

Briefing Note – 20 October 2016

SOMALIA

Displacement in Gaalkacyo



Need for international assistance



Expected impact



Crisis overview

On 7 October, armed violence broke out between forces from Galmudug and Puntland, in Gaalkacyo, the capital of the north-central Mudug region, leaving 11 people killed and dozens injured. As of 13 October, an estimated 50,000 – 70,000 people have been displaced, at least 60% of whom are IDPs facing secondary displacement. The violence erupted in the outskirts of Gaalkacyo at a site where the Puntland government is building a livestock market. A ceasefire was initially agreed on 9 October, but failed to hold. A new ceasefire was agreed on 19 October.



Source: OCHA 14/10/2016

Key findings

Anticipated scope and scale

Intermittent fighting is expected to continue if the interim peace agreement of 19 October does not hold, creating additional displacement, and increasing humanitarian needs. The ongoing armed violence could escalate into a wider national conflict between related Darood and Hawiye clans.

Priorities for humanitarian intervention

- **Food:** Commercial activities have been negatively impacted, leading to the disruption of livelihood activities for IDPs.
- **Protection:** The majority of the IDPs are facing secondary displacement, increasing their vulnerability to protection risks.
- **Health:** Due to the ongoing violence, South Gaalkacyo Hospital has been temporarily relocated to Harhar, affecting health care provision for crisis-affected populations and IDPs. Acute watery diarrhoea among the displaced is reportedly high, due to lack of access to clean water.

Humanitarian constraints

- Humanitarian activities in Gaalkacyo have been constrained, since the outbreak of violence on 7 October.
- The flow of humanitarian supplies and services between the regions of Galgaduud and Mudug has been disrupted.
- Violent incidents are frequent on roads leading towards Gaalkacyo, constraining humanitarian access.

Limitations

Due to the volatile and fluid situation, the exact IDP figures cannot be substantiated.

Crisis impact

On 7 October, armed violence between forces from Galmudug and Puntland broke out in Gaalkacyo, leaving 11 people killed and dozens injured. As of 13 October, intermittent fighting was ongoing and an estimated 50,000 – 70,000 people had reportedly been displaced, at least 60% of whom are IDPs facing secondary displacement. The majority had been displaced in south Gaalkacyo alone, with 90% of them being IDPs from the southern part of the town (OCHA 14/10/2016). The majority of the IDPs have reportedly gone south to Galgaduug and South Mudug.

A peace agreement reached on 9 October by clan elders and the business community failed to hold and fighting again erupted less than 24 hours after it was signed. On 19 October, a new deal between the administrations of Puntland and Galmudug was agreed. Under the agreement both Puntland and Galmudug will implement a ceasefire, and suspend the construction of the livestock market (Raxanreeb 19/10/2016).

Food and malnutrition: Food is reportedly a priority need for IDPs (OCHA 14/10/2016). As of October, global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels of IDPs in Gaalkacyo are at 16.9%, above the 15% critical threshold (FEWSNET 05/10/2016). Gaalkacyo is facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity (FEWSNET 05/10/2016). Across Somalia, IDPs remain vulnerable and represent a major proportion (58%) of the total number of people who face Crisis (IPC) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels (FEWSNET 20/09/2016).

Commercial activities have been impacted by the outbreak of violence, leading to the disruption of livelihood activities, especially for IDPs who are dependent on informal trade and manual labour. Gaalkacyo is a gateway to central Hiraan, Galgaduud, and South Mudug for commodities from the port of Bossaso. Agricultural products and livestock from southern and central Somalia also pass through Gaalkacyo, serving northern towns (OCHA 14/10/2016).

Protection: The majority of the IDPs are facing secondary displacement, increasing their vulnerability to protection risks (ECHO 18/10/2016). Due to ongoing armed violence, the displaced face the risk of being caught in fighting or crossfires. Local authorities have reportedly attempted to inhibit population movements (OCHA 14/10/2016).

