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- France, OFPRA – Division de l'Information, de la Documentation et des Recherches (DIDR)

The review carried out by the mentioned departments, experts or organisations contributes to the overall quality of the report, but does not necessarily imply their formal endorsement of the final report, which is the full responsibility of the EUAA.





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Disclaimer

This report was written according to the [EUAA COI Report Methodology \(2023\)](#).¹ It is based on carefully selected sources of information. All sources used are referenced.

The information contained in this report has been researched, evaluated and analysed with utmost care within a limited timeframe. However, this document does not claim to be exhaustive. If a particular event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist.

Furthermore, this report is not conclusive as to the determination or merit of any particular application for international protection. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

‘Refugee’, ‘risk’ and similar terminology are used as generic terminology and not in the legal sense as applied in the EU Asylum Acquis, the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

Neither EUAA nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained in this report.

On 19 January 2022, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) became the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). All references to EASO, EASO products and bodies should be understood as references to the EUAA.

The drafting of this report was finalised on 17 April 2025. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this report. More information on the reference period for this report can be found in the methodology section of the [Introduction](#).

¹ EUAA, EUAA Country of Origin Information (COI) Report Methodology, February 2023, [url](#)



Glossary and abbreviations

Term	Definition
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project
AFI	Acute Food Insecurity
AFRICOM	United States Africa Command
ATMIS	African Transition Mission in Somalia
AU	African Union
AUSSOM	African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia
<i>Danab</i>	Special operation unit within the SNA trained by the US AFRICOM
<i>Darwish, Dervish</i>	State level armed forces/militias/paramilitary/special police
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FMS	Federal Member State
<i>Gorgor</i>	Special operation unit within the SNA trained by Türkiye
HSM	Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of Somalia
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
ISIS or ISS	Islamic State in Somalia
<i>Macawisley (also spelt Ma'awisley)</i>	Communal militia, community defence forces
NES	North-Eastern State





Term	Definition
NISA	National Intelligence and Security Agency
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OPOV	One Person One Vote
PRMN	Protection & Return Monitoring Network
SNA	Somali National Army
SPF	Somali Police Force
SSC	Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn
SSC-K	Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn – Khatumo Administration
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNHCR PRMN	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Protection & Return Monitoring Network
UNOCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USA	United States of America
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene





Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant information for the assessment of applications for international protection, including refugee status and subsidiary protection.

The report provides an update on the security situation at both country and regional level, namely for the 18 administrative regions foreseen by the Somali provisional constitution as they existed before 1991.² The document builds upon preceding EUAA COI reports, notably the [Somalia: Security Situation](#) from May 2025, the [Somalia: Security Situation](#) from February 2023,³ as well as the [Somalia: Security Situation](#),⁴ [Actors](#),⁵ [Targeted profiles](#),⁶ and [Key socio-economic indicators](#),⁷ which were published in the period July-September 2021.

The report provides an overview of the main security trends and conflict dynamics at country level in the reference period (1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026). Additionally, it provides an update on the main changes regarding state and non-state (armed) actors and their control areas or presence during the same reporting period. For the full overview of these actors see the report on [Somalia: Actors, 2021](#).⁸ Finally, it engages with conflict dynamics and security developments at the regional level. In this section, it provides information about incidents and their impact on civilian life, including conflict related-humanitarian issues.

Methodology

Defining the terms of reference

The terms of reference of this report build on previous EUAA reporting on the same topic, internal and external consultations with experts, the EUAA COI network members, and reflects recent developments in the country. The TOR final version that can be found in [Annex 2: Terms of Reference](#).

The reference period for this report is from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, but also includes general information to provide background and contextual information to the current situation. The drafting period finished on 17 April 2025, peer review occurred between 20 and 27 April 2026, and additional information was added to the report as a result of the quality review process during the review implementation up until 30 April 2026. The report was internally reviewed subsequently.

² Somalia, Provisional Constitution, 1 August 2012, [url](#), Art. 49 (5), 72

³ EUAA, Country of Origin information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, February 2023, [url](#)

⁴ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 24-26

⁵ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#)

⁶ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Targeted profiles, September 2021, [url](#)

⁷ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Key socio-economic indicators, September 2021, [url](#)

⁸ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#)



Collecting information

This report is mostly based on publicly available information in electronic and paper-based sources gathered through desk-based research.

Research on Somalia is challenging due to lack of reporting, security issues, and rapidly developing changes in the security situation. The report also makes ample reference to previous EUAA reports and key statements contained there when still relevant.

All sources used are referenced in the [Annex 1: Bibliography](#). Wherever information could not be found within the timeframes for drafting this report, this is stated in the relevant section of the report.

Quality control

This report was written by the EUAA COI Sector and ACCORD in line with the EUAA COI Report Methodology (2023)⁹ and the EUAA COI Writing and Referencing Style Guide (2023).¹⁰

The report has been peer-reviewed by COI experts from OFPRA (France) – Division de l'Information, de la Documentation et des Recherches (DIDR), as well as internally by the EUAA COI Sector. All the comments from reviewers were taken into consideration and most of them were implemented in the final draft of this report, which was finalised on 30 April 2026.

Sources

In accordance with EUAA COI methodology, a range of different published documentary sources have been consulted on relevant topics for this report. These include: academic publications, think tank reports, and specialised sources covering Somalia; COI reports by governments; information from civil society and NGOs; reports produced by various bodies of the United Nations; Somali and regionally-based media.

With regard to written sources of information, efforts were made to include Somali-language media sources in the research. See [Annex 1: Bibliography](#) for additional details.

Datasets

The report relies on different datasets with different topical/thematic focus.

a) ACLED data on security incidents and estimated fatality data

Reliable data and sources on security incident and casualty recording in Somalia was limited and difficult to obtain.

⁹ EUAA, EUAA Country of Origin Information (COI) Report Methodology, February 2023, [url](#)

¹⁰ EUAA, Writing and Referencing Guide for EUAA Country of Origin Information (COI) Reports, February 2023, [url](#)



Among other sources, data on security incidents were drawn substantially from publicly available datasets from the organisation **Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED)**.¹¹ ACLED collects data on violent incidents in Somalia, among other countries, coding each incident with the time and place, type of violent incident, the parties involved and an estimate on the number of fatalities. It also provides relevant breakdowns per region, actor, type of incident, and period. The information is collected in a database that is accessible via registration, searchable and kept continuously up to date.

ACLED codes security incidents as follows: battles, explosions/remote violence, violence against civilians, riots, protests, and strategic developments.¹² For the purpose of this report the following type of events were included in the quantitative analysis and graphs of the incidents: **battles**, **explosions/remote violence**, and **violence against civilians**. Additionally, ACLED codes actors involved in security incidents as follows: Actor1 is the '[o]ne of two main actors involved in the event (does not necessarily indicate the aggressor)' and Actor2 is the '[o]ne of two main actors involved in the event (does not necessarily indicate the target or victim)',¹³ while '[i]n most cases, an event requires two actors, noted in columns 'Actor 1' and 'Actor 2'. However, the 'Explosions/Remote violence', 'Riots', 'Protests', and 'Strategic developments' event types can include one-sided events'.¹⁴

Characteristics and potential limits for COI use of ACLED data are:

1. data primarily come from secondary sources such as media reports. Lack of or under-reporting might critically affect the depiction and the assessment of the situation on the ground. In the context of Somalia, for instance, the fact that large portions of the country are under the control of Al-Shabaab severely hinders media reporting activities. Adding to this, the fact that mobile phones are not allowed in these same areas, because prohibited by the group, further signals the militant's group complete monopoly on information;
2. ACLED's database only provides figures of direct deaths or fatalities per event,¹⁵ not of injured persons and casualties; indirect deaths resulting from security events, which in the relevant literature range in average between 3 and 9 more deaths per fatality, are also not taken into consideration;¹⁶
3. ACLED's database does not distinguish between civilian and non-civilian fatalities;¹⁷
4. all ACLED fatality figures provided in this EUAA COI report are estimates based on ACLED's methodology. In ACLED's codebook their methodology is explained;¹⁸
5. the coding of events as 'Battles', 'Explosions', or 'Violence against civilians' is independent from their actual impact on civilians. While acts of 'violence against civilians' are always co-coded as 'civilian targeting',¹⁹ 'explosions' may be or may not, depending on whether

¹¹ ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹² ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 9-22

¹³ ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), p. 6

¹⁴ ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), p. 23

¹⁵ ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), p. 38

¹⁶ Geneva Declaration Secretariat, Global burden of armed violence, 2008, [url](#), pp. 31-42

¹⁷ ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 12, 16, 38

¹⁸ ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), p. 38

¹⁹ ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), p. 18



civilians were the main or only target;²⁰ ‘battles’ instead, never are,²¹ despite the fact they are often about civilian targets in Somalia.²²

When focusing on the **involvement** of specific actors within certain regions, the drafters based their analysis on all those incidents, where ACLED coded the relevant actor either as ‘Actor1’ or as ‘Actor2’. This approach aims to illustrate the general level of involvement of the respective actors in the conflict without distinguishing between Actor1 and Actor2, as these categories, according to ACLED’s methodology, do not indicate any differentiation in terms of content/semantics.

In various instances, particularly at general country level, whenever other sources on security incidents were available over the reference period, ACLED’s data have been corroborated/contrasted with other data.

b) PRMN data and UNOCHA data on displacements

In terms of UNHCR PRMN displacement figures, the drafters worked with the publicly available data at UNHCR’s Operational Data Portal.²³

In terms of IDP population distribution across regions, the drafters worked with the publicly available harmonised IDP figures from UNOCHA, as of October 2025.²⁴

c) NRC data on evictions

In terms of data on evictions, the drafters relied on data available via NRC’s Eviction Information Portal.²⁵ NRC defines ‘forced evictions’ as the ‘removal against their will of people from their homes and/or land which they occupy, without any form of legal or other protection’.²⁶

Illustrative security incidents

Based on UN data, ACLED data and local media consulted, the drafters conducted a selection of illustrative incidents per each administrative region (18 in total). This selection is not exhaustive and is meant to show examples of the nature and the intensity of the security incidents that have affected the civilian population during the reference period. When ACLED data were used for illustrative incidents, where possible, efforts were made within time constraints to identify the original source of the information referenced in ACLED’s raw data files.

²⁰ ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), pp. 16, 23

²¹ ACLED, Codebook, 3 October 2024, [url](#), p. 12

²² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²³ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia: Harmonised IDP figures, 30 October 2025, [url](#)

²⁵ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#)

²⁶ NRC, An Unnecessary Burden: Forced Evictions and Covid-19, 1 July 2020, [url](#), p. 1



Structure and use of the report

The report is divided into two parts: Section 1. General description of the security situation in Somalia, and Section 2. Regional security situation and trends.

- In Section 1, the report provides an update on main security and political developments that took place in Somalia during the reference period (April 2025 – March 2026). This section includes charts and analysis of aggregate data at country level about security incidents, conflict-related displacement, and other impacts on civilians' life, as well as a section on checkpoints and road security.
- In Section 2, the report provides an update on conflict dynamics, security trends and incidents at the regional level, for the 18 administrative regions foreseen by the Somali provisional constitution^{27, 28}.

Note on transliteration

In relation to transliteration of local language terminology used in this report, it is important to understand that a national orthography for the Somali language was codified relatively late by adopting a Latin script (21 October 1972). Nevertheless, even today, Somali lacks a commonly applied and binding orthography.

In this report, Somali-language names for places, clans and personal names usually follow Somali orthography: 'long vowels are indicated by doubling them', as in *Darood* or *Abbaan*, 'the Latin 'c' stands for a sound close to the Arabic ع (ayn), while 'x' denotes the strongly aspirated ح (ha)'.²⁹ However, given the fact that other sources adopt different conventions, the reader will sometimes find other forms of place, clan, and personal names in the text, including where direct citations are used or in references.

It is also important to note that Somalis, notably Somali men, are frequently better known by their nicknames than by their formal names. The same applies to public figures and politicians mentioned in the text, whose nickname is provided in quotation marks, such as in 'better known' or 'also known' as 'Qoor Qoor'.

Clan maps

For clan maps please refer to the [EASO COI report Somalia: Security Situation](#) from September 2021.³⁰

²⁷ Somalia, Provisional Constitution, 1 August 2012, [url](#), art. 49 (5), 72

²⁸ Please note that this partition, besides being the official partition for the Federal Government of Somalia, is widely used by national and international bodies, organisations, research institutes, and NGOs.

²⁹ Hoehne, M. V., *Between Somaliland and Puntland*, RVI, 2015, [url](#), p. 7

³⁰ EASO, *Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation*, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 17-19



Map of Somalia



Map 1. Map of Somalia³¹

³¹ Map 1: UN, Somalia, Map No. 3690 Rev. 10, December 2011, [url](#)



1. General description of the security situation in Somalia

1.1. Recent political and security developments

At the end of March 2026, Somalia's political situation looked fractured and highly volatile.³² Both the parliament and the President's mandate were about to expire – on 14 April and on 15 May 2026 respectively – while the country still lacked a nationally shared political agenda on the way forward,³³ including agreement on the electoral model.³⁴ While the incumbent President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (HSM), continued to push for the controversially adopted Constitutional reviews – which, among others, extended the mandate of both the President and the Parliament of one year, from four to five – Somalia's political arena remained highly divided and polarised.³⁵ Opposition leaders, grouped under the Somali Future Council, refused to accept the term extension and,³⁶ after having failed to find an agreed solution in the framework of the so called National Dialogue conference,³⁷ called for an alternative forum with the aim to 'defend' the 2012 Constitution.³⁸ Initially scheduled for 10 April 2026,³⁹ the conference was later postponed indefinitely.⁴⁰

Political divisions at Federal Government level continued to reverberate at Federal Member State (FMS) level, where relations were, at time, tense or outrightly broken.⁴¹ While Madobe's Jubbaland and Deni's Puntland continued to disavow HSM's government,⁴² the leaders of the less economically viable South-West, Hirshabelle, and Galmudug states, traditionally more aligned with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS),⁴³ remained subject to its influence and

³² Constitutionnet, From Provisional to Permanent Constitution? Assessing the End of Somalia's Constitutional Review Process, 7 April 2026, [url](#); Wardheer News, It is Mourning Time for Somalia: Federalism Fracture Completed by the First and Last Federal President, 1 April 2026, [url](#); Wardheer News, South West Crisis Deepens as President Hassan's Lone-Wolf Gambit Threatens Somalia's Fragile Federalism, 27 March 2026, [url](#)

³³ Somalia Today, Somali president, MPs set for term extension, speaker confirms, 6 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁴ Geeska, Somalia and the perils of premature OPOV, 25 November 2025, [url](#); ICG, Electoral Showdown in Somalia: Averting another round of turmoil, 24 September 2025, [url](#); see also FTL, Voter registration begins in Lower Shabelle as Somalia pushes electoral reform, 13 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁵ Somalia Today, Somali president, MPs set for term extension, speaker confirms, 6 March 2026, [url](#); Somali Guardian, Somalia president, parliament extend mandates by one year after constitutional amendments, 7 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁶ Somali Guardian, Somali Future Council warns against extending mandates of president, parliament, 9 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁷ Hiraan Online, Federal government-opposition talks end without breakthrough on elections, 23 February 2026, [url](#)

³⁸ Wardheer News, Future Council Conference Issues Communiqué Affirming the Provisional Constitution as the Sole Legitimate Framework, 28 February 2026, [url](#)

³⁹ Hiraan Online, Somali opposition announces emergency meeting before Parliament's term ends, 28 February 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁰ The Daily Somalia, Tweet, 9 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴¹ Constitutionnet, From Provisional to Permanent Constitution? Assessing the End of Somalia's Constitutional Review Process, 7 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴² Constitutionnet, From Provisional to Permanent Constitution? Assessing the End of Somalia's Constitutional Review Process, 7 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴³ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State, 17 November 2025, [url](#); see also SPA, Fiscal Federalism in Somalia, July 2021, [url](#), p. 1; Heritage Institute, Galmudug, March 2024, [url](#), pp. 5, 27



outreach.⁴⁴ At the end of March 2026, when relations with the later deposed leader Laftagareen fell apart completely,⁴⁵ the FGS deployed the army to regain control of Baidoa,⁴⁶ and then established a friendly ad-interim administration in the South West State.⁴⁷ At the same time, with the mandate of their respective leaders long expired, overdue regional elections were expected to take place in all three FMS mentioned above, supposedly adopting, at the request of the FGS, the One Person One Vote (OPOV) system.⁴⁸ In the federal government's aligned North-East State instead, an indirect vote had taken place in August 2025.⁴⁹ However, the newly established administration remained challenged by competing territorial claims and affiliations of its main constituencies.⁵⁰ Against this general backdrop, at the end of December 2025, the Israel's recognition of Somaliland further exacerbated its distance from Somalia's political project and aggravated the friction between the two political entities.⁵¹

In parallel to all these political developments, in the course of the reference period of the report, the FGS concluded or further deepened a number of bilateral military and defence cooperation agreements with regional states and powers, notably with Türkiye,⁵² Egypt,⁵³ Qatar,⁵⁴ Djibouti,⁵⁵ Saudi Arabia,⁵⁶ Uganda,⁵⁷ Pakistan,⁵⁸ and Italy.⁵⁹ At the same time, all agreements with the United Arab Emirates, spanning key port operations, security cooperation and defence, were severed.⁶⁰ Often involving the supply of military equipment, the above-mentioned agreements contributed to, among others, secure regional support to Somalia in the controversy with Israel,⁶¹ and de facto ease the pressure on the African Union

⁴⁴ ICG, Electoral Showdown in Somalia: Averting another round of turmoil, 24 September 2025, [url](#); Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State, 17 November 2025, [url](#); Wardheer News, South West Crisis Deepens as President Hassan's Lone-Wolf Gambit Threatens Somalia's Fragile Federalism, 27 March 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁵ ICG, Somali Government Topples State Leader as Electoral Dispute Escalates, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁶ ICG, Somali Government Topples State Leader as Electoral Dispute Escalates, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁷ Wardheer News, The newly appointed Interim Leader of Southwest State arrives in Baidoa, 2 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁸ Heritage Institute, Somalia's 2026 Mandate Test, November 2025, [url](#), pp. 4, 8, 9; Wardheer News, South West Crisis Deepens as President Hassan's Lone-Wolf Gambit Threatens Somalia's Fragile Federalism, 27 March 2026, [url](#); see also FTL, Voter registration begins in Lower Shabelle as Somalia pushes electoral reform, 13 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁹ Horn Observer, Money and Manipulation: The Battle for Power in Northeast Somalia's Election, 2 September 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰ EPC, The Northeastern State of Somalia: A Gateway to Enhance the Federal Model or a Step to Exacerbate Existing Tensions?, 6 October 2025, [url](#)

⁵¹ African Arguments, Israel's Recognition of Somaliland: Northeast Africa at a Critical Juncture, 14 January 2026, [url](#); BBC, Why Israel's recognition of Somaliland as an independent state is controversial, 30 December 2025, [url](#)

⁵² CT, Turkey Expands Influence in Africa: Africa File, 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵³ AA, Egyptian, Somali presidents discuss bilateral ties, security cooperation in Cairo, 8 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁴ Goobjoog, Somalia, Egypt Agree To Deepen Coordination on Horn of Africa Security, 6 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁵ The National, Somalia and Qatar strengthen defence ties with new co-operation agreement, 20 January 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁶ Hiraan Online, Somalia and Djibouti sign Status of Forces Agreement to strengthen defense cooperation, 31 July 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁷ DW, What's behind Somalia-Saudi Arabia military deal? 16 February 2026, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Somalia, Saudi Arabia sign agreement on military cooperation, 10 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁸ Mustaqbal Media, Somalia Approves New Security Cooperation Agreement with Uganda, 6 January 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁹ SoftPower News, Uganda and Somalia seal new pact on security, education, and immigration, 8 October 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁰ Garowe Online, Pakistan, Somalia, move to strengthen security, counterterrorism ties, 24 January 2026, [url](#)

⁶¹ Somalia Today, Explainer: Why Somalia-Pakistan defence pact worries India? 24 October 2025, [url](#)

⁶² FTL, Somalia and Italy deepen defence ties in high-level Rome meeting, 18 October 2025, [url](#); Clash Report, Italy Deepens Military Ties with Somalia, 30 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶³ Al Jazeera, Somalia cancels all agreements with UAE over alleged sovereignty violations, 12 January 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁴ Al Jazeera, Somalia, Saudi Arabia sign agreement on military cooperation, 10 February 2026, [url](#)

Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), whose financial sustainability remained particularly strained.⁶²

Within this framework, in the period April 2025 – March 2026, instances of political violence took place predominantly in two separate areas of the country, namely in South-Central Somalia and in Puntland in the north.⁶³ These regions were the location of security events that comprised all type of political violence – battles, remote violence, and violence against civilians - and that were explained by various conflict drivers, notably the Al-Shabaab anti-Al-Shabaab conflict, which accounted for about 62 % of all events, but also clan rivalries - ~ 11 % - and other types of conflicts. In Puntland, Bari region, most events were to be attributed to the military operations against the Islamic State in Somalia and related security incidents, which accounted for about 15 % of the total registered in the period.⁶⁴

As a consequence, during the reference period of the report (April 2025 – March 2026), Somalia experienced a renewed cycle of political violence that resulted in a peak number of fatalities and recorded security events. Based on ACLED data, they were 8 753 and 4 676 respectively, compared to 7 237 and 3 041 in the period April 2024 – March 2025, when they were more aligned with similar figures from previous periods.⁶⁵

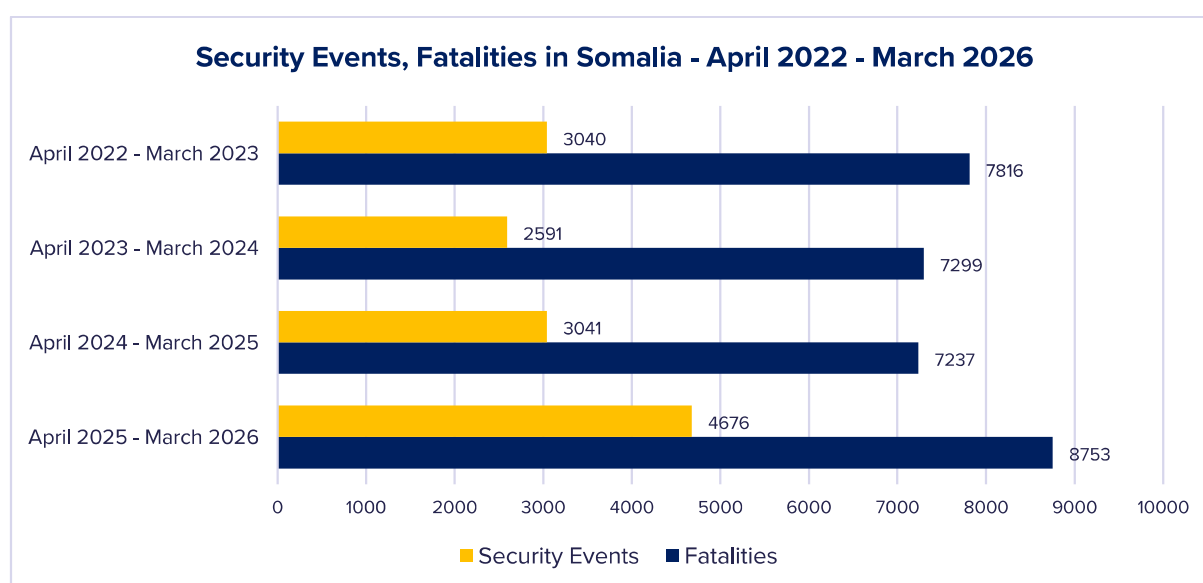


Figure 1: Fatalities and security events - coded as 'battles', 'explosions/remote violence' and 'violence against civilians' in the period 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2026.⁶⁶

In line with the overview sketched above, the regions mostly affected were Lower Shabelle (1 905 fatalities, 976 security events), Lower Juba (1 334, 500), Middle Shabelle (1 149, 457), and Hiraan (1 139, 352) in South-Central Somalia, as well as Bari (1 034, 719) in Puntland.⁶⁷

⁶² Amani Africa, Briefing on the Situation in Somalia and the operations of AUSSOM, 11 February 2026, [url](#); EUISS, Dawn or doom? The new AU mission in Somalia and the fight for stability, 27 March 2025, [url](#); see also Amani Africa, Consideration of the situation in Somalia and AUSSOM Operations, 14 December 2025, [url](#)

⁶³ EUAA analysis based on ACLED Explorer, Somalia, Filters 'Events', 'Political Violence', 'Past Year', as of 10 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁴ EUAA analysis based on ACLED data. Curated Data Files, Somalia, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵ EUAA analysis based on ACLED data. Curated Data Files, Somalia, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁶ EUAA analysis based on ACLED data. Curated Data Files, Somalia, 31 March 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁷ EUAA analysis based on ACLED data. Curated Data Files, Somalia, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

Within this context, the number of air or drone strikes – which had surged substantially in the course of the last few years – passing from 70 instances in the period April 2022 – March 2023 to 433 in the period April 2025 – March 2026, resulted in 1 694 estimated fatalities, based on ACLED data.⁶⁸ All this notwithstanding, the overall security situation in Mogadishu (Benadir) experienced a further decline in the overall number of security events and resulting fatalities - 354 and 225 respectively - in line with late periods.⁶⁹ Reportedly, within Mogadishu, Al-Shabaab focused more on military targets than on mass civilian casualties.⁷⁰

The country's deepening political and security fragmentation is well captured by [Map 3 – section 1.2.1 Territorial control maps](#), which depicts the situation as of 31 March 2026. While comparing it with the territorial control at the beginning of the reference period, from south to north, the following major changes stand out: Al-Shabaab increased marginally the areas under its control in Lower Juba, Middle Juba, and Gedo, as well as in Bay and Bakool, exception made for the area surrounding Lego along the Mogadishu - Baidoa corridor; the militant group's territorial control expanded instead much more substantially in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle, east of the Shabelle river, where it regained control of strategic towns such as Mahas, Mokoqori, Adan Yabal, Nur Dugle, El Baraf, and Hawadley. Actors and exerted territorial control remained more or less unchanged in Galgadud, Mudug, Nugal, and Bari, as well as in Somaliland's uncontested regions. However, in the newly established North-East State (NES), competing claims and affiliations made the situation on the ground particularly intricate, notably in Sanaag, where large chunks of the territory were, at the end of the reference period, either contested, de facto controlled by, or affiliated with a different administration than the NES.⁷¹

Against this general political and security backdrop, at the end of the reference period (March 2026) the humanitarian situation in the country continued to experience 'an intensifying humanitarian crisis caused by consecutive failed rainy seasons, a harsh Jilaal dry period, and an emerging national drought, particularly severe in Puntland, central, and southern regions'. At the same time, humanitarian operations were increasingly challenged by rising operational costs and funding shortfalls that were 'forcing humanitarian actors to prioritize only the most life-saving interventions, leaving millions at risk of hunger, displacement, and protection concerns'.⁷²

⁶⁸ EUAA analysis based on ACLED data. Curated Data Files, Somalia, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁹ EUAA analysis based on ACLED data. Curated Data Files, Somalia, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

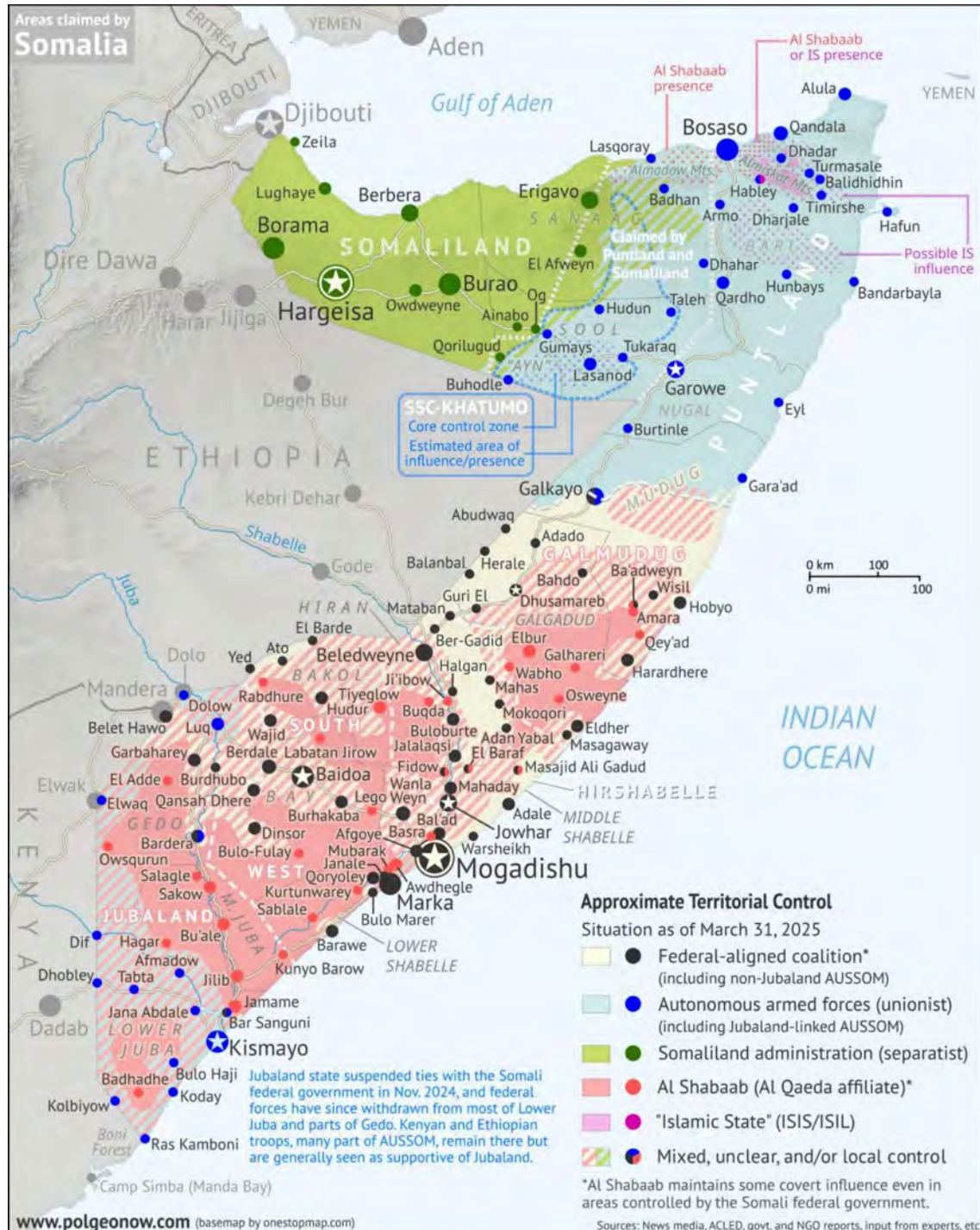
⁷⁰ UNSC, Thirty-seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, S/2026/44, 4 February 2026, [url](#), para. 38

⁷¹ EUAA analysis based on PolGeoNow, Map 2, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, 31 March 2026, n.a.

⁷² WFP, Background: Somalia Humanitarian Supply Chain & Access Overview, 17 April 2026, [url](#), p. 1

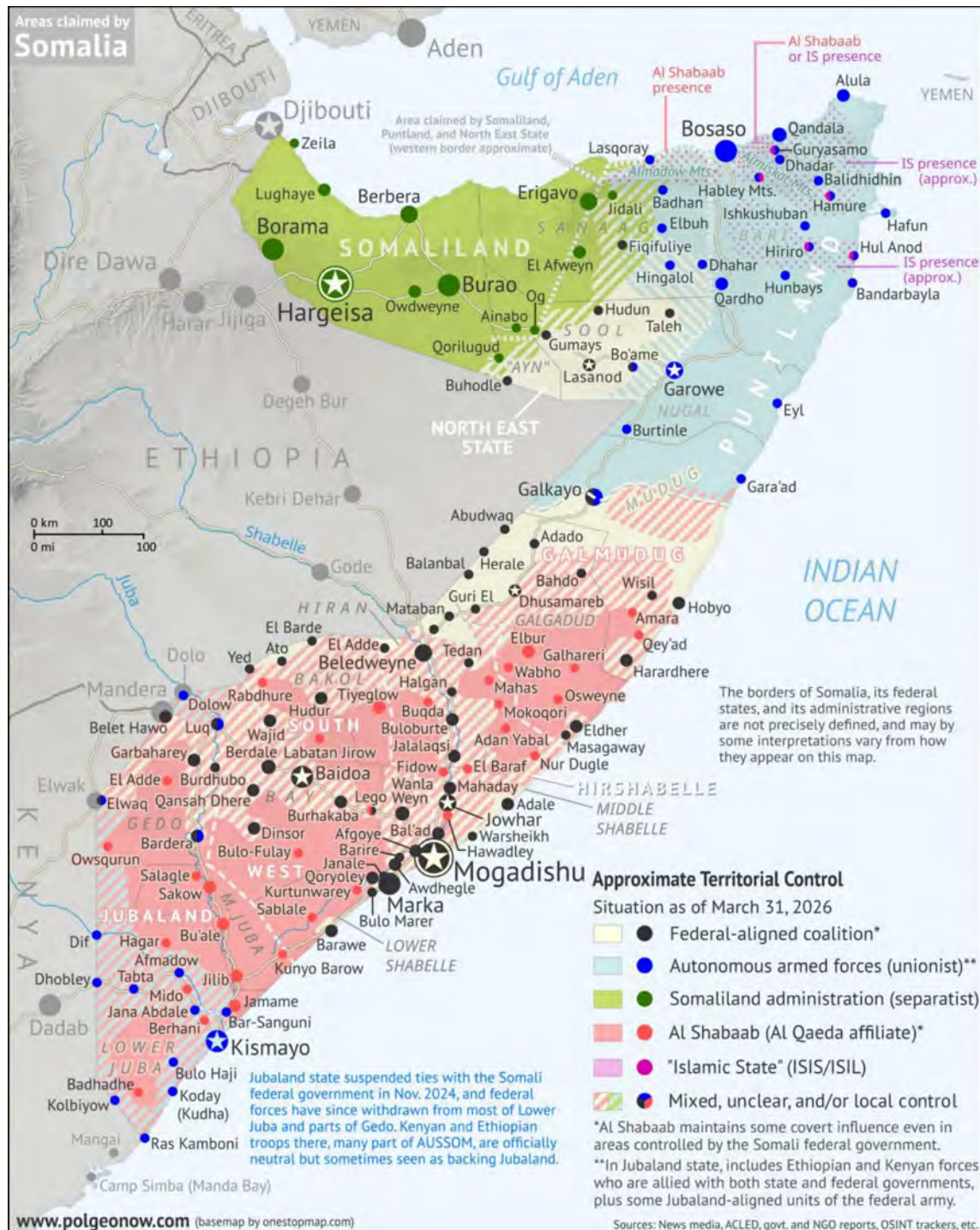
1.2. Armed actors and relevant developments

1.2.1. Territorial control maps



Map 2. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control, 31 March 2025, [Political Geography Now](https://www.polgeonow.com).⁷³

⁷³ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, 31 March 2025, n.a.. Please see also [note](#) below under Map. 3



Map 3. Somalia - Approximate Territorial Control, 31 March 2026, [Political Geography Now](https://www.polgeonow.com).⁷⁴

Please note: The depictions on Map 2 and 3 do not imply any opinion whatsoever on the part of EUAA concerning legal status or effective control over any country, territory, city, or area. Every effort is made to ensure this map is free of errors, but there is no guarantee that the map or its features are either spatially or temporally accurate or fit for a particular use. This map is provided without any warranty of any kind whatsoever, either expressed or implied.

⁷⁴ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, 31 March 2026, n.a.



