This update provides information on the protection environment in Somalia, including apparent violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law as reported in during the last week through the IASC Somalia Protection Cluster monitoring systems. Incidents mentioned in this report are not exhaustive. They are intended to highlight credible reports in order to inform programming and advocacy by the humanitarian community and national authorities.

General Overview

A combination of famine, drought, lawlessness and conflict during the last two weeks continues to raise the number of multi layered direct and indirect protection related cases in South Central Somalia.

The United Nations officially declared famine in parts of Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions, declaring that Somalia is experiencing the worst drought in decades.\(^1\) Currently in some parts of Bakool and Lower Shabelle, acute malnutrition tops 50 percent and death rates exceed six per 10,000 populations per day.\(^2\) In other parts of southern Somalia, the humanitarian crisis is escalating as aid agencies struggle with funding constraints and access to Al Shabaab controlled areas.

Although Al Shabaab recently lifted a ban on aid agencies, the group has since retracted the statement and has continued to restrict humanitarian aid access in many areas under their control.\(^3\) Hence many aid agencies have reported that they are still unable to reach an estimated 2.2 million Somalis facing starvation in many Al Shabaab controlled areas.\(^4\) In addition, the militant group has continued to prohibit residents from fleeing to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)-controlled areas and neighboring countries despite the increasingly dire humanitarian situation. Recent reports have indicated that forced payments, illegal arrests and harsh punishments by Al Shabaab have been on the rise despite the worsening situation.

Reports received during most of the reporting period also indicates that clashes between the warring parties in southern Somalia have declined due to increased pressure on parties to the conflict to deal with mass population movements sparked by drought and famine. Despite the continued humanitarian crisis and the declared situation of famine, African Union peacekeepers (AMISOM) launched a pre-emptive strike on Al Shabaab forces in Mogadishu leading to heavy fighting on Thursday 27 July. The purpose

---


\(^2\) Reliefweb, *FAO launches appeal to avert regional disaster*, 18th July available at [http://reliefweb.int/node/426946](http://reliefweb.int/node/426946)


\(^4\) Associated Press, *Al-Shabab prevents aid from reaching 2.2M Somalis*, 24th July available at [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gAzOvJqOi0be4FkrVVYH29fNKsDw?docId=06fc13705b37f79a498c3ad1d505448](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gAzOvJqOi0be4FkrVVYH29fNKsDw?docId=06fc13705b37f79a498c3ad1d505448)
of the attack was to protect famine relief efforts from attacks by Al Shabaab after the militant group announced it was planning to step up operations during Ramadan.\(^5\)

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said in a statement this week, that an estimated 100,000 newly displaced have arrived in Mogadishu over the last two months. The total number of IDPs in Mogadishu is about 400,000, with approximately 1,000 new arrivals each day.

Protections concerns related to insecurity are escalating as more people become displaced throughout southern Somalia in attempts to access scarcely available food resources. Newly displaced people in various regions of Somalia are at a heightened risk of insecurity as there is not enough available assistance to provide the large-scale influxes of IDPs with adequate shelters. Recently, IDPs have struggled with sporadic rain as their makeshift shelters lack water-proofing and flooded areas have contributed to a rise in water-born illnesses with little to no medical supplies available to them.\(^6\) New IDPs have also faced higher rates of thievery and gender-based violence as they become less protected due to lack of shelter.

### MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

Although Mogadishu has remained calm in recent weeks as both the TFG and Al Shabaab deal with mass population movements in their areas of control, fighting flared in the previous few days as TFG/AMISOM forces launched an offensive to protect incoming famine relief aid. IDPs in the capital are facing increasing needs as the humanitarian aid currently available is being stretched to reach the thousands of new arrivals to the city. Although emergency aid is being provided, health concerns remain high as there is a lack of sufficient sanitation and health facilities to accommodate the new IDPs.\(^7\)