Health: Due to the ongoing violence, South Gaalkacyo Hospital and its services have been temporarily relocated to Harhar, limiting the provision of adequate healthcare to the displaced (ECHO 18/10/2016). Acute watery diarrhoea among the displaced is reportedly high (ECHO 18/10/2016).

Education: All schools in Gaalkacyo remain closed, with over 20,000 students affected (ECHO 18/10/2016).

Shelter and NFIs: The majority of the IDPs live in makeshift structures (OCHA 14/10/2016). Due to the armed violence, IDP settlements and host communities adjacent to the Garsoor have reportedly been vacated, increasing shelter needs for the displaced (OCHA 14/10/2016).

WASH: IDPs reportedly do not have access to clean water, increasing their vulnerability to acute watery diarrhoea (ECHO 18/10/2016). WASH services have been relocated from Gaalkacyo to Harhar (OCHA 14/10/2016).

Vulnerable groups affected

Approximately 60% of the IDPs are facing secondary displacement, increasing their vulnerability to protection, health, nutrition, and WASH risks (ECHO 18/10/2016). Secondary displacement is a particular concern, as the affected people often lack access to support structures in the areas of displacement (OCHA 18/12/2015).

Humanitarian constraints

The ongoing armed violence has constrained humanitarian activities in Gaalkacyo, exacerbating staff safety and security concerns (OCHA 14/10/2016). Since the outbreak of violence, the flow of humanitarian supplies and services between the regions of Galgaduud and Mudug has been disrupted (ECHO 18/10/2016). Conflict between Al-Shabaab and the Puntland authorities in Mudug, where many IDPs remain, has limited humanitarian access (Logistics Cluster 31/05/2016). Violent incidents are frequent on roads leading towards Gaalkacyo, constraining humanitarian activity (ACLED 10/2016).

Aggravating factors

Seasonal information

The April-June *Gu* rains were poor in most regions, which has negatively affected pastures and livestock production (FEWSNET 05/10/2016). Forecasted cold temperatures and a continued negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are expected to drive below-average *Deyr* (October to December) rainfall (FEWSNET 20/09/2016). The IOD is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part.

Other factors of vulnerability

Food insecurity and malnutrition

As of 20 September, poor rainfall, locally significant floods, trade disruption, and new and continued population displacement meant the food security situation was worse than six

months prior (FEWSNET 20/09/2016). Acute malnutrition has also worsened, and remains high in many parts of the country.

Elections

Elections are expected to be held on 30 November, after two delays due to procedural, financial, and security concerns (Goobjob News 11/10/2016). Further delays are possible as clan elders failed to meet a deadline to submit a list of delegates on 10 October (Goobjob News 11/10/2016). Election-related tensions could further exacerbate the humanitarian situation for IDPs. The ongoing dispute involves the Darod and Hawiye clans, who are competitors for control of the presidency (Crisis Group 10/12/2015).

Al-Shabaab activity in Gaalkacyo and IDP arrival locations

In recent months, Al-Shabaab activity in the region has increased. Al-Shabaab has considerably strengthened, dominating new spaces in Mudug and beyond, as they seek to expand their base (ACLEDD 10/16). The largest attack by Al-Shabaab took place on 22 August, when 22 people were killed when two suicide car bombers attacked a local government building in Gaalkacyo (IBT 21/08/2016). As of mid-September, Al-Shabaab have reportedly recaptured some towns in the Galguduud region, following the withdrawal of government troops (Long War Journal 24/09/2016). On 28 September, 15 people were killed as Puntland forces attacked Al Shabaab in Mudug region (Garowe Online 28/09/2016). Protests were held in Gaalkacyo on 28 September as accusations were made that US forces killed 22 soldiers following misinformation from Puntland authorities (Al Jazeera 28/09/2016).

Contextual information

Drivers of the current conflict

Tensions around Gaalkacyo are long standing and have previously resulted in violence. In recent months, fighting between the two rival sub-clans of Puntland and Galmudug over contested areas in Mudug region have increased (Garowe Online 13/10/2016). Interclan fighting on 6 September, resulted in at least 15 killed and 30 injured in Far Jamale village, Mudug region (All Africa 06/09/2016).