1.2.2. Al-Shabaab control areas, presence, and influence

Al-Shabaab maintained a stable and intact leadership structure in the reference period. Its overarching organisational structure consists of 18 senior leaders, seven of whom belong to Hawiye subclans. Ahmed Diriye (aka Sheikh Ahmed Umar Abu Ubaidah) continues to serve as the group's emir. According to the UN Panel of Experts on Somalia, as of late 2025, no substantial degradation could be observed in the group's ability to conduct attacks.⁷⁵

Control. Al-Shabaab operates its command centre in Jilib (Middle Jubba)⁷⁶ and maintains control⁷⁷ and/or a heavy presence across large swathes of south-central Somalia, particularly Galmudug, Hiraan and the southern regions, occupying important supply routes across the these parts of Somalia.⁷⁸ Most rural areas⁷⁹ and many smaller towns in these regions were under the group's control.⁸⁰ Sources estimated that the group controlled around 30 % of the country's territory⁸¹ and numerous district capitals, while it exercised co-governance in other areas nominally controlled by the FGS.⁸² As it shifted its strategy in 2025 from hit-and-run attacks towards seeking to hold its positions and conquered lands,⁸³ the group made several territorial gains in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle,⁸⁴ exploiting security vacuums.⁸⁵ These gains further extended to coastal areas northeast of Mogadishu (Nuur Dugle village and areas around Warsheikh).⁸⁶

Presence and influence. Al-Shabaab maintains operational capabilities⁸⁷ and exerts influence in areas that lie well beyond its immediate realm of control.⁸⁸ In areas marked by political leadership disputes and weak state governance,⁸⁹ including in rural parts of Jubbaland, Bay

⁷⁵ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 5, 6, 8

⁷⁶ AUSSOM, Joint AUSSOM–SNAF operation captures senior Al-Shabaab commander, 2 April 2026, [url](#); UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 7

⁷⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

⁷⁸ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 7

⁷⁹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; Guardian (The), 'The fear was immense': al-Shabaab exploits fragmented politics to reclaim land in Somalia, 4 October 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁰ Guardian (The), 'The fear was immense': al-Shabaab exploits fragmented politics to reclaim land in Somalia, 4 October 2025, [url](#)

⁸¹ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State [Map], Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 1; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

⁸² Kluijver, R., Al-Shabab's shadow state: Why Somalia's militants are winning legitimacy, TNH, 25 September 2025, [url](#)

⁸³ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 29

⁸⁴ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 13

⁸⁵ ISS, Disunity in Somalia is al-Shabaab's greatest weapon, 28 July 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁶ CTP, Chad Tensions Strain RSF Supply Lines; African DRC Peace Efforts; Fano Merger: Africa File, January 22, 2026, 22 January 2026, [url](#)

⁸⁷ Elmi, A.A., Somalia's 2026 election risks a legitimacy crisis, Al Jazeera, 19 December 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁸ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 7; Kluijver, R., Al-Shabab's shadow state: Why Somalia's militants are winning legitimacy, TNH, 25 September 2025, [url](#)

⁸⁹ ISS, Disunity in Somalia is al-Shabaab's greatest weapon, 28 July 2025, [url](#)



and Lower Shabelle,⁹⁰ the group asserts itself as an alternative authority,⁹¹ providing civilians security as well as services such as administration of justice⁹² and even environmental protection.⁹³ Amongst others, the group maintains a sustained presence in Bakool and Gedo's border regions with Ethiopia and Kenya⁹⁴ and has reinforced its siege of Ceel Dheere (Galgaduud region)⁹⁵ after its failed September 2025 attack on the town.⁹⁶ Sources also pointed to Al-Shabaab presence in the Galgala mountains⁹⁷ (Bari region)⁹⁸ and Al-Madow mountains (Sanaag region).⁹⁹ A further group of fighters whose degree of association with Al-Shabaab, if any, was subject to controversy,¹⁰⁰ operated in southern parts of the NES under the command of Abdi Madobe.¹⁰¹

Al-Shabaab activities continued to be reported in Mogadishu,¹⁰² including in the form of extortion, deadly suicide attacks on military installations¹⁰³ and a complex attack on the NISA-linked Godka Jilicow prison.¹⁰⁴ At the same time, Samira Gaid, a Mogadishu-based security analyst, held that Al-Shabaab was 'not interested in taking Mogadishu'.¹⁰⁵

For further information on Al-Shabaab's territorial control across Somalia, see the control maps in section [1.2.1. Territorial control maps](#) depicting the situation at the beginning (31 March 2025, [Map 2](#)) and at the end of the reference period (31 March 2026, [Map 3](#)). For more information on checkpoints and routes controlled by the group, see section [1.5. Checkpoints and road security in Somalia](#) below. Additional information on Al-Shabaab as a military and political organisation, including the group's outreach, can be consulted in the [EASO COI Report Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#).¹⁰⁶ For information on Al-Shabaab's financial capacity and

⁹⁰ KEDISA, The Influence of Al-Shabaab in East Africa and Its Implications for Regional Stability, 10 September 2025, [url](#)

⁹¹ ISS, Disunity in Somalia is al-Shabaab's greatest weapon, 28 July 2025, [url](#)

⁹² Kluijver, R., Al-Shabab's shadow state: Why Somalia's militants are winning legitimacy, TNH, 25 September 2025, [url](#); ISS, Disunity in Somalia is al-Shabaab's greatest weapon, 28 July 2025, [url](#)

⁹³ Kluijver, R., Al-Shabab's shadow state: Why Somalia's militants are winning legitimacy, TNH, 25 September 2025, [url](#)

⁹⁴ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 17

⁹⁵ CTP, Chad Tensions Strain RSF Supply Lines; African DRC Peace Efforts; Fano Merger: Africa File, January 22, 2026, 22 January 2026, [url](#)

⁹⁶ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 13

⁹⁷ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 51

⁹⁸ Hiiraan Online, Al-Shabab defector denies combat involvement as Puntland court proceeds with case, 5 December 2024, [url](#)

⁹⁹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Supplement: Is there an Al Shabaab presence in SSC-Khatumo?, 19 June 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Supplement: Is there an Al Shabaab presence in SSC-Khatumo?, 19 June 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰¹ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 51; Somali Digest (The), Al-Shabab Shielded by Mogadishu-Backed Faction in Al-Madow, 27 August 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰² UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 14; CTP, Chad Tensions Strain RSF Supply Lines; African DRC Peace Efforts; Fano Merger: Africa File, January 22, 2026, 22 January 2026, [url](#)

¹⁰³ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 15, 54

¹⁰⁴ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 16; BBC, Al-Shabab militants dress as soldiers to storm Somali jail, 5 October 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁵ Guardian (The), 'The fear was immense': al-Shabaab exploits fragmented politics to reclaim land in Somalia, 4 October 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰⁶ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 58-67

sources of revenue, see section 1.10 on Individuals who have to pay ‘taxes’ to Al-Shabaab or other groups and militias in the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Country Focus \(May 2025\)](#). For details about Al-Shabaab operations, see the regional chapters of this report.¹⁰⁷

1.2.3. Updated list of main actors

Most of Somalia’s military and security forces have been addressed in detail in the [EASO COI Report Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#),¹⁰⁸ and integrated into the subsequent [EASO COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(September 2021\)](#),¹⁰⁹ [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(February 2023\)](#),¹¹⁰ [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#),¹¹¹ and the [EUAA COI query response on Somalia: Major political, security, and humanitarian developments \(13 August 2025\)](#).¹¹²

During the reference period, the **FGS Security Forces** comprised the Somali National Army (SNA)¹¹³ (including the functionally separate US-trained Danab Brigade and Turkish-trained Gorgor Brigade),¹¹⁴ the Somali Police Force (SPF)¹¹⁵ (including its rapid response unit Goodir¹¹⁶ and the Türkiye-trained¹¹⁷ Haramcad elite police unit¹¹⁸), and the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA).¹¹⁹ The SNA, commanded by Ibrahim Mohamed Mahmoud who replaced Odowaa Yusuf Rage in January 2026,¹²⁰ has been described as being affected by lack of experience and poor training of personnel.¹²¹

At regional level, Somaliland armed forces¹²² and Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn - Khatumo (SSC-K) forces¹²³ were operating in their respective areas in the north. Each of the federal member

¹⁰⁷ EUAA, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Country Focus, May 2025, [url](#), pp. 93-94

¹⁰⁸ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 58-67

¹⁰⁹ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, September 2021, [url](#), pp. 24-26

¹¹⁰ EUAA, Country of Origin information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, February 2023, [url](#), pp. 31-34

¹¹¹ EUAA, Country of Origin information Report on Somalia: Security Situation, May 2025, [url](#), pp. 27-33

¹¹² EUAA, Country of Origin Information query response on Somalia: Major political, security, and humanitarian developments, 13 August 2025, [url](#), pp. 13-14

¹¹³ Gaid, S., A new way forward is needed for Somalia, TNH, 15 December 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁴ Barise, M. et al., Strategic Determinants of Military Effectiveness in Fragile States: The Case of Somalia, 15 October 2025, [url](#), p. 5620

¹¹⁵ AUSSOM, AUSSOM Hails Somali Police Force at 82, Reaffirms Continued Support, 20 December 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁶ Goobjoog, Somalia Marks 10 Years of Goodir Rapid Unit, a Symbol of Urban Security and Sacrifice, 22 July 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁷ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State [Map], Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 9

¹¹⁸ Wardheer News, Mutiny by Haramcad Forces Disrupts Traffic in Mogadishu Amid Salary Dispute, 6 July 2025, [url](#)

¹¹⁹ Hiiraan Online, Somali intelligence kills senior Al-Shabab leader linked to major 2025 attacks, 4 March 2026, [url](#); LWJ, Somali intelligence claims death of senior Shabaab leader, 3 January 2026, [url](#)

¹²⁰ Kaab TV, Somalia Appoints New National Army Commander, 29 January 2026, [url](#)

¹²¹ International Crisis Group, Helping Somalia Move Beyond a Shaky Status Quo, 16 October 2025, [url](#), p. 3

¹²² Horn Tribune (The), Modern Military Academies: The Key to Shaping the Future Strength of Somaliland’s National Forces, 10 September 2025, [url](#)

¹²³ Somali Dialogue Platform, SSC-Khaatumo: Perspectives on the significance and implications of its formation, RVI, December 2025, [url](#), p. 26

states – Puntland,¹²⁴ Jubbaland,¹²⁵ the South-West State,¹²⁶ Hirshabelle,¹²⁷ and Galmudug,¹²⁸ – maintained their own regional security forces.

Moreover, there were dozens of clan and sub clan militias in Somalia.¹²⁹ For developments concerning **Ma'awisley** clan militia forces, see the [EUAA COI query response on Somalia: Major political, security, and humanitarian developments \(13 August 2025\)](#).¹³⁰ For general background information on clan militias, see the [EASO COI report Somalia: Actors \(July 2021\)](#).¹³¹

The multidimensional AU-led and UN-approved African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (**AUSSOM**) succeeded the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) on 1 January 2025¹³² with a mandated ceiling of 11 826 uniformed personnel. During the reference period, serious financial shortfalls impeded AUSSOM's ability to effectively implement its mandate of supporting Somalia's security transition,¹³³ including through participation in counter-Al-Shabaab operations.¹³⁴ Meanwhile, in December 2025, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2809 (2025) which extended the mission's mandate until 31 December 2026 and authorised AU member states to continue deploying uniformed personnel at the mandated strength.¹³⁵ The reference period further saw the first confirmed instance of Turkish ground forces directly participating in combat against Al-Shabaab,¹³⁶ while Türkiye also deployed three F-16 fighter jets,¹³⁷ helicopters,¹³⁸ and modern battle tanks to Mogadishu.¹³⁹ Egypt, which had thus far only sent military gear, deployed 1 091 soldiers to Mogadishu in February 2026 to take part in AUSSOM operations.¹⁴⁰ Both Egypt and Sudan provided training for Somali intelligence officers. Meanwhile, Ethiopia, Kenya and the UAE cooperated with and assisted Somaliland, Puntland and Jubbaland in security matters.¹⁴¹

Al-Shabaab. See section [1.2.2. Al-Shabaab control areas, presence, and influence](#) above.

¹²⁴ SMN, Puntland Regional Forces Seize Key ISIS Positions in Bari Mountains: Officials, 27 August 2025, [url](#)

¹²⁵ Kenya Times (The), [X], posted on: 30 August 2025, [url](#)

¹²⁶ Dawan, Somalia Pledges Pay Parity for South West Darawish, National Army, 13 April 2026, [url](#)

¹²⁷ Hiiraan Online, Two militias arrested after attack on Hirshabelle security forces in Middle Shabelle region, 17 October 2025, [url](#)

¹²⁸ Hiiraan Online, Galmudug forces kill Al-Shabaab commanders in coordinated Mudug raid, 24 July 2025, [url](#)

¹²⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹³⁰ EUAA, Country of Origin Information query response on Somalia: Major political, security, and humanitarian developments, 13 August 2025, [url](#), p. 14

¹³¹ EASO, Country of Origin Information Report on Somalia: Actors, July 2021, [url](#), pp. 52-55

¹³² AUSSOM, About AUSSOM, n.d., [url](#)

¹³³ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 58, 76

¹³⁴ Gaid, S., A new way forward is needed for Somalia, TNH, 15 December 2025, [url](#)

¹³⁵ UN Security Council, Resolution 2809 (2025) Adopted by the Security Council at its 10078th meeting, on 23 December 2025, S/RES/2809 (2025), 23 December 2025, [url](#), para. 11-12

¹³⁶ Mohammed, S., Turkey's Somalia Policy Enters a Kinetic New Chapter, Horn Review, 2 February 2026, [url](#)

¹³⁷ MEE, Turkey deploys F-16 jets to Somalia as it strengthens economic ties, 29 January 2026, [url](#)

¹³⁸ Bloomberg, Turkey Deploys F-16s in Somalia to Step Up Strikes on Al-Shabaab, 30 January 2026, [url](#)

¹³⁹ SG, Turkey sends battle tanks to Somalia amid rising Al-Shabaab insurgency, 15 February 2026, [url](#)

¹⁴⁰ DW, Why is Egypt bolstering ties with Somalia now?, 14 February 2026, [url](#)

¹⁴¹ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State [Map], Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 9



Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) elements were concentrated in Bari region's Cal Miskad mountains. The group primarily uses IEDs to attack security forces.¹⁴² As of December 2025, Abdul Qadir Mumin remained the leader of the organisation, with Abdurahman Fahiye his deputy.¹⁴³ In July 2025, the group's third most senior member was captured in a joint Puntland-US operation.¹⁴⁴ While at the start of Puntland's US- and UAE-supported¹⁴⁵ anti-ISS operation Hilaac in December 2024, ISS had an estimated strength of about 1 000¹⁴⁶ – 1 200 fighters,¹⁴⁷ their numbers had been decimated to around 200 to 300 fighters by late 2025¹⁴⁸ as a result of killings and captures of fighters.¹⁴⁹ Nevertheless, a UN report estimated that the group had maintained 'significant capacity for resilience', operating in highly mobile cells and using deep hideouts, caves and smuggling routes to sustain its presence.¹⁵⁰ Puntland forces continued security operations against ISS during the reference period,¹⁵¹ supported by US airstrikes,¹⁵² the UAE and regional countries.¹⁵³

1.3. Conflict layers

Somalia continues to face a 'complex, multi-layered' security landscape. According the Hiraal Institute, as of late 2025, relations between the FGS and the federal members states of Puntland and Jubbaland were in a state of 'breakdown',¹⁵⁴ these two FMS essentially having left the federal governance system.¹⁵⁵ Disputes over electoral reform escalated into violent clashes between Jubbaland and FGS forces in July and August 2025.¹⁵⁶

Counter-Al-Shabaab operations continued to be conducted by the SNA, backed by community defence forces, AUSSOM and international partners.¹⁵⁷ However, after making significant territorial gains against Al-Shabaab in previous years, the government's offensive lost momentum and remained stagnant in 2025. As the FGS pursued its primary strategy of keeping Al-Shabaab out of urban centres, the group shifted its operational focus from urban to

¹⁴² Hiraal Institute, Somalia Security Situation: Comprehensive Assessment, February 2026, [url](#), pp. 21, 24

¹⁴³ UN Security Council, Thirty-seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, S/2026/44, 4 February 2026, [url](#), para. 36

¹⁴⁴ Hiraal Institute, Somalia Security Situation: Comprehensive Assessment, February 2026, [url](#), p. 21

¹⁴⁵ Levy, I., How the Small Autonomous Region of Puntland Found Success in Battling Islamic State In Somalia, 7 April 2025, American University, 7 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁴⁶ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 43

¹⁴⁷ Hiraal Institute, Somalia Security Situation: Comprehensive Assessment, February 2026, [url](#), p. 21

¹⁴⁸ UN Security Council, Thirty-seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, S/2026/44, 4 February 2026, [url](#), para. 35

¹⁴⁹ Hiraal Institute, Somalia Security Situation: Comprehensive Assessment, February 2026, [url](#), p. 21

¹⁵⁰ UN Security Council, Thirty-seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, S/2026/44, 4 February 2026, [url](#), para. 36

¹⁵¹ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Somalia: April 2025 – March 2026, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁵² BBC, 'We will go wherever they hide': Rooting out IS in Somalia, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

¹⁵³ Security Council Report, December 2025 Monthly Forecast Somalia, 30 November 2025, [url](#)

¹⁵⁴ Hiraal Institute, Somalia Security Situation: Comprehensive Assessment, February 2026, [url](#), p. 6

¹⁵⁵ International Crisis Group, Seven Peace and Security Priorities for Africa in 2026, 9 February 2026, [url](#), p. 18

¹⁵⁶ International Crisis Group, Electoral Showdown in Somalia: Averting Another Round of Turmoil, 24 September 2025, [url](#), p. 9

¹⁵⁷ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 12



rural areas.¹⁵⁸ The group exploited political fragmentation, weaknesses within the FGS forces and discontent among local clans as it launched its offensives in Hirshabelle¹⁵⁹ and Lower Shabelle in early 2025.¹⁶⁰ In late 2025/early 2026, however, US-backed airstrikes and expanding ground operations, aided by enhanced aerial surveillance, reportedly allowed the FGS to recapture some territories from Al-Shabaab, although independent verification was difficult due to lack of access.¹⁶¹

To counter the distinct insurgent threat posed by ISS, the Puntland Defence Forces, acting independently of the FGS, continued Operation Hilaac.¹⁶² As a result, the group's strength and resources were degraded. However, it continued to operate mobile cells and hideouts.¹⁶³ For further information on Operation Hilaac and ISS, see sections [1.1. Recent political and security developments](#) and [1.2.3. Updated list of main actors](#), of this report. Other security challenges were linked to the conflict between Somaliland and SSC-Khatumo (SSC-K) in Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn.¹⁶⁴ Clan-related conflicts mainly occurred in Galmudug and Hirshabelle states and Gedo, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions,¹⁶⁵ often involving clashes over resources such as land¹⁶⁶ and water.¹⁶⁷

1.4. Recent overall security trends

1.4.1. Security incidents, estimated civilian fatalities and casualties

During the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 4 676 security incidents across Somalia, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, with the following breakdown by incident type: 2 969 battles, 936 explosions or other forms of remote violence, and 771 incidents of violence against civilians. In addition to the 771 incidents coded as violence against civilians, civilians were impacted by another 70 incidents that involved explosions or other remote violence.¹⁶⁸

¹⁵⁸ Hiraal Institute, Somalia Security Situation: Comprehensive Assessment, February 2026, [url](#), pp. 2, 6-7

¹⁵⁹ International Crisis Group, Helping Somalia Move Beyond a Shaky Status Quo, 16 October 2025, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁶⁰ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 30

¹⁶¹ AP, Somalia renews its US-backed fight against al-Shabab militant group. Here is why it matters, 18 February 2026, [url](#)

¹⁶² Hiraal Institute, Somalia Security Situation: Comprehensive Assessment, February 2026, [url](#), p. 2

¹⁶³ UN Security Council, Thirty-seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, S/2026/44, 4 February 2026, [url](#), para. 35-37

¹⁶⁴ Hiraal Institute, Somalia Security Situation: Comprehensive Assessment, February 2026, [url](#), pp. 25, 27

¹⁶⁵ Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁶ RDI, Final Report to Conduct: Conflict Protection Sensitive Analysis in Somalia, NRC, 29 January 2026, [url](#), p. 28; Abdullahi, S. and Takaindisa, J., Understanding conflicts between nomadic clans in Somalia's Mudug region, CGIAR, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 8

¹⁶⁷ BBC, Actor in film warning of revenge killings shot dead in family feud, 19 April 2025, [url](#)

¹⁶⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

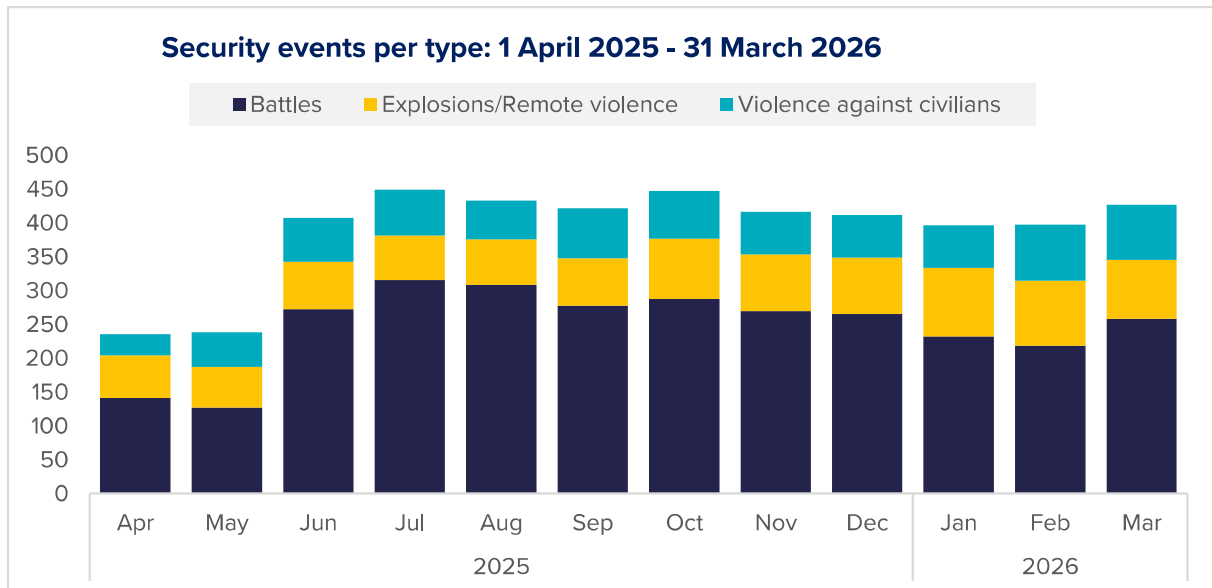


Figure 2: Evolution of security events per type, based on ACLED data.¹⁶⁹

The 4 676 security incidents recorded by ACLED during the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 resulted in overall 8 753 **fatalities**.¹⁷⁰

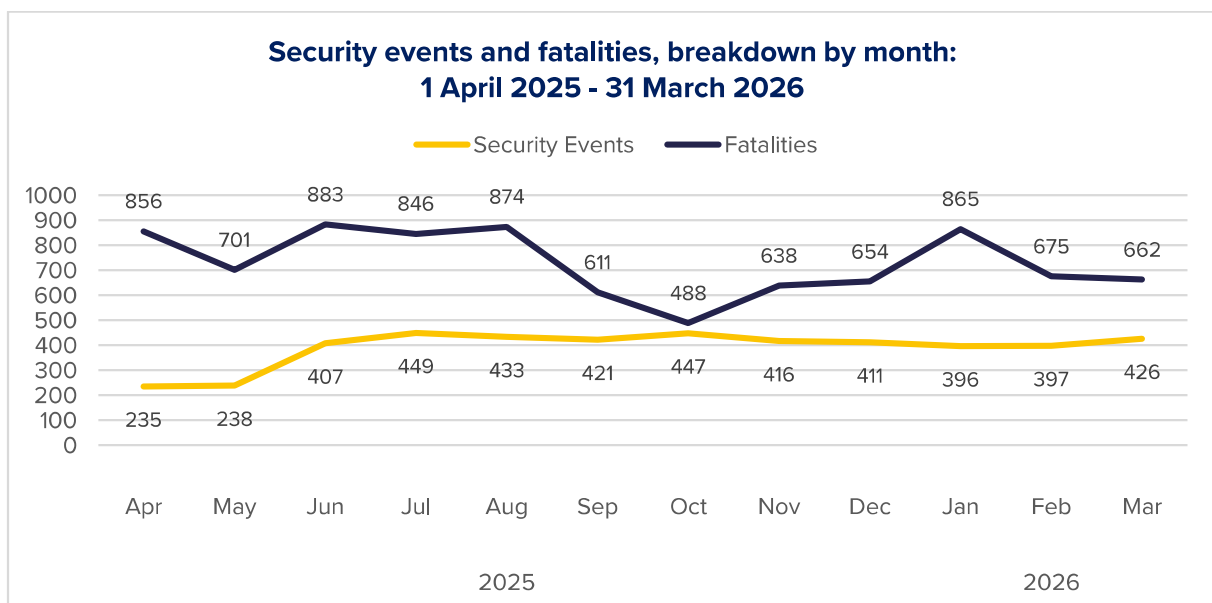


Figure 3: Evolution of security events and fatalities per month, based on ACLED data.¹⁷¹

During the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded the highest numbers of security incidents in Lower Shabelle (976), Bari (719) and Lower Juba (500), while the

¹⁶⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹⁷⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹⁷¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

highest fatality figures were likewise documented in Lower Shabelle (1 905) and Lower Juba (1 334), followed by Middle Shabelle (1 149).¹⁷²

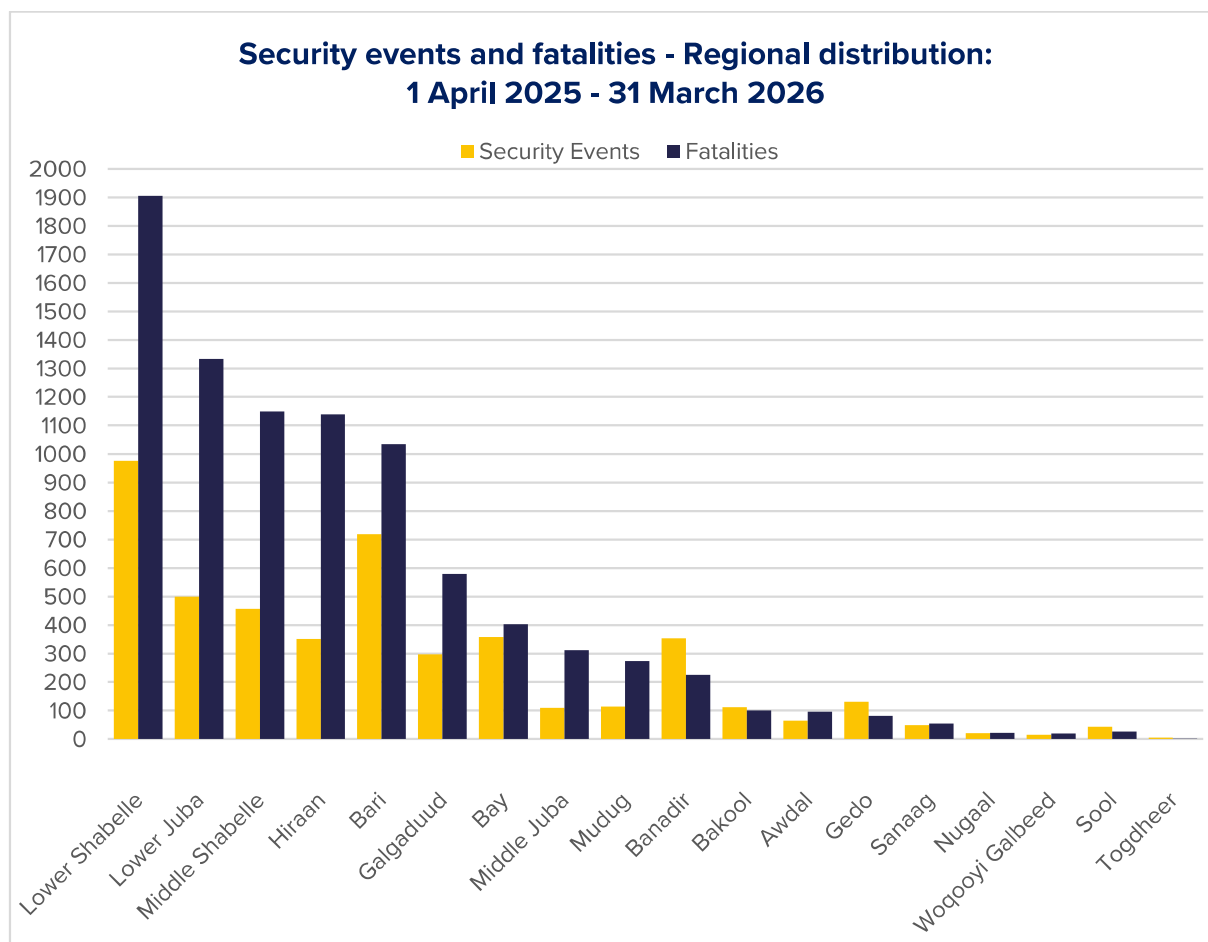


Figure 4: Evolution of security events and fatalities per region, based on ACLED data. Data for Buhodle district is included in columns for Sool region.¹⁷³

During the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED data shows that the following **actors** (coded as 'Actor 1' or 'Actor 2') were, among others, involved in security incidents. Al-Shabaab was implicated in 2 944 incidents resulting in 6 652 fatalities, while military and police forces of Somalia (including FMS forces) were involved in 2 901 incidents that resulted in 5 733 fatalities. Unidentified military forces were involved in 229 incidents that resulted in 1 227 fatalities while clan and subclan militia (excluding Macawiisley militia) were involved in 805 incidents causing 1 038 fatalities, and ISS was involved in 685 incidents that caused 1 018 fatalities.¹⁷⁴

¹⁷² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹⁷³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹⁷⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

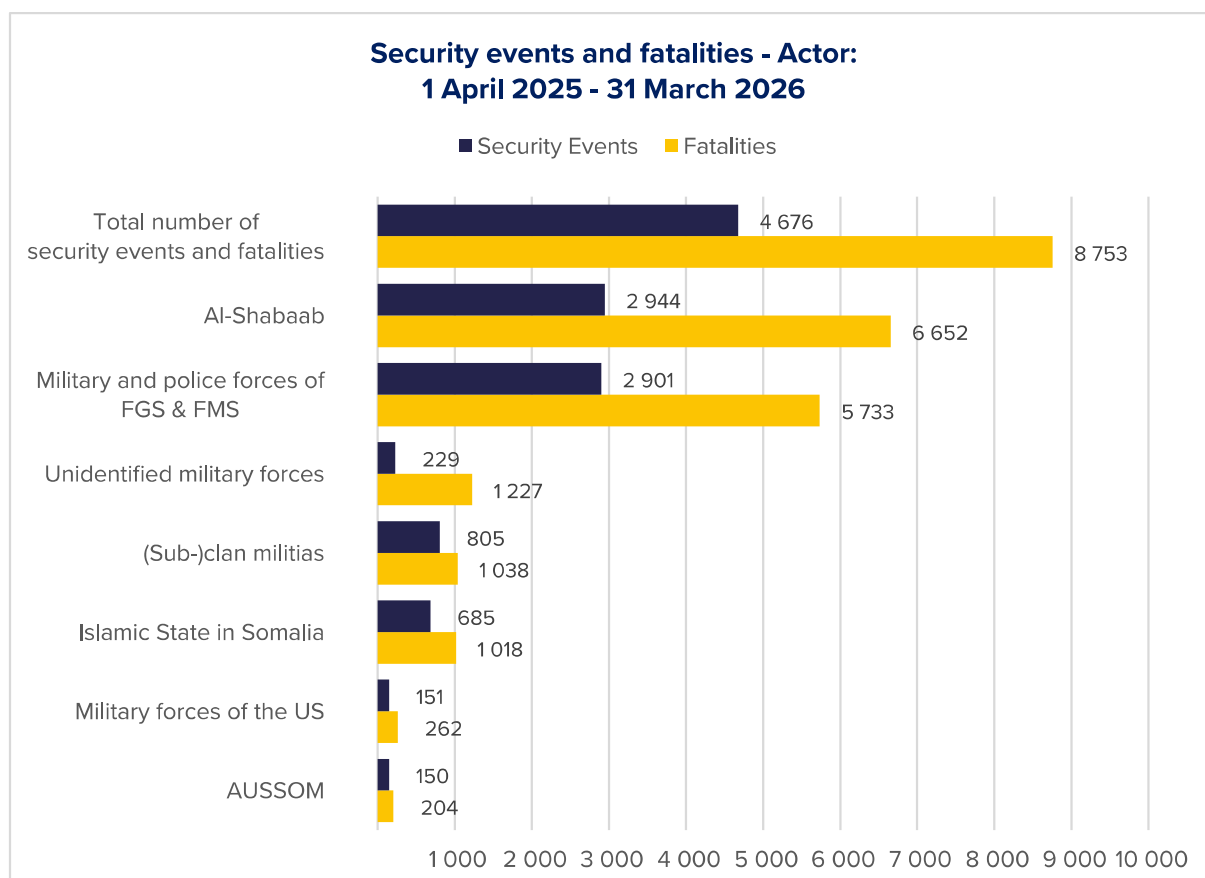


Figure 5: Security events and fatalities per actor, based on ACLED data.¹⁷⁵

AFRICOM declared at least 117 aerial strikes (or series of such strikes) by US forces between April 2025 and March 2026 that targeted Al-Shabaab and ISS. The source did not list any figures on civilian casualties during the reference period.¹⁷⁶ Meanwhile, the US think tank New America reported that US forces had carried out 166 aerial strikes (air or drone strikes) in Somalia from March 2025 to March 2026 which resulted in an estimated 12 additional civilian deaths, apart from targeted militants.¹⁷⁷ By comparison, Airwars recorded that aerial strikes conducted between April and November 2025 had left between 22 and 28 civilians dead and nine others injured.¹⁷⁸ During the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 433 air/drone strikes causing 1 694 fatalities overall, including civilians.¹⁷⁹

¹⁷⁵ Data includes Actor 1 and Actor 2. EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹⁷⁶ US, AFRICOM, U.S. Forces Conduct Strike Targeting al-Shabaab, 30 March 2026, [url](#); US, AFRICOM, U.S. Forces Conduct Strike Targeting al-Shabaab, 21 March 2026, [url](#); US, AFRICOM, U.S. Forces Conduct Strikes Targeting ISIS-Somalia, 18 March 2026, [url](#); US, AFRICOM, U.S. Forces Conduct Strike Targeting al-Shabaab, 16 March 2026, [url](#); US, AFRICOM, U.S. Forces Conduct Strike Targeting al-Shabaab, 12 March 2026, [url](#); US, AFRICOM, U.S. Forces Conduct Strike Targeting ISIS-Somalia, 9 March 2026, [url](#); US, AFRICOM, U.S. Forces Conduct Strikes Targeting ISIS-Somalia, 2 March 2026, [url](#); US, AFRICOM, 2026 Strikes, n.d., [url](#); US, AFRICOM, 2025 Strikes, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁷⁷ New America, The War in Somalia, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁷⁸ Airwars, Civilian Casualty Archive, n.d., [url](#)