- TFG forces launched an offensive against Al Shabaab in Mogadishu to ensure security of the famine relief efforts. At least six people died and 39 others wounded in the clashes.\(^8\) (29\(^{th}\) July)
- At least 60 Somali refugees were forcibly returned to Somalia and left at Mogadishu airport after they had been deported from Saudi Arabia after previous fleeing of Somalia to Saudi Arabia.\(^9\) (22\(^{nd}\) July)

---


---


---

\(^7\) Shabelle Media Network, *IDPs in restive Mogadishu complain of lack of health care*, 18\(^{th}\) July available at [http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8928](http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8928)

Shabelle Media Network, *IDPs in Mogadishu complain of appalling living conditions*, 16\(^{th}\) July available at [http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8845](http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8845)

---


---

\(^9\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23\(^{rd}\) July 2011
• An eight-year-old girl was killed during stray fire when TFG forces clashed with each other in Shangani district of Mogadishu.\[10\] (21\textsuperscript{st} July)

• At least five people were wounded when a grenade exploded in front of Banadir Hospital in Hodan district of Mogadishu.\[11\] (20\textsuperscript{th} July)

• TFG forces clashed with each other in front of Villa Somalia in central Mogadishu leading to the deaths of two people and injuring others.\[12\] (19\textsuperscript{th} July)

• A university student was shot and killed in Hamar Jabjab district of Mogadishu by a TFG officer after the student refused to relinquish his mobile phone to the officer.\[13\] (19\textsuperscript{th} July)

• A man was seriously wounded by a stray bullet after TFG forces clashed with each other for control of a food distribution point in Waaberi district of Mogadishu.\[14\] (19\textsuperscript{th} July)

• A TFG officer allegedly shot and killed a civilian driver while he was travelling through the KM4 junction in Mogadishu. The alleged shooting was due to the driver’s refusal to pay an illegal fee to the TFG soldier manning the checkpoint, who then shot the driver for failure to pay.\[15\] (16\textsuperscript{th} July)

• Newly relocated IDPs in Dharikenley district were harassed and robbed while some women were raped when a group of people dressed in TFG uniforms entered the IDP camp in the night and began looting and attacking residents.\[16\] (16\textsuperscript{th} July)

**NORTH-WEST (AWDAL, WOQOOYI GALBEED & TOGDHEER)**

*Food security in the North-West regions of Somaliland has been generally secure compared to the famine being experienced in southern Somalia. However, general insecurity, especially among displaced residents who lack secure shelter has raised protection concerns. Women and girls within IDP camps continue to facing insecurity and gender based violence.*

• A 16-year-old girl was assaulted and raped in Berbera district of Woqooyi Galbeed region when two men attacked her on a vacant road as she was returning to her home from a wedding ceremony.\[17\] (24\textsuperscript{th} July)

• An IDP girl was raped at the October IDP camp in Togdheer region while attempting to access water from the water tanks in the camp after she was sent by her mother to retrieve water for the family.\[18\] (21\textsuperscript{st} July)

\[10\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23\textsuperscript{rd} July 2011
\[11\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21\textsuperscript{st} July 2011
\[12\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19\textsuperscript{th} July 2011
\[13\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23\textsuperscript{rd} July 2011
\[14\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 20\textsuperscript{th} July 2011
\[15\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19\textsuperscript{th} July 2011
\[16\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 20\textsuperscript{th} July 2011
Shabelle Media Network, *Somali soldier shoots a civilian driver in Mogadishu, 18\textsuperscript{th} July available at* [http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8951](http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8951)

\[17\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19\textsuperscript{th} July 2011
\[18\] Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 26\textsuperscript{th} July 2011
• An eight-year-old girl was raped in Berbera district of Woqooyi Galbeed region by a man who had lured the girl into an abandoned area with the promise of providing the girl money once she followed him.\(^{19}\) (20\(^{th}\) July)

• An IDP woman in Burco district of Togdheer region was attacked by men while returning from her workplace as a vendor in a nearby market. The men who were neighbours to the woman physically assaulted the woman and stole all her money that she was carrying.\(^{20}\) (19\(^{th}\) July)