On 2 December, Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas and Galmudug President Abdikarim Hussein Guled signed an agreement that committed their governments to refrain from actions that could exacerbate the conflict following an outbreak of fighting in late November last year (UNSOM 13/10/2016). Under the terms of the agreement, the parties agreed to withdraw their forces from areas where clashes had occurred, and allow displaced civilians to return to their homes (UNSOM 13/10/2016).

However, both parties failed to commit to the deal, due to disputes over the construction of a livestock market near the border between the two regions (Garowe Online 18/10/2016).

The ongoing armed violence could escalate into a wider national conflict between related Darood and Hawiye clans and sub-clans, such as Ogden and Degodia (Crisis Group 10/12/2015).

Past displacement

Over 90,000 people were displaced to nearby villages and IDP settlements in the outskirts of north and south Gaalkacyo, following an outbreak of armed conflict in Gaalkacyo town on 22 and 28 November, and on 3 December 2015 (OCHA 18/12/2015). Over 90% of the IDPs and 70% of the displaced host community had reportedly returned to their settlements and homes by the end of December (OCHA 24/12/2015).

History of conflict

As part of the Somali federalisation process, the State of Galmudug was officially formed in 2014, but its northern areas are disputed by neighbouring Puntland, including the town of Gaalkacyo, which is divided between the two administrations and rival clans (ECHO 18/10/2016). Gaalkacyo is divided between two federal states, the Galmudug Interim Administration (GIA), established in 2015, and Puntland, formed in 1998 (Crisis Group 10/12/2015). The local divisions of Gaalkacyo also mirror the larger divide between the two rival clans, the Darood and the Hawiye. The Darood (specifically Majerteen-Omar Mahmood sub-clan) dominate Gaalkacyo's Puntland-administered north, the Hawiye (specifically Habar Gidir-Sa'ad sub-clan) dominate the GIA-ruled south (Crisis Group 10/12/2015). Both GIA and Puntland are mostly an expression of the territorial claims of their respective dominant clans (Crisis Group 10/12/2015).

Puntland reportedly seeks to regain authority from the GIA over populations and territory (the former Mudug region) it claims to control (Crisis Group 10/12/2015). Tensions between the rival clans and administrations heightened in September 2015, during consultative meetings on the national elections.

Relevant Stakeholders

Darood: The Darood is a clan, who mainly live in the north of the country. They dominate Gaalkacyo's Puntland-administered north (Crisis Group 10/12/2015).

Hawiye: The Hawiye is a clan, whose members traditionally inhabit central and southern Somalia, Ogaden and the North Eastern Province (currently administered by Ethiopia and

Kenya, respectively). The Hawiye dominate the GIA-ruled south (Crisis Group 10/12/2015). The clan of Hawiye, is believed to be the largest clan in the country, by population. Hawiye is divided into a number of sub-clans (Mail and Guardian Africa 19/05/2015).

African Union Support Mission in Somalia (AMISOM): AMISOM is a peace keeping mission operated by the AU in Somalia with approval by the UN (AMISOM 2016). It was established by the African Union's Peace and Security Council in January 2007, and operates in Somalia's southern territories (Horseed Media 21/03/2016). It comprises 22,000 troops. The mandate of AMISOM was recently extended until 31 May 2017 (UNSC 07/09/2016).

International and neighbouring countries' relationship to the conflict

The international community is reportedly backing the Somali Federal Government's objective to establish a top-down establishment of Interim Federal Administrations without parallel reconciliation processes between clans at the local and national level (Crisis Group 10/12/2015).

Response capacity

International response capacity

Coordinated response is difficult as Gaalkacyo is split between two quasi-independent administrative regions. However, taskforces comprising of representatives from humanitarian partners and local authorities have been formed in both north and south Gaalkacyo to monitor and assess the situation. Rapid assessments have been planned to establish needs (OCHA 14/10/2016).