¹⁷⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

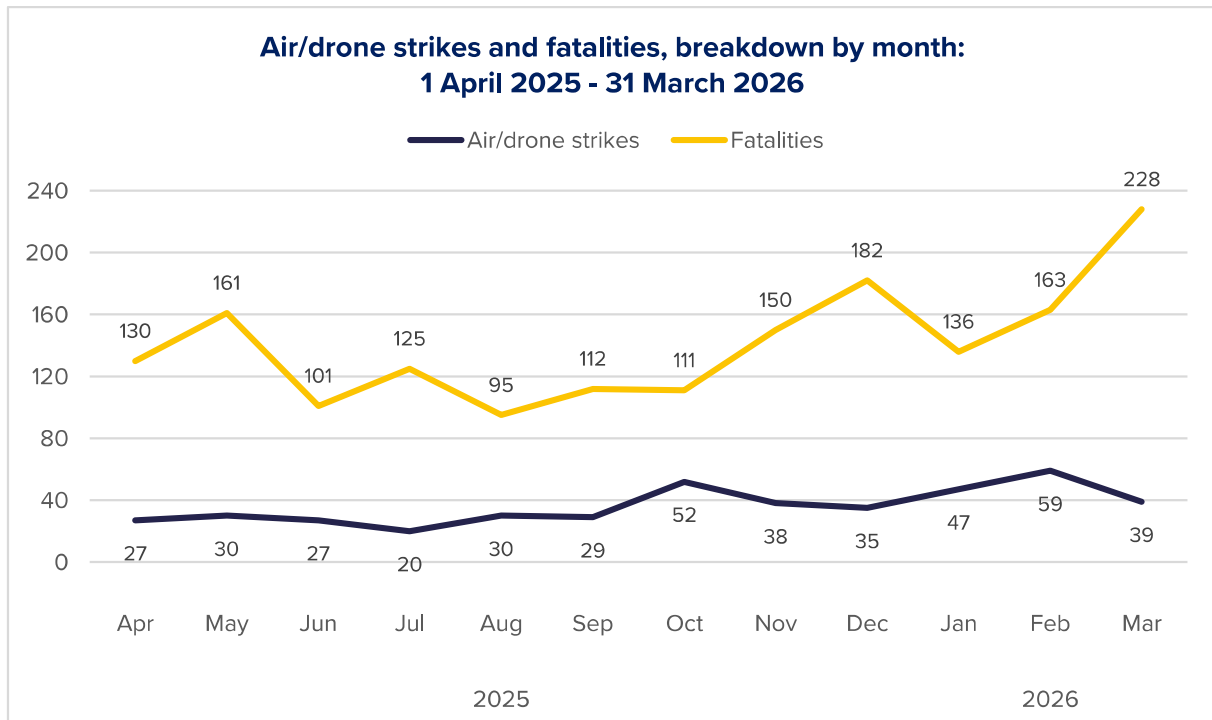


Figure 6: Evolution of air/drone strikes and fatalities per month, based on ACLED data.¹⁸⁰

1.4.2. Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR Protection & Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), 161 630 individuals were newly displaced in Somalia due to conflict or insecurity during the period from April 2025 to February 2026, while another 554 897 were displaced by drought and flooding. The highest numbers of conflict-related displacements occurred in Lower Juba (34 081 individuals), Hiraan (33 146) and Gedo (29 107) regions.¹⁸¹ The conflict linked to Al-Shabaab¹⁸² and military offensives remained key drivers of displacement across multiple regions,¹⁸³ alongside clan violence¹⁸⁴ and reprisal attacks.¹⁸⁵

¹⁸⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹⁸¹ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

¹⁸² UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 95

¹⁸³ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 8-9

¹⁸⁴ RDI, Final Report to Conduct: Conflict Protection Sensitive Analysis in Somalia, NRC, 29 January 2026, [url](#), p. 30; UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 8-9; Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 8-9

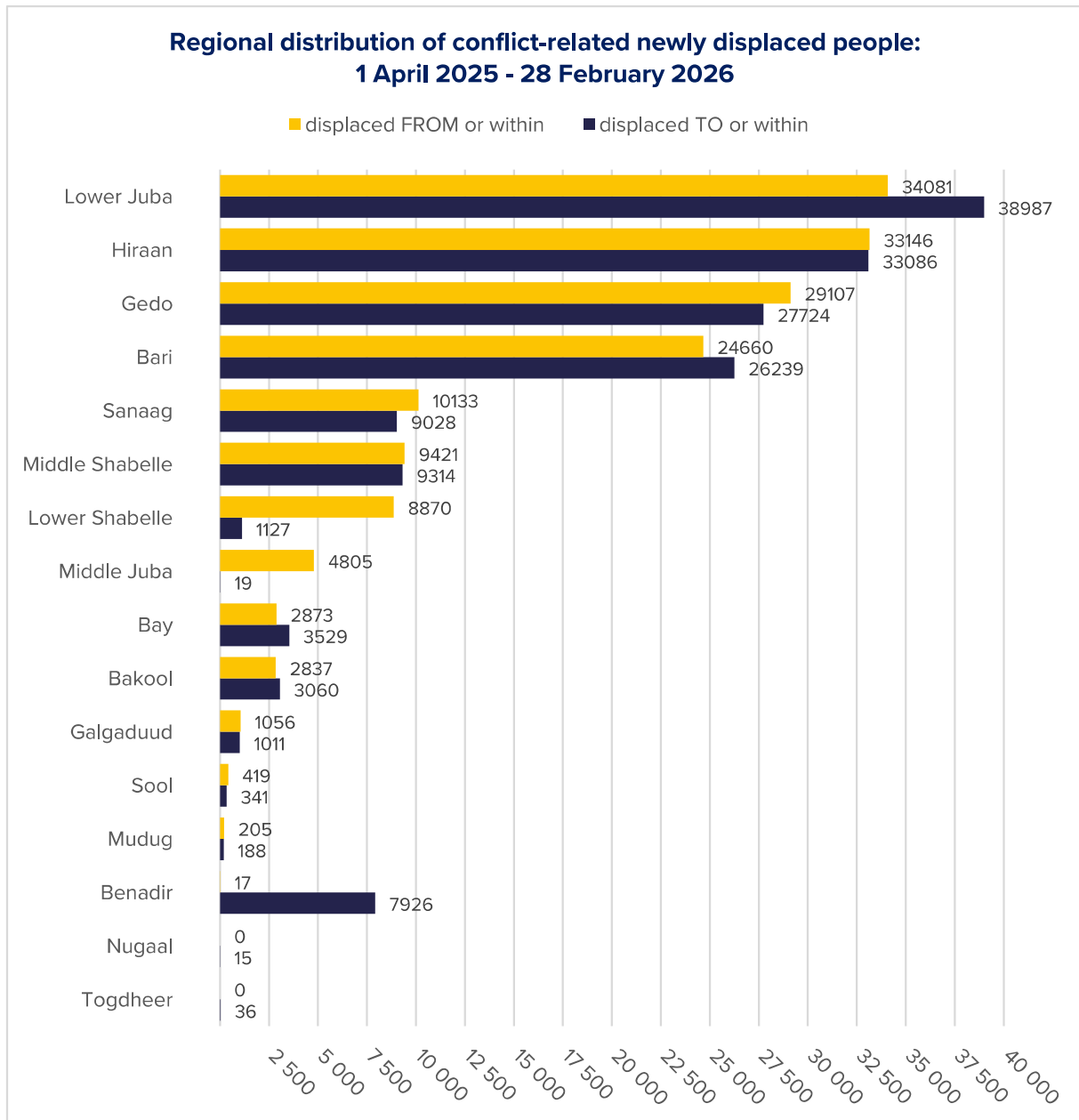


Figure 7: Distribution of conflict-related newly displaced people, based on PRMN data.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁶ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

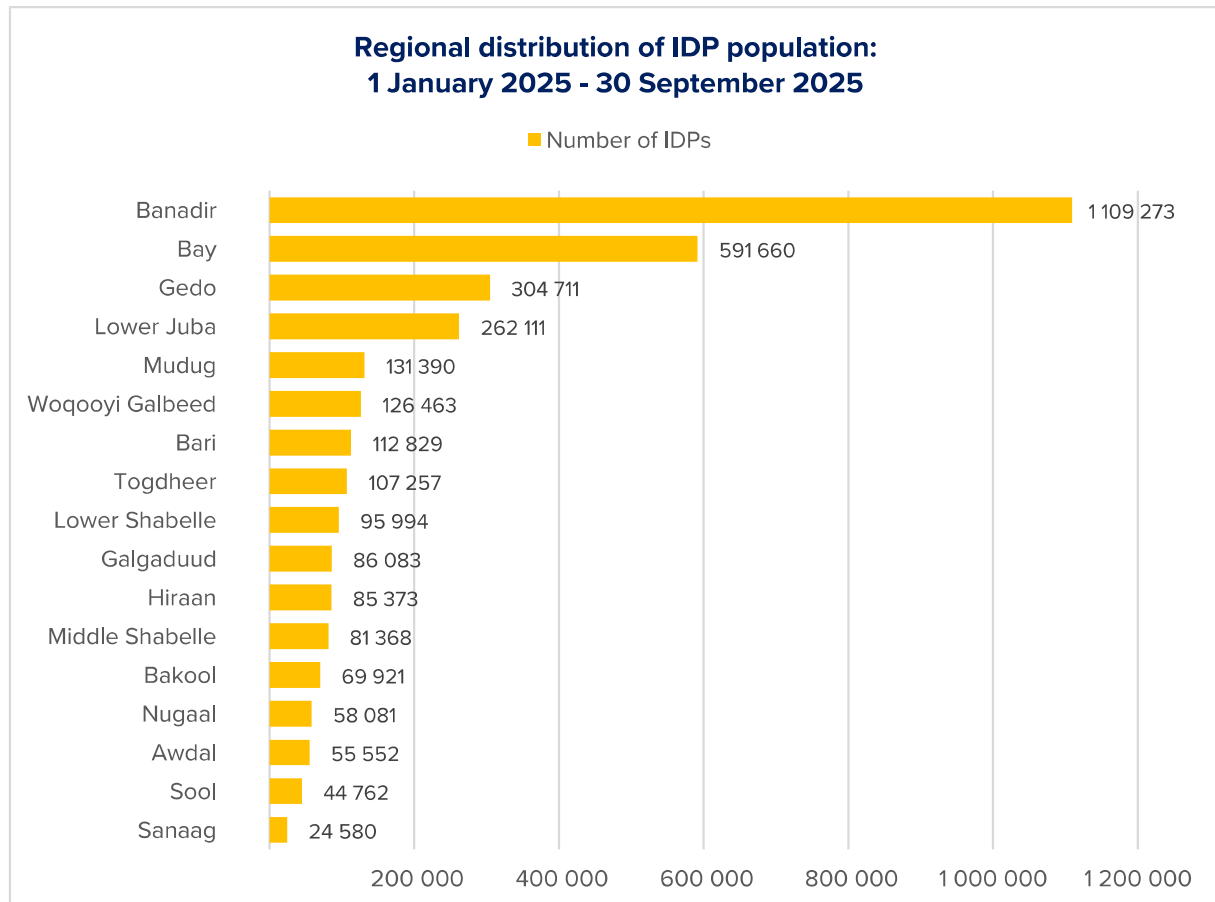


Figure 8: Regional distribution of IDP population, based on UNOCHA data.¹⁸⁷

1.4.3. Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

Somalia remains affected by one of the world's most complex and persistent humanitarian crises,¹⁸⁸ marked by lengthy droughts, conflict and recurrent outbreaks of diseases. According to analysis conducted by the UN in 2025, an estimated 7.5 million people (39 % of the country's population) were affected by humanitarian crisis across 64 out of 90 districts. The situation was aggravated by severe cuts in humanitarian funding that resulted in a sharp decline in the provision of essential services, particularly in the areas of food security healthcare, and nutrition. More than 200 health and 300 nutrition facilities were forced to close down in 2025.¹⁸⁹

In 2025, climate-induced shocks, particularly drought and flooding, were assessed to be the most important drivers of needs for humanitarian assistance. The Gu rainy season (April to June 2025) caused severe flooding that mainly affected low-lying and riverine areas and urban centres like Mogadishu.¹⁹⁰ Then, failing Karan rains in northern Somalia (July to September) and Deyr rains countrywide (October to December)¹⁹¹ resulted in one of the driest

¹⁸⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia: Harmonised IDP figures, 30 October 2025, [url](#)

¹⁸⁸ UNHCR, Strategy for Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion: Somalia, 31 October 2025, [url](#), p. 3

¹⁸⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 8-9

¹⁹⁰ WHO/Health Cluster, Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) – Somalia, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁹¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 8



fourth quarters on record.¹⁹² Water prices rose by up to 35 % in regions like Bay and Gedo.¹⁹³ These droughts led to failed harvests and depletion of pastures. During the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reporting period from August 2025 to January 2026, a combination of drought, conflict and insecurity resulted in a significant worsening of acute food insecurity (AFI) as they disrupted livelihoods and impeded access to markets in southern, central, and some parts of northern Somalia. Analysis by the IPC showed that as of January 2026, 4 796 860 individuals (25 % of the country's population) were either in AFI IPC Phase 3 (crisis) or 4 (emergency). The highest numbers of individuals affected by IPC Phases 3 or 4 were recorded in Mudug (660 710), Bay (516 880), Lower Shabelle (448 800), Bari (430 750) and Benadir (355 070). Meanwhile, the share of individuals in IPC Phases 3 or 4 out of the overall population of their respective regions was highest in Mudug (43 %), Bay (40 %), Galgaduud (40 %), Nugal (39 %), and Sanaag (35 %). Food insecurity most heavily affected poor farmers, herders with small numbers of vendible animals, and recently displaced IDPs. In January 2026, food security assistance reached only 17 % of the 4.8 million people assessed to be affected by high levels of acute food insecurity (AFI).¹⁹⁴

The FGS formally declared a drought emergency in November 2025 and appealed to the international community for urgent humanitarian assistance.¹⁹⁵ The FGS further established a technical committee to address the growing drought-related problems nationwide and instructed all relevant public bodies to intensify relief efforts. Somaliland and Puntland authorities similarly appealed to humanitarian donors. Puntland also formed an inter-ministerial committee on drought response. The Jubbland administration, in cooperation with Saudi and Somali organisations, distributed food aid to displaced families in Gedo.¹⁹⁶

Humanitarian access, including to Al-Shabaab-controlled areas,¹⁹⁷ faced major challenges linked to ongoing conflict, insecurity, bureaucratic obstacles, and counter-terrorism legislation.¹⁹⁸ There were also ongoing concerns of aid intended for the vulnerable being channelled off by militant groups and local power brokers.¹⁹⁹ According to a December 2025 map by the same source, humanitarian access faced 'heavy' and 'very heavy restrictions' across most of South-Central Somalia.²⁰⁰ In 2025, UNOCHA recorded 179 humanitarian access incidents in Somalia, a 26 % overall decrease compared the previous year,²⁰¹ although access deteriorated in several regions.²⁰²

Civilians were frequently killed or injured by IEDs planted in the vicinity of security convoys, clan militias or patrolling AUSSOM units, or in areas with high population density where Al-

¹⁹² WHO/Health Cluster, Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) – Somalia, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 4; UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 8

¹⁹³ WHO/Health Cluster, Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) – Somalia, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 4

¹⁹⁴ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), pp. 1-2, 4

¹⁹⁵ UN News, Somalia declares drought emergency as millions face hunger after failed rains, 26 November 2025, [url](#)

¹⁹⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency Situation Report No. 1, 29 November 2025, [url](#), pp. 4

¹⁹⁷ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Somalia: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Isha Dyfan*, A/HRC/60/88, 12 September 2025, [url](#), para. 55

¹⁹⁸ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 49

¹⁹⁹ Streamline, UN Humanitarian Chief Tom Fletcher Arrives in Somalia Amid Funding Crisis, 27 April 2026, [url](#)

²⁰⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

²⁰¹ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 1

²⁰² WHO/Health Cluster, Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) – Somalia, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 17





Shabaab seeks to disrupt government institutions.²⁰³ Clan-related conflicts led to the destruction of property and disruption of livelihoods and community support mechanisms.²⁰⁴

According to the UN, numerous IDPs were at risk of forced eviction.²⁰⁵ Most IDPs settled in urban zones of Benadir region, mainly on private ground with no security of tenure.²⁰⁶ NRC data showed that 164 768 individuals had been evicted between April 2025 and March 2026.²⁰⁷

1.5. Checkpoints and road security in Somalia

Al-Shabaab continues to occupy major supply routes across South-Central Somalia.²⁰⁸ During its advances in 2025, the group set up new checkpoints in the outskirts of Mogadishu,²⁰⁹ notably along the Balcad–Mogadishu (north of the capital) and the Afgooye–Mogadishu road (north-west of the capital).²¹⁰ As Al-Shabaab advanced to coastal areas northeast of Mogadishu in December 2025/January 2026, it allegedly restricted transit on a stretch of the coastal road running from the Mogadishu to Warsheikh and severed lines of communication between two district centres. By recapturing Nuur Dugle town, it further cut the main road linking Mogadishu with coastal areas of Middle Shabelle and Galgaduud.²¹¹ Meanwhile, a number of government security checkpoints were removed inside Mogadishu.²¹² Al-Shabaab was reported to levy fixed amounts of taxes at its roadblocks in the countryside, while travelers regularly had to pay variable bribes while passing through FGS checkpoints.²¹³

²⁰³ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 63

²⁰⁴ RDI, Final Report to Conduct: Conflict Protection Sensitive Analysis in Somalia, NRC, 29 January 2026, [url](#), p. 30

²⁰⁵ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 50

²⁰⁶ UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Somalia: Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Isha Dyfan*, A/HRC/60/88, 12 September 2025, [url](#), para. 49

²⁰⁷ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter '2025' and '2026' as year respectively, 'All Regions' as region.

²⁰⁸ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 7

²⁰⁹ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State [Map], Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 1

²¹⁰ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 30

²¹¹ CTP, Chad Tensions Strain RSF Supply Lines; African DRC Peace Efforts; Fano Merger: Africa File, January 22, 2026, 22 January 2026, [url](#)

²¹² UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 16

²¹³ Kluijver, R., Al-Shabab's shadow state: Why Somalia's militants are winning legitimacy, TNH, 25 September 2025, [url](#)





2. Regional security situation and trends

2.1. Jubbaland

2.1.1. Gedo

Gedo region is divided into six districts: Garbahaarey (or Garbaharey), Luuq, Doolow, Belet Xaawo (or Bulo Hawa), Ceel Waaq (or El Waq/El Wak) and Bardhere (Baardheere). The region's capital is the city of Garbahaarey.²¹⁴ As of January 2026, Gedo's population was estimated at 1 014 335.²¹⁵ For more detailed background information on Gedo, see section 2.1.1. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Al-Shabaab controlled a significant portion of Gedo's territory, including the towns and surroundings of El Adde and Cows Qurun, as well as large rural territories encompassing parts of Garbahaarey and Ceel Waaq districts and most of Bardhere district. Meanwhile, the towns of Garbahaarey, Belet Xaawo, and Burdhubo remained under 'federal-aligned coalition' control, while 'autonomous armed forces' (Jubbaland forces, Jubbaland-aligned FGS units and Kenyan/Ethiopian forces) continued to hold Doolow town. Control of Bardhere town continued to be mixed between federal and Jubbaland forces, while control over the towns of Luuq and Ceel Waaq shifted from full Jubbaland control to mixed Jubbaland/federal control. The rural surroundings of all above-mentioned towns except El Adde and Cows Qurun remained under mixed dominance between Al-Shabaab and either the FGS-aligned coalition or Jubbaland forces.²¹⁶

The northern parts of Gedo have seen significant insecurity since 2024.²¹⁷ The region has been marked by years of tension between the FGS and the Jubbaland state administration²¹⁸ as well as related rifts between the Gedo regional authorities and the Jubbaland administration. The situation re-escalated²¹⁹ as the FGS renewed efforts to wrest control of Gedo.²²⁰ In late July 2025, deadly²²¹ clashes erupted in Belet Xaawo²²² between FGS-aligned

²¹⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

²¹⁵ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

²¹⁶ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

²¹⁷ Majid, N. et al., Conflict and Election Politics in Northern Gedo, Somalia, PeaceRep [Blog], 5 August 2025, [url](#)

²¹⁸ CTP, Africa File: Mali Negotiates Amid JNIM Blockade; M23 Numbers Swell: Africa File, October 9, 2025, 9 October 2025, [url](#); FTL Somalia, Tensions Escalate in Gedo as Beled-Hawo Clashes Leave Four Dead, 22 July 2025, [url](#); Majid, N. et al., Conflict and Election Politics in Northern Gedo, Somalia, PeaceRep [Blog], 5 August 2025, [url](#)

²¹⁹ CTP, Africa File: Mali Negotiates Amid JNIM Blockade; M23 Numbers Swell: Africa File, October 9, 2025, 9 October 2025, [url](#)

²²⁰ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State [Map], Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 12

²²¹ FTL Somalia, Tensions Escalate in Gedo as Beled-Hawo Clashes Leave Four Dead, 22 July 2025, [url](#)

²²² Defense Post (The), Clashes Between Somali Army and Regional Forces Kill Five, 23 July 2025, [url](#)



forces and Jubbaland troops²²³ and further spread to Doolow,²²⁴ where Ethiopian troops supporting the Jubbaland forces captured a NISA camp.²²⁵ The fighting continued intermittently until 11 August 2025,²²⁶ seeing three waves of violence.²²⁷ By mid-August 2025, however, it was reported that FGS forces had gained the upper hand.²²⁸

Against the backdrop of recurring cycles of clan-related violence,²²⁹ heavy clashes were reported between rivaling clan militias in rural areas around Luuq town.²³⁰ Meanwhile, counter-insurgency operations were conducted by Jubbaland/Ethiopian forces in Doolow²³¹ and FGS forces in Bardhere, resulting in the killing of several Al-Shabaab fighters and the destruction of their positions.²³²

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 130 security incidents in Gedo region, including battles, explosions/other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 81 fatalities.²³³

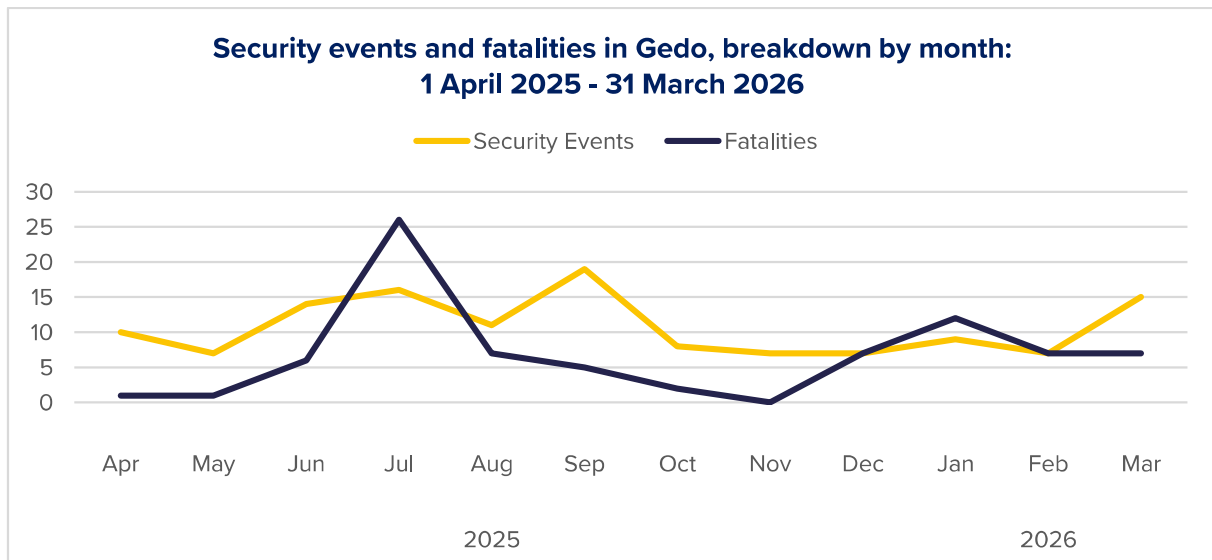


Figure 9: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Gedo per month, based on ACLED data.²³⁴

²²³ Hiiraan Online, Clashes erupt in Somalia's Gedo region amid federal-Jubbaland power struggle, 28 July 2025, [url](#)

²²⁴ Majid, N. et al., Conflict and Election Politics in Northern Gedo, Somalia, PeaceRep [Blog], 5 August 2025, [url](#)

²²⁵ Hiiraan Online, Clashes erupt in Somalia's Gedo region amid federal-Jubbaland power struggle, 28 July 2025, [url](#)

²²⁶ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 16

²²⁷ UNHCR Somalia, PSMN Flash Alert 15 – August 2025, 13 August 2025, [url](#), p. 2

²²⁸ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 16

²²⁹ HRW, World Report 2026 – Somalia, 4 February 2026, [url](#), p. 399

²³⁰ SMN, Clashes Between Rival Clans Leave Several Dead in Somalia's Gedo Region, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

²³¹ SMN, Jubaland forces launch joint security operation with Ethiopian troops in southern Somalia, 8 September 2025, [url](#)

²³² Somalia, MoD, [X], posted on: 6 January 2026, [url](#)

²³³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²³⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

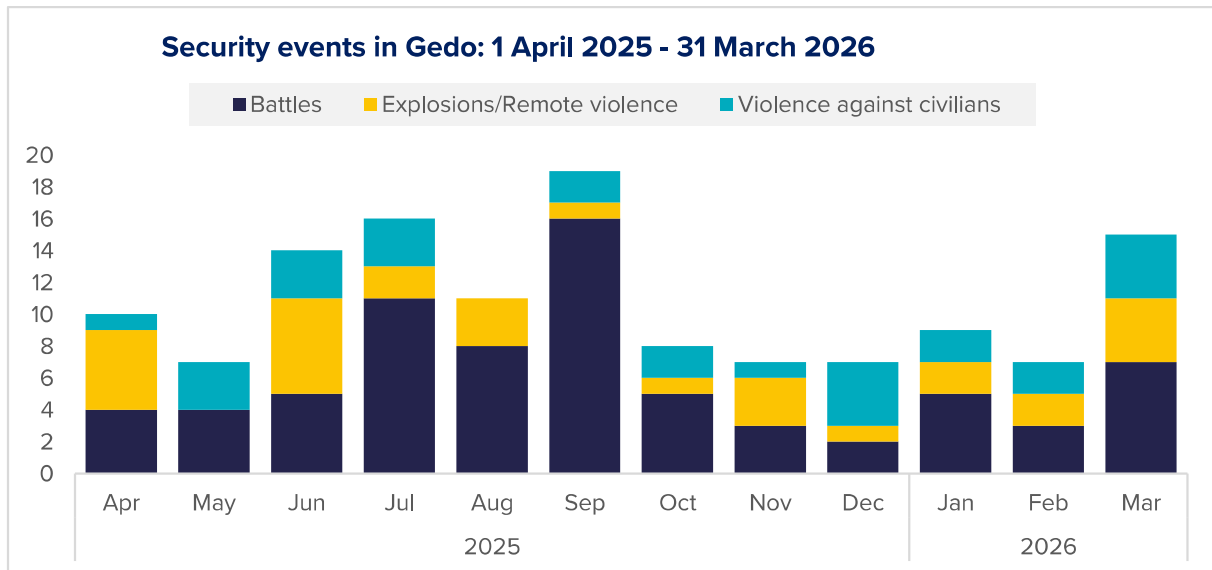


Figure 10: Evolution of security events in Gedo per type, based on ACLED data.²³⁵

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’ or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 46 security incidents against Military or Police Forces of Somalia and 12 incidents of violence against civilians. Jubbaland Security Forces were involved in 19 security incidents against Military or Police Forces of Somalia. 16 security incidents involved clashes between (sub-)clan militias, and 12 incidents involved violence against civilians by (sub-)clan militias.²³⁶

Illustrative security incidents

- On 22 July 2025, clashes erupted as Jubbaland forces responded fiercely to the arrival of Abdirashid Janan, a controversial former Jubbaland minister whom the FGS had appointed as its intelligence chief for the region. At least five soldiers were reported to have been killed and over a dozen people wounded, including civilians caught in the crossfire.²³⁷
- On 21 September 2025, clashes between two clan militias that had erupted in an area located between Luuq town and Yurkud village left at least four people dead and several others injured.²³⁸

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 29 107 individuals were newly displaced in Gedo region due to conflict or insecurity during the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of them were displaced from areas located in Belet Xaawo district (25 163) and Luuq (2 226) districts. Most displacements in Gedo occurred within the same region (27 277). During the

²³⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²³⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²³⁷ Hiiraan Online, Jubbaland says it retakes Beled Hawo after federal troop deployment reignites Gedo clashes, 22 July 2025, [url](#)

²³⁸ SMN, Clashes Between Rival Clans Leave Several Dead in Somalia's Gedo Region, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

same period, IDPs (447) arrived in Gedo from other regions.²³⁹ Significant numbers of individuals were displaced due to armed clashes between the FGS and Jubbaland forces in Belet Xaawo town in late July 2025²⁴⁰ and 11 August 2025.²⁴¹

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘heavy’ and ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in most of Gedo region, including across most of Garbahaarey, Ceel Waaq and Bardhere districts.²⁴² The year 2025 saw a deterioration in humanitarian access.²⁴³ UNOCHA recorded 31 humanitarian access incidents in Gedo during 2025, more than in any other region. Clan violence and other security incidents disrupted aid operations in parts of the region.²⁴⁴ As of January 2026, the IPC reported that about 54 % of the total analysed population of 1 014 335 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 37 %), 3 (crisis, 13 %) or 4 (emergency, 4 %).²⁴⁵ Water prices rose significantly due to severe droughts during the last quarter of 2025.²⁴⁶ NRC data for 2025 and early 2026 showed the eviction of 915 individuals (all of them recorded in 2025).²⁴⁷ Many of those affected by the conflict in Belet Xaawo in July 2025 were in need of clean water, food, health services, and shelter.²⁴⁸

2.1.2. Middle Juba

Middle Juba region is divided into three districts: Bu’aale, Jilib and Saakow. The region’s capital is Bu’aale.²⁴⁹ As of January 2026, Middle Juba’s population was estimated at 447 217.²⁵⁰ For more detailed background information on Middle Juba, see section 2.1.2. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

Middle Juba region remained an Al-Shabaab stronghold,²⁵¹ with the town of Jilib serving as the group’s de facto capital²⁵² and command centre.²⁵³ According to [Map 3 Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026](#) and [Map 2 Somalia – Approximate](#)

²³⁹ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²⁴⁰ UNHCR Somalia, PSMN Flash Alert 13 – July 2025, 28 July 2025, [url](#), p. 1

²⁴¹ UNHCR Somalia, PSMN Flash Alert 15 – August 2025, 13 August 2025, [url](#), p. 1

²⁴² UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

²⁴³ WHO/Health Cluster, Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) – Somalia, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 17

²⁴⁴ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

²⁴⁵ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

²⁴⁶ WHO/Health Cluster, Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) – Somalia, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 4

²⁴⁷ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’ as year respectively, ‘Gedo’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

²⁴⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia: Conflict displacement in Hiraaan and Gedo Regions – Flash Update No.2, 4 August 2025, [url](#)

²⁴⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁵⁰ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

²⁵¹ Hiiraan Online, Somali, U.S. forces destroy al-Shabab explosives factory in Middle Juba region, 10 January 2026, [url](#); Somalia Today, Somali forces, US allies destroy Al-Shabaab bomb factory, 9 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁵² UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 7; Washington Post (The), How U.S. cuts in Somalia could imperil the fight against al-Shabab, 27 May 2025, [url](#)

²⁵³ AUSSOM, Joint AUSSOM–SNAF operation captures senior Al-Shabaab commander, 2 April 2026, [url](#)

Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Al-Shabaab has been in control of the entire region, including the towns of Bu'aale, Jilib, Saakow, and Salagle.²⁵⁴

Somali forces, including NISA, and supporting international forces carried out a number of targeted military operations against Al-Shabaab in Bu'aale,²⁵⁵ Jilib,²⁵⁶ and Saakow districts.²⁵⁷ These resulted in the deaths of several senior Al-Shabaab commanders²⁵⁸ and dozens of fighters,²⁵⁹ as well as the destruction of an explosives production facility used by the group.²⁶⁰ Meanwhile, the group continued to execute individuals it accused of 'spying'.²⁶¹

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 109 security incidents in Middle Juba region, including battles, explosions/other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 312 fatalities.²⁶²

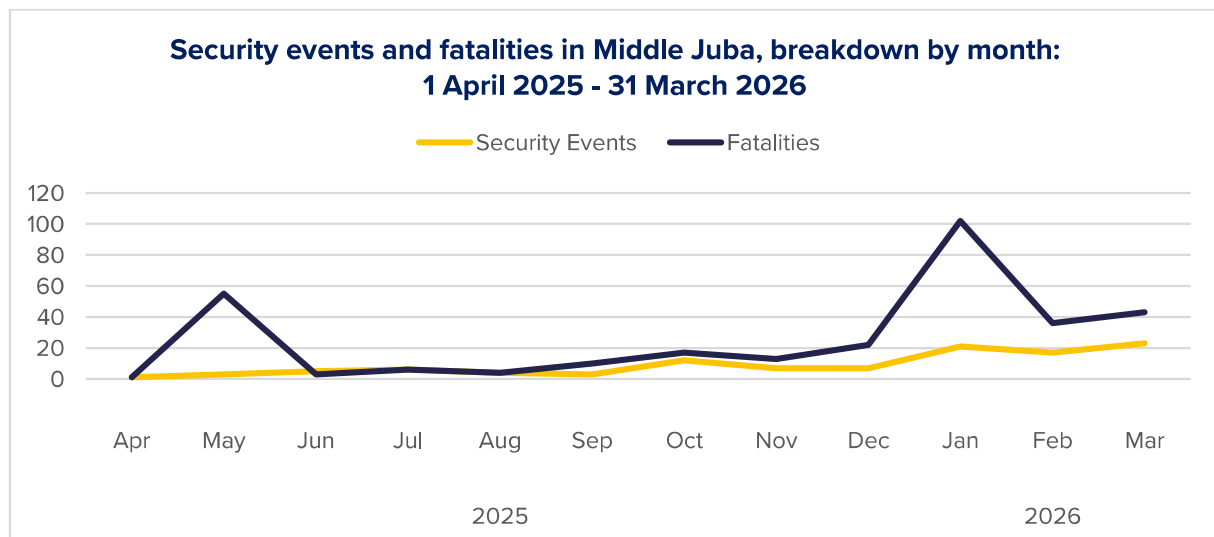


Figure 11: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Middle Juba per month, based on ACLED data.²⁶³

²⁵⁴ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

²⁵⁵ Hiiraan Online, Somalia Intelligence, partners kill eight al-Shabab fighters in Middle Juba region, 7 February 2026, [url](#)

²⁵⁶ AA, Somali forces kill over 42 al-Shabaab terrorists, including 2 ringleaders, in military operations, 26 March 2026, [url](#)

²⁵⁷ SONNA, Somali National Army eliminates 18 Al-Shabaab militants in the Middle Juba region, 9 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁵⁸ AA, Somali forces kill over 42 al-Shabaab terrorists, including 2 ringleaders, in military operations, 26 March 2026, [url](#); LWJ, Somali intelligence claims death of senior Shabaab leader, 3 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁵⁹ Hiiraan Online, Somalia Intelligence, partners kill eight al-Shabab fighters in Middle Juba region, 7 February 2026, [url](#); SONNA, Somali National Army eliminates 18 Al-Shabaab militants in the Middle Juba region, 9 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁶⁰ Hiiraan Online, Somali, U.S. forces destroy al-Shabab explosives factory in Middle Juba region, 10 January 2026, [url](#); SONNA, Somali National Army eliminates 18 Al-Shabaab militants in the Middle Juba region, 9 January 2026, [url](#); Goobjoog, Somali Forces, With U.S. Support, Carry Out Air Operation Against Al-Shabaab in Middle Juba, 9 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁶¹ Somalia Today, Al-Shabaab executes five men accused of 'spying' for US, 26 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁶² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²⁶³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

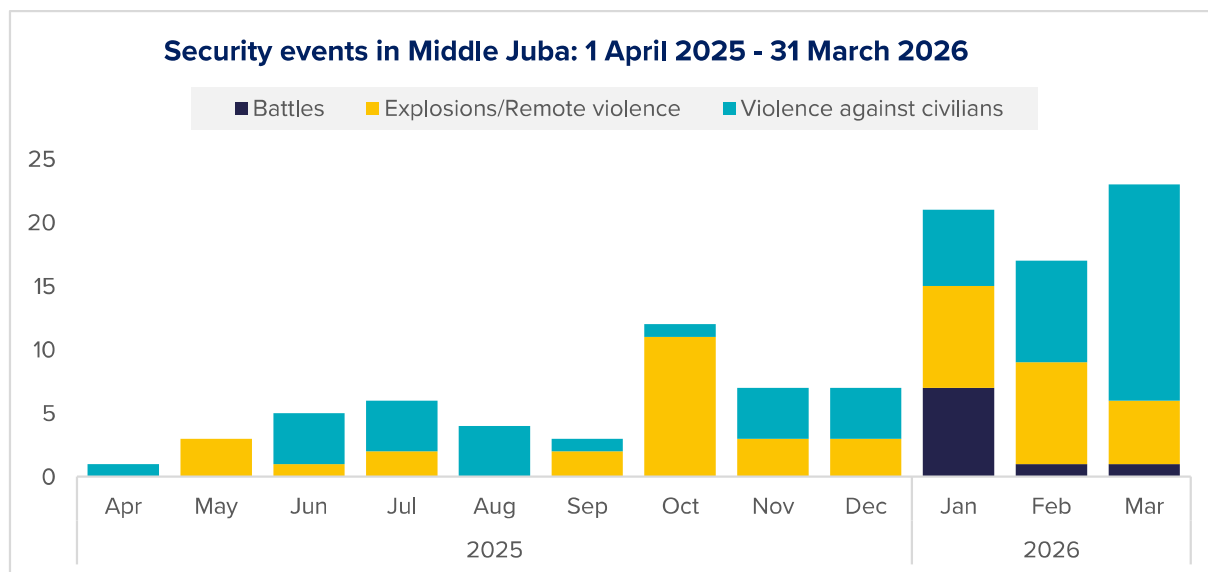


Figure 12: Evolution of security events in Middle Juba per type, based on ACLED data.²⁶⁴