• A 12-year-old girl was refused access to school to work in her home in Borama district of Awdal region and was severely beaten by her abusive mother after the mother became angry due to lack of money to buy drugs and cigarettes.\(^{21}\) (17\(^{th}\) July)

• An eight-year-old IDP girl was raped in her home in an IDP camp located in Burco district of Togdheer region.\(^{22}\) (16\(^{th}\) July)

SOOL & SANAG

Food security in Sool and Sanag regions has been generally secure compared to the famine being experienced in southern Somalia. Insecurity in recent weeks has been on the rise in the regions as government employees have been targeted. In addition, government impunity as more cases of abuse of power by government officials has been reported in recent weeks.

• A 14-year-old girl was raped by two men Las Anod district of Sool region when the men attacked her as she was grazing animals in a field.\(^{23}\) (27\(^{th}\) July)

• A 36-year-old woman was raped in her home in Erigavo district of Sanaag region by her deceased husband’s brother. The rape allegedly occurred after the woman refused to marry the man following the death of her husband.\(^{24}\) (24\(^{th}\) July)

• Five people, including one woman, were arrested by government officials of the Ministry of Health and police officers in Aynabo district of Sool region after the previous employees questioned the reason for being fired from their positions working in children’s health with the Ministry.\(^{25}\) (19\(^{th}\) July)

• A 20-year-old woman was raped in Aynabo district of Sool region while travelling to her home on the outskirts of Aynabo.\(^{26}\) (18\(^{th}\) July)

\(^{18}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21\(^{st}\) July 2011
\(^{19}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21\(^{st}\) July 2011
\(^{20}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 20\(^{th}\) July 2011
\(^{21}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18\(^{th}\) July 2011
\(^{22}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19\(^{th}\) July 2011
\(^{23}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27\(^{th}\) July 2011
\(^{24}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 25\(^{th}\) June 2011
\(^{25}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22\(^{nd}\) July 2011
\(^{26}\) Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22\(^{nd}\) July 2011
• Somaliland Criminal Investigation Unit (CID) police in the city of Laas Anod were put on high alert after a female police officer was gunned down by an unknown gunman in front of her house by masked assailants. The victim was rushed to Laas Anod city hospital where she was pronounced dead. The killing was alleged to be politically motivated. 27 (17th July)

• A minority businessman was harassed by a government officer in Aynabo district of Sool region after the businessman refused to sell goods at the desired price of the officer, which then prompted the officer to take the goods citing the businessman had not paid tax. 28 (16th July)

NORTH-EAST (MUDUG, NUGAAL & BARI)

Puntland regions continue to experience high levels of violence and insecurity including politically-motivated targeted killings. The recent brutal killing of a young girl demonstrates the increasing violence, despite numerous attempts by Puntland security officers to control the insecurity.

• According to unconfirmed reports approximately 100 people, including IDPs, were arrested in Rahis, Raf and Raho villages of Bosasso district in Bari region during security operations by Puntland security officers. The security crackdown in the villages, which are host to numerous IDPs from South Central Somalia, were allegedly targeting members of the Galgala militia. The arrested individuals were released the following day. 29 (21st July)

• A fire destroyed over 45 IDP shelters in an IDP camp in Bossasso district of Bari region. No casualties were reported, however, one man was wounded in the fire. The fire began after a man returned drunk to the camp in the middle of the night and had a dispute with a friend and then proceeded to set the friend’s shelter on fire. 30 (20th July)

• An 18-year-old woman was abducted from her home in a settlement in Gaalkacyo district of Mudug region and raped by three unknown men. 31 (18th July)

• A young girl was found dead in an abandoned building after being raped and stabbed in Gaalkacyo town of Mudug region when she went missing from her home a day earlier. The killing was allegedly politically motivated as the girl’s father was suspected to be involved with TFG operations. 32 (17th July)