OCHA is leading inter-agency coordination meetings (OCHA 14/10/2016). A Regional Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (RICCG) is present in Gaalkacyo (OCHA 03/2015). Therefore, many food, health, protection and WASH cluster partners are active in Gaalkacyo and in neighbouring regions, including IMC, IRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO. However, in June, the NRC is the only agency responsible for Shelter in Mudug, while no agency is present for Shelter in Galguduud (OCHA 30/08/2016).

Humanitarian response is concentrated outside Gaalkacyo. South Gaalkacyo hospital services have been relocated from South Gaalkacyo to Harhar in South Mudug (ECHO 18/10/2016). Nutrition and WASH services have relocated there as well and will be scaled up to nearby villages where displaced have arrived. Mobile clinics are being deployed to provide healthcare to the displaced (OCHA 14/10/2016).

Galmudug airport has been closed due to the insecurity (Raxanreeb 19/10/2016).

Information gaps and needs

- Limited information on the vulnerable groups affected.
- Disaggregated numbers for WASH and health sectors are unavailable.
- Accurate figures of the displaced are not available.
- Limited information is available on the needs of the newly displaced, and those who remain in Gaalkacyo.
- Lack of information on local and national response capacity.

Lessons learned

- Similar clashes in 2015 calmed after a peace agreement between Puntland and Galmudug was organized under the auspices of Somali federal leaders and international community representatives (Suna Times 19/10/2016). However, this agreement has lasted less than a year and a more durable peace process is necessary.
- Traditional elders play a vital part in resettling disputes and maintaining security in the region, and should be consulted in the peacemaking process. These leaders were not involved in the peacemaking process after violence in 2015, a decision criticized by Puntland (ICG 10/12/2016; All Africa 06/12/2015).
- Inter-clan violence displaces large numbers as all those belonging to a clan are in danger of involvement in violence (IRIN News 11/06/2014). Civilians suffer human rights violations during inter-clan fighting, notably murder and rape (UN 25/09/2014).
- Unless conflict is resolved quickly, resources can become strained. The IDP population that represents 60% of the displaced was already facing critical levels of global acute malnutrition and Crisis food security levels prior to their secondary displacement (FEWSNET 05/10/2016).
- In previous displacement due to inter-clan conflict, an increase in polio cases was noted due to deterioration in health conditions (IRIN News 19/08/2013). Host

families and emergency shelter arrangements can be crowded, leading to greater risks of disease transmission.

Key characteristics

Key indicators	Somalia	Mudug region	Galgaduud region
Total population (2014)	12,316,895	717,863	569,434
Rural and Nomadic populations, % population of total population (2014)	2,806,787 (22.8%) 3,186,965 (25.9%)	79,752 (11.1%) 185,736 (25.9%)	52,089 (9.1%) 214,024 (37.6%)
Gender and age distribution of population (2014)	M:F 50.7:49.3 Under 5: 13.6% 5-19: 44.1% 20-64: 40.4% 65+: 2%	M:F 50.7:49.3	M:F 49.9:50.1
State capital	Mogadishu	Gaalkacyo	Dushamareb
WASH figures (2015 – Somalia)	Drinking water coverage: 56% of the population drinks water from unimproved sources, 21% from surface water, 23% from piped water and other improved. Sanitation coverage: 53% of the population practice open defecation, 22% uses improved facilities, 15% shared facilities and 11 from unimproved facilities.		
Health figures (2012 – Somalia)	Under-five mortality: 147 per 1,000 live births down from 177 in 1990 Infant mortality: 91, down from 107 in 1990 Maternal mortality: 1000 deaths of mothers for 100,000		
Food security (August-December 2016)	3,861,000 IPC 2 1,096,000 IPC 3 43,000 IPC 4	201,000 IPC 2 47,000 IPC 3	178,000 IPC 2 49,000 IPC 3
Nutrition levels (2015, based on prevalence)		3.6% 4.6%	4.5% 4.5%
SAM			
GAM			

Sources: UNFPA, Fewsnet, FSNAU, Global Nutrition Report, UNICEF