

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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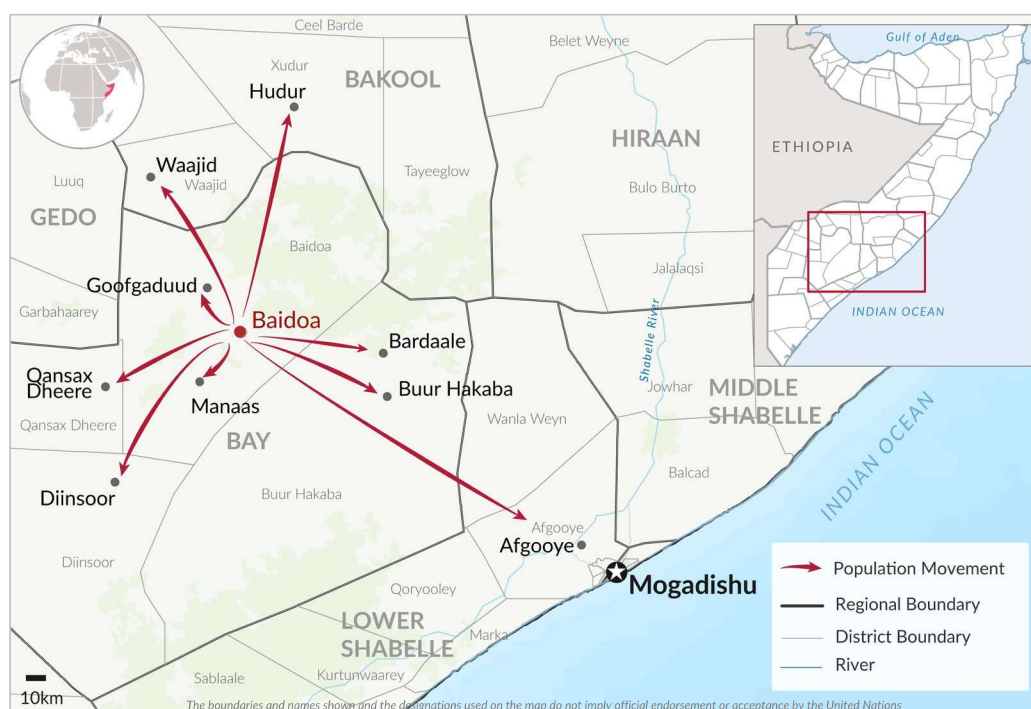
Over 50,000 People Displaced Following Political Escalation in Baidoa, South-West State

Displaced Families	Displaced Individuals	Gender Distribution	Cross-border movement	Deaths	Injuries	People with disabilities	Incident Date
8,461	50,766	Men 14% Women 18% Boys 34% Girls 34%	0	3	5	196	March 31, 2026

Background

Over the past two weeks, escalating political tensions and confrontation between the Federal Government of Somalia and the South-West State authorities significantly increased insecurity in Baidoa. As the disagreement intensified, both parties mobilized forces around the city.

On 30 March 2026, federal forces assumed control of Baidoa, the epicenter of the political dispute. Although large-scale armed clashes did not occur, following the withdrawal of state forces and a largely peaceful takeover the prolonged tension and fear of imminent fighting triggered pre-emptive mass displacement.



An estimated 8,461 households (50,766 individuals) fled Baidoa, predominantly women and children, moving toward Burhakaba, Hudur, Wajid, Qansaxdheere, Diinsor, Bardale, Goof-Gaduud, Buur-Heybe, Manaas, Afgooye, and surrounding areas. Many displaced families also relocated to Baidoa outskirts, including Towfiq, Darusalam, ADC, Sheikh-Asharow, Daynuunay, Horseed, Barwaaqo relocation site, self-settled camps, Modamoda villages, and entry corridors into the town.

Public services were severely disrupted, with schools, hospitals, Maternal Child Health (MCH) centers, and local businesses temporarily closed, limiting access to essential services and livelihoods.

The Protection Solution Monitoring Network (PSMN) documented 196 persons with disabilities among the displaced population (127 males and 69 females), indicating heightened vulnerability and assistance needs.

Three people were killed, and five were injured, including women and children among the casualties. The violence has forced families to flee, exposing them to heightened protection risks. Displaced populations are now living in overcrowded settings with inadequate shelter, increasing their exposure to exploitation, abuse,

and gender-based violence, while also limiting privacy and safety. Many have lost access to essential services and livelihoods, compounding vulnerability and negative coping strategies. The trauma of the incident, combined with ongoing insecurity and uncertainty, had led to significant psychological distress, particularly among children and other at-risk groups.

Protection Risks

Child and Family Separation: Rapid and chaotic population movements resulted in the temporary separation of children from their caregivers. PSMN documented 150 children who were separated from their families during displacement movements. Through community-led tracing and reunification efforts, all children were later reunited with their families.

Psychological Distress: Fear of anticipated armed confrontation, sudden displacement, and loss of livelihoods caused significant psychological stress among affected households. Overcrowded living conditions and uncertainty regarding security have further intensified emotional distress, particularly among children and women.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Risks: While no incidents of GBV have been reported at this stage, the current conditions present clear risk factors. Displacement into informal settlements and open areas has increased exposure to GBV risks, particularly for women and girls. Inadequate shelter, lack of privacy, limited lighting, and overstretched community protection mechanisms reduce the capacity to provide effective protection in the current context. These factors heighten the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, harassment, and other forms of GBV.

Protection and Humanitarian Needs

Community-led mechanisms are actively supporting affected populations, including in sharing information and providing initial support to vulnerable households. However, these efforts are increasingly overstretched and lack the capacity and resources to address the scale and complexity of needs. These community-based responses need to be complemented by targeted humanitarian support, particularly as some families are already returning to their areas of origin, often without adequate assistance, exposing them to further protection risks and unmet basic needs.

 **Protection Services:** Immediate deployment of protection teams is required to provide life-saving protection services, including individual case support, safe referral mechanisms, and family tracing and reunification, alongside community-based protection activities to strengthen safety monitoring, risk awareness, and access to support.

 **Psychosocial Support:** Provision of psychosocial support services for individuals experiencing trauma, stress, and displacement-related distress, including mobile counselling support.

 **Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) – Cash-Based:** Cash assistance is urgently required to enable displaced households to meet basic needs, secure temporary accommodation, and support safe transportation for voluntary return when conditions allow.

Displacement matrix

Previous Location	Arrival Location	House Holds
Baidoa	Hudur	1,673
Baidoa	Waajid	2,209
Baidoa	Bardaale	352
Baidoa	Qansax Dheere	513
Baidoa	Diinsoor	462
Baidoa	Buur Hakaba	1,138
Baidoa	Manaas	853
Baidoa	Goofgaduud	903
Baidoa	Afgooye	358
(Total 50,766 Individual)		8,461



Left: Internally displaced people in Baidoa.



Right: Displaced residents leaving Baidoa for safer locations



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