27 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18th July 2011
28 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17th July 2011
29 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011
30 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011
31 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19th July 2011
32 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18th July 2011
Shabelle Media Network, Body of raped girl found in central Somalia town, 17th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8891
• A fire destroyed over 205 makeshift shelters in the Bulo Mungis IDP camp in Bossasso district of Bari region. No casualties were reported and the origin of the fire remains unknown.33 (16th July)

• A 50-year-old businessman was shot dead in front of his business in Galkacyo town of Mudug region after a money dispute occurred between the man and the gunman.34 (16th July)

HIRAAN & GALGADUUD

• Twenty IDP families were evicted from Koshin basketball stadium in Belet Weyne of Hiraan Region by Al Shabaab. The families were evicted after they were told to pay rent by Al Shabaab because they were illegally occupying property not their own.35 (12th July)

LOWER & MIDDLE SHABELLE (SHABELLE HOOSE & DHEXE)

In order to deal with massive influxes of IDPs in the region, the TFG has during the past two weeks tried to relocate the newly arrived IDPs. Most of the regions are controlled by Al Shabaab, which has limited the ability and scale of humanitarian response to the increasing amounts of IDPs in search of humanitarian aid due to drought. Despite the escalating hardship of drought, Al Shabaab has continued to demand of residents in the regions to provide what little they have to aid in the fighting. In addition, harsh punishments have continued by Al Shabaab for any in the regions disobeying the commands of Al Shabaab.

• Al Shabaab demanded that each family in Ruun Nirgood district of Middle Shabelle region give at least one boy to join Al Shabaab, or contribute two camels. The residents have reportedly denied the demand from Al Shabaab.36 (27th July)

• 17 children were reported dead due to malnourishment in Cadale district of Middle Shabelle region.37 (27th July)

• Al Shabaab arrested at least 30 women in Afgooye district of Middle Shabelle regions for failing to wear the specific veil required by Al Shabaab.38 (26th July)

33 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 26th July 2011
34 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17th July 2011
35 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 16th July 2011
37 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011
38 Shabelle Media Network, Al shabaab apprehends 30 women for not wearing special veils, 26th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9298
Residents continue to suffer in Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions as food becomes scarcer each day and humanitarian agencies are denied access to the affected individuals. Baydhaba district in Bay region has received humanitarian aid in recent weeks, which has caused thousands in the surrounding districts and regions to flee to the district in search of food. The influx of IDPs into Baidoa town and Baydhaba district as a whole has strained the town’s resources and capabilities to provide for those affected by the worsening drought. Children continue being subjected serious protection related violations in the area.

---

39 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011
41 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23rd July 2011
42 Shabelle Media Network, Gunmen open fire on truck killing 2 persons, 25th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9244
43 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23rd July 2011
45 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21st July 2011
47 Shabelle Media Network, Women, kids die of hunger in southern Somalia, 18th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8950
• Six children were reported dead due to malnourishment in the area between Wanlaweyn and Jamecada villages of Bur Hakaba district of Bay region.  

45 (22\textsuperscript{nd} July)

• Eight children were reported dead due to malnourishment as they were travelling from rural areas to reach IDP camps in Baidoa and access humanitarian assistance.  

46 (18\textsuperscript{th} July)

• A woman married to a TFG soldier in Labatan Jirow region of Bay region was forcefully married to a member of Al Shabaab after Al Shabaab told the woman to leave the district or marry a member of Al Shabaab. The woman had no other option but to remain and marry because of lack of family support and her husband was deployed in another region.  

47 (18\textsuperscript{th} July)

• A teenage boy was arrested by Al Shabaab in Baidoa town of Bay region after his neighbor who was an unknown Al Shabaab member reported Al Shabaab that the boy was conducting bets in a game of soccer and had said negative statements against Al Shabaab. The boy was later released by Al Shabaab after his parents paid to have him released.  

