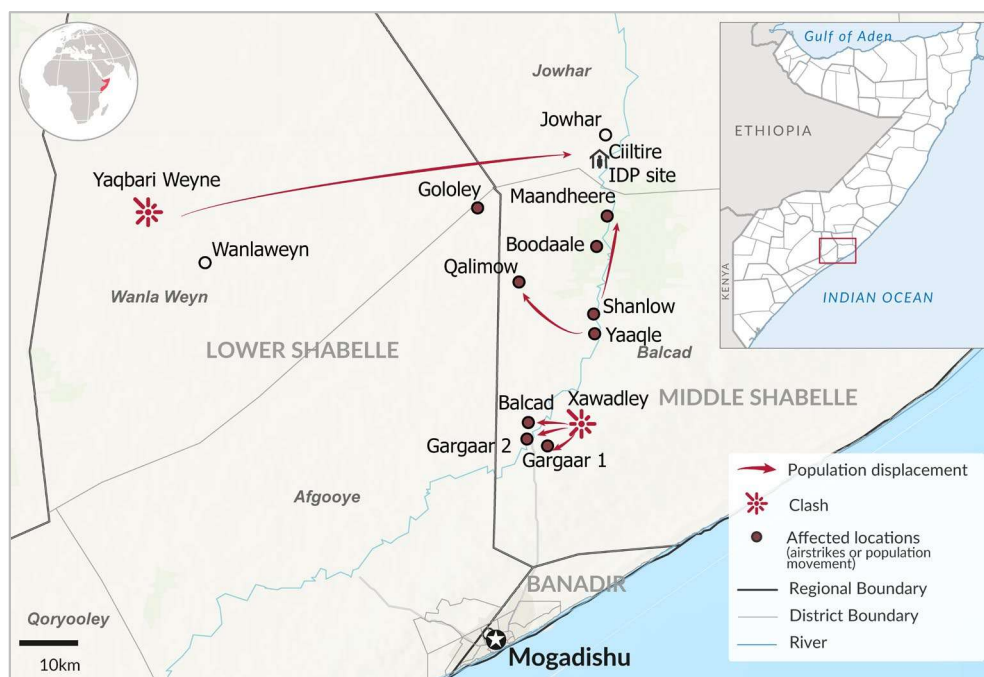


Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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Clashes in Xawaadlay and Yaqbari Villages, Middle and Lower Shabelle Trigger Mass Displacement of Over 8,600 Civilians

Displaced Families	Displaced Individuals	Men 10% Women 15% Boys 35% Girls 40%	Deaths	People with disabilities	Separated children documented	Incident Date
1,441	8,646		6	67	3	Feb 15 -28, 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

Following armed clashes between the Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab in Xawaadlay village (Balcad district, Middle Shabelle region) and Yaqbari Weyne (Wanlaweyn district, Lower Shabelle region) on 15 March, government forces regained control of the areas. Subsequently, airstrikes were reportedly launched in surrounding villages, including Xabaala Kombow, Jameeco Misri, Wabari, and Shanlow.

The combined ground clashes and airstrikes resulted in civilian casualties and triggered significant forced displacement. The Protection Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) partners documented the displacement of 1,441 households (approximately 8,646 individuals) from the affected villages. Displaced populations fled primarily to nearby districts, including Balcad, Jowhar, and Dayniile. Reports indicate six civilians were killed as a result of the airstrikes. Newly displaced households are sheltering across IDP sites and host communities in Dayniile, placing additional pressure on already limited resources. Existing IDP sites are already overcrowded and currently operating at nearly twice their intended capacity, severely affecting access to clean drinking water, food, shelter, and sanitation facilities.

The displaced population includes highly vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and individuals with specific needs. PSMN partners identified approximately 1,270 children under the age of 18 and 67 people living with disabilities among the displaced population.

Protection Risks

Attacks on Civilians, Unlawful Killings, and Damage to Civilian Objects: Clashes between SNA and Al-Shabaab, along with subsequent airstrikes, resulted in the confirmed killing of six civilians. There is a high likelihood of additional casualties that remain unverified due to limited access and ongoing insecurity.

Child and Family Separation: The chaotic nature of displacement, rapid movements, and multiple displacement routes have increased the risk of child separation and family fragmentation. The PSMN documented 3 separated children during the displacement.

Psychological and Emotional Distress: Exposure to violence, loss of homes, and prolonged displacement journeys have caused significant psychological stress among affected populations, increasing risks of emotional trauma and mental health concerns.

Urgent Needs

 **Protection Services:** Immediate protection referrals and case management support are required to address urgent protection concerns among the displaced population. Family tracing and reunification services are needed to support households affected by separation during displacement. Provision of Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) for high-risk cases is essential, alongside psychosocial support and counseling services to assist individuals experiencing psychological distress and trauma.

 **Emergency Shelter:** Urgent provision of temporary shelter support is required, particularly for newly arrived households in Dayniile, where IDP sites are already severely overcrowded.

 **Food:** The displacement of approximately 8,646 individuals has generated urgent food needs among affected populations. Most newly displaced households fled without food stocks or livelihoods, increasing reliance on overstretched host communities and limited assistance in IDP sites. Immediate food assistance is required to prevent further deterioration in food security, particularly among vulnerable groups.

 **WASH:** The arrival of displaced households in already overcrowded IDP sites, particularly in Dayniile, has critically strained WASH services. Access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene supplies remain insufficient, elevating the risk of disease outbreaks. Urgent support is needed to expand water supply, improve sanitation infrastructure, and provide essential hygiene items.



Figure 1: Newly Displaced Families Arriving in Balcad from Xawaadlay Village©NRC.

Displacements matrix

Previous Location	Arrived Location	Households
Xawadley	Balcad-Gargaar 1 and 2 IDP sites	360
Jameeco	Gololey	105
Xabaala kombow	Balcad District	40
Yaaqle	Qalimow	80
Shanlow	Mandhere	70
Xabaala kombow	Boodaale	45
Degyabar	Jowhar – Ciiltire IDP site	50
Yaqbari-wayne	Ceel-muluq IDP site	691
Total of 1,441 HHs/ Approx. 8,646		



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