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’ or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in nine incidents against Military or Police Forces of Somalia and 54 incidents of violence against civilians.²⁶⁵

Illustrative security incidents

- In January 2026, Al-Shabaab carried out public executions of five men in Jilib town after accusing them of having provided intelligence to Somali and US security agencies that had allegedly facilitated targeted operations and airstrikes against the group’s positions.²⁶⁶
- On 6 February 2026, a joint military operation by NISA and international forces led to the killing of eight Al-Shabaab fighters in the Arabow area of Bu’aale district.²⁶⁷

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 4 805 individuals were newly displaced in Middle Juba region due to conflict or insecurity during the period from April 2025 to February 2026. Most of them were displaced from areas located in Bu’aale (2 424) and Jilib (1 497) districts. Nearly all of those displaced in Middle Juba fled to other regions (4 798), predominantly Lower Juba (4 704). During the same period, only a very small number of displaced individuals (12) arrived in Middle Juba from another region.²⁶⁸

²⁶⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²⁶⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

²⁶⁶ Somalia Today, Al-Shabaab executes five men accused of ‘spying’ for US, 26 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁶⁷ Hiiraan Online, Somalia Intelligence, partners kill eight al-Shabab fighters in Middle Juba region, 7 February 2026, [url](#)

²⁶⁸ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in all parts of Middle Juba region.²⁶⁹ As of January 2026, the IPC reported that about 59 % of the total analysed population of 447 217 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 41 %), 3 (crisis, 14 %) or 4 (emergency, 4 %).²⁷⁰ NRC’s records on evictions in 2025 and 2026 did not include data on Middle Juba.²⁷¹

2.1.3. Lower Juba

Lower Juba region is divided into four districts: Afmadow, Jamaame, Badhaadhe, and Kismayo, the latter three districts all located along the Indian Ocean coast.²⁷² The city of Kismayo, home to a major port,²⁷³ is Lower Juba’s regional capital²⁷⁴ and has also been the de facto capital of Jubbaland.²⁷⁵ As of January 2026, Lower Juba’s population was estimated at 1 204 269.²⁷⁶ For more detailed background information on Lower Juba, see section 2.1.3. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Al-Shabaab controlled the towns of Jamaame, Hagar, Mido, Berhani and Badhaadhe as well as swaths of rural territory in the region’s east and north-east encompassing Jamaame and parts of Afmadow district. The group further controlled rural areas stretching northward from the Badhaadhe area into Afmadow. Meanwhile, ‘autonomous armed forces’ (Jubbaland forces, Jubbaland-aligned FGS units and Kenyan/Ethiopian forces) controlled the cities and towns of Kismayo, Bulo Xaji, Koday, Ras Kamboni, Kolbiyow, Jana Abdale, Afmadow, Dhobley, Dif, as well as the town of Bar Sanguni, where control shifted from mixed FGS-Jubbaland control to full Jubbaland control. In the rural areas not fully dominated by Al-Shabaab, control was mixed between the group and Jubbaland forces.²⁷⁷ The security landscape of Kismayo city was dominated by the Jubbaland authorities, who held a monopoly on violence.²⁷⁸ The reference period saw the deployment of additional Jubbaland forces to Lower Juba.²⁷⁹ Federal-aligned forces, while no

²⁶⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

²⁷⁰ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

²⁷¹ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’ as year respectively, ‘Middle Juba’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

²⁷² UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁷³ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State [Map], Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 2

²⁷⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

²⁷⁵ Majid, N. et al., Mapping the Fragments – Justice and Security in Somalia Galkayo and Kismayo, PeaceRep, 2025, [url](#), p. 4; Somali Dialogue Platform, Revitalizing Jubaland’s political settlement, RVI, April 2023, [url](#), p. 2

²⁷⁶ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

²⁷⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

²⁷⁸ Majid, N. et al., Mapping the Fragments – Justice and Security in Somalia Galkayo and Kismayo, PeaceRep, 2025, [url](#), pp. 4, 22

²⁷⁹ Hiiraan Online, Jubbaland deploys more troops to counter Al-Shabaab in Lower Juba region, 4 April 2025, [url](#)

longer in control of any territory in Lower Juba,²⁸⁰ nonetheless remained involved in security operations in the region.²⁸¹

Lower Juba was one of the regions with the highest numbers of reported IED incidents.²⁸² Local authorities noted an increase in roadside bombs planted by Al-Shabaab to hinder movements of civilians and military forces.²⁸³ Civilians were among the casualties of IED explosions.²⁸⁴ In January 2026, amid an escalation of Al-Shabaab attacks on security forces across several regions, the group launched a major complex attack on bases of the Jubbaland regional forces in Koday,²⁸⁵ a strategic island town.²⁸⁶ Heavy fighting lasted between 'more than 24 hours'²⁸⁷ and four days²⁸⁸ before the attackers were repelled by SNA and Jubbaland forces.²⁸⁹

Meanwhile, the reference period saw a continuation of military offensives against Al-Shabaab,²⁹⁰ which made some advances towards the Al-Shabaab stronghold of Jamaame.²⁹¹ Security operations were reported in Afmadow,²⁹² Jamaame²⁹³ and Badhaadhe districts²⁹⁴ and in the Bulo Haji area²⁹⁵ of Kismayo district,²⁹⁶ resulting in the deaths of dozens of Al-Shabaab fighters²⁹⁷ and several senior commanders.²⁹⁸ In a number of instances, Jubbaland and federal forces collaborated in counterinsurgency efforts²⁹⁹ despite existing rifts between the

²⁸⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

²⁸¹ AA, 19 al-Shabaab terrorists killed in military operation in Somalia's Lower Juba province, 30 June 2025, [url](#); SMN, Somalia's Danab Forces Seize Weapons, Kill Over 40 Al-Shabaab Fighters in Lower Juba Operation, 22 May 2025, [url](#)

²⁸² UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 66

²⁸³ SMN, Jubaland Forces Launch Operations in Lower Juba to Counter Al-Shabaab Land Mines, 18 July 2025, [url](#)

²⁸⁴ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 66; SMN, Jubaland Forces Launch Operations in Lower Juba to Counter Al-Shabaab Land Mines, 18 July 2025, [url](#)

²⁸⁵ FTL Somalia, Al-Shabaab captures Kudhaa base in Jubaland amid increased attacks, 21 January 2026, [url](#); SG, Somalia: Al-Shabaab takes Jubaland base in Kudhaa amid surge in assaults, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁸⁶ FTL Somalia, Al-Shabaab captures Kudhaa base in Jubaland amid increased attacks, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁸⁷ Hiiraan Online, Somali army kills over 130 al-Shabaab militants in Lower Juba region, 22 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁸⁸ ACLED, Africa Overview: February 2026, 9 February 2026, [url](#)

²⁸⁹ Hiiraan Online, Somali army kills over 130 al-Shabaab militants in Lower Juba region, 22 January 2026, [url](#)

²⁹⁰ SMN, Jubaland Forces Launch Operations in Lower Juba to Counter Al-Shabaab Land Mines, 18 July 2025, [url](#)

²⁹¹ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Somalia: April 2025 – March 2026, n.d., [url](#)

²⁹² SMN, Somalia's Danab Forces Seize Weapons, Kill Over 40 Al-Shabaab Fighters in Lower Juba Operation, 22 May 2025, [url](#)

²⁹³ Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab death toll climbs as Somali army gains success, 17 November 2025, [url](#)

²⁹⁴ Hiiraan Online, Jubaland forces kill over 60 al-Shabab fighters in four-day offensive in Lower Juba region, 16 February 2026, [url](#)

²⁹⁵ AA, 19 al-Shabaab terrorists killed in military operation in Somalia's Lower Juba province, 30 June 2025, [url](#)

²⁹⁶ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

²⁹⁷ Hiiraan Online, Jubaland forces kill over 60 al-Shabab fighters in four-day offensive in Lower Juba region, 16 February 2026, [url](#); Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab death toll climbs as Somali army gains success, 17 November 2025, [url](#); AA, 19 al-Shabaab terrorists killed in military operation in Somalia's Lower Juba province, 30 June 2025, [url](#); SMN, Somalia's Danab Forces Seize Weapons, Kill Over 40 Al-Shabaab Fighters in Lower Juba Operation, 22 May 2025, [url](#)

²⁹⁸ Horseed Media, Somalia: Jubaland Forces Kill 12 Al-Shabaab Militants in Lower Juba Operation, 4 January 2026, [url](#); SMN, Somalia's Danab Forces Seize Weapons, Kill Over 40 Al-Shabaab Fighters in Lower Juba Operation, 22 May 2025, [url](#)

²⁹⁹ Hiiraan Online, Somali army kills over 130 al-Shabaab militants in Lower Juba region, 22 January 2026, [url](#); Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab death toll climbs as Somali army gains success, 17 November 2025, [url](#); AA, 19 al-Shabaab terrorists killed in military operation in Somalia's Lower Juba province, 30 June 2025, [url](#)

Jubbaland administration and the FGS.³⁰⁰ US forces launched several airstrikes assisting Somali-led ground operations.³⁰¹

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 500 security incidents in Lower Juba region, including battles, explosions/other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 1 334 fatalities.³⁰²

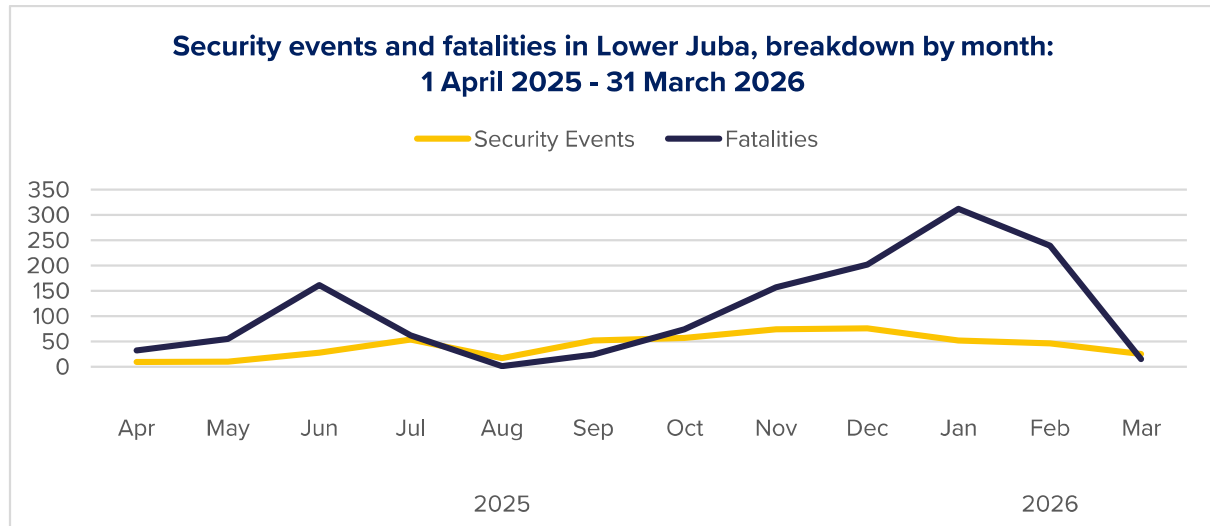


Figure 13: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Lower Juba per month, based on ACLED data.³⁰³

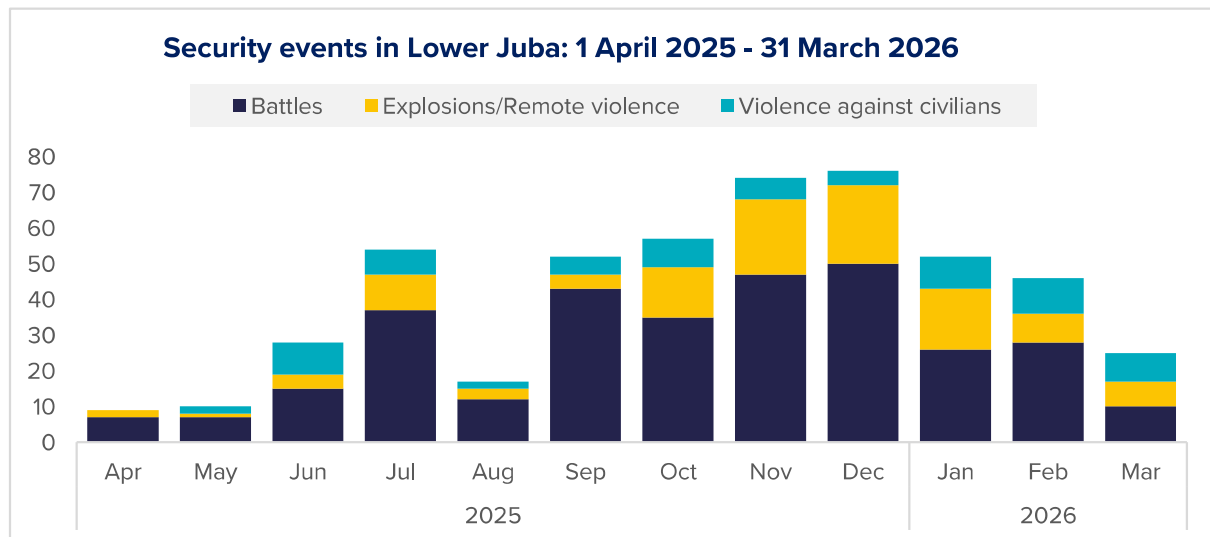


Figure 14: Evolution of security events in Lower Juba per type, based on ACLED data.³⁰⁴

³⁰⁰ Garowe Online, Al-Shabaab death toll climbs as Somali army gains success, 17 November 2025, [url](#)

³⁰¹ Airwars, USSOM485, 21 May 2025, [url](#); Airwars, USSOM474, 21 April 2025, [url](#)

³⁰² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁰³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁰⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’ or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 350 security incidents against Military or Police Forces of Somalia (including 208 incidents against Jubbaland forces) and 70 incidents of violence against civilians.³⁰⁵

Illustrative security incidents

- In July 2025, four people were killed when a roadside bomb struck a civilian vehicle in the Bulo Xaji area.³⁰⁶
- On 26 November 2025, at least 21 civilians were killed in an unclaimed airstrike and/or ground operation in the Jamaame area.³⁰⁷
- On 21 January 2026, Al-Shabaab conducted a large-scale complex attack on one or more bases of the Jubbaland regional forces in Koday town. Al-Shabaab media claimed that 113 Jubbaland troops had been killed in the ensuing clashes,³⁰⁸ while ACLED pointed to reports estimating that over 80 soldiers had died in the attack.³⁰⁹ According to the MoD, the SNA, Jubbaland troops and international forces repelled the attack, allegedly killing more than 130 Al-Shabaab members.³¹⁰

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 34 081 individuals were newly displaced in Lower Juba region due to conflict or insecurity during the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of them were displaced from areas located in Jamaame (25 629) and Badhaadhe (6 000) districts. Nearly all displacement in Lower Juba occurred within the same region (33 945). During the same period, 5 042 displaced individuals arrived in Lower Juba from other regions.³¹¹ The UN Panel of Experts held that over 90 % of conflict-related displacement recorded between September 2024 and October 2025 was linked to Al-Shabaab activities.³¹²

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘heavy’ and ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in all of Jamaame and most of Kismayo, Badhaadhe and Afmadow districts. ‘Moderate restrictions’ were seen in central and western parts of Afmadow, in the western and northwestern edges of Badhaadhe, and along the coastal areas of Badhaadhe and Kismayo.³¹³ 2025 saw a further deterioration in humanitarian access in Lower Juba,³¹⁴ with UNOCHA recording 25 humanitarian access incidents over the year. Road blockages, armed fighting and security incidents affecting humanitarian staff hampered access to parts of Lower

³⁰⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁰⁶ SMN, Jubaland Forces Launch Operations in Lower Juba to Counter Al-Shabaab Land Mines, 18 July 2025, [url](#)

³⁰⁷ Airwars, USSOM535, 16 November 2025, [url](#)

³⁰⁸ FTL Somalia, Al-Shabaab captures Kudhaa base in Jubaland amid increased attacks, 21 January 2026, [url](#); SG, Somalia: Al-Shabaab takes Jubaland base in Kudhaa amid surge in assaults, 21 January 2026, [url](#)

³⁰⁹ ACLED, Africa Overview: February 2026, 9 February 2026, [url](#)

³¹⁰ Hiiraan Online, Somali army kills over 130 al-Shabaab militants in Lower Juba region, 22 January 2026, [url](#)

³¹¹ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³¹² UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 95

³¹³ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

³¹⁴ WHO/Health Cluster, Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) – Somalia, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 17

Juba and delayed deliveries.³¹⁵ As of January 2026, the IPC reported that about 50 % of the total analysed population of 1 204 269 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 31 %), 3 (crisis, 15 %) or 4 (emergency, 4 %).³¹⁶ NRC recorded the eviction of 4 304 individuals in Lower Juba region in 2025 and early 2026.³¹⁷

2.2. South-West State

2.2.1. Bakool

Bakool region is divided into five districts: Xudur, Tayeeglow, Ceel Barde, Rab Dhuure, and Waajid. The region's capital is Xudur.³¹⁸ As of January 2026, Bakool's population was estimated at 564 958.³¹⁹ For more detailed background information on Bakool, see section 2.2.1. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab remained present and active in Bakool.³²⁰ However, in a notable development early in the reference period, Al-Shabaab³²¹ partially³²² lifted its longstanding blockades in Xudur³²³ and Waajid districts.³²⁴ According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Al-Shabaab continued to hold the towns of Rab Dhuur and Tayeeglow, as well as rural areas around Tayeeglow. The group further controlled rural territories in eastern, southern, south-eastern Bakool that extended towards the northwest as far as Rab Dhuure. Meanwhile, the federal-aligned coalition continued to control the towns of Xudur, Waajid, Ceel Barde, Yeed and Ato, as well as a stretch of rural territory in the north along the Ethiopian border, delimited by Ceel Barde, Ato, and Yeed. Control over the remaining rural areas was mixed between Al-Shabaab and the federal-aligned coalition.³²⁵

Since counterinsurgency operations intensified in mid-2025,³²⁶ the SNA, at times supported by Ma'awislee local militias,³²⁷ carried out a number of operations against Al-Shabaab

³¹⁵ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

³¹⁶ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

³¹⁷ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter '2025' and '2026' as year respectively, 'Lower Juba' as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

³¹⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

³¹⁹ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

³²⁰ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 17

³²¹ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Somalia: April 2025 – March 2026, n.d., [url](#)

³²² UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

³²³ Mustaqbal Media, 13 Years Later: Ground Blockade Lifted in Xudur, Waajid, Diinsoor, and Qansaxdheere, 14 April 2025, [url](#)

³²⁴ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 49

³²⁵ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

³²⁶ Hiiraan Online, Four al-Shabaab militants surrender to security forces in Bakool region, 18 August 2025, [url](#)

³²⁷ Hiiraan Online, Somali forces destroy Al-Shabaab bases in Bakool offensive, 16 June 2025, [url](#)

positions and hideouts,³²⁸ including in Lukugooraw, Dabgal, Ceel Lahelay,³²⁹ Abal, Baani, Lafaale,³³⁰ and Warta Eey Duure villages,³³¹ all located near Xudur town,³³² as well as along the route connecting Waajid and Xudur. Several Al-Shabaab militants³³³ and commanders were killed,³³⁴ while at least four members of the group were reported to have surrendered to FGS authorities.³³⁵

Late 2025 saw a reported rise in local clan conflicts in parts of Bakool.³³⁶ Against this backdrop, the South-West State announced new steps to hold accountable individuals fuelling clan conflicts and revenge killings.³³⁷

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 111 security incidents in Bakool region, including battles, explosions/other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 100 fatalities.³³⁸

³²⁸ SONNA, SNA Launches Targeted Operation Against Al-Shabaab Militants in Bakool, 9 February 2026, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Somali army and militias eliminate Al-Shabaab commanders in Mudug, Bakool, 18 November 2025, [url](#); SMN, Somali forces kill over ten Al-Shabaab militants in coordinated operations across central and southern regions, 5 July 2025, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Somali forces destroy Al-Shabaab bases in Bakool offensive, 16 June 2025, [url](#)

³²⁹ Hiiraan Online, Somali forces destroy Al-Shabaab bases in Bakool offensive, 16 June 2025, [url](#)

³³⁰ SMN, Somali forces kill over ten Al-Shabaab militants in coordinated operations across central and southern regions, 5 July 2025, [url](#)

³³¹ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 10

³³² TRT, Somali military kills Al Shabab terrorist group's head of finance, 11 August 2025, [url](#); SMN, Somali forces kill over ten Al-Shabaab militants in coordinated operations across central and southern regions, 5 July 2025, [url](#); SONNA, Somali Forces Launch Sweeping Operation Against Al-Shabaab in Bakool Region, 29 November 2023, [url](#)

³³³ Hiiraan Online, Somali army and militias eliminate Al-Shabaab commanders in Mudug, Bakool, 18 November 2025, [url](#)

³³⁴ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 10; Hiiraan Online, Somali army and militias eliminate Al-Shabaab commanders in Mudug, Bakool, 18 November 2025, [url](#)

³³⁵ Hiiraan Online, Four al-Shabaab militants surrender to security forces in Bakool region, 18 August 2025, [url](#)

³³⁶ Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#); FTL Somalia, Southwest State Vows Crackdown on Clan Conflict Instigators, 1 November 2025, [url](#)

³³⁷ SMN, Somalia's Southwest State Launches Crackdown on Clan Conflict Inciters, 29 October 2025, [url](#)

³³⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

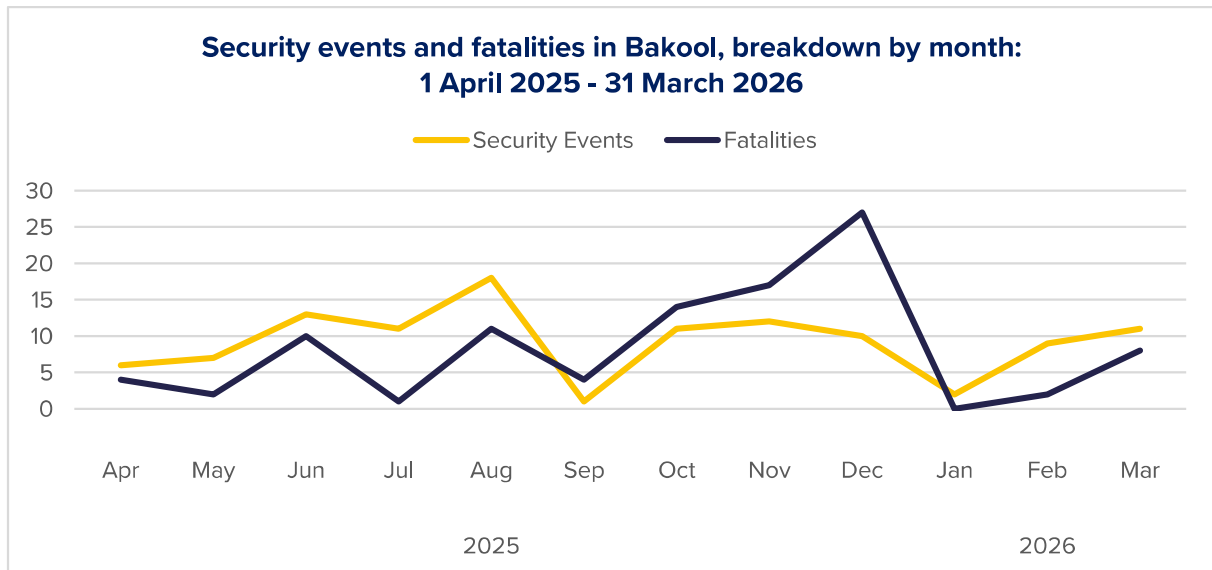


Figure 15: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Bakool per month, based on ACLED data.³³⁹

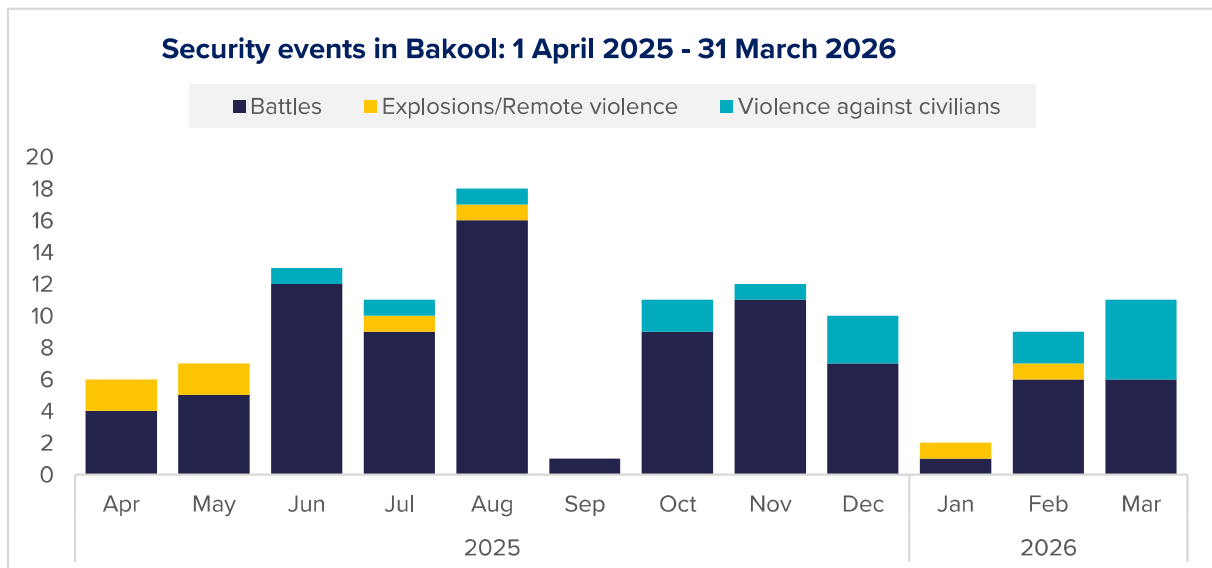


Figure 16: Evolution of security events in Bakool per type, based on ACLED data.³⁴⁰

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either 'Actor 1' or 'Actor 2') were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 80 security incidents against Military and Police Forces of Somalia (including South-West State police forces) and 11 incidents of violence against civilians. Five security incidents involved clashes between (sub-)clan militias, while three incidents involved violence against civilians by (sub-)clan militias.³⁴¹

³³⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁴⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁴¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents

- In mid-November 2025, five Al-Shabaab members, including three mid-level commanders, were killed in an offensive led by FGS forces along the road between Garasweyne and Moragabey in the vicinity of Xudur town.³⁴²

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 2 837 individuals were newly displaced in Bakool region due to conflict or insecurity during the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of them were displaced from areas located in Rab Dhuure (1 432) and Waajid (1 018) districts. Most displacement in Bakool occurred within the same region (2 412). During the same period, 648 displaced individuals arrived in Bakool from another region. Meanwhile, the same source recorded that 5 755 individuals had been displaced due to drought during the reference period.³⁴³ Thousands were displaced to Waajid town due to drought in late 2025,³⁴⁴ and to Xudur district as a result of drought, food shortages and clan conflicts in the first quarter of 2026.³⁴⁵

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘heavy’ and ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access across most parts of Bakool, except in Waajid and Xudur towns and their countrysides, as well as in some sections along the region’s northern border with Ethiopia, including around Ceel Barde town.³⁴⁶ UNOCHA recorded two humanitarian access incidents over the year 2025. The lifting of long-standing blockades in Waajid and Xudur eased some of the existing humanitarian access constraints and the movement of civilians and goods.³⁴⁷ As of January 2026, the IPC reported that about 63 % of the total analysed population of 564 958 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 39 %), 3 (crisis, 19 %) or 4 (emergency, 5 %).³⁴⁸ As of the end of the reference period, the region’s food and nutrition situation had worsened due to drought.³⁴⁹ NRC recorded the eviction of 4 384 individuals in Bakool region in 2025 and early 2026.³⁵⁰

³⁴² Hiiraan Online, Somali army and militias eliminate Al-Shabaab commanders in Mudug, Bakool, 18 November 2025, [url](#)

³⁴³ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁴⁴ UNHCR Somalia, PSMN Flash Alert 19 – December 2025, 10 December 2025, [url](#), p. 1

³⁴⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025-2026 Drought Emergency Situation Report No. 5 – As of 6 April 2026, 8 April 2026, [url](#), pp. 2-3

³⁴⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

³⁴⁷ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

³⁴⁸ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

³⁴⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025-2026 Drought Emergency Situation Report No. 5 – As of 6 April 2026, 8 April 2026, [url](#), p. 2

³⁵⁰ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’ as year respectively, ‘Bakool’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

2.2.2. Bay

Bay region is divided into four districts: Baidoa, Buur Hakaba, Qansax Dheere, and Diinsoor. The region's capital is the city of Baidoa.³⁵¹ As of January 2026, Bay's population was estimated at 1 297 550.³⁵² For more detailed background information on Bay, see section 2.2.2. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3 Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026](#) and [Map 2 Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025](#), Al-Shabaab controlled the towns of Labatan Jirow and Bulo-Fulay, as well as large swaths of rural territory in the region's northeast, stretching from the vicinity of Lego to the Labatan Jirow area. Most of the southern half of Bay, except the environs of Diinsoor, likewise remained under the Al-Shabaab control. Meanwhile, the cities and towns of Qansax Dheere, Diinsoor, Baidoa, Buur Hakaba and Berdale all remained under the control of the 'federal-aligned coalition'. Meanwhile, the reference period saw a shift in the control of Lego town and its immediate surroundings from full Al-Shabaab control to mixed control between the militant group and 'federal-aligned forces'. The remaining rural areas of Bay continued to be under mixed control between Al-Shabaab and the federal-aligned coalition.³⁵³ On 30 March 2026, the SNA took full control of the city of Baidoa,³⁵⁴ ousting the South-West State President Abdiaziz Laftagareen, who announced his resignation. As of the end of the reference period, Ethiopian AU troops remained stationed in Baidoa³⁵⁵ and Diinsoor.³⁵⁶

The SNA conducted security operations in rural areas³⁵⁷ and engaged in clashes with Al-Shabaab,³⁵⁸ including around Buur Hakaba, where the insurgency intensified in late 2025/early 2026.³⁵⁹ Overall, Bay was one of the regions with the highest numbers of reported IED incidents, affecting civilians both as direct and indirect victims.³⁶⁰ At the same time, several Al-Shabaab members surrendered to the FGS authorities in Baidoa.³⁶¹

³⁵¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

³⁵² IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

³⁵³ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

³⁵⁴ Al Jazeera, Somali army takes over key city in Southwest as state leader resigns, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁵⁵ International Crisis Group, Somali Government Topples State Leader as Electoral Dispute Escalates, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁵⁶ Horn Observer, Somalia: Clan Clashes Leave at Least 15 Dead in Dinsoor District, Bay Region, 26 October 2025, [url](#)

³⁵⁷ SONNA, Somali National Army Conducts Operations in Bay Region, 22 August 2025, [url](#); International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Somalia: April 2025 – March 2026, n.d., [url](#)

³⁵⁸ International Crisis Group, Somali Government Topples State Leader as Electoral Dispute Escalates, 31 March 2026, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Four al-Shabaab militants surrender to security forces in Bakool region, 18 August 2025, [url](#)

³⁵⁹ Somalia Today, Somalia deploys elite forces to South West State as tensions rise, 19 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁶⁰ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 66

³⁶¹ Hiiraan Online, Four al-Shabaab militants surrender to security forces in Bakool region, 18 August 2025, [url](#)

Amid a rise in localised conflicts in parts of Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle,³⁶² deadly clan-related clashes broke out in October 2025 in villages near Diinsoor town and spread to the district centre, leaving civilians trapped between the front lines.³⁶³

As tensions between the South-West State administration and the FGS escalated in March 2026, Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud deployed military reinforcements to Buur Hakaba, which subsequently entered Baidoa³⁶⁴ with the backing of Turkish forces. While there were initial heavy clashes,³⁶⁵ most of Laftagareen's troops decided to stand down and Ethiopian AU troops in the city refrained from siding with the South-West President.³⁶⁶

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 358 security incidents in Bay region, including battles, explosions/other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 403 fatalities.³⁶⁷

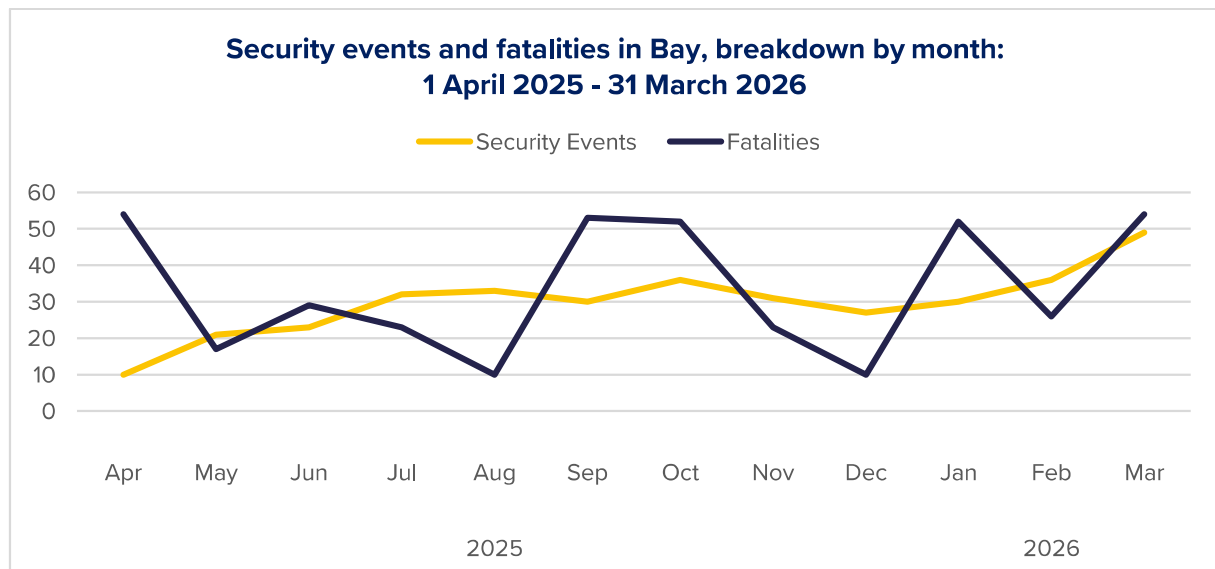


Figure 17: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Bay per month, based on ACLED data.³⁶⁸

³⁶² FTL Somalia, Southwest State Vows Crackdown on Clan Conflict Instigators, 1 November 2025, [url](#)

³⁶³ Horn Observer, Somalia: Clan Clashes Leave at Least 15 Dead in Dinsoor District, Bay Region, 26 October 2025, [url](#)

³⁶⁴ International Crisis Group, Somali Government Topples State Leader as Electoral Dispute Escalates, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁶⁵ SG, Fighting breaks out in Baidoa as Somali Army clashes with regional forces, 30 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁶⁶ International Crisis Group, Somali Government Topples State Leader as Electoral Dispute Escalates, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁶⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁶⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

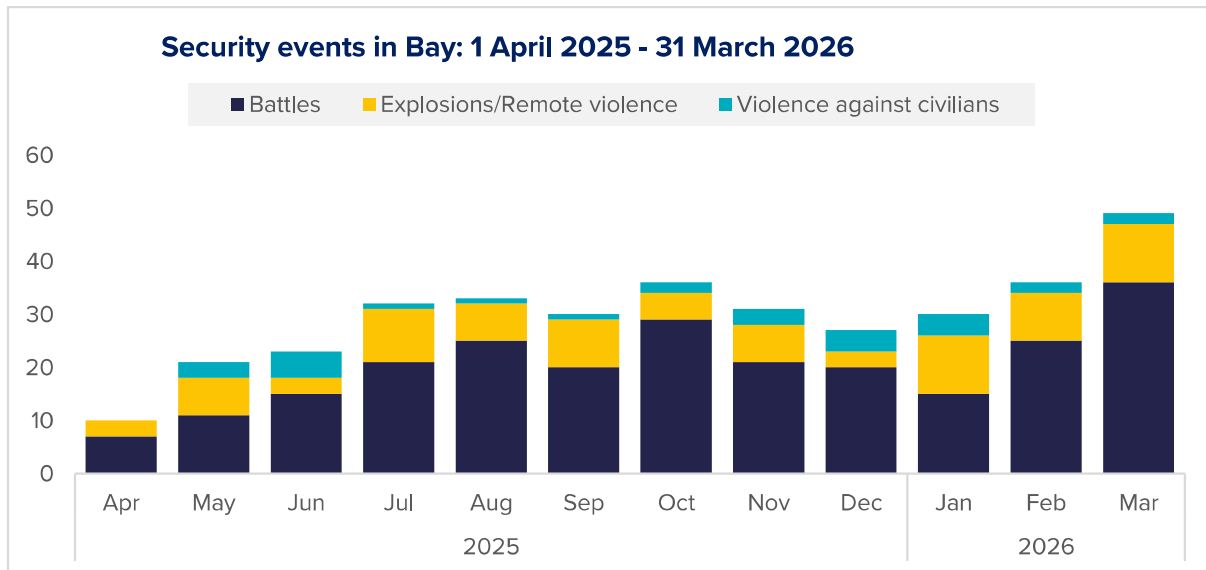


Figure 18: Evolution of security events in Bay per type, based on ACLED data.³⁶⁹

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’ or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 209 security incidents against Military and Police Forces of Somalia (including South-West State police forces). The group was further involved in 30 incidents of violence against civilians, while Military and Police Forces of Somalia were involved in nine such incidents. (Sub-)clan militias were involved in eight incidents against Military and Police Forces of Somalia, 13 instances of clashes with other (sub-)clan militias, and three incidents of violence against civilians.³⁷⁰

Illustrative security incidents

- In late October 2025, clashes erupted between militias of two clans in Diinsoor district over a series of sexual assaults allegedly perpetrated by community militias. The fighting left at least 15 people dead and 21 others injured.³⁷¹

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 2 873 individuals were newly displaced in Bay region due to conflict or insecurity during the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of them (1 255) were displaced from areas located in Diinsoor district. Overall, most displacement in Bay occurred within the same region (2 344). During the same period, 1 185 displaced individuals arrived in Bay from other regions.³⁷² Conflict and drought led to the displacement of multiple households from parts of Qansax Dheere and other rural areas of Bay around the

³⁶⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁷⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁷¹ Horn Observer, Somalia: Clan Clashes Leave at Least 15 Dead in Dinsoor District, Bay Region, 26 October 2025, [url](#)

³⁷² UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

first quarter of 2026.³⁷³ The region continued to witness displacement due to blockades imposed by Al-Shabaab.³⁷⁴ Fears of impending clashes between the SNA and South-West regional forces³⁷⁵ prompted 50 766 residents of Baidoa to flee the city in late March 2026.³⁷⁶

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘heavy’ and ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access across most areas of Bay, except in the towns of Baidoa, Buur Hakaba, Qansax Dheere and Berdale and their surrounding rural areas.³⁷⁷ UNOCHA recorded 14 humanitarian access incidents over the year. The partial lifting of blockades in Qansax Dheere and Diinsoor eased some of the humanitarian access constraints and the movement of civilians and goods.³⁷⁸ As of January 2026, the IPC reported that about 74 % of the total analysed population of 1 297 550 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 34 %), 3 (crisis, 25 %) or 4 (emergency, 15 %).³⁷⁹ Clan-related clashes left civilians in Diinsoor district caught between the front lines facing a shortage in food, safe shelters and medical aid.³⁸⁰ The end of the reference period saw a worsened food and nutrition situation in Bay due to droughts³⁸¹ which prompted a significant rise in water prices during the last quarter of 2025.³⁸² NRC recorded the eviction of 15 503 individuals in Bay region in 2025 and early 2026.³⁸³

2.2.3. Lower Shabelle

Lower Shabelle region is divided into seven districts: Marka, Wanla Weyn, Afgooye, Qoryooley, Baraawe, Kurtunwaarey, and Sablaale. The region’s capital is Marka,³⁸⁴ while the city of Baraawe serves as the official capital of the South-West State.³⁸⁵ As of January 2026, Lower Shabelle’s population was estimated at 1 656 402.³⁸⁶ For more detailed background information on Lower Shabelle, see section 2.2.3. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

³⁷³ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025-2026 Drought Emergency Situation Report No. 5 – As of 6 April 2026, 8 April 2026, [url](#), p. 3

³⁷⁴ Horn Observer, Somalia: Clan Clashes Leave at Least 15 Dead in Dinsoor District, Bay Region, 26 October 2025, [url](#)

³⁷⁵ UNHCR Somalia, PSMN Flash Alert 12 – April 2026, 1 April 2026, [url](#), p. 1; Al Jazeera, Somali army takes over key city in Southwest as state leader resigns, 31 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁷⁶ UNHCR Somalia, PSMN Flash Alert 12 – April 2026, 1 April 2026, [url](#), p. 1

³⁷⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

³⁷⁸ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

³⁷⁹ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

³⁸⁰ Horn Observer, Somalia: Clan Clashes Leave at Least 15 Dead in Dinsoor District, Bay Region, 26 October 2025, [url](#)

³⁸¹ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025-2026 Drought Emergency Situation Report No. 5 – As of 6 April 2026, 8 April 2026, [url](#), p. 2

³⁸² WHO/Health Cluster, Public Health Situation Analysis (PHSA) – Somalia, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 4

³⁸³ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’ as year respectively, ‘Bay’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

³⁸⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

³⁸⁵ Somalia Today, Somalia deploys elite forces to South West State as tensions rise, 19 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁸⁶ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4



(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Al-Shabaab controlled nearly all of the region's central, southern and south-western rural areas, as well as the towns of Kurtunwaarey and Sablaale. The towns of Marka, Janale, Qoryooley, Bulo Mareer, Baraawe, Afgooye and Wanla Weyn remained under the control of the 'federal-aligned coalition', while Awdhegle shifted back to the FGS's realm of control. Most of the rural hinterlands of the above-mentioned FGS-controlled towns, as well as those of Benadir/Mogadishu, were mapped as being under mixed control between Al-Shabaab and the federal-aligned coalition.³⁸⁷ In March 2026, the FGS deployed hundreds of Haramcad special police units to Baraawe to strengthen FGS positions in the town and to secure a corridor leading towards Buur Hakaba in Bay region.³⁸⁸

Shortly before the beginning of the reference period, Al-Shabaab intensified its attacks on security forces and in an offensive in March 2025 captured the strategically crucial towns of Sabiid-Anole, Awdheegle and Bariire³⁸⁹ southwest of Mogadishu³⁹⁰ which had served as SNA forward operating bases.³⁹¹ These towns, along with Janale, contain bridges across the Shabelle River that play a critical role in the movement of people, commercial goods, and agricultural produce.³⁹² Al-Shabaab then went on to advance towards Mogadishu through Afgooye district and set up additional checkpoints along the Afgooye–Mogadishu road, but refrained from assaulting Mogadishu.³⁹³ In response, the SNA in mid-June launched operation 'Silent storm' to recapture the three bridge towns taken by Al-Shabaab in March³⁹⁴ and secure the supply routes southwest of the capital.³⁹⁵ During this counteroffensive, the SNA and AUSSOM forces reconquered Sabiid-anole in June³⁹⁶ and, after a protracted battle, Bariire in August.³⁹⁷ Over the remainder of the reference period, the SNA also retook the towns of Awdheghe,³⁹⁸ Darulsaalam and Mubarak.³⁹⁹ The FGS further claimed to have captured several localities that had long been Al-Shabaab strongholds, including Jilib Marka, Gendershe, and

³⁸⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

³⁸⁸ Somalia Today, Somalia deploys elite forces to South West State as tensions rise, 19 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁸⁹ CTP, UAE Fuels Regionalization of Sudan War; JNIM Expands Along Benin-Nigeria Border: Africa File, June 18, 2025, 18 June 2025, [url](#)

³⁹⁰ AUSSOM, AUSSOM Statement on foiled Al Shabaab attack on Sabiid- Anole Military Bases, 25 July 2025, [url](#); PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

³⁹¹ CTP, UAE Fuels Regionalization of Sudan War; JNIM Expands Along Benin-Nigeria Border: Africa File, June 18, 2025, 18 June 2025, [url](#)

³⁹² SONNA, Somalia Moves to Rehabilitate Key Lower Shabelle Bridges, Boost Agricultural Transport, 20 April 2026, [url](#)

³⁹³ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 30

³⁹⁴ UN Security Council, Situation in Somalia - Report of the Secretary-General, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 12

³⁹⁵ Security Council Report, Somalia: Private Meeting: What's In Blue, 7 October 2025, [url](#)

³⁹⁶ UN Security Council, Situation in Somalia - Report of the Secretary-General, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 12; AUSSOM, AUSSOM, SNA troops recapture strategic villages in Lower Shabelle, 22 June 2025, [url](#)

³⁹⁷ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 31; AUSSOM, Joint AUSSOM and Somali Security Forces recapture Bariire town, 8 August 2025, [url](#)

³⁹⁸ AUSSOM, AUSSOM congratulates its Sector 1 troops and SSF for liberating Awdheegle town, 5 October 2025, [url](#)

³⁹⁹ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Somalia: April 2025 – March 2026, n.d., [url](#)



Dhanaane.⁴⁰⁰ FGS-led targeted operations resulted in the killing of key Al-Shabaab commanders,⁴⁰¹ but also in civilian casualties.⁴⁰²

Overall, Lower Shabelle was one of the regions with the highest numbers of reported IED incidents, affecting civilians both as direct and indirect victims.⁴⁰³ Late 2025 saw a reported rise in local clan conflicts in parts of Lower Shabelle,⁴⁰⁴ with killings by clan militias reported, amongst others, in Wanla Weyn,⁴⁰⁵ Afgooye, and Qoryooley districts, while tensions were at elevated levels in Marka town.⁴⁰⁶

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 976 security incidents in Lower Shabelle region, including battles, explosions/other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 1 905 fatalities.⁴⁰⁷

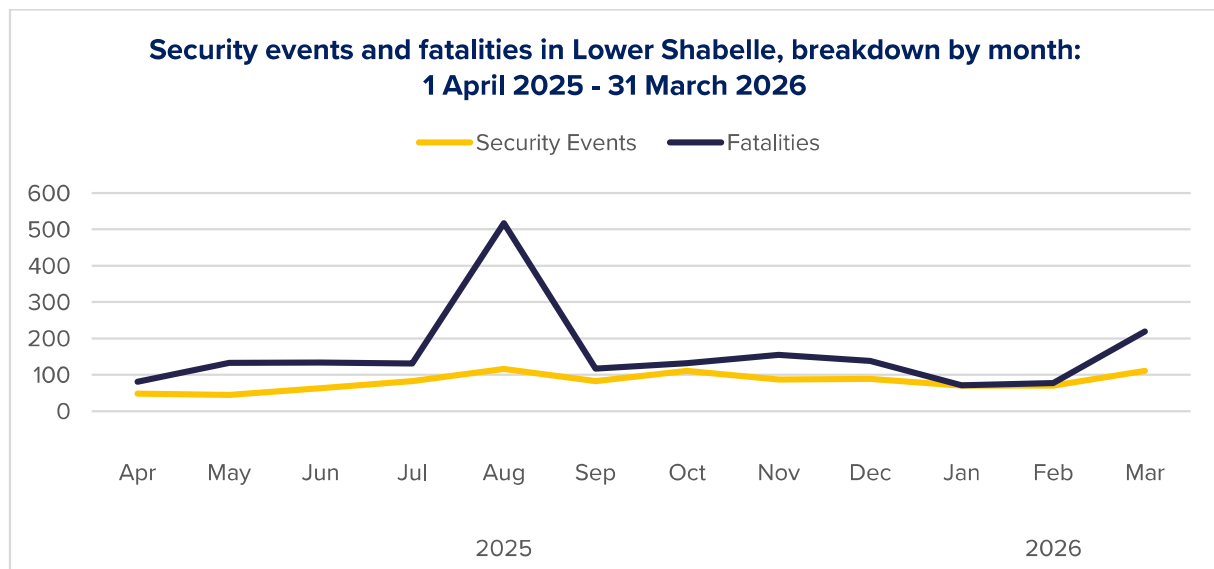


Figure 19: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Lower Shabelle per month, based on ACLED data.⁴⁰⁸

⁴⁰⁰ AP, Somalia renews its US-backed fight against al-Shabab militant group. Here is why it matters, 18 February 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁰¹ Hiiraan Online, Somali intelligence kills senior Al-Shabab leader linked to major 2025 attacks, 4 March 2026, [url](#); UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 14

⁴⁰² SG, Somalia shelling kills dozens of civilians and levels village, residents say, 11 December 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰³ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 66

⁴⁰⁴ Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#); FTL Somalia, Southwest State Vows Crackdown on Clan Conflict Instigators, 1 November 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁵ Hiiraan Online, Southwest authorities arrest four suspects over brutal killing of elderly man in Lower Shabelle region, 9 November 2025, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Three brothers killed in clan-related attack in Lower Shabelle region, 22 October 2025, [url](#); FTL Somalia, Sunday Clan Clash in Lower Shabelle Kills Six Family Members, 11 November 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁶ Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁰⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

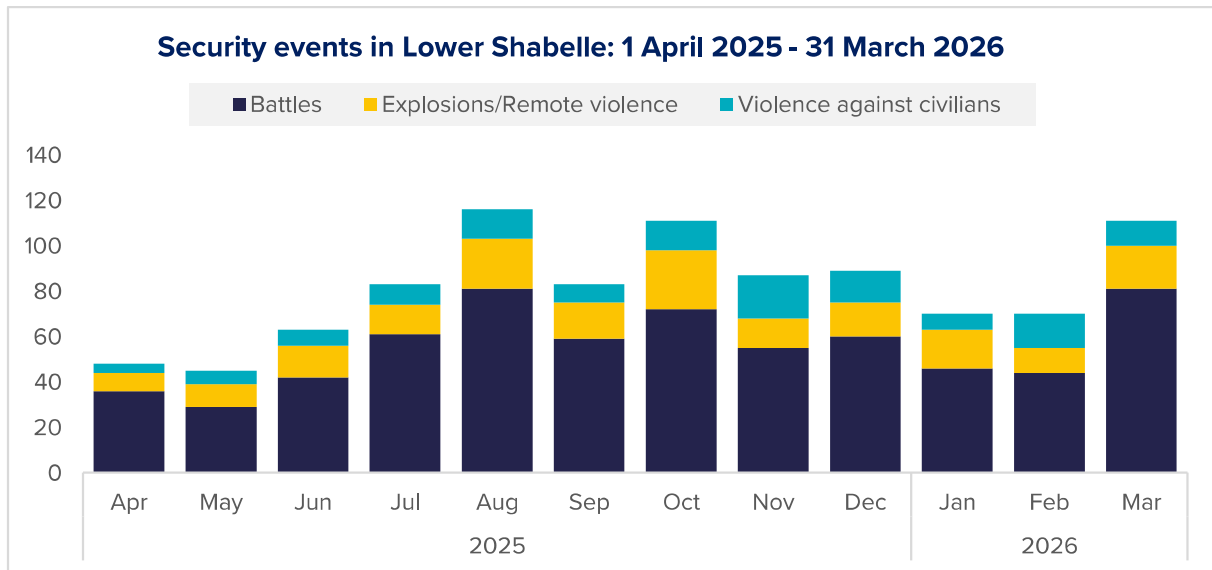


Figure 20: Evolution of security events in Lower Shabelle per type, based on ACLED data.⁴⁰⁹

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’ or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 613 security incidents against Military and Police Forces of Somalia and 73 incidents of violence against civilians, while Military and Police Forces of Somalia were involved in 33 such incidents. (Sub-)clan militias were involved in 13 incidents against Military and Police Forces of Somalia, eight incidents against Al-Shabaab, 26 instances of clashes with other (sub-)clan militias, and 24 incidents of violence against civilians.⁴¹⁰

Illustrative security incidents

- In late September 2025, forces linked to the South-West State were accused of having killed 13 people in an ambush in the outskirts of Yaaqberi-weyne town as these civilians had gathered to resolve community disputes.⁴¹¹
- On 9 December 2025, artillery shelling that struck a village near Afgooye town left more than 30 civilians dead, according to residents, who attributed the barrage to a branch of NISA.⁴¹²
- In late March 2026, clashes following an Al-Shabaab attempt to retake Mubarak town, captured by SNA and AUSSOM forces earlier in the month, resulted in over 40 militants being killed.⁴¹³
- In mid-May 2025, an unclaimed IED attack targeting a vehicle near Baraawe Airport left at least one person dead and two others injured.⁴¹⁴

⁴⁰⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴¹⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴¹¹ SMN, Deadly Attack Near Yaaqberi-weyne Sparks Renewed Violence in Somalia’s Lower Shabelle, 28 September 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹² SG, Somalia shelling kills dozens of civilians and levels village, residents say, 11 December 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹³ AUSSOM, Over 40 Al-Shabaab Militants Killed as AUSSOM and SNAF Defend Mubarak, 26 March 2026, [url](#)

⁴¹⁴ Hiiraan Online, Landmine blast near Baraawe airport kills one, injures two, 17 May 2025, [url](#)

- On 9 November 2025, retaliatory attacks between rivaling clans in Dudumay village (Wanla Weyn district) that had been triggered by the murder of an elderly man resulted in the deaths of six members of the same family.⁴¹⁵

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 8 870 individuals were newly displaced in Lower Shabelle region due to conflict or insecurity during the period from April 2025 to February 2026. Most of them were displaced from areas located in Afgooye district (5 826) and Wanla Weyn (1 756) districts. A majority of 7 705 individuals of those displaced in Lower Shabelle fled to Benadir.⁴¹⁶ The UN Panel of Experts held that over 90 % of conflict-related displacement recorded during between September 2024 and October 2025 was linked to Al-Shabaab.⁴¹⁷ Amongst others, armed clashes in Mubarak and Darusalam towns in March 2026 resulted in the displacement of around 2 364 individuals.⁴¹⁸

Other impacts on civilian life (e.g. infrastructure damage, evictions, access to health, access to food, note on humanitarian situation)

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘heavy’ and ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access across most areas of Lower Shabelle, except in the towns of Afgooye, Wanla Weyn, Qoryooley, Marka and Baraawe and their surrounding rural areas.⁴¹⁹ UNOCHA recorded 12 humanitarian access incidents over the year 2025.⁴²⁰ As of January 2026, the IPC reported that about 67 % of the total analysed population of 1 656 402 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 40 %), 3 (crisis, 23 %) or 4 (emergency, 4 %).⁴²¹ NRC recorded the eviction of 558 individuals in Lower Shabelle region (all of them recorded in 2025).⁴²² Al-Shabaab detonated a bridge in Bariire town in June 2025 which had served as one of the core bridges in the region.⁴²³

2.3. Benadir and Mogadishu

Benadir (or Banadir/Benaadir) is located on the south-eastern coast of Somalia and shares internal borders with Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle regions.⁴²⁴ It covers the same area as the municipality of Mogadishu and effectively constitutes a territory under direct FGS

⁴¹⁵ FTL Somalia, Sunday Clan Clash in Lower Shabelle Kills Six Family Members, 11 November 2025, [url](#)

⁴¹⁶ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴¹⁷ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 95

⁴¹⁸ UNHCR Somalia, PSMN Flash Alert 9 – March 2026, 16 March 2026, [url](#), p. 1

⁴¹⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁴²⁰ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁴²¹ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁴²² NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’ as year respectively, ‘Lower Shabelle’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁴²³ Somaliland Standard, Somali troops conduct operations in Bakool and Lower Shabelle provinces, 16 June 2025, [url](#)

⁴²⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

administration.⁴²⁵ As of September 2025, Benadir's population was estimated at 3 289 438.⁴²⁶ For more detailed background information on Benadir and Mogadishu, see section 2.3. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

Benadir, the seat of the Federal Government, was described as featuring multiple armed and security actors, with the administrations in its various districts being influenced by dominant clan interests.⁴²⁷ AUSSOM troops were stationed in the capital⁴²⁸, while Türkiye used the TURKSOM military base to train soldiers for the SNA's Gorgor special forces and the Haram'ad paramilitary police force.⁴²⁹

Between February and April 2025, Al-Shabaab gained ground in Middle and Lower Shabelle,⁴³⁰ advancing to within 50 kilometres of Mogadishu.⁴³¹ By July 2025, the militants had reportedly encircled most of the city,⁴³² leading security analysts to speak of a serious threat of Al-Shabaab taking control of the capital.⁴³³ Several country experts, however, refuted this assessment in October 2025, stating that the group lacked the military and human resources to attack Mogadishu, while the capital was hosting thousands of government troops and had international military support.⁴³⁴ The advance by Al-Shabaab towards Mogadishu reportedly slowed in July 2025, while AUSSOM forces, together with Somali security forces, retook and defended several towns near the capital.⁴³⁵ Al-Shabaab attacks within Mogadishu have reportedly declined since 2023, evolving from recurring bomb attacks to less frequent high-profile attacks aiming at undermining government authority.⁴³⁶ Similarly, a UN report noted that between July and December 2025, Al-Shabaab attacks focused on military targets and were largely directed at security installations and government officials.⁴³⁷ Such high-profile

⁴²⁵ World Bank, Somalia Urbanization Review: Fostering Cities as Anchors of Development, January 2021, [url](#), p. 91

⁴²⁶ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁴²⁷ RDI, Final Report to Conduct: Conflict Protection Sensitive Analysis in Somalia, NRC, 29 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁴²⁸ Inside Somalia, AUSSOM takes over UK operation base in Mogadishu, 29 March 2026, [url](#); APA News, al-Shabaab shell AUSSOM base in Mogadishu, 7 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴²⁹ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 9

⁴³⁰ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu per januar 2026, 19 February 2026, [url](#), p. 8; Soufan Center (The), Al-Shabaab's 2025 Offensive and the Unraveling of Somalia's Federal Counterinsurgency, 24 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴³¹ Soufan Center (The), Al-Shabaab's 2025 Offensive and the Unraveling of Somalia's Federal Counterinsurgency, 24 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴³² Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 1

⁴³³ Bryden, M., Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 17 November 2025, [url](#), p. 1; Guardian (The), 'The fear was immense': al-Shabaab exploits fragmented politics to reclaim land in Somalia, 4 October 2025, [url](#)

⁴³⁴ Norway, Landinfo, Somalia: Sikkerhetssituasjonen i Mogadishu per januar 2026, 19 February 2026, [url](#), p. 8

⁴³⁵ UN Security Council, Thirty-seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, S/2026/44, 4 February 2026, [url](#), para. 38

⁴³⁶ Jackson, A., Flailing State: The Resurgence of al-Shabaab in Somalia, War on the Rocks, 3 June 2025, [url](#)

⁴³⁷ UN Security Council, Thirty-seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, S/2026/44, 4 February 2026, [url](#), para. 38

attacks on government installations carried out by Al-Shabaab occurred in May 2025,⁴³⁸ in July 2025⁴³⁹ and in October 2025.⁴⁴⁰ Other security incidents during the reference period included several rocket and mortar attacks,⁴⁴¹ impacting Aden Adde International Airport,⁴⁴² Halane base camp housing AUSSOM troops,⁴⁴³ as well as neighbourhoods near the Presidential Palace.⁴⁴⁴

At the end of July 2025, a large number of NISA personnel as well as Somali Police Force was deployed in Mogadishu as part of a revised security plan for the capital. The aim of the deployment was to deter mortar attacks and prevent the infiltration of IEDs, reportedly contributing to a decrease in attacks.⁴⁴⁵ An April 2025 report by the Geneva-based NGO Global Initiative Against Transnational Crime (GI-TOC) detailed how despite Al-Shabaab's lack of control in the capital, it maintained a wide intelligence network and taxation apparatus in Mogadishu. By levying illicit taxes on imports into the city and extorting local businesses, it was reportedly able to gain a generous revenue.⁴⁴⁶

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 354 security incidents in Benadir region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 225 fatalities.⁴⁴⁷

⁴³⁸ Reuters, Mogadishu suicide bomber kills at least 10 at army recruitment drive, 18 May 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, At least 13 reported killed in suicide bomb blast in Somalia's Mogadishu, 18 May 2025, [url](#)

⁴³⁹ SG, Suicide bomber targets Somali military academy during visit by Western officials, 9 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁰ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 16; Garowe Online, How Al Shabaab raided high security Intelligence detention facility in Mogadishu, 5 October 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴¹ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 14

⁴⁴² SG, Heavy mortar shells strike Mogadishu airport, 5 June 2025, [url](#); Horn Observer, Mortar Attacks Escalate Amid Rising Security Concerns at Mogadishu Airport, 6 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴³ SG, Mortar attack targets heavily fortified Halane base in Mogadishu amid rising militant violence, 20 May 2025, [url](#); Dawan, ATMIS Condemns Deadly Mortar Attack on Halane Base Camp in Mogadishu, 12 May 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁴ Garowe Online, Mortar Attack Near Somali Presidential Palace Kills Two, Wounded Five, 19 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁵ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 15

⁴⁴⁶ GI-TOC, Commerce Under Siege, Disrupting Al-Shabaab's Hold On Mogadishu's Economy, April 2025, [url](#), p. 3

⁴⁴⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

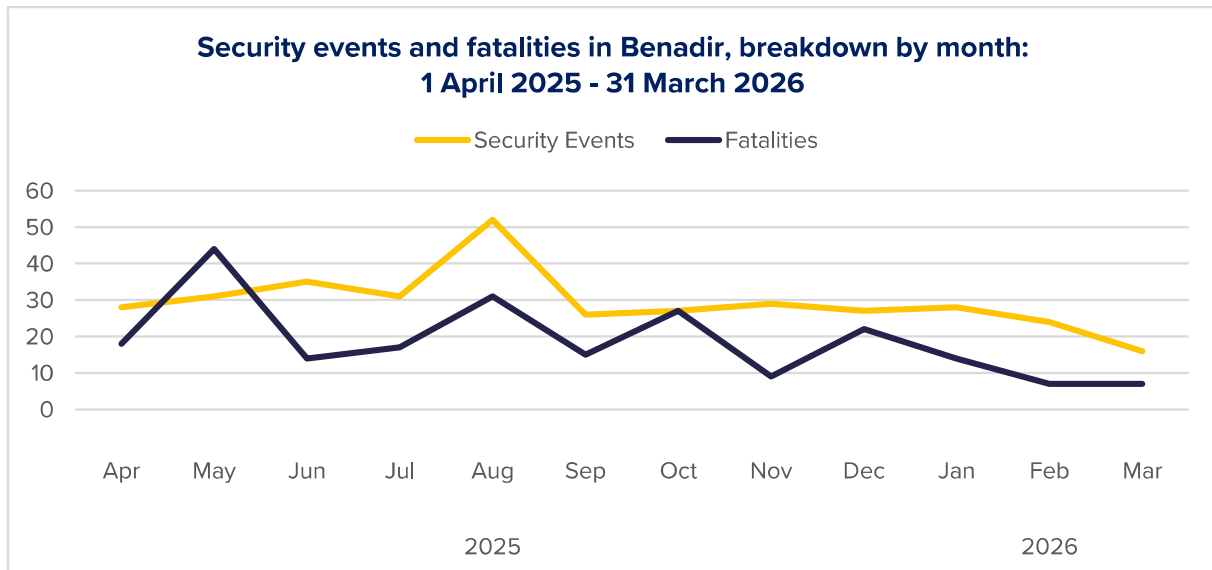


Figure 21: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Benadir per month, based on ACLED data.⁴⁴⁸

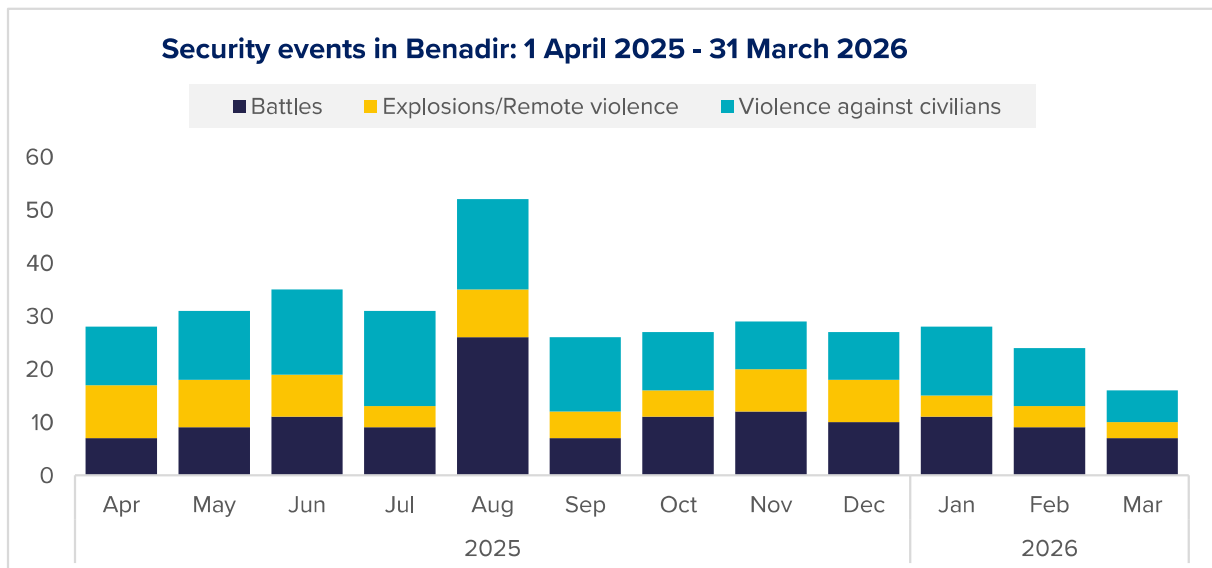


Figure 22: Evolution of security events in Benadir per type, based on ACLED data.⁴⁴⁹

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’, or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 156 security incidents, 129 of them against Somali Military Forces and Police Forces. Moreover, Somali Military Forces and Police Forces were involved in 123 security incidents against civilians. 22 security incidents involved attacks by Al-Shabaab militants on civilians.⁴⁵⁰

⁴⁴⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁴⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents

- On 19 April 2025, several mortar shells struck neighbourhoods near the presidential palace, killing two and injuring three other civilians.⁴⁵¹
- On 18 May 2025, an attacker targeted young men outside the Damanyo base, killing about a dozen people⁴⁵² and injuring over sixty.⁴⁵³ The men were would-be recruits looking to join the SNA.⁴⁵⁴
- On 9 July, a suicide bomber targeted Jaalle Siyad Military Academy⁴⁵⁵, reportedly causing 4 fatalities and six injuries.⁴⁵⁶ Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴⁵⁷
- On 4 October 2025, Al-Shabaab fighters infiltrated a prison in central Mogadishu. This resulted in several hours of gunfire exchange.⁴⁵⁸ The attack reportedly happened mere hours after the FGS had lifted several roadblocks in the city which had been there for several years to protect government sites.⁴⁵⁹
- In December 2025, an attempted suicide bomb attack on a military camp was foiled.⁴⁶⁰

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 17 individuals were newly displaced from Benadir region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. In the same period, 7 636 individuals arrived from other regions, most of them (7 421) from Lower Shabelle, with more than half originating from Afgooye district.⁴⁶¹ According to the UN Panel of Experts, 90 % of conflict-related displacement recorded during between September 2024 and October 2025 was linked to Al-Shabaab.⁴⁶² Radio Ergo noted in September 2025 that hundreds of families who had fled fighting between government forces and Al-Shabaab in Lower Shabelle were facing food and water shortages in IDP camps in Mogadishu.⁴⁶³

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very limited’ to ‘limited’ restrictions regarding humanitarian access in central parts of Mogadishu, but ‘heavy’ restrictions in parts of the outer

⁴⁵¹ Garowe Online, Mortar Attack Near Somali Presidential Palace Kills Two, Wounded Five, 19 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵² UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 14; Al Jazeera, At least 13 reported killed in suicide bomb blast in Somalia’s Mogadishu, 18 May 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵³ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 14

⁴⁵⁴ Somali Digest (The), Damanyo Attack Reveals Security Gaps, Shaken Army Morale, 18 May 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁵ SG, Suicide bomber targets Somali military academy during visit by Western officials, 9 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁶ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 14

⁴⁵⁷ AP, Al-Shabab claims responsibility for an explosion at a Somalia military training school, 9 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁸ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 16; Garowe Online, How Al Shabaab raided high security Intelligence detention facility in Mogadishu, 5 October 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁵⁹ AP, Somali government forces end a 6-hour siege at a major prison, killing all 7 attackers, 5 October 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁶⁰ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Somalia: April 2025 – March 2026, n.d., [url](#); Harun Maruf, [X], posted on: 10 December 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁶¹ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁶² UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 95

⁴⁶³ Radio Ergo, Conflict in Lower Shabelle sends families fleeing to desolate camps in Mogadishu, 29 September 2025, [url](#)



districts of Kaxda and Daynile and ‘very heavy restrictions’ in Wadajir bordering Lower Shabelle.⁴⁶⁴ In total, UNOCHA recorded 18 humanitarian access incidents in 2025,⁴⁶⁵ of which 7 were recorded in the period between July and September 2025.⁴⁶⁶ Regarding the food insecurity situation for January 2026, IPC reported that about 45 % of the total analysed population of 3 289 438 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 34 %), 3 (crisis, 9 % in) or 4 (emergency, 2 %).⁴⁶⁷ Benadir was reportedly hosting the largest concentration of IDPs in the country with an estimated IDP population of 1.06 million at the end of 2025.⁴⁶⁸ Between January and August 2025, 115 020 individuals were reportedly forcibly evicted in Benadir.⁴⁶⁹ NRC recorded 149 452 evictions in 2025 and 8 574 in the first three months of 2026.⁴⁷⁰ Inequitable aid distribution was reported to create tensions between IDP and host communities in Daynile, Kaxda and Garasbaley, with locals reporting exclusion from service lists and youth gangs limiting safe access to WASH, healthcare and markets.⁴⁷¹ No current information could be found regarding infrastructure damage.