48 (18\textsuperscript{th} July)

• Al Shabaab confiscated two aid trucks carrying medical supplies traveling through Araa Caas area in Gedo region and set on fire and destroyed one of the trucks and its supplies. The destruction of the truck was allegedly in retaliation of TFG forces in the region that had recently seized an Al Shabaab arms supply arriving from Ethiopia.  

49 (16\textsuperscript{th} July)

• At least two children were killed and three other people injured when a hand grenade exploded while children were playing with it in Hudur town of Bakool region.  

50 (16\textsuperscript{th} July)

• Two teenage boys were arrested and publicly beaten by Al Shabaab in Baidoa district of Bay region after an unknown person reported to Al Shabaab that the boys had been watching pornographic videos on their mobile phones. The boys each received 30 lashes as punishment by Al Shabaab.  

51 (16\textsuperscript{th} July)

**ACTIONS AND RESPONSE**

The Somali community, both locally and internationally, has continued to be a strong force in the response to the humanitarian crisis. Reports have indicated that numerous groups of residents of Mogadishu, Baidoa and other towns coping with massive influxes of new IDPs have assisted in

---

45 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 24\textsuperscript{th} July 2011

46 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 24\textsuperscript{th} July 2011

47 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21\textsuperscript{st} July 2011

48 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21\textsuperscript{st} July 2011

49 Report received from UNHCR internal sources, 18\textsuperscript{th} July 2011

Shabelle Media Network, *Al shabaab torches vehicle carrying aid medicine in southern Somalia*, 16\textsuperscript{th} July available at [http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8846](http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8846)

Shabelle Media Network, *Govt forces seize military supply in southern Somalia*, 16\textsuperscript{th} July available at [http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8843](http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8843)


51 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21\textsuperscript{st} July 2011
organizing emergency relief to new displaced people recently arriving. In addition, local businesses have organized for assistance to newly displaced people as well. Shabelle Media Network recently donated 280 plastic sheets for shelter to IDPs in Hodan district of Mogadishu.\(^{52}\) Hijra organization also continued their disbursement of fishing equipment this week to displaced fishermen in areas of Mogadishu, which concluded and reached over 2,000 displaced fishermen.\(^{53}\) Hormuud, a large privately owned telecom company, distributed food items to IDPs in Wadajir and Waaberi districts of Mogadishu.\(^{54}\)

AMISOM forces have continued to assist IDPs in Mogadishu, and most recently erected five large waterproof tents in an IDP camp in the TFG-controlled area of Mogadishu to serve as accommodations and a medical centre. AMISOM doctors have begun offering free medical treatment, including distributing Vitamin A pills and recently assisting in controlling an outbreak of measles at the camp.\(^{55}\)

UNICEF continues to airlift food to southern regions in Somalia, while WFP has recently initiated airlifts to Mogadishu.\(^{56}\) The International Committee of the Red Cross has distributed 400 tonnes of food aid to 4,000 families in Gedo region.\(^{57}\) Kuwait Direct Aid opened two feeding centres in Lower Shabelle, catering for 24,000 children younger than 15.\(^{58}\)

In response to the gender-based violence protection concern, the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Working Group in Gaalkacyo conducted a rapid assessment on sexual violence in three IDP settlements reaching 1,180 females and 820 males. The findings of the assessments will inform the GBV responses in Gaalkacyo.

In response to malnutrition amongst children, UNICEF implementing partners conducted one day orientation session for relevant staff operating in Mogadishu and Afgooye corridor. The aim of the session was to link child protection and nutrition program interventions to address the increased problem of malnourished children coming in to Mogadishu and its surrounding areas.

UNHCR has distributed assistance packages reaching over 63,000 people in southern Somalia. More supplies are currently being distributed to an additional 114,000 drought-affected people.

---

\(^{52}\) Shabelle Media Network, *Shabelle Drought Committee delivers aid to IDPs in Mogadishu*, 4\(^{th}\) July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8915


\(^{54}\) Shabelle Media Network, *Hormuud (Hortel) donates aid food to some IDPs in Mogadishu*, 21\(^{st}\) July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9089


