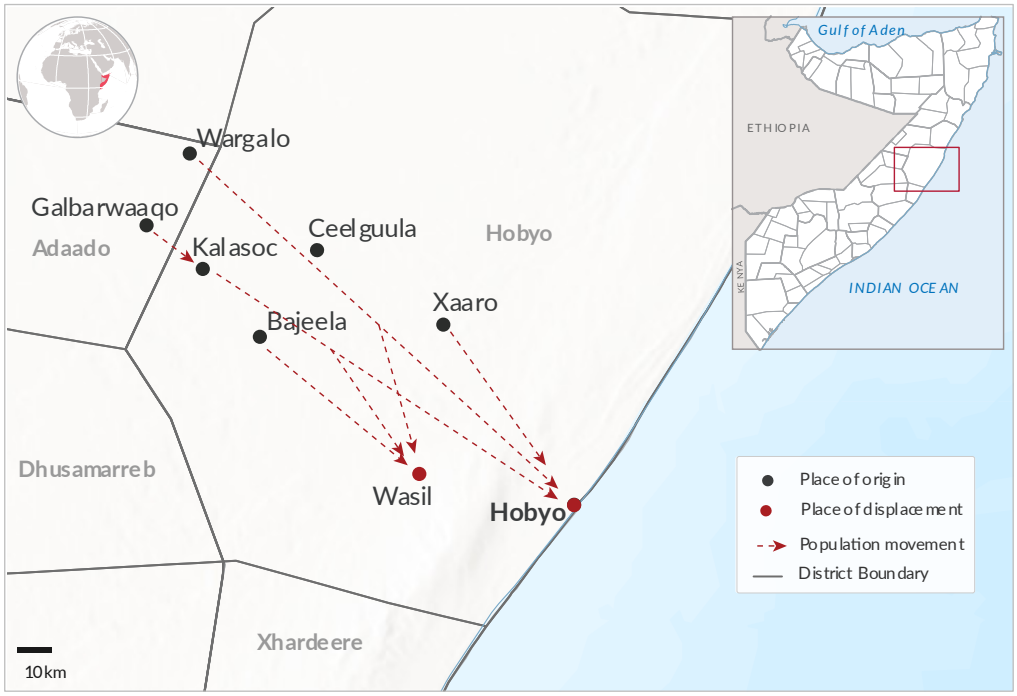
66,000 Individuals Displaced in Hobyo District of Mudug Region Due To Severe Drought

Displaced Families	11,000
Displaced Individuals	66,000
It is estimated that some **9,000** individuals are children under 18	
Deaths	0
Injuries	0
Coordinates	5.3516° N, 48.5250° E
Incident Date	Jan 31, 2026,



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Background

Somalia continues to experience a severe and prolonged drought, driven by consecutive failed rainy seasons, extreme temperatures, and environmental degradation. In Hobyo District, these conditions have resulted in the depletion of grazing lands and the drying of critical water sources, including shallow wells, traditional wells, water pans, and berkads. The collapse of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods has been widespread, marked by significant livestock losses and reduced household income. Rural communities have been forced to leave their areas of origin in search of water, pasture, and essential services.

Previous Location	Arrived Location	Households
Bajeela	Wasil	1,900
Wargalo and Kalasoc	Wasil and Hobyo	2,200
Ceelguula and Xero Dahab	Ceelguula	1,800
Ceeldibir and Gawaan	Hobyo and Ceel Ducaale	3,100
Xaaro and Galbarwaaqo	Ceel Dibir and Hobyo	2,000
(Total 66,000 Individuals) 11,000 Households		

The most affected villages include Bajeela, Wargalo, Ceelguula, Gawaan, Ceeldibir, Xaaro, Kalasooc, Gal-Barwaaqo, and Xero-Dahab. Displaced households have moved toward Ceel-Ducaale, Wasil, Ceelguula, Ceeldibir, and Hobyo town, where access to basic services and humanitarian assistance is perceived to be relatively better. As of the time of reporting, Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) partners have recorded an estimated **11,000 households (66,000 individuals)** displaced due to the ongoing drought and deteriorating living conditions across Hobyo District. Among the affected population, it is estimated that some 9,000 individuals are children under 18.

In addition, the presence of Al-Shabaab in the areas of origin and around the displacement routes continues to restrict civilian movement, limit access to services, and exacerbate protection risks. The combined impacts of drought and insecurity are sustained and escalating displacement within Hobyo district.

Protection Risks

Forced displacement and loss of properties: At least 60,000 individuals, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, have been displaced due to the severe lack of waters, depletion of pasture for livestock, and loss of livelihoods opportunities. The displacement has resulted in loss of shelters, erosion of productive assets, and heightened exposure to protection risks.

Risk of Exclusion for Elderly and Persons with disabilities: Older persons and persons with disabilities face significant mobility and access barriers, limiting their ability to access water points, food assistance, health services, and sanitation, increasing risks of exclusion from assistance, neglect and health complications.

Urgent Priority Needs

Emergency Shelter: The displaced households are living in makeshift shelters that do not provide protection against harsh weather conditions, heat, and insecurity exposing them to both shelter and protection risks. Immediate support is required to provide emergency shelter materials and NFIs to ensure safety, privacy, and dignity, particularly for women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Food Assistance: Urgent food support is reportedly needed to address acute food insecurity and prevent malnutrition, particularly among children under five, pregnant and lactating women.

WASH: Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services is reportedly severely strained in displacement sites. Women and girls are disproportionately affected, facing heightened risks to dignity and safety due to the lack of adequate latrines. Immediate WASH interventions are urgently required to ensure access to safe drinking water, emergency sanitation, and dignity- and protection-focused services to prevent disease outbreaks and mitigate protection risks.

Protection Services: Protection services are urgently needed to address heightened risks faced by the displaced populations, including gender-based violence, child protection concerns, psychosocial distress, and risks faced by elderly people and persons with disabilities. Protection desks, case management, referral services, Child Protection, GBV services, tailored assistance for the elderly and persons with disabilities and community-based protection mechanisms are needed to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of affected populations.

PSMN partner monitor interviewing and meeting with drought-affected people person in Hobyo ©Daryeel Bulsho Guud(DBG) Organization

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL | DBG DARYEEL BULSHO GUUD COMMUNITY CARE FOR ALL | United Nations CERF Central Emergency Response Fund | Internal Displacement Solutions Fund | From the People of Japan

The PSMN (Protection & Solutions Monitoring Network) 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**