2.4. Hirshabelle

2.4.1. Hiraan

Hiraan is divided into three districts: Jalalaqsi, Bulo Burto (also Buloburde, Buulo Barde) and Belet Weyne (also Beledweyne), with Belet Weyne city as the region’s capital.⁴⁷² As of January 2026, Hiraan’s population was estimated at 524 876.⁴⁷³ For more background information on Hiraan, see section 2.4.1. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026, Al-Shabaab largely controlled the area west of Shabelle river up to and including the town of Buqda. The remaining area up to the border with Ethiopia and most of the area east of Shabelle river were under mixed control. Al-Shabaab, however, controlled the area along the border to Galgaduud, including Mokoqori and Mahas towns – towns, which at the beginning of the reference period had still been controlled by the ‘federal aligned coalition, as indicated by [Map 2](#) of 31 March 2025. A small area east of Shabelle river and along the border to

⁴⁶⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026 , 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁴⁶⁵ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

⁴⁶⁶ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July – September 2025), 15 October 2025, [url](#), p. 2

⁴⁶⁷ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 8

⁴⁶⁸ RDI, Final Report to Conduct: Conflict Protection Sensitive Analysis in Somalia, NRC, 29 January 2026, [url](#), p. 13

⁴⁶⁹ RDI, Final Report to Conduct: Conflict Protection Sensitive Analysis in Somalia, NRC, 29 January 2026, [url](#), p. 8

⁴⁷⁰ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’ as year respectively, ‘Banaadir’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁴⁷¹ RDI, Final Report to Conduct: Conflict Protection Sensitive Analysis in Somalia, NRC, 29 January 2026, [url](#), p. 52

⁴⁷² UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

⁴⁷³ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4



Ethiopia, including Mataban town, remained under control of the ‘federal-aligned coalition’ as of 31 March 2026.⁴⁷⁴

Al-Shabaab recaptured Aborey in April 2025,⁴⁷⁵ and, in the context of a new offensive,⁴⁷⁶ several other important locations, including Gumare,⁴⁷⁷ Moqokori, Tardo, and Mahas in July 2025.⁴⁷⁸ The group also gained control over the area between Mahas and Mataban as well as the road connecting Mahas with Belet Weyne. Thereby, as of September 2025, the group had effectively cut off government forces and allied clan militia stationed in the capital city, and reversed nearly all gains made by the SNA and allied *Macawisley* clan militia with the support of the USA,⁴⁷⁹ and Türkiye during their 2022 counteroffensive.⁴⁸⁰ Critics claimed that political power struggles,⁴⁸¹ and lack of support for clan militias contributed to Al-Shabaab’s renewed advance.⁴⁸² Government (-aligned) operations against Al-Shabaab were reported during the reference period, for example, in April 2025 in Aborey,⁴⁸³ in May in El Hareeri,⁴⁸⁴ in July in Mabab,⁴⁸⁵ Bulo Hog village,⁴⁸⁶ and Gumare,⁴⁸⁷ and in August in Aborey and Mahas,⁴⁸⁸ including targeted killings of senior Al-Shabaab members.⁴⁸⁹ Somali media reported on *Macawisley*-led security operations in Garas Magan in June 2025⁴⁹⁰ and Mahas in January 2026.⁴⁹¹ As of February 2026, authorities claimed to have retaken areas in central Hiraan.⁴⁹² Kaab TV reported on ongoing inter-clan fighting involving Hawadle and Abgaal and Hawadle and Habargidir clans, respectively.⁴⁹³

⁴⁷⁴ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

⁴⁷⁵ Hiiraan Online, Somali forces withdraw from strategic Aboorey in Hiiraan’s Buulaburte district, 16 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁶ International Crisis Group, Helping Somalia Move Beyond a Shaky Status Quo, 16 October 2025, [url](#), p. 3

⁴⁷⁷ Soufan Center (The), Al-Shabaab’s 2025 Offensive and the Unraveling of Somalia’s Federal Counterinsurgency, 24 July 2025, [url](#); ACLED, Africa Overview: August 2025, 8 August 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁷⁸ UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 13

⁴⁷⁹ SG, Al-Shabaab expands territory in Somalia’s Hiran region amid government inaction, 11 September 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁰ Soufan Center (The), Al-Shabaab’s 2025 Offensive and the Unraveling of Somalia’s Federal Counterinsurgency, 24 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸¹ SG, Al-Shabaab expands territory in Somalia’s Hiran region amid government inaction, 11 September 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸² Horseed Media, Somalia: Al-Shabaab Seizes Key Villages in Hiiraan Days After Capturing Areas Near the Capital, 23 July 2025, [url](#); Caasimada, Maamul taabacsanaa Villa Somalia oo eedeyn culus oo la xiriiirta dagaalka u jeediyay DF [The Maamul Taabacsanaa Villa Somalia, a key stronghold linked to the conflict, has fallen to the DF], 7 September 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸³ SG, Somali army engages Al-Shabaab in fierce gunfight as militants capture key town in Hiran region, 8 April 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁴ Horseed Media, Somalia: Al-Shabaab leader among 45 terrorists killed in military operations, 22 May 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁵ SONNA, Somalia’s Intelligence Forces Kill 15 al-Shabaab Militants in Coordinated Operation in Hiiraan, 14 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁶ AA, Airstrike kills at least 7 al-Shabaab terrorists in Somalia’s Hiraan region, 13 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁷ Somaliland Standard, Somali Gov’t Confirms killing ten Al-shabab fighters in Hiiraan province, 5 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁸ SMN, Airstrikes Kill Senior Al-Shabaab Leaders in Somalia’s Hiiraan Region, 1 August 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁸⁹ SMN, NISA says senior Al-Shabaab commanders killed in targeted operation in Hiiraan, 4 September 2025, [url](#); ACLED, Africa Overview: October 2025, 3 October 2025, [url](#); Kaab TV, Somali Government Forces Eliminate Senior Al-Shabaab Member in Targeted Hiraan Operation, 13 October 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁰ Horseed Media, Somalia: Clan Militia Kills Senior al-Shabaab Commander, 7 June 2025, [url](#); Horn Observer, Hawadle Clan Militia Kills Senior al-Shabaab Commander in Central Somalia, 7 June 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹¹ SONNA, Local Forces Inflict Heavy Losses on Al-Shabaab in Hiiraan Region, 11 January 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁹² AP, Somalia renews its US-backed fight against al-Shabab militant group. Here is why it matters, 18 February 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁹³ Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 27 March 2026, ACLED recorded 352 security incidents in Hiraan region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 1 139 fatalities.⁴⁹⁴

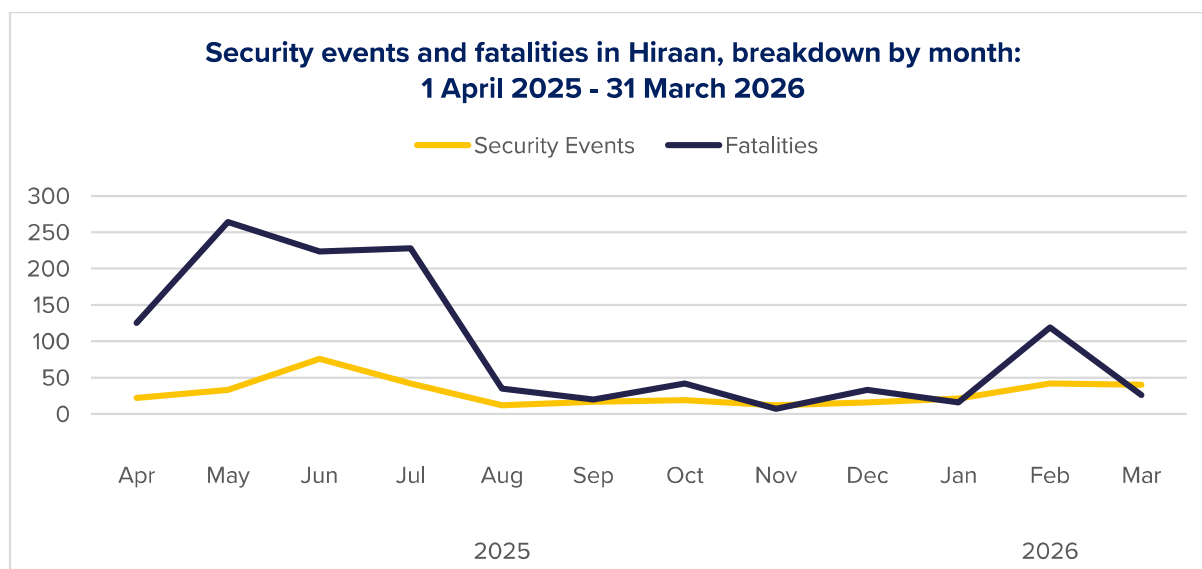


Figure 23: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Hiraan per month, based on ACLED data.⁴⁹⁵

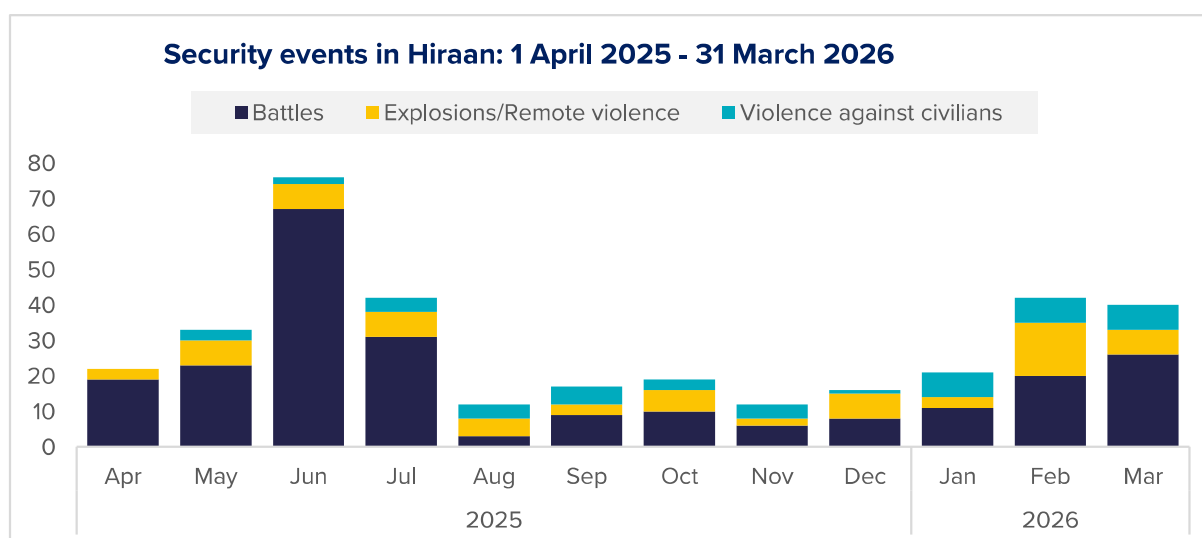


Figure 24: Evolution of security events in Hiraan per type, based on ACLED data.⁴⁹⁶

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either 'Actor 1' or 'Actor 2') were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 133 security incidents against Military and Police Forces of Somalia and associated actors

⁴⁹⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

(mainly Hawiye-Hawadle sub-clan militias). Moreover, Al-Shabaab was involved in 93 security incidents against Hawiye-Hawadle sub-clan militias. 17 security incidents involved clashes between (sub-)clan militias, and 47 incidents involved violence against civilians, predominantly by Al-Shabaab and various (sub-)clan and unidentified militias and armed groups.

Illustrative security incidents

- Al-Shabaab regained control over Moqokori in early July 2025 following a suicide car bomb attack on a key security checkpoint.⁴⁹⁷ The group's media claimed that 47 soldiers and Macawisley fighters were killed in the attack, and 65 injured.⁴⁹⁸
- At least three civilians were killed in a suspected Al-Shabaab IED attack on a café in Belet Weyne in mid-October 2025.⁴⁹⁹
- Armed men killed a man in a village along the border between Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions in late November 2025, allegedly in the context of an ongoing conflict between Hawadle and Abgaal clans.⁵⁰⁰

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 33 146 individuals were newly displaced from Hiraan region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. Most of them were displaced within Hiraan in July and August 2025, moving from Bulo Burto to Belet Weyne district. In the same period, no individuals arrived from other regions to Hiraan.⁵⁰¹ UNHCR reported of the displacement of at least 22 800 individuals from Mahas in July 2025, following Al-Shabaab's takeover of the town.⁵⁰²

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

Residents in Al-Shabaab-controlled locations reportedly faced restrictions of movement, enforced taxation,⁵⁰³ forced recruitment, especially of boys and adolescents,⁵⁰⁴ and the disruption of basic services.⁵⁰⁵ Fighting in Mahas and Moqokori led to the closure of health facilities, leaving displaced persons without access to health services and treatment.⁵⁰⁶ The

⁴⁹⁷ Horn Africa News, Al-Shabaab Captures Moqokori After Fierce Battle as Ma'awisley Militias Mobilize for Counterattack, 7 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁸ Soufan Center (The), Al-Shabaab's 2025 Offensive and the Unraveling of Somalia's Federal Counterinsurgency, 24 July 2025, [url](#)

⁴⁹⁹ Hiiraan Online, Three civilians killed in suspected Al-Shabaab bombing in Beledweyne, 15 October 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁰ Hiiraan Online, Elderly man killed in suspected clan revenge attack on Hiiraan–Middle Shabelle border, 26 November 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰¹ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁰² UNHCR Somalia, Flash Alert #14 - Thousands Displaced Amid Clashes Between Somali National Army and Al-Shabaab in Mahaas District, Hiran Region, 29 July 2025, [url](#), p. 1

⁵⁰³ Garowe Online, Somalia: How Moqokori town can be retaken from Al-Shabaab, 9 July 2025, [url](#); Soufan Center (The), Al-Shabaab's 2025 Offensive and the Unraveling of Somalia's Federal Counterinsurgency, 24 July 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁴ UNHCR Somalia, Flash Alert #14 - Thousands Displaced Amid Clashes Between Somali National Army and Al-Shabaab in Mahaas District, Hiran Region, 29 July 2025, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁰⁵ Kaab TV, Somalia's Security Setback: How Al-Shabaab Regained Territory Under President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, 12 November 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁶ Radio Ergo, Health crisis faces families displaced by conflict in Hiran, 4 September 2025, [url](#)

affected population was also in need of shelter, food, and water.⁵⁰⁷ A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in most of Bulo Burto district and in parts of Jalalaqsi and Belet Weyne districts.⁵⁰⁸ In total, UNOCHA recorded 17 humanitarian access incidents in 2025,⁵⁰⁹ of which 8 were recorded in the period between July and September 2025.⁵¹⁰ Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 55 % of the total analysed population of 524 876 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 34 %), 3 (crisis, 17 %) or 4 (emergency, 4 %).⁵¹¹ In early 2026, parts of eastern Bulo Burto district were particularly affected by worsening drought conditions.⁵¹² NRC recorded no evictions in Hiraan region in 2025 and early 2026.⁵¹³

No current information could be found regarding infrastructure damage.

2.4.2. Middle Shabelle

Middle Shabelle is divided into four districts, Adan Yabaal, Cadale, Balcad (also Bal’ad) and Jowhar. Jowhar city serves as the capital of both Middle Shabelle region and Hirshabelle State.⁵¹⁴ As of January 2026, the population was estimated at 1 053 608.⁵¹⁵ For more background information on Middle Shabelle, see section 2.4.2. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026, Al-Shabaab controlled parts of Adan Yabaal and Cadale districts along the border to Hiraan, while most of the region’s remaining area was under mixed control. Al-Shabaab also controlled the towns of Nur Dugle, Hawadley, Adan Yabaal, El Baraf, and Fidow. The latter three towns had still been under ‘federal aligned coalition’ or mixed control at the beginning of the reference period, according to [Map 2](#) of 31 March 2025. The towns of Jowhar, Mahaday, Balcad and Cadale and its surroundings remained under ‘federal aligned coalition’ control as of 31 March 2026, according to [Map 3](#).⁵¹⁶

Al-Shabaab launched an offensive in February 2025 and until mid-May 2025, the group managed to regain control over most of the territory it had lost in Middle Shabelle since

⁵⁰⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia: Conflict displacement in Hiraan and Gedo Regions – Flash Update No.2, 4 August 2025, [url](#); FTL Somalia, Crisis in Hiiraan as Over 60,000 Displaced as Conflict Sparks Urgent Humanitarian Emergency, 13 July 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁰⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁵⁰⁹ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 1

⁵¹⁰ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July – September 2025), 15 October 2025, [url](#), p. 1

⁵¹¹ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁵¹² UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency. Situation Report No. 3, 2 February 2026, [url](#), p. 3

⁵¹³ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’, respectively, as year, ‘Hiraan’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁵¹⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

⁵¹⁵ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁵¹⁶ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

2022,⁵¹⁷ including the key towns of Adan Yabaal,⁵¹⁸ and, in early June 2025, Hawadley.⁵¹⁹ According to the Critical Threats Project (CTP), Al-Shabaab's offensive focused on key areas between government-controlled towns in the Shabelle River valley near a major highway⁵²⁰ — such as Balcad and Jowhar⁵²¹ — to isolate these towns and reestablish support and supply zones.⁵²² As of January 2026, Al-Shabaab reportedly controlled the areas of Raaga Ceelle, Xaaji Cali, Masjid Cali Gaduud, Nur Dugle, and Ruun Nirgood.⁵²³

Security operations were reported in the areas of El Baraf in November,⁵²⁴ and Jabad Godane in December 2025⁵²⁵ and January 2026,⁵²⁶ when government forces regained control over the area,⁵²⁷ reportedly with the support of Turkish troops.⁵²⁸ Security operations were also reported in Maxaa Saciid,⁵²⁹ Qaahira⁵³⁰ and Raaga Ceelle district in February 2026.⁵³¹

Kaab TV reported on inter-clan fighting in Middle Shabelle involving Jareer and Abgaal, Gaaljecel and Jareer, Cabdalla Caroone and Celi, and Moobleyn and Jareer Weyne clans, respectively.⁵³² Other reports described conflicts involving Abgaal subclans,⁵³³ and Abgaal/Hawiye and Shidle clans,⁵³⁴ respectively.

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 457 security incidents in Middle Shabelle region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 1 149 fatalities.⁵³⁵

⁵¹⁷ Muibu, D., and Mbengue, Y., Somalia at a Crossroads: Resurgent Insurgents, Fragmented Politics, and the Uncertain Future of AUSSOM, CTC Sentinel, May 2025, [url](#), p. 3

⁵¹⁸ Soufan Center (The), Al-Shabaab's 2025 Offensive and the Unraveling of Somalia's Federal Counterinsurgency, 24 July 2025, [url](#); BBC, US-Somali airstrike as battle rages for key town, 17 April 2025, [url](#)

⁵¹⁹ Kaab TV, Al-Shabaab Militants Seize Control of Hawadley in Middle Shabelle Region, 2 June 2025, [url](#)

⁵²⁰ CTP, First Trump Africa Summit — DRC Tensions — Shabaab Momentum: Africa File, 10 July 2025, [url](#)

⁵²¹ SMN, Al-Shabaab Reinforces Positions Between Balcad and Jowhar Amid Military Tensions, 27 July 2025, [url](#)

⁵²² CTP, First Trump Africa Summit — DRC Tensions — Shabaab Momentum: Africa File, 10 July 2025, [url](#)

⁵²³ Baidoa Online, [X], posted on: 21 January 2026, [url](#)

⁵²⁴ Hiiraan Online, NISA, International Partners kill 23 al-Shabaab militants in Middle Shabelle region, 3 November 2025, [url](#)

⁵²⁵ Garowe Online, Somali Army Says It Killed Senior Al-Shabab Leaders in Middle Shabelle Operation, 22 December 2025, [url](#)

⁵²⁶ Hiiraan Online, Somali army kills 29 militants in operation against Al-Shabaab, 2 January 2026, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Somali army repels al-Shabab assault on bases in Middle Shabelle region, 18 January 2026, [url](#); FTL Somalia, Somali Commandos Launch Clearance Operation in Middle Shabelle, 1 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵²⁷ Somaliland Standard, Tension is reportedly running high in Hawadlay after the fighting in Jabad Godane, 27 January 2026, [url](#)

⁵²⁸ Somaliland Standard, Al-Shabab fighters are avoiding areas where Turkish troops have established military bases in the Middle Shabelle province.", 25 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵²⁹ Radio Dalsan, NISA says 13 al-shabaab members killed in special operation in Middle Shabelle, 2 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵³⁰ Kaab TV, NISA Confirms Seven Al-Shabaab Members Killed in Operation in Middle Shabelle, 4 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵³¹ Goobjoog, Somali Army Clears Militant Bases in Middle Shabelle, Secures Key Routes, 24 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵³² Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

⁵³³ BBC, Actor in film warning of revenge killings shot dead in family feud, 19 April 2025, [url](#)

⁵³⁴ Kaab TV, Six Killed in Deadly Clash Over Cannabis Farm Ownership in Middle Shabelle, Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

⁵³⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

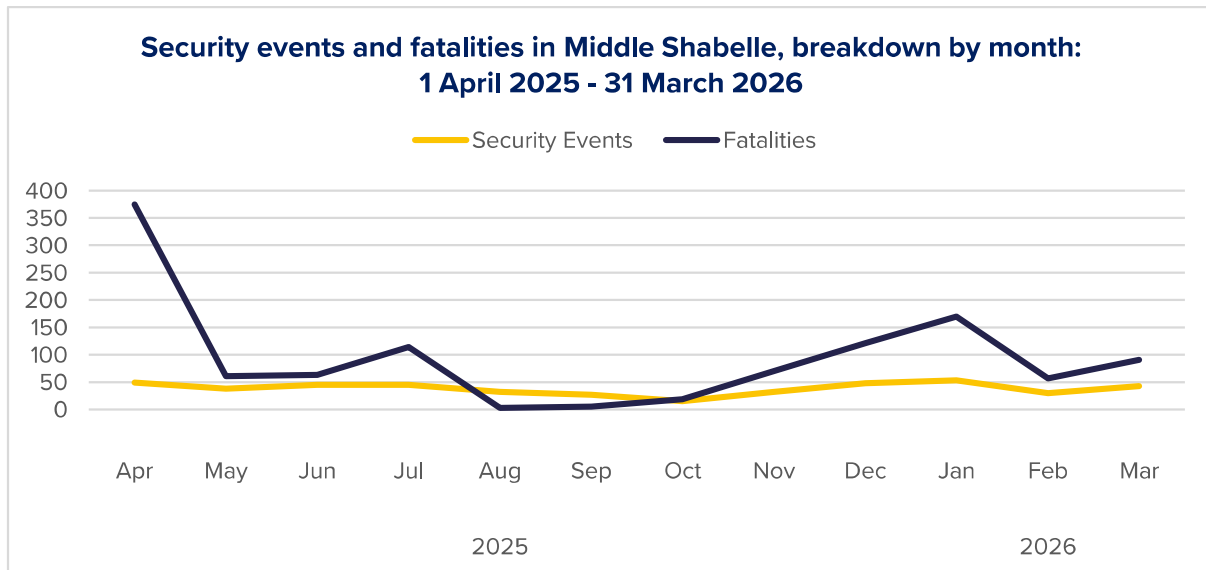


Figure 25: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Middle Shabelle per month, based on ACLED data.⁵³⁶

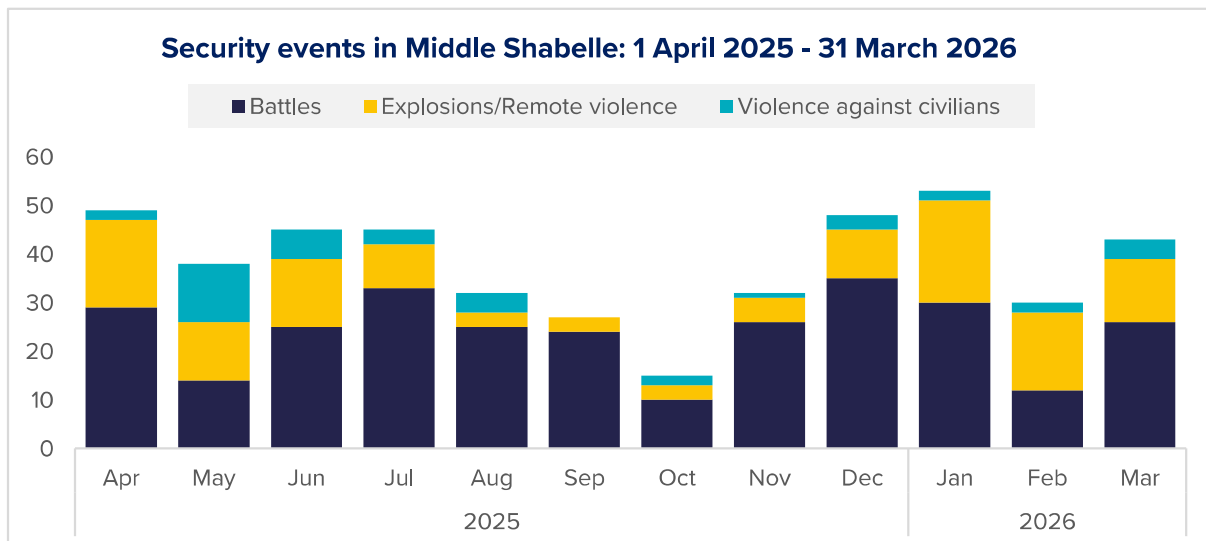


Figure 26: Evolution of security events in Middle Shabelle per type, based on ACLED data.⁵³⁷

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either 'Actor 1' or 'Actor 2') were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 223 security incidents against Military Forces of Somalia and associated actors (predominantly Hawiye-sub-clan militias). Moreover, Al-Shabaab was involved in 72 security incidents against various (sub-)clan militias. 16 security incidents involved clashes between (sub-)clan militias, and 41 incidents involved violence against civilians, mainly by Al-Shabaab, (sub-)clan militias and unidentified clan militias and armed groups.⁵³⁸

⁵³⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵³⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵³⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents

- Two civilians were killed in Burdheere village/Adale district in May 2025 in a suspected clan revenge killing.⁵³⁹
- More than 40 local elders were abducted by Al-Shabaab in the Afarta Tuulow area in May 2025, reportedly for refusing to fulfil the group's demands.⁵⁴⁰
- At least seven passengers were killed when a bus carrying about 20 civilians struck a roadside landmine in the Kudkudaaleey area in January 2026.⁵⁴¹

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 9 421 individuals were newly displaced from Middle Shabelle region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026, most of them within the region. For example, large numbers were moving from Adan Yabaal to Cadale district in April 2025, within Jowhar district in October 2025 and January 2026, and within Balcad district in January 2026. In the same period, no individuals arrived from other regions to Middle Shabelle.⁵⁴² According to the UN Panel of Experts, over 98 % of conflict-related displacement recorded during between September 2024 and October 2025 was linked to Al-Shabaab.⁵⁴³

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed 'very heavy restrictions' regarding humanitarian access in large parts of Adan Yabaal, Cadale and Jowhar districts located along the border to Hiraan as well as in north-western areas of Balcad district.⁵⁴⁴ In total, UNOCHA recorded 26 humanitarian access incidents in 2025, including armed clashes and road blockages.⁵⁴⁵ Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 61 % of the total analysed population of 1 053 608 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 36 %), 3 (crisis, 20 %) or 4 (emergency, 4 %).⁵⁴⁶ NRC recorded the eviction of 2 732 individuals in Middle Shabelle region in 2025 and early 2026 (all of them recorded in 2025).⁵⁴⁷ Radio Ergo reported on displaced persons in camp near Warsheikh town facing food and water shortages, lack of shelter, as well as lack of access to education and health services.⁵⁴⁸

No current information could be found regarding infrastructure damage.

⁵³⁹ Hiiraan Online, Two civilians killed in suspected clan-related shooting in Adale district, 11 May 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁴⁰ Caasimada, Xog: Al-Shabaab oo odayaal badan ka afduubtay Sh/Dhexe iyo xaalad adag oo taagan [News: Al-Shabaab has abducted many elders in Middle Shabelle, and a difficult situation has arisen], 21 May 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁴¹ SMN, Seven killed in central Somalia landmine blast targeting civilian bus, 4 January 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁴² UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁴³ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 95

⁵⁴⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁵⁴⁵ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁵⁴⁶ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁴⁷ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter '2025' and '2026', respectively, as year, 'Middle Shabelle' as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁵⁴⁸ Radio Ergo, Conflict in Middle Shabelle has left hundreds abandoned without help in camps in Warsheikh, 22 October 2025, [url](#)



2.5. Galmudug

2.5.1. Galgaduud

Galgaduud is divided into five districts: Cabudwaaq, Cadaado, Dhuusamarreeb (which is also the name of the region's capital city), Ceel Buur (also El Buur, Celbur) and Ceel Dheer (also El-Dheer).⁵⁴⁹ Galgaduud's population was estimated at 844 925.⁵⁵⁰ For more detailed background information on Galgaduud, see section 2.5.1. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Al-Shabaab controlled central and southeastern parts of Galgaduud region, including the towns Wahbo, Elbur (Ceel Buur), Galhareri and Osweyne. Most of the other rural parts south of the road connecting Guri El, Dhuusamarreeb, and Cadaado were under mixed control, including the rural southern part around Ceel Dheer and Masagaway and a small part along the southern stretch of the border with Mudug. The above-mentioned towns Guri El, Dhuusamarreeb, Cadaado, Ceel Dheer and Masagaway were controlled by the 'federal-aligned coalition', as were Bahdo, and Balanbal, Herale and Cabudwaaq near the Ethiopian border.⁵⁵¹

Government (aligned) operations against Al-Shabaab were reported during the reference period.⁵⁵² According to a November 2025 article by SMN, clan-related killings significantly increased in late 2024 and 2025.⁵⁵³ Incidences of clan attacks during the reference period were reported,⁵⁵⁴ for example, in the Meersiis area,⁵⁵⁵ in Hindheere and ⁵⁵⁶Balanbal,⁵⁵⁷ and in the Guudoole⁵⁵⁸ area.⁵⁵⁹

⁵⁴⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁰ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁵¹ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

⁵⁵² Dawan, Somalia, U.S forces kill 20 Al-Shabaab militants, 12 May 2025, [url](#); UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 13

⁵⁵³ SMN, Appeals Court in Galmudug state Sentences Three Over Mother and Daughters' Killing, 30 November 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁴ Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁵ Hiiraan Online, Clan clashes kill six, injure dozens in Galgaduud, 17 July 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁶ Hiiraan Online, Clan revenge attack kills mother and three daughters in Hindheere, Galgaduud, 9 October 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁷ SMN, Father and son killed in clan revenge attack in Somalia's Galgaduud region, 29 October 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁵⁸ Guudoole is located in Dhuusamarreeb district. UNOCHA, Somalia, Galgaduud region, Somalia Atlas, 17 October 2011, [url](#), p. 59

⁵⁵⁹ Mustaqbal Media, Clan clashes in Galgaduud results deaths and injuries, efforts underway to restore calm, 2 November 2025, [url](#)



(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 298 security incidents in Galgaduud region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 580 fatalities.⁵⁶⁰

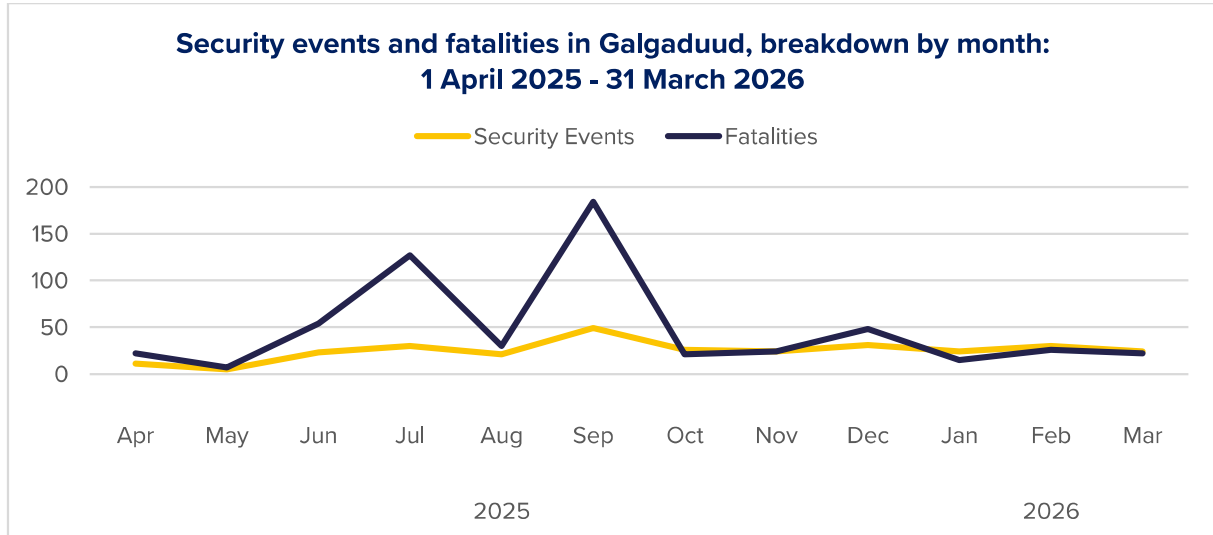


Figure 27: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Galgaduud per month, based on ACLED data.⁵⁶¹

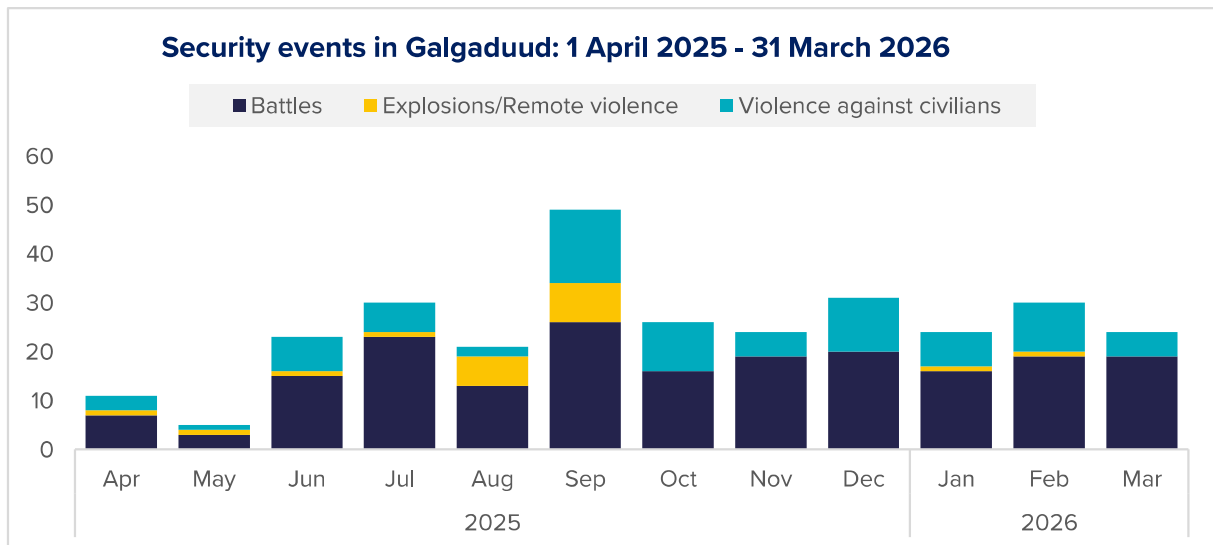


Figure 28: Evolution of security events in Galgaduud per type, based on ACLED data.⁵⁶²

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’, or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 81 security incidents against Military Forces of Somalia and associated actors (including

⁵⁶⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁶¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁶² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)



Hawiye sub-clan militias and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamaa). Moreover, Al-Shabaab was involved in 18 security incidents against various (sub-)clan militias. 85 security incidents involved clashes between (sub-)clan militias, and 79 incidents involved violence against civilians by (sub-)clan militias.⁵⁶³

Illustrative security incidents

- On 28 June 2025, Al-Shabaab carried out public executions of five men in the town of Ceel Buur accused of spying.⁵⁶⁴
- In September 2025, Al-Shabaab attacked Ceel Dheer town. However, the attack was reportedly repelled by troops and local militias.⁵⁶⁵ The number of casualties remained unclear. According to the Ceel Dheer district governor, 71 Al-Shabaab fighters and 6 soldiers were killed.⁵⁶⁶
- In early November 2025, at least four persons were killed and nine injured in a clan conflict in the Guudoole area. The casualties included both civilians and members of armed militias.⁵⁶⁷

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 1 056 individuals were newly displaced from Galgaduud region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of the displaced individuals (1 000) were displaced within Galgaduud in November 2025, moving from Dhuusamareeb district to Cadaado district. In the same period, 11 other individuals arrived from other regions, all from Buhodle district of Togdheer.⁵⁶⁸

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in most of Ceel Buur and in parts of Dhuusamarreeb and Ceel Dheer districts.⁵⁶⁹ Parts of Galgaduud were also affected by drought. Water prices doubled, leading to reduced access.⁵⁷⁰ Humanitarian access was reportedly limited by clashes involving government forces, as well as inter-clan violence.⁵⁷¹ In total, UNOCHA recorded five humanitarian access incidents in 2025.⁵⁷² As of January 2026, IPC reported that about 75 % of the total analysed population of 844 925 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 35 %), 3

⁵⁶³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁴ Wardheer News, Al-Shabaab seizes Ceel-Qooxle in Hiiraan and executes five men in Ceelbuur for Alleged Espionage, 29 June 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁵ Horn Observer, Al-Shabaab Seizes Soldiers, Vehicles, and Supplies in Dawn Attack on Ceeldheer, 13 September 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁶ SMN, Tirada Xubnaha Al-Shabaab ee lagu dilay Dagaalkii El-Dheer oo gaartey 71, 14 September 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁷ Mustaqbal Media, Clan clashes in Galgaduud results deaths and injuries, efforts underway to restore calm, 2 November 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁸ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁶⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁵⁷⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency, Situation Report No. 3, 2 February 2026, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁷¹ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July – September 2025), 15 October 2025, [url](#), p. 1

⁵⁷² UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#)



(crisis, 29 %) or 4 (emergency, 11 %).⁵⁷³ As of November 2025, UNOCHA mentioned that Ceelbuur district had been under the influence of non-state armed actors for 15 years and faced severe levels of hunger.⁵⁷⁴ NRC recorded no evictions in Galgaduud in 2025 and 2026.⁵⁷⁵

No current information could be found regarding infrastructure damage and access to health.

2.5.2. Mudug

The northern part of Mudug is administered by Puntland⁵⁷⁶ (Galdogob and Jariiban districts are administered exclusively by Puntland⁵⁷⁷), while the southern part is administered by Galmudug.⁵⁷⁸ Xarardheere (also Harardhere) and Hobyo fall exclusively under the administration of Galmudug.⁵⁷⁹ Gaalkacyo district is administered by both Puntland and Galmudug.⁵⁸⁰ Mudug's population was estimated at 1 528 722.⁵⁸¹ For more detailed background information on Mudug, see section 2.5.2. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, **Gaalkacyo** was under mixed control of 'autonomous armed forces' and the 'federal-aligned coalition'. The northern and southern areas of **Southern Mudug** were under mixed control of Al-Shabaab and the 'federal-aligned coalition'. The towns of Amara and Qey'ad and areas west of these towns were controlled by Al-Shabaab, while the towns of Hobyo, Wisil and Xardheere were controlled by the 'federal-aligned coalition'. As of 31 March 2026, small parts in the south-east of **Northern Mudug** were under mixed control between Al-Shabaab and 'autonomous armed forces', while the rest, including Gara'ad, was controlled by 'autonomous armed forces'.⁵⁸²

⁵⁷³ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁷⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency, Situation Report No. 1, 27 November 2025, [url](#), p. 2

⁵⁷⁵ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter '2025' and '2026', respectively, as year, 'Galgaduud' as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁵⁷⁶ SG, Somalia government's display of new map irks two regional states | Somali Guardian, 27 October 2024, [url](#)

⁵⁷⁷ Abdullahi, S. and Takaindisa, J., Understanding conflicts between nomadic clans in Somalia's Mudug region, CGIAR, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁷⁸ Heritage Institute (The), Galmudug: Governance, State Formation, Conflict Dynamics, and Reconciliation, March 2024, [url](#), p. 8

⁵⁷⁹ Abdullahi, S. and Takaindisa, J., Understanding conflicts between nomadic clans in Somalia's Mudug region, CGIAR, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁸⁰ Abdullahi, S. and Takaindisa, J., Understanding conflicts between nomadic clans in Somalia's Mudug region, CGIAR, 15 December 2025, [url](#), p. 4

⁵⁸¹ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4; As of September 2025, the IPC estimated Southern Mudug's population at 597 037 and the population of North Mudug at 918 998. IPC, Somalia Acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition analysis July – December 2025, 29 September 2025, [url](#), p. 3

⁵⁸² PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

Southern Mudug remained a focal point in Somalia's efforts to counter-insurgency efforts.⁵⁸³ Several government(-aligned) operations against Al-Shabaab⁵⁸⁴ and Al-Shabaab attacks⁵⁸⁵ were reported during the reference period. Clan-related killings significantly increased in late 2024 and 2025.⁵⁸⁶ Clan conflicts were reported during the reference period,⁵⁸⁷ especially in Gaalkacyo.⁵⁸⁸ For example, in October 2025, local media reported that civilians were the target of violence and killings by armed groups in the northern part of Gaalkacyo city.⁵⁸⁹

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 114 security incidents in Mudug region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 273 fatalities. Most of the security incidents were recorded in Gaalkacyo district (48 incidents including 30 cases of violence against civilians). Xarardheere and Hobyo recorded 47 incidents, while Galdogob and Jariiban recorded 19 incidents, including 9 cases of violence against civilians.⁵⁹⁰

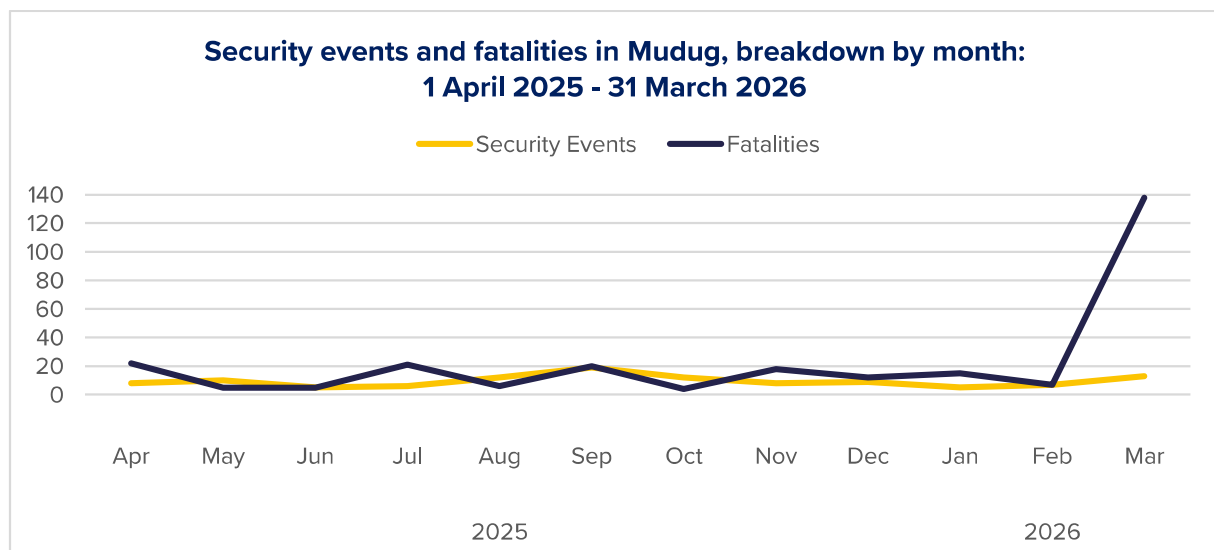


Figure 29: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Mudug per month, based on ACLED data.⁵⁹¹

⁵⁸³ Hiiraan Online, Galmudug forces kill Al-Shabaab commanders in coordinated Mudug raid, 24 July 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁸⁴ Mareeg, Airstrike hits Al-Shabab Training Camp in central Somalia, 10 March 2026, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Somali army kills three Al-Shabaab militants in Mudug region, 13 May 2025, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Galmudug forces kill Al-Shabaab commanders in coordinated Mudug raid, 24 July 2025, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Somali army and militias eliminate Al-Shabaab commanders in Mudug, Bakool, 18 November 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁸⁵ Dawan, Somalia, U.S forces kill 20 Al-Shabaab militants, 12 May 2025, [url](#); Horn Observer, Al-Shabaab Surrounds Coastal Town in Central Somalia as Fear Spreads to Villages Near Mogadishu, 17 August 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁸⁶ SMN, Appeals Court in Galmudug state Sentences Three Over Mother and Daughters' Killing, 30 November 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁸⁷ Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁸⁸ Horn Observer, Somalia: Clan Revenge Killings Resurface in Galkayo, Locals Demand Action, 20 June 2025, [url](#); SMN, Gunmen kill young doctor in clan-related attack in central Somalia, 10 September 2025, [url](#); Kaab TV, Prominent Businessman Killed in Galkayo Amid Escalating Clan Tensions, 16 September 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁸⁹ Kaab TV, Puntland Government Moves to Curb Gender-Based and Militia Killings in North Galkayo, 28 October 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁹¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

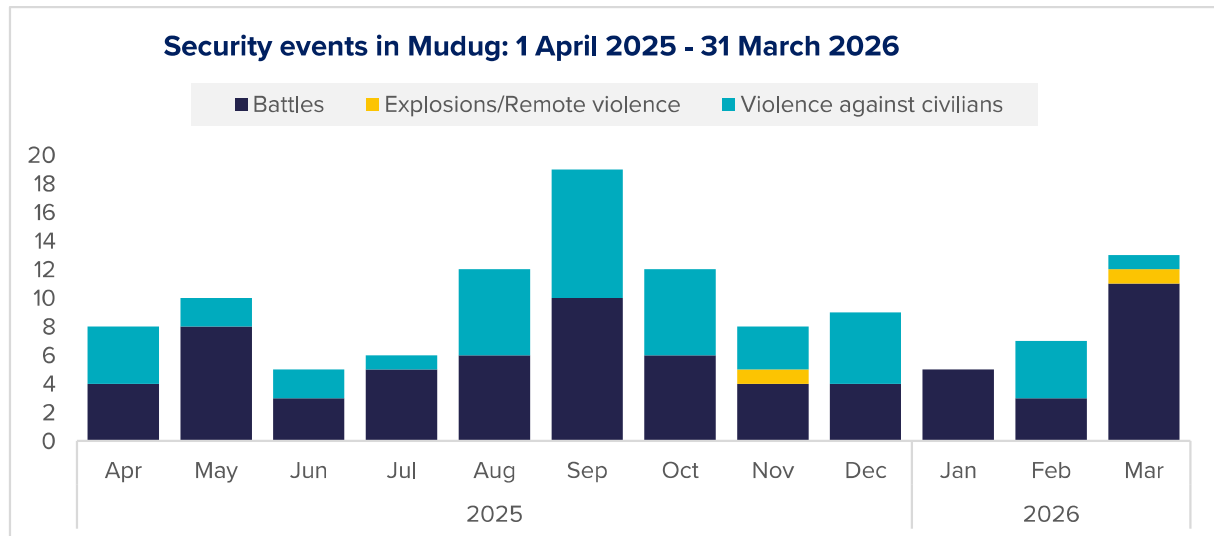


Figure 30: Evolution of security events in Mudug per type, based on ACLED data.⁵⁹²

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’, or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 25 security incidents against Military and Police Forces of Somalia and associated actors (including Hawiye sub-clan militias and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamaa). Moreover, Al-Shabaab was involved in 11 security incidents against various (sub-)clan militias. All incidents involving Al-Shabaab occurred in Xarardheere and Hobyo districts. 22 security incidents involved clashes between (sub-)clan militias (including 13 in Gaalkacyo district), and 39 incidents involved violence against civilians by (sub-)clan militias.⁵⁹³

Illustrative security incidents

- On 29 May 2025, an armed militia attacked a prison in a Puntland-administered part of Gaalkacyo, trying to free prisoners. No casualty numbers were released.⁵⁹⁴
- On 7 June 2025, a taxi driver and a passenger were shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in a Puntland-administered area of Gaalkacyo city in an incident of alleged inter-clan violence.⁵⁹⁵
- On 17 November 2025, Ma’awiisley militia fighters and government troops clashed with Al-Shabaab in Dumaaye village, in Xarardheere, resulting in six militants killed.⁵⁹⁶

⁵⁹² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁹³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁴ Hiiraan Online, Militia storms Puntland prison in Galkayo in bid to free inmates, 29 May 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁵ Horn Observer, Somalia: Clan Revenge Killings Resurface in Galkayo, Locals Demand Action, 20 June 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁶ Hiiraan Online, Somali army and militias eliminate Al-Shabaab commanders in Mudug, Bakool, 18 November 2025, [url](#)



- On 9 March 2026,⁵⁹⁷ according to NISA, 15 Al-Shabaab fighters, including leaders of the group, were killed in airstrikes in Dumaaye area.⁵⁹⁸ ACLED data noted over 100 fighters were killed.⁵⁹⁹

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 205 individuals were newly displaced from Mudug region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of the displaced individuals (150) were displaced within Hobyo district in Mudug in April 2025. In the same period, 38 other individuals arrived from other regions, all arriving in Gaalkacyo.⁶⁰⁰ In February 2026, 66 000 individuals were displaced by severe drought conditions in Hobyo district,⁶⁰¹ with the combined effects of drought and insecurity escalating displacement within the district.⁶⁰²

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in most parts of Xarardheere district and the southern parts of Hobyo district.⁶⁰³ Humanitarian access was reportedly limited by clashes involving government forces, as well as inter-clan violence.⁶⁰⁴ In August 2025, prices for food and essential goods rose after Al-Shabaab blockaded Xarardheere town.⁶⁰⁵ As of January 2026, IPC reported that about 79 % of the total analysed population of 1 528 722 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 36 %), 3 (crisis, 32 % in) or 4 (emergency, 11 %).⁶⁰⁶ As of November 2025, UNOCHA mentioned acute drought conditions, water scarcity, and hunger in several villages in Hobyo district.⁶⁰⁷ In January 2026, two civilians were killed and two injured in a landmine explosion in Xarardheere district.⁶⁰⁸ NRC data for 2025 and early 2026 showed the eviction of 3 420 individuals.⁶⁰⁹

No current information could be found regarding infrastructure damage and access to health.

⁵⁹⁷ Mareeg, Airstrike hits Al-Shabab Training Camp in central Somalia, 10 March 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁸ Somalia, NISA, [X], posted on: 13 March 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁹⁹ ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, SOM55861, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 14 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁰ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁰¹ UNHCR, Protection and Solutions Monitoring Flash Alert #4, Feb 2026, 5 February 2026, [url](#), p. 1

⁶⁰² UNHCR, Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network Flash Alert 3, Jan 2026, 21 January 2026, [url](#), p. 1; UNHCR, Protection and Solutions Monitoring Flash Alert #4, Feb 2026, 5 February 2026, [url](#), p. 1

⁶⁰³ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁶⁰⁴ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July – September 2025), 15 October 2025, [url](#), p. 1

⁶⁰⁵ Horn Observer, Al-Shabaab Surrounds Coastal Town in Central Somalia as Fear Spreads to Villages Near Mogadishu, 17 August 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁰⁶ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁶⁰⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency, Situation Report No. 1, 27 November 2025, [url](#), p. 2

⁶⁰⁸ UNHCR, Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network Flash Alert 3, Jan 2026, 21 January 2026, [url](#), p. 1

⁶⁰⁹ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’, respectively, as year, ‘Mudug’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.



2.6. Puntland

2.6.1. Nugal

Nugal is divided into three districts, Burtinle, Eyl and Garowe. Garowe is also the name of Puntland's capital.⁶¹⁰ As of January 2026, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) estimated Nugal's population at 656 910.⁶¹¹ For more detailed background information on Nugal, see section 2.6.1. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Nugal region was controlled by 'autonomous armed forces (unionist)', including the towns of Eyl, Garowe and Burtinle.⁶¹²

Political disputes between the Puntland authorities and Abdirashid Yusuf Jibriil, the former speaker of the Puntland Parliament, who supported the inclusion of Puntland-claimed Sanaag region into SSC-Khatumo, intensified during the reference period.⁶¹³ Tensions also grew over the FGS's recognition of SSC-Kathumo as federal member state in April 2025, officially renamed North-Eastern State on 1 August 2025 (see section [2.7 Sool, Sanaag, Cayn and North-Eastern State \(NES\)](#)).

In November 2025, FTL Somalia reported on the ongoing increased presence of armed men linked to clan militias and political factions in Garowe.⁶¹⁴ Previously, media had pointed to the worsening security situation,⁶¹⁵ including a rising number of violent incidents involving members of security forces,⁶¹⁶ civilian killings and sexual violence, often in the context of substance abuse.⁶¹⁷ A disarmament campaign, launched by the Nugal administration in May 2025 following the killing of two civilians was reportedly met with resistance by clan militias and private security personnel.⁶¹⁸

⁶¹⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

⁶¹¹ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁶¹² PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

⁶¹³ Hiiraan Online, Clashes erupt in Sanaag region between Puntland forces and pro-SSC administration politicians, 5 July 2025, [url](#); Wardheer News, MP Abdirashid Jibril Accused of Undermining Puntland in Secret Deal with Mogadishu, 25 June 2025, [url](#)

⁶¹⁴ FTL Somalia, Puntland Police Chief Warns of Crackdown on Unauthorized Armed Men, 1 November 2025, [url](#)

⁶¹⁵ Hiiraan Online, Puntland Vice President orders CCTV installation in Garowe to curb rising insecurity, 21 May 2025, [url](#); Somali Magazine, Tensions Rise in Garowe as Puntland Speaker's Guard Injured in Police Operation, 8 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶¹⁶ Hiiraan Online, Puntland soldier kills two tax officials in Garowe town, 24 July 2025, [url](#)

⁶¹⁷ Hiiraan Online, Puntland Vice President orders CCTV installation in Garowe to curb rising insecurity, 21 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶¹⁸ Somali Magazine, Tensions Rise in Garowe as Puntland Speaker's Guard Injured in Police Operation, 8 May 2025, [url](#)

Media also reported of incidents of piracy⁶¹⁹ and of suspected trafficking of arms, narcotics,⁶²⁰ and components of weapons off the coast of Eyl district.⁶²¹

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 20 security incidents in Nugal region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 22 fatalities.⁶²²

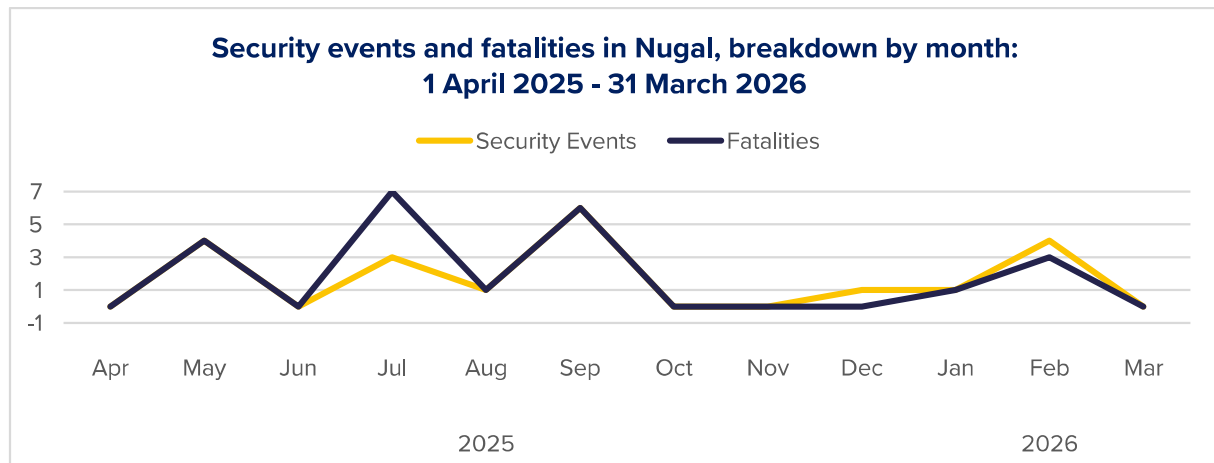


Figure 31: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Nugal per month, based on ACLED data.⁶²³

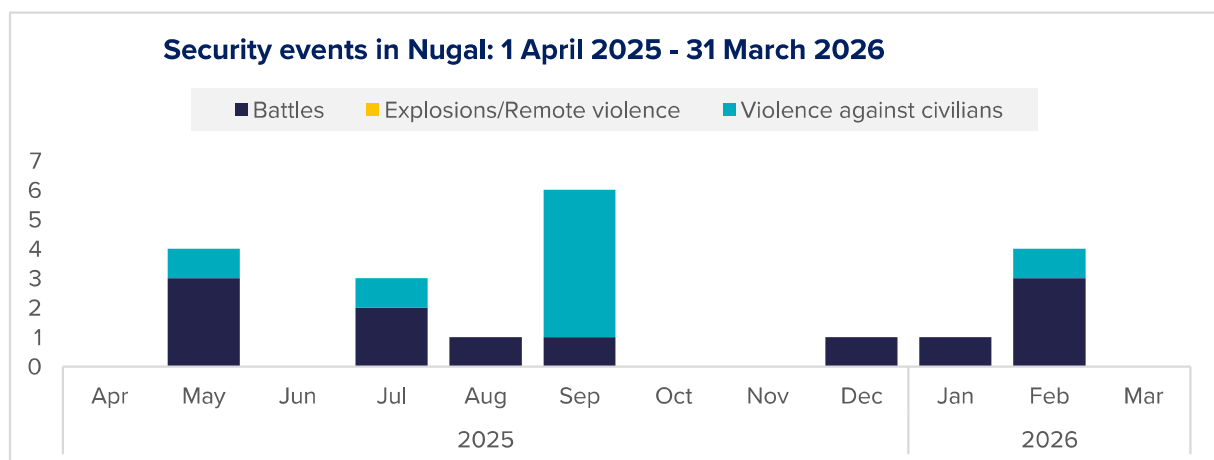


Figure 32: Evolution of security events in Nugal per type, based on ACLED data.⁶²⁴

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either 'Actor 1' or 'Actor 2') were, among others, involved in security incidents: 5 security incidents involved

⁶¹⁹ BBC, Pirates fire grenades and board vessel off Somali coast, 6 November 2025, [url](#); Wardheer News, Piracy Flares Again as Deadly Clash Erupts Off Coastal Puntland, 27 February 2026, [url](#)

⁶²⁰ Hiiraan Online, UKMTO warns ships after suspicious activity off Somali coast, 30 October 2025, [url](#)

⁶²¹ ADF, Houthis Provide Somali Pirates With Advanced Tech, 27 January 2026, [url](#)

⁶²² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶²³ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶²⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

clashes between Police and Military forces of Somalia, all in Garowe city, and 8 incidents involved violence against civilians by Police and Military forces of Somalia, and unidentified armed groups and clan militias.

Illustrative security incidents

- Two civilians were shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in a high-security area in Garowe in May 2025.⁶²⁵
- Four people, including three police officers, were killed and two more injured in an attack by a former soldier in Garowe in July 2025. The attack was reportedly triggered by a dispute with tax enforcement officers confiscating a vehicle owned by the suspect.⁶²⁶

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 15 individuals were displaced from Nugal region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026.⁶²⁷ On the other hand, IPC noted that Nugal was among the regions most affected by conflict-driven displacement in the second half of 2025.⁶²⁸ Displacement was also reported due to flash floods⁶²⁹ and drought.⁶³⁰

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very limited restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access across Nugal region.⁶³¹ In total, UNOCHA recorded two humanitarian access incidents in 2025.⁶³² Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 79 % of the total analysed population of 656 910 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 40 %), 3 (crisis, 29 %) or 4 (emergency, 10 %).⁶³³ NRC recorded the eviction of 14 898 individuals in Nugal region in 2025 and early 2026 (all of them recorded in 2025).⁶³⁴ ‘Notable’ eviction risks in IDPs settlements in Garowe district were reportedly linked to tenure insecurity and unresolved land disputes.⁶³⁵ Radio Ergo pointed to populations in IDP settlements in Garowe district facing shortages of food, water, shelter, healthcare, and

⁶²⁵ Hiiraan Online, Gunmen kill two civilians near government buildings in Garowe, 4 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶²⁶ Hiiraan Online, Puntland police arrest former officer linked to deadly attack in Garowe town, 25 July 2025, [url](#)

⁶²⁷ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶²⁸ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 3

⁶²⁹ IFRC, DREF Final Report Somalia Population Movement, 25 September 2025, [url](#), p. 3

⁶³⁰ UNOCHA, Somalia Monthly Humanitarian Update – September and October 2025, 13 November 2025, [url](#), p. 1; Radio Ergo, Long drought forces hundreds of pastoralist families to flee to Garowe, 13 February 2026, [url](#)

⁶³¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 1

⁶³² UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 1

⁶³³ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁶³⁴ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’, respectively, as year, ‘Nugal’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁶³⁵ Somalia, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management - Puntland, et al., Puntland Eviction Risk Assessment Report: Developing a Balanced Understanding of Evictions in Puntland to Inform Early Warning Actions and Solutions Interventions, July 2025, [url](#), p. 3

education.⁶³⁶ At the beginning of the reference period, Somali media reported of repeated attacks by local armed groups on communication infrastructure in Burtinle district.⁶³⁷

2.6.2. Bari

Bari is divided into six districts, Qardho, Bandarbeyla, Iskushuban, Calula, Qandala, and Bossaso. The capital city of Bossaso (also Boosaaso, Bosaso) is situated on the Gulf of Aden coast.⁶³⁸ As of January 2026, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) estimated Bari's population at 1 281 189.⁶³⁹ For more detailed background information on Bari, see section 2.6.2. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

[Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, indicated Al-Shabaab's presence in the Al Madow mountains to the west of Bossaso, and the presence of Al-Shabaab or the Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) in the Al Miskaad mountains to the east of the city. [Map 3](#) of 31 March 2026 indicated approximate ISS 'presence' in central and northeastern Bari in contrast to [Map 2](#) of 31 March 2025 which had only shown possible ISS 'influence'. Both maps indicated the presence of 'autonomous armed forces (unionist)' across Bari region, including Bossaso and other urban centres, except for Habley, which remained under mixed, unclear and/or local control involving autonomous armed forces and ISS. [Map 3](#) of 31 March 2026 also showed Hul Anod, Hiriro, Hamure and Guryasamo towns under mixed, unclear and/or local control.⁶⁴⁰

Puntland forces continued security operations against ISS during the reference period,⁶⁴¹ supported by US airstrikes,⁶⁴² the United Arab Emirates and regional countries.⁶⁴³ In the context of the ongoing security operation 'Hilac', Puntland forces declared to have cleared 98 % of the Al Miskaad mountain range from ISS as of June 2025, although authorities confirmed that the group's leader had managed to escape.⁶⁴⁴ Following the capture of Togga Miraale, ISS's largest base in the region, in May 2025,⁶⁴⁵ security operations continued in the Balaade valley.⁶⁴⁶ Nevertheless, the group maintained a presence in the mountainous

⁶³⁶ Radio Ergo, Marginalised families in Puntland displacement camps face hunger, discrimination and neglect, 21 May 2025, [url](#); Radio Ergo, Poor IDP women hit by ban on sale of scrap metal in Garowe, 6 December 2025, [url](#)

⁶³⁷ Wardheer News, PUNTLAND: Internet Disrupted in Burtinle as Armed Men Cut Golis Fiber Optic Cables – The Fourth Attack This Year, 6 April 2025, [url](#); Horseed Media, Burtinle oo markale dabley ka jartay adeegga internetka Golis. [Burtinle has once again cut off the Golis internet service.], 6 April 2025, [url](#)

⁶³⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

⁶³⁹ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁶⁴⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.d.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.d.

⁶⁴¹ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Somalia: April 2025 – March 2026, n.d., [url](#)

⁶⁴² BBC, 'We will go wherever they hide': Rooting out IS in Somalia, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁴³ Security Council Report, December 2025 Monthly Forecast Somalia, 30 November 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁴ Horseed Media, Somalia: ISIS leader escaped as forces secure 98% of Calmiskaat Mountains in Puntland, 17 June 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁵ Hiiraan Online, Puntland forces capture key ISIS stronghold in Togga Miraale, 31 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁶ Garowe Online, Somalia: U.S. Conducts Airstrike Against ISIS Targets in Puntland State, 11 March 2026, [url](#); Garowe Online, Puntland deploys fresh troops to Al-Miskaad mountains as anti-ISIS offensive enters final phase, 8 December 2025, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Puntland forces kill over ten ISIS members in major operation in Bari region, 4

region,⁶⁴⁷ and Puntland forces continued to be targeted by landmine attacks attributed to ISS,⁶⁴⁸ as one of the group's main tactics, according to a senior commander quoted by Hiiraan Online.⁶⁴⁹ As of October 2025, the group had reportedly re-emerged in areas previously cleared during security operations.⁶⁵⁰ By the end of the reference period, ISS had re-established its presence and intensified its attacks, targeting the local population,⁶⁵¹ and security forces.⁶⁵² Critics reportedly accused authorities of having reduced security operations allowing for the group's resurgence,⁶⁵³ while officials pointed to locals providing support to ISS.⁶⁵⁴ Media sources also mentioned challenges to security operations including limitations in terms of medicine, fuel, and logistics,⁶⁵⁵ political disagreements between Puntland's leadership and the FGS,⁶⁵⁶ delayed payment of (former) soldiers,⁶⁵⁷ lack of external support, fatigue and declining morale among Puntland's security forces, and a lack of personnel as militia fighters from Mudug and Sanaag returned to their home areas.⁶⁵⁸

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 719 security incidents in Bari region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 1 034 fatalities.⁶⁵⁹

October 2025, [url](#); Goobjoog, Puntland Forces Capture Major ISIS Bases, Kills Militants in Bari Region Offensive, 3 September 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁷ BBC, 'We will go wherever they hide': Rooting out IS in Somalia, 16 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁸ Hiiraan Online, Roadside blast kills Puntland officer, soldiers on Bosaso-Dhaadaar road, 5 January 2026, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, At least ten Puntland soldiers killed in an explosion in Bari region, 16 October 2025, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Senior Puntland commander killed in landmine explosion during anti-ISIS operation, 23 September 2025, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Senior Puntland commando commander killed in ISIS roadside bombing, 5 August 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁴⁹ Hiiraan Online, Puntland forces kill ISIS cell behind deadly landmine attack on Gen. Qalyare, 29 September 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁰ Hiiraan Online, At least ten Puntland soldiers killed in an explosion in Bari region, 16 October 2025, [url](#); Halqabsi News, Seven Puntland soldiers killed in Al Miskat IED attack, 15 October 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵¹ Wardheer News, Isis resurges in Calmiskaad Mountains, launching deadly attacks, 13 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵² Somaliland Standard, ISIS fighters launch ambush attacks against Puntland security forces, 22 April 2026, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Puntland displays bodies of ISIS fighters after US airstrike in Calmiskaad mountains, 22 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵³ Kaab TV, Five Puntland Security Soldiers Killed in Bomb Explosion in Almiskaad, 14 March 2026, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Roadside bomb kills five Puntland soldiers in Bari region, 13 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁴ Hiiraan Online, Roadside bomb kills five Puntland soldiers in Bari region, 13 March 2026, [url](#); Somali Magazine, Deadly Explosion Kills Ten Puntland Soldiers in Bari Region Attack, 16 October 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁵ Somaliland Standard, ISIS fighters launch ambush attacks against Puntland security forces, 22 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁶ SG, Puntland accuses Somalia's president of arming clan militias amid rising tensions, 12 March 2026, [url](#); Hiiraan Online, Puntland names nearly 50 foreign ISIS fighters captured in Northeastern Somalia, 18 January 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁷ Hiiraan Online, Puntland forces clear highway after clash with unpaid soldiers, 15 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁸ Wardheer News, Isis resurges in Calmiskaad Mountains, launching deadly attacks, 13 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

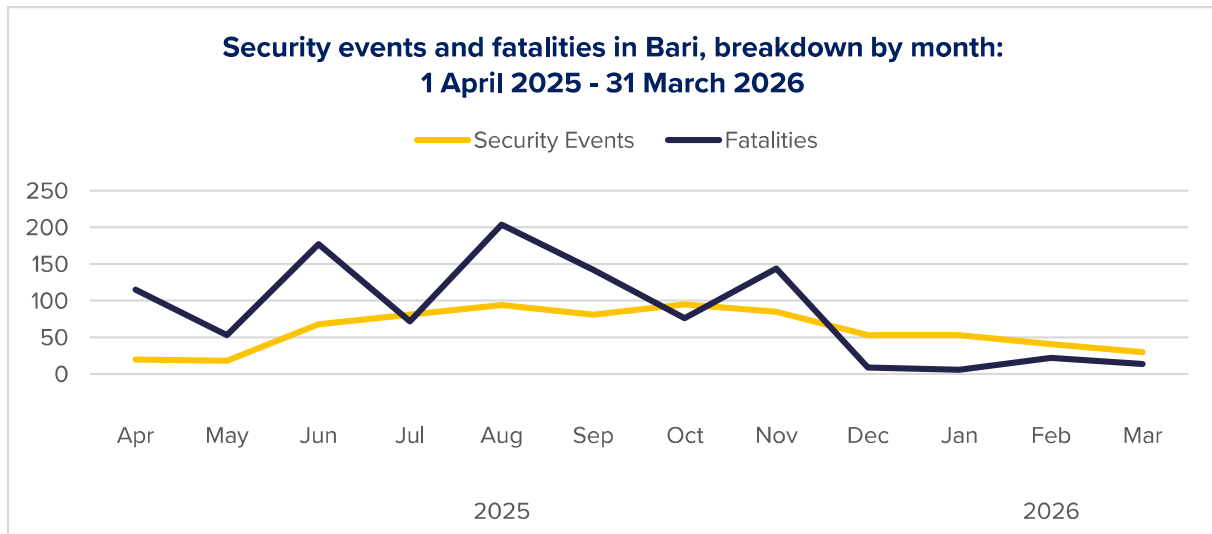


Figure 33: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Bari per month, based on ACLED data.⁶⁶⁰

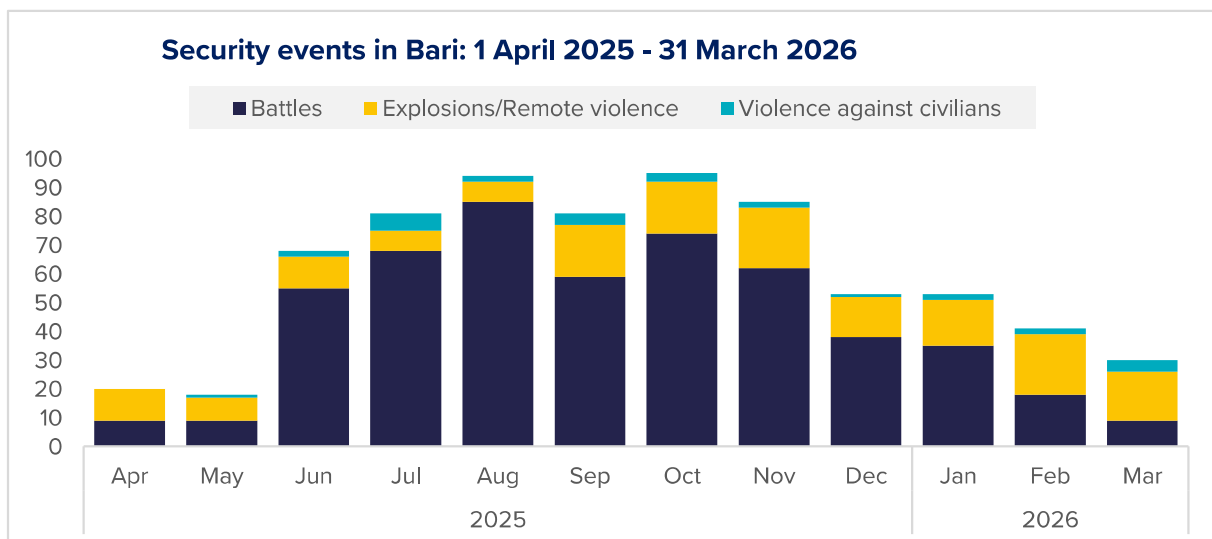


Figure 34: Evolution of security events in Bari per type, based on ACLED data.⁶⁶¹

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’ or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: the Islamic State in Somalia (ISS) was involved in 556 security incidents against Military and Police forces of Somalia (including Puntland Dervish Force, Puntland Police Force and Puntland Maritime Police Force), and in 88 security incidents against US and UAE military forces, involving air/drone strikes by the latter targeting the ISS. 29 security incidents involved violence against civilians by the ISS, unidentified groups, and others.⁶⁶²

⁶⁶⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁶¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁶² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents

- One man was reportedly abducted by ISS in Qandala district in July 2025. According to local sources, there had already been previous incidents of ISS kidnapping and robbing pastoralists and attacking rural residents.⁶⁶³
- FTL Somalia reported clashes between two clan militias over control of a water well near Bossaso in August 2025, noting that water scarcity had frequently triggered (violent) confrontations between communities.⁶⁶⁴
- A senior commander of the Puntland forces and several soldiers travelling with him were killed in a landmine explosion in the Dhasaan area in September 2025.⁶⁶⁵

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHC PRMN, 24 660 individuals were newly displaced from Bari region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. Almost all of the displaced individuals (24 642) remained within Bari region, with the largest share being displaced from Qandala (17 299), predominantly to Bossaso district (14 524 of 17 299). In the same period, 1 597 individuals arrived from other regions to Bari.⁶⁶⁶ Bari was among the regions hosting the highest number of people displaced due to the conflict between Puntland Defence Forces and ISS, according to the ICRC.⁶⁶⁷

