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Drought-Induced Displacement in Afmadow District in Lower Jubaland Region



Displaced
Families

476



Displaced
Individuals

2,856

Men (20%); Women (21%);
Girls (32%); Boys (27%)



Deaths

0



Injuries

0



Incident
Date

**Jan 10,
2026**



Background

Over the past three months, prolonged drought conditions have severely affected communities across Lower and Middle Juba regions, resulting in a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation. The drought has significantly reduced access to water, food, and livelihood opportunities, placing substantial pressure on household coping mechanisms and increasing vulnerability among affected populations.

As conditions continued to worsen, due to the deteriorating large-scale displacement was reported across both regions, with affected families moving in search of humanitarian assistance, and necessities. During the last days of December 2025, several displaced households have arrived in Afmadow district, further exacerbating existing humanitarian needs.

In response to this, the PSMN partners conducted a field visit to Camp Bilisa, Camp Bari, Camp Derisimah, Camp Buale in Afmadow district to assess the conditions of newly displaced households and identify their immediate humanitarian and protection needs upon following the recent displacement.

The assessment recorded a total of 476 newly displaced households who had arrived from Xagar surroundings, including Qalaawiley, Daif, Adey, and Xagar Geel due to hunger. The displaced population includes children, lactating mothers, elderly persons, disabled individuals and other vulnerable groups, many of whom are living in overcrowded and resource-constrained conditions.

Displacement was primarily driven by severe water shortages, loss of livelihoods, and the progressive deterioration of living conditions in the areas of origin due to the prolonged drought. These factors have significantly undermined community resilience and force households to migrate as a last resort to where humanitarian support is.

Protection Risks

Child Protection Risks: The high proportion of children among the displaced population exposes them to increased risks of family separation including unaccompanied and separated children, neglect, and abuse. Disruption of livelihoods and education may lead to school dropout, child labor, early or forced marriage as families are in need of necessities.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Women and girls, particularly lactating mothers, female-headed households and adolescent girls face heightened risks of sexual violence, exploitation, and abuse, especially in overcrowded camp settings with limited privacy, inadequate lighting, and insufficient access to safe water and sanitation facilities.

Access to Assistance and Services: Newly displaced households may face barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance, including limited access to information, and the need to share scarce resources with existing displaced populations and host communities. Vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and female-headed households may be disproportionately excluded from aid distribution mechanisms, and this can be stopped through sensitization and awareness campaign sessions within the communities.

Health and Dignity Risks: Limited access to health services, particularly maternal and child health care, increases the risk of preventable illness and mortality. Inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities may compromise personal dignity and heighten exposure to disease, especially among women, children, and older persons.

Psychological Distress: The cumulative impact of drought, displacement, and uncertainty may lead to heightened stress, trauma, and even low self-esteem, particularly among children, women, and elderly persons, in the absence of adequate community support and psychosocial services.

Urgent Humanitarian Needs

 **Emergency Shelter Support:** Newly displaced households are living in temporary and overcrowded shelters which might lead to spread of communicable diseases, hence Immediate temporary shelter assistance is required to ensure safe and dignified living conditions and reduce protection risks.

 **Emergency Food Assistance:** Displaced households face acute food insecurity due to the loss of livelihoods and assets caused by drought. Urgent food assistance is needed to prevent malnutrition, particularly among children and lactating mothers.

 **Health Services:** Access to essential health services is limited, especially for maternal and child health care. Strengthened health support is required to prevent disease outbreaks and ensure timely access to primary health care for vulnerable populations.

 **Livelihood Support:** The loss of income-generating opportunities has significantly weakened household resilience. Livelihood support interventions are necessary to restore incomes, reduce dependency on humanitarian aid, and support early recovery.

 **Access to Clean and Safe Drinking Water:** Limited access to safe drinking water poses serious health and protection risks. Immediate WASH interventions are required to ensure adequate access to potable water and improve hygiene conditions.

Allocation of Land for Resettlement: The lack of secure land for settlement which can easily expose displaced households to eviction and secondary displacement. Allocation of suitable land is essential to enable safe resettlement and access to basic services.

Individual Protection Assistance through cash-based modalities: Cash-based assistance is required to enable households to meet their urgent needs and reduce dependency. Appropriate safeguards are recommended to ensure safe and effective delivery to the affected communities.



Figure 1: The displaced people gathered in Camp Buale under Afmadow district upon arrival whilst PSMN partners assessing their situation.

Figure 2: The PSMN Partners conducting assessment in Derisimah IDP Camp



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