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very limited restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in Qardho, Bandarbeyla, and most of Iskushuban and Calula districts, with the remaining parts showing ‘moderate’ and ‘limited’ restrictions. Restrictions were ‘moderate’ in Qandala and ‘very limited’ or ‘limited’ in Bossaso district, except for the Al Miskaad mountain range stretching across both districts, where the map showed ‘heavy’ and ‘very heavy’ restrictions.⁶⁶⁸ In total, UNOCHA recorded two humanitarian access incidents in Bari region in 2025.⁶⁶⁹ Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 75 % of the total analysed population of 1 281 189 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 41 %), 3 (crisis, 25 %) or 4 (emergency, 9 %).⁶⁷⁰ NRC recorded the eviction of 816 individuals in 2025 and early 2026 (all recorded in 2025).⁶⁷¹ In Qardho, one of the largest displacement hubs in Puntland, health and education services were available but insufficient, especially following conflict-related displacement, according to a January 2026 report by the

⁶⁶³ Hiiraan Online, Puntland soldiers killed in clashes with ISIS in Bari region, 16 July 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁴ FTL Somalia, Clan Militias Clash Over Water Well in Puntland’s Bari Region, 12 August 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁵ Hiiraan Online, Senior Puntland commander killed in landmine explosion during anti-ISIS operation, 23 September 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁶ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁷ ICRC, Somalia: One year on, families reeling from conflict in Puntland, 22 January 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁶⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁶⁶⁹ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

⁶⁷⁰ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁶⁷¹ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’, respectively, as year, ‘Bari’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

Roots Development Initiative (RDI), a Somalia-based consultancy firm.⁶⁷² In May 2025, Radio Ergo reported of the closure of 36 schools across Bari region due to drought and conflict.⁶⁷³

2.7. Sool, Sanaag, Cayn and North-Eastern State (NES)

Following protests in Las Anod in late 2022, the situation escalated into an armed conflict between Somaliland forces and the newly formed SSC-Khatumo forces in February 2023. In August 2023, SSC-Khaatumo forces consolidated control over Las Anod after Somaliland troops withdrew from the city. In late July 2025, the 'North-East Somalia' state (NES, also Northeastern State and North East State) was established,⁶⁷⁴ and recognised as Somalia's sixth federal member state⁶⁷⁵ by the FGS.⁶⁷⁶ The territory of NES officially encompasses Sool, Sanaag, and Buhodle with its surrounding areas⁶⁷⁷ in Cayn (southern parts of Togdheer region)⁶⁷⁸. However, the NES administration's control was reportedly confined to eastern Sool region, and it had 'no actual presence' in Sanaag.⁶⁷⁹ Somaliland continued to claim the Sool and Sanaag regions based on its claim to the borders of the former British Somaliland protectorate, while Puntland maintained claims grounded in clan affiliation.⁶⁸⁰

2.7.1. Sool

Sool is divided into four districts: Taleex (also Taleh), Xudun (also Hudun), Caynabo (also Aynabo or Ainado) and Laas Caanood (also Laas Anood). The capital of Sool is Laas Caanood.⁶⁸¹ Sool's population was estimated at 570 788 (excluding Buhodle).⁶⁸² For more detailed background information on Sool, see section 2.7.1. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026, the area between Gumays, Buhodle, Boocame, Xudun, and Taleex, including Laas Caanood, was controlled by the 'Federal-aligned coalition'. These towns, apart from Boocame, were also

⁶⁷² RDI, Final Report to Conduct: Conflict Protection Sensitive Analysis in Somalia, NRC, 29 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 8, 50

⁶⁷³ Radio Ergo, Hundreds of children out of school in Puntland's Bari region due to drought and conflict, 28 May 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁴ Caasimada, New 'North-East Somalia' state formed in Las Anod, 31 July 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁵ CHS, From Las Anod to the North Eastern State (NES): Implications for Somalia–Somaliland Mediation and Regional Stability, September 2025, [url](#), p. 1

⁶⁷⁶ CHS, From Las Anod to the North Eastern State (NES): Implications for Somalia–Somaliland Mediation and Regional Stability, September 2025, [url](#), p. 1; SONNA, SSC Grand Conference Declares Formation of the North Eastern State of Somalia and Adopts Regional Constitution, 30 July 2025, [url](#); UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 10-11

⁶⁷⁷ SG, Somalia's govt forms new state in territory claimed by Puntland and Somaliland, 31 July 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁷⁸ Somali Dialogue Platform, SSC-Khaatumo: Perspectives on the significance and implications of its formation, RVI, December 2025, [url](#), p. 26

⁶⁷⁹ Somali Digest (The), Al-Shabab Shielded by Mogadishu-Backed Faction in Al-Madow, 27 August 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁰ Caasimada, New 'North-East Somalia' state formed in Las Anod, 31 July 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁸¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

⁶⁸² IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

directly controlled by the coalition. Meanwhile, Qorilugud, Caynabo and Oog were reportedly under the control of the Somaliland administration, and small areas west of Xudun, Gumays, and Buhodle were under mixed control between the ‘Federal-aligned coalition’ and the ‘Somaliland administration (separatist)’, while areas on the eastern border including the town of Boocame were under mixed control by the ‘Federal-aligned coalition’ and ‘Autonomous armed forces (unionist)’.⁶⁸³ [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, showed the areas and towns that are now controlled by the ‘Federal-aligned coalition’,⁶⁸⁴ as ‘Core control zone’ of SCC-Khatumo.⁶⁸⁵

As noted above, the interim SSC-Khatumo was transitioned into a permanent FMS in July 2025. The formation of NES constitutes a significant change within Somalia’s political framework, specifically as it intersects with Somaliland’s territorial claims.⁶⁸⁶ The Somaliland army was reportedly stationed near Oog and in the areas of Qorilugud near Buhodle, while SSC forces were stationed in the town of Buhodle.⁶⁸⁷ Along the frontier between Puntland and NES, localised armed incidents were reported.⁶⁸⁸

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 43 security incidents in Sool region (including Buhodle), including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 26 fatalities.⁶⁸⁹

⁶⁸³ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

⁶⁸⁴ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

⁶⁸⁵ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

⁶⁸⁶ SMN, Somali Government Endorses New Northeast Regional State After Historic Las Anod Conference, 2 August 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁸⁷ Somali Dialogue Platform, SSC-Khaatumo: Perspectives on the significance and implications of its formation, RVI, December 2025, [url](#), p. 26

⁶⁸⁸ CHS, From Las Anood to the North Eastern State (NES): Implications for Somalia–Somaliland Mediation and Regional Stability, September 2025, [url](#), p. 5

⁶⁸⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

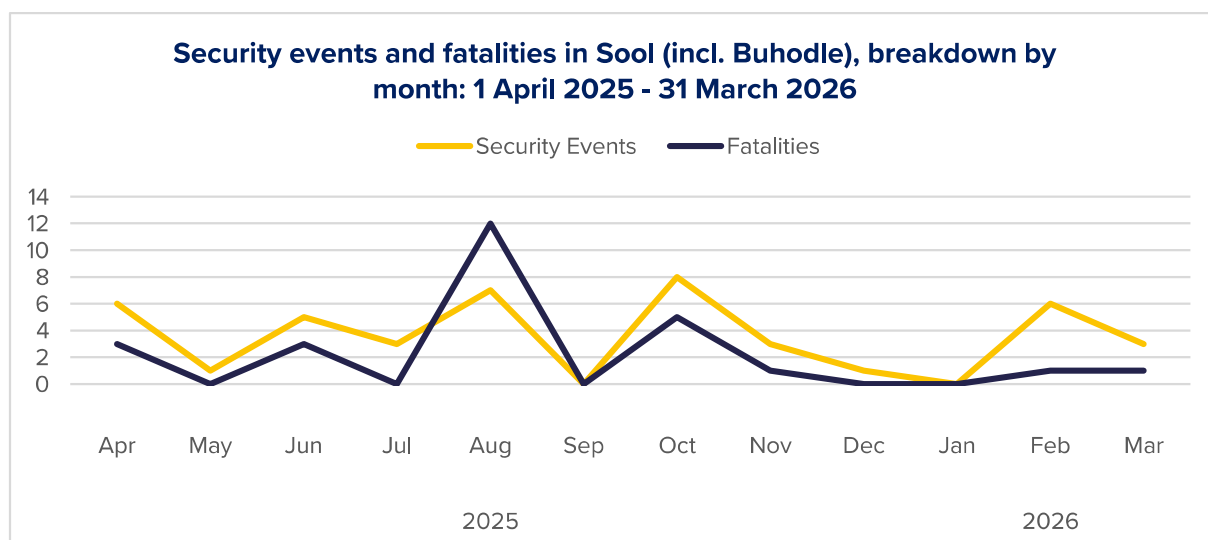


Figure 35: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Sool per month, based on ACLED data.⁶⁹⁰

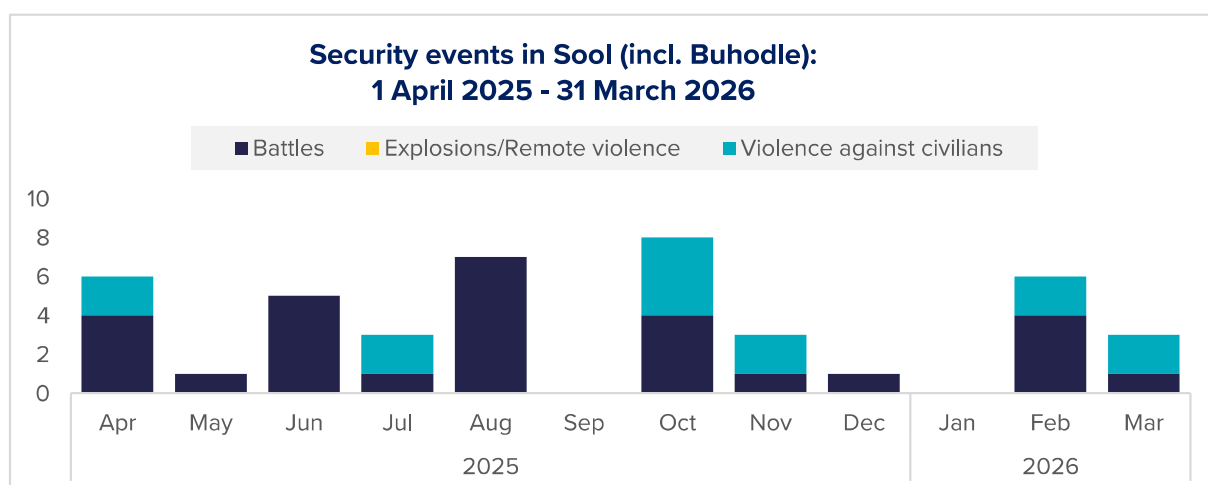


Figure 36: Evolution of security events in Sool per type, based on ACLED data.⁶⁹¹

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either 'Actor 1', or 'Actor 2') were, among others, involved in security incidents: 12 security incidents involved clashes between (sub-)clan militias and 12 incidents involved violence by (sub-)clan militias against civilians. Moreover, SSC militias were involved in 4 battles against military forces of Somaliland, while 3 incidents involved clashes between different security forces (including Puntland, Somaliland and SSC Khatumo forces).⁶⁹²

⁶⁹⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁹¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁹² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents

- On 22 July 2025, a herder was injured by members of a clan militia in Buhodle district.⁶⁹³
- On 31 October 2025, fighting erupted in Boocame, after Puntland forces allegedly attacked forces loyal to the new NES administration. Several people were reportedly injured.⁶⁹⁴
- On 4 February 2026, clashes between clan militias were reported near Qorilugud, in Buhodle district. No casualties were reported.⁶⁹⁵

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 419 individuals were newly displaced from Sool region (including 47 from Buhodle district) due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of the displaced individuals (341) were displaced within Sool between April and June 2025, moving within Caynabo and Xudun districts. 36 of the 47 individuals displaced from Buhodle district moved to Burco district of Somaliland. No individuals arrived from other regions.⁶⁹⁶

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘moderate’ to ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in northern parts of Xudun and Taleex districts. Parts of the border between Caynabo and Buhodle districts were shown as having ‘heavy restrictions’.⁶⁹⁷ Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 72 % of the total analysed population of 570 788 (excluding Buhodle) were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 39 %), 3 (crisis, 23 %) or 4 (emergency, 10 %).⁶⁹⁸ As of September 2025, Taleex, Godaalo, Xudun, and Buhodle areas, were facing water shortages and the situation was aggravated by shortages of health and nutrition services due to less humanitarian funding.⁶⁹⁹ NRC data for 2025 and early 2026 (excluding Buhodle) showed the eviction of 1 922 individuals.⁷⁰⁰

2.7.2. Sanaag

Sanaag is divided into three districts: Lasqoray, Ceerigaabo (also known as Erigabo or Erigavo) and Ceel Afweyn (also known as El Afweyne). Ceerigaabo is the capital of Sanaag.⁷⁰¹ Sanaag’s

⁶⁹³ ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, SOM51244, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 14 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁴ Kaab TV, Clashes Reported in Bo’ame as Tensions Rise Between Puntland and Newly Formed Northeastern Administration, 1 November 2025, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁵ ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, SOM55252, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 14 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁶ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁹⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁶⁹⁸ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁶⁹⁹ UNOCHA, Somalia: Monthly Humanitarian Update, August 2025, 21 September 2025, [url](#), p. 2

⁷⁰⁰ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’, respectively, as year, ‘Sool’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁷⁰¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

population was estimated at 445 736.⁷⁰² For more detailed background information on Sool, see section 2.7.2. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026, the western part of Sanaag region (including the towns of Ceerigaabo, Jidali and El Afweyn) were controlled by the Somaliland administration, while southeastern areas were under mixed control by the ‘federal-aligned coalition’ and ‘autonomous armed forces’. The central areas on the border to Puntland, including the towns of Elbuh and Badhan and the southern towns of Hingalol and Dhahar were controlled by ‘autonomous armed forces’, as was the coast town of Lasqoray.⁷⁰³ Al-Shabaab had a presence in the Almadow (also known as Golis)⁷⁰⁴ mountain range in the northern area.⁷⁰⁵ The area has served as a strategic stronghold for Al-Shabaab’s northern operations for more than a decade, and the group’s relationship with the Warsangeli has proven indispensable to their operations in the area. On the other hand, Puntland’s president Deni consulted with high-ranking Warsangeli clan elders and politicians to establish the foundations for military operations against Al-Shabaab and to counter the NES administration.⁷⁰⁶ Reportedly, Al-Shabaab fighters were present near Galagala and in the south of NES⁷⁰⁷ and utilised the northern coastline and access to the Red Sea to facilitate the smuggling of weapons and the movement of foreign fighters.⁷⁰⁸

In May 2025, a peace conference concluded in Ceel Afweyne town and resulted in the reconciliation of the Haber Yonis and Haber Jeclo, two Isaaq sub-clans that had been involved in recurring cycles of violence in recent years.⁷⁰⁹ Following its establishment and recognition as FMS in July 2025, NES theoretically encompasses all Dhulbahante and Warsangeli territories. However, as of early 2026, the administration has secured only very limited backing from the Warsangeli, many of whom maintain their allegiance to Puntland.⁷¹⁰ Puntland retained military positions in eastern Sanaag,⁷¹¹ where sporadic clashes between Puntland forces and NES aligned militias were reported.⁷¹² In July 2025, the president of Puntland warned SSC-Khatumo to cease interference in the Sanaag region.⁷¹³

⁷⁰² IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁰³ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

⁷⁰⁴ Bahadur, J., The Somali Gold Rush, Milxo and The Ungoverned Mining Frontier, GI-TOC, January 2026, [url](#), p. 9

⁷⁰⁵ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.

⁷⁰⁶ Sahan, Rumours and Fallout After Badhan AFIRCOM Strike, Issue No. 876, 22 September 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁷ UN Security Council, Report of the Panel of Experts on Somalia pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), S/2025/777, 28 November 2025, [url](#), para. 51

⁷⁰⁸ Horn Observer, Al-Shabaab Reshuffles Military Wing Known as Jabha as Terror Group Explores Drone Usage for Attacks, 26 July 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁰⁹ International Crisis Group, Global Overview May 2025, n.d., [url](#)

⁷¹⁰ Hoehne, M. and Norman, J., The Paradox Of Progress: Foreign Investments, Kinship, State-Building, and Conflict in Somaliland, 19 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷¹¹ CHS, From Las Anood to the North Eastern State (NES): Implications for Somalia–Somaliland Mediation and Regional Stability, September 2025, [url](#), pp. 4-5

⁷¹² CHS, From Las Anood to the North Eastern State (NES): Implications for Somalia–Somaliland Mediation and Regional Stability, September 2025, [url](#), pp. 4-5; Caasimada, Somalia: Puntland, Maakhir clash over SSC-Khaatumo, 15 July 2025, [url](#); Wardheer News, Deadly Clash Erupts Between Puntland and Maakhir Forces in Dhahar, Sparking Regional Tensions, 15 July 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹³ Dawan, Puntland Warns SSC-Khaatumo Over Interference in Sanaag Region., 8 July 2025, [url](#)

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 48 security incidents in Sanaag region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 54 fatalities.⁷¹⁴

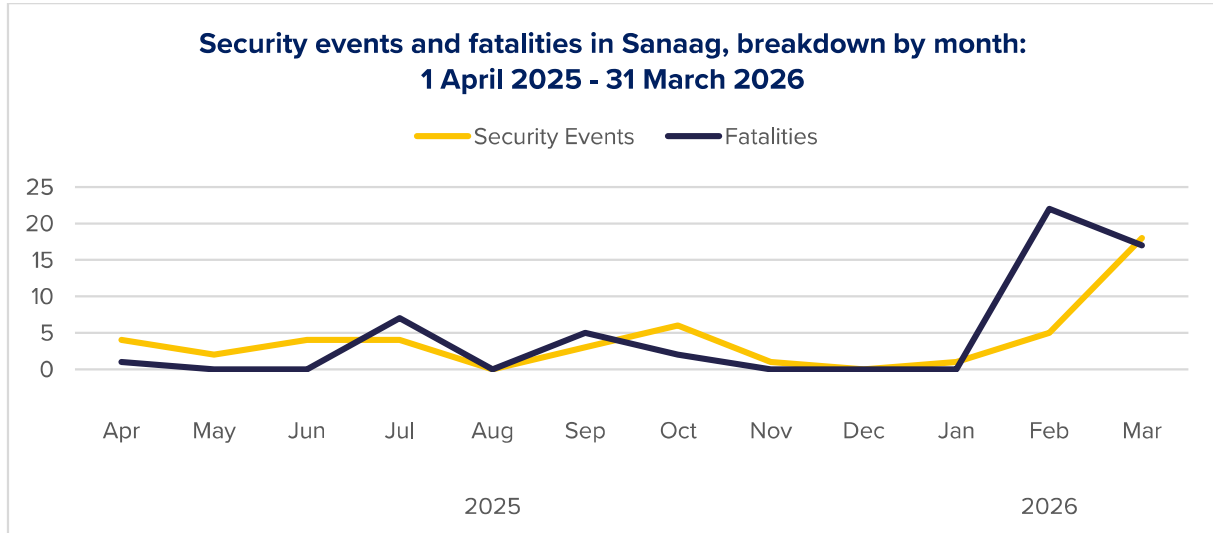


Figure 37: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Sanaag per month, based on ACLED data.⁷¹⁵

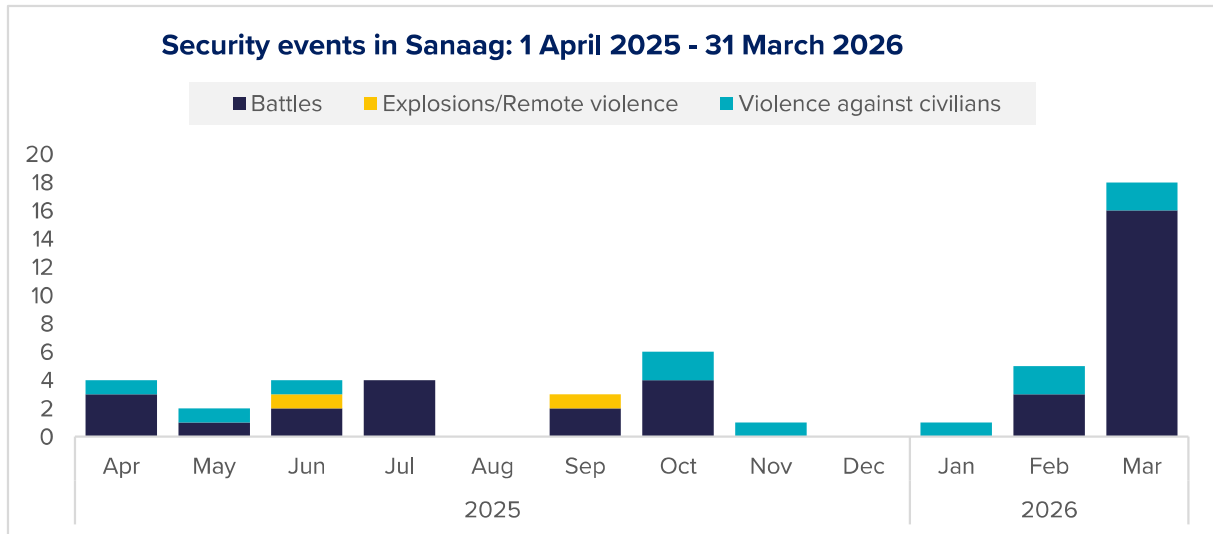


Figure 38: Evolution of security events in Sanaag per type, based on ACLED data.⁷¹⁶

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’, or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: 21 security incidents involved clashes between sub-clan militias, while 9 security incidents involved violence against civilians by sub-clan militias. 5 security incidents involved clashes between Military

⁷¹⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷¹⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷¹⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

Forces of Somaliland and SSC. Moreover, Puntland forces were involved in 3 battles against the Darod-Warsangeli Sub-Clan Militia (Somalia).⁷¹⁷

Illustrative security incidents

- On 17 April 2025, fighting broke out between Somaliland forces and SSC-Khatumo forces in Daanweyne area. SSC claimed that many pastoralists were killed and wounded.⁷¹⁸
- On 5 July 2025, clashes involving Puntland security forces and pro-SSC armed fighters in Ceelbuh resulted in the killing of at least one civilian and the wounding of several others.⁷¹⁹
- On 13 September 2025, a Warsangeli elder⁷²⁰ was killed in an US airstrike near Badhan that reportedly targeted an Al-Shabaab arms dealer. Regional authorities condemned the killing.⁷²¹
- On 26 February 2026, according to the NES administration, civilians were allegedly attacked by Somaliland forces in Laasqoray district, resulting in casualties.⁷²²

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 10 133 individuals were newly displaced from Sanaag region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of the displaced individuals (8 968) were displaced within Sanaag, of which 5 086 were displaced from Dhahar. In the same period, 60 other individuals arrived from other regions.⁷²³

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘moderate’ to ‘very heavy restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in northern parts of Laasqoray district. Most parts of Ceerigabo were marked as having ‘limited restrictions’ with smaller parts of ‘heavy restrictions’.⁷²⁴ Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 73 % of the total analysed population of 445 736 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 38 %), 3 (crisis, 25 %) or 4 (emergency, 10 %).⁷²⁵ As of 30 January 2026, Sanaag was impacted

⁷¹⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷¹⁸ Hiiraan Online, Heavy clashes erupt between Somaliland and SSC-Khaatumo forces in Sanaag region, 18 April 2025, [url](#)

⁷¹⁹ Hiiraan Online, Clashes erupt in Sanaag region between Puntland forces and pro-SSC administration politicians, 5 July 2025, [url](#)

⁷²⁰ Sahan, Rumours and Fallout After Badhan AFIRCOM Strike, Issue No. 876, 22 September 2025, [url](#)

⁷²¹ Geeska, Somali elder killed in airstrike in Ceelbur, AFRICOM confirms operation, 18 September 2025, [url](#)

⁷²² Hiiraan Online, Northeastern Administration accuses Somaliland of deadly attack in Sanaag region, 26 February 2026, [url](#)

⁷²³ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷²⁴ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁷²⁵ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

by drought conditions, with effects on schools, health and nutrition systems.⁷²⁶ NRC data for 2025 and early 2026 showed the eviction of 154 individuals.⁷²⁷

2.8. Somaliland

2.8.1. Awdal

Awdal is divided into four districts: Zeyla, Lughaye, Baki and Borama. The region's capital is Borama.⁷²⁸ As of January 2026, Awdal's population was estimated at 661 373.⁷²⁹ For more detailed background information on Awdal, see section 2.8.1. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, the entire region including the cities of Zeyla (Zeila), Lughaye, and Borama was reported to be under the control of the 'Somaliland administration (separatist)'.⁷³⁰

In the last quarter of 2025,⁷³¹ Awdal region faced tensions surrounding celebrations of Xeer Ciise, the customary legal code of the Issa (also Isse or Ciise) clan, after plans were announced to hold a related cultural event in Zeyla.⁷³² Early December 2025, the planned commemoration led to protests in Borama,⁷³³ as the Gadabuursi community⁷³⁴ linked it to broader disputes over influence and territory in the region.⁷³⁵ The conflict assumed greater significance following Israel's recognition of Somaliland.⁷³⁶ The Gadabuursi and Issa clans both extend into Djibouti and Ethiopia's Somali Region. Djibouti's media amplifies a narrative of the Issa community as an entity spanning Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somaliland, allowing Djibouti to allegedly use it as a tool to maintain influence on the western Somali coast.⁷³⁷ Ethiopia has maintained strategic interests in Zeyla, especially regarding maritime access.⁷³⁸ During the

⁷²⁶ UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency, Situation Report No. 3, 2 February 2026, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁷²⁷ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter '2025' and '2026', respectively, as year, 'Sanaag' as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁷²⁸ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

⁷²⁹ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁷³⁰ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

⁷³¹ Geeska, Awdal and the strategic calculus in the Horn, 10 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷³² Geeska, Awdal and the strategic calculus in the Horn, 10 December 2025, [url](#); Dawan, The Connection Between Xeer Ciise and The Awdal Conflict, 6 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷³³ FTL Somalia, Borama Settles After Violent Unrest as Somaliland Accuses Outside Actors, 8 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷³⁴ Standardmedia, Tension in Borama persists after deadly unrest amid calls for accountability, 7 December 2025, [url](#); Somalia Today, Somaliland blames Mogadishu as it scraps Xeer Ciise event, 6 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷³⁵ Geeska, Awdal and the strategic calculus in the Horn, 10 December 2025, [url](#); FTL Somalia, Borama Settles After Violent Unrest as Somaliland Accuses Outside Actors, 8 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷³⁶ International Crisis Group, Global Overview February 2026, n.d., [url](#)

⁷³⁷ Geeska, Somaliland's Western Fault Line, 11 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷³⁸ Geeska, Awdal and the strategic calculus in the Horn, 10 December 2025, [url](#)



Borama protests, some demonstrators carried the flag of the Awdal State movement,⁷³⁹ as these demonstrations also signalled demands for regional autonomy and a desire for closer alignment with the FGS.⁷⁴⁰

Clashes between protesters and security forces⁷⁴¹ reportedly resulted in at least 10,⁷⁴² 16⁷⁴³ or 20 persons killed and dozens others injured.⁷⁴⁴ End of December 2025,⁷⁴⁵ and in February 2026,⁷⁴⁶ clashes between clans in Zeyla and its surroundings were also linked to Xeer Ciise ceremonies.⁷⁴⁷ According to the International Crisis Group, as of end of February 2026, communal violence persisted in the region, with clashes between the Gadabuursi and Issa communities occurring on an almost daily basis.⁷⁴⁸

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 64 security incidents in Awdal region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 96 fatalities.⁷⁴⁹

⁷³⁹ Hiiraan Online, Somaliland Police urge calm in Boorama after deadly protests over Xeer Ciise Book launch, 5 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁴⁰ MEE, How Israel's recognition of Somaliland risks destabilising the region, 2 January 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁴¹ Mareeg, Borama Unrest Leaves 19 Dead, 200 Injured, 19 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁴² Hiiraan Online, Somaliland President condemns deadly Borama clashes, orders troops to return to bases, 6 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁴³ International Crisis Group, Global Overview December 2025, n.d., [url](#); Somalia Today, Somaliland blames Mogadishu as it scraps Xeer Ciise event, 6 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁴⁴ FTL Somalia, Borama Settles After Violent Unrest as Somaliland Accuses Outside Actors, 8 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁴⁵ Radio Dalsan, Clan clashes erupt in Salal and Awdal over land disputes linked to the Heer Isse ceremony, 25 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁴⁶ Gallaydh, Failure of Diplomacy: Conflict in Awdal and Seel Reignites as Government Accused of "Stillborn" Peace Plan, 16 February 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁴⁷ Radio Dalsan, Clan clashes erupt in Salal and Awdal over land disputes linked to the Heer Isse ceremony, 25 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁴⁸ International Crisis Group, Global Overview February 2026, n.d., [url](#)

⁷⁴⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)



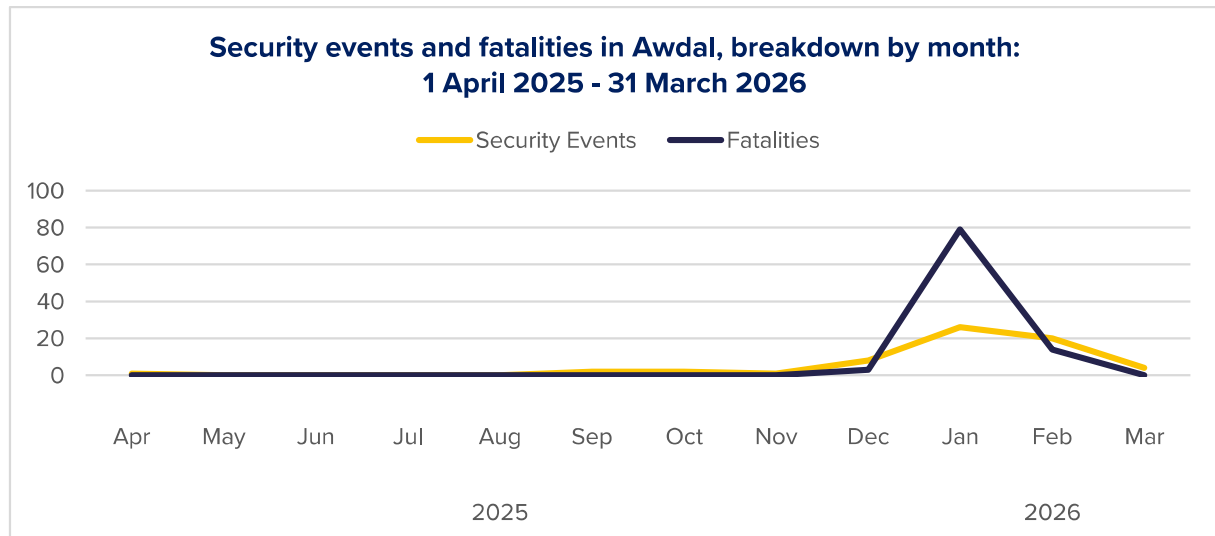


Figure 39: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Awdal per month, based on ACLED data.⁷⁵⁰

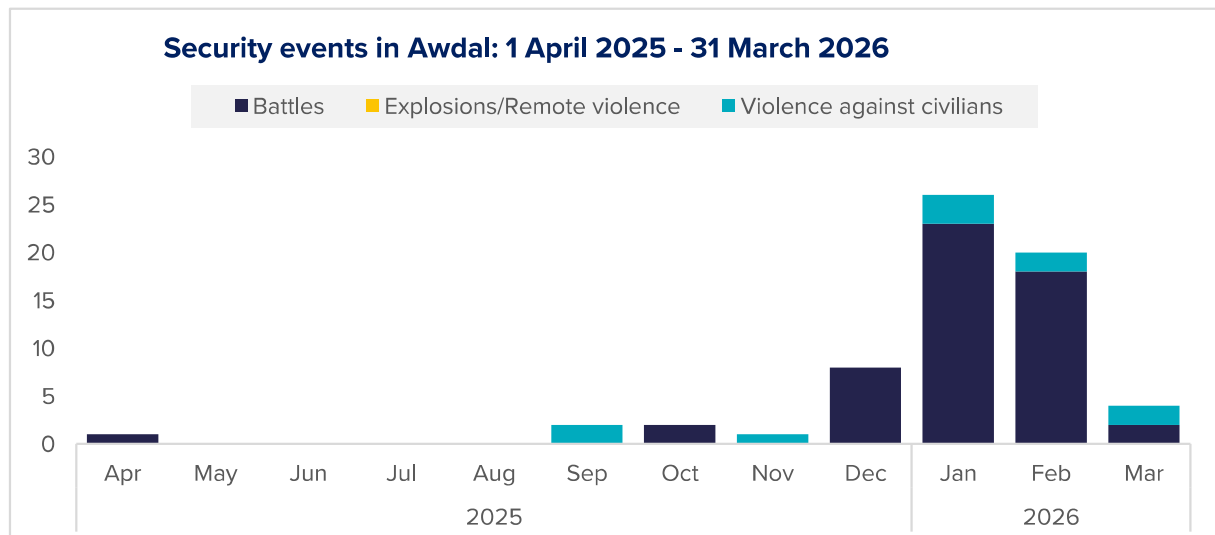


Figure 40: Evolution of security events in Awdal per type, based on ACLED data.⁷⁵¹

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’, or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: 46 security incidents involved clashes between various Dir (sub-)clan militias (mainly Gadabuursi militias against Issa or Cisse militias) resulting in 73 fatalities, while 8 incidents involved violence against civilians by different (sub-)clan militias.⁷⁵²

⁷⁵⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁵¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁵² EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)



Illustrative security incidents

- In February 2026, reportedly nearly 30 people were killed and over 20 others injured in clashes between Issa and Gadabuursi clans.⁷⁵³

In December 2025, reportedly 19 people were killed and over 200 injured in clashes between security forces and protesters in Borama.⁷⁵⁴

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, no individuals were newly displaced from Awdal region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026, and no other individuals arrived from other regions.⁷⁵⁵

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

In February 2026, the burning of homes was reported, following inter-clan clashes.⁷⁵⁶ A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed 'limited' to 'moderate restrictions' regarding humanitarian access in parts of Baki district, while Borama, Lughaye and Zeyla districts showed 'very limited' restrictions.⁷⁵⁷ In total, UNOCHA recorded four humanitarian access incidents in 2025,⁷⁵⁸ of which one was recorded in the period between July and September 2025.⁷⁵⁹ Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 57 % of the total analysed population of 661 373 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 44 %), 3 (crisis, 11 %) or 4 (emergency, 2 %).⁷⁶⁰ In July 2025, the Somaliland authorities declared a humanitarian emergency in response to prolonged drought, with Awdal being among the most severely affected regions.⁷⁶¹ As of 30 January 2026, drought conditions negatively impacted education.⁷⁶² NRC recorded no evictions in Awdal in 2025 and early 2026.⁷⁶³ NRC data for 2025 and early 2026 showed the eviction of 3 420 individuals.⁷⁶⁴

2.8.2. Wogoyi Galbeed

Woqoyi Galbeed consists of three districts: Gebiley, Hargeysa and Berbera. The region's capital is Hargeysa.⁷⁶⁵ Woqoyi Galbeed's population was estimated at 1 504 986 as of January

⁷⁵³ Inside Somalia, Inter clan clash leaves nearly 30 in Awdal region, 2 February 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁴ Hiiraan, Somaliland says 19 killed, over 200 injured in Borama protests, 19 December 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁵ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁶ Hiiraan Online, Awdal traditional leaders suspend cooperation with Somaliland's interior minister, 17 February 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁵⁷ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁷⁵⁸ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

⁷⁵⁹ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July – September 2025), 15 October 2025, [url](#), p. 2

⁷⁶⁰ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁶¹ Kaab TV, Somaliland Declares Drought Emergency for 4 Regions, Appeals for Urgent Aid, 26 July 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁶² UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency, Situation Report No. 3, 2 February 2026, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁷⁶³ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter '2025' and '2026', respectively, as year, 'Awdal' as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁷⁶⁴ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter '2025' and '2026', respectively, as year, 'Mudug' as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁷⁶⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)



2026.⁷⁶⁶ For more detailed background information on Woqoyi Galbeed, see section 2.8.2. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, the entire region, including the cities of Hargeysa and Berbera, was reported to be under the control of the ‘Somaliland administration (separatist)’.⁷⁶⁷

(b) Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 15 security incidents in Wogoyi Galbeed region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 19 fatalities.⁷⁶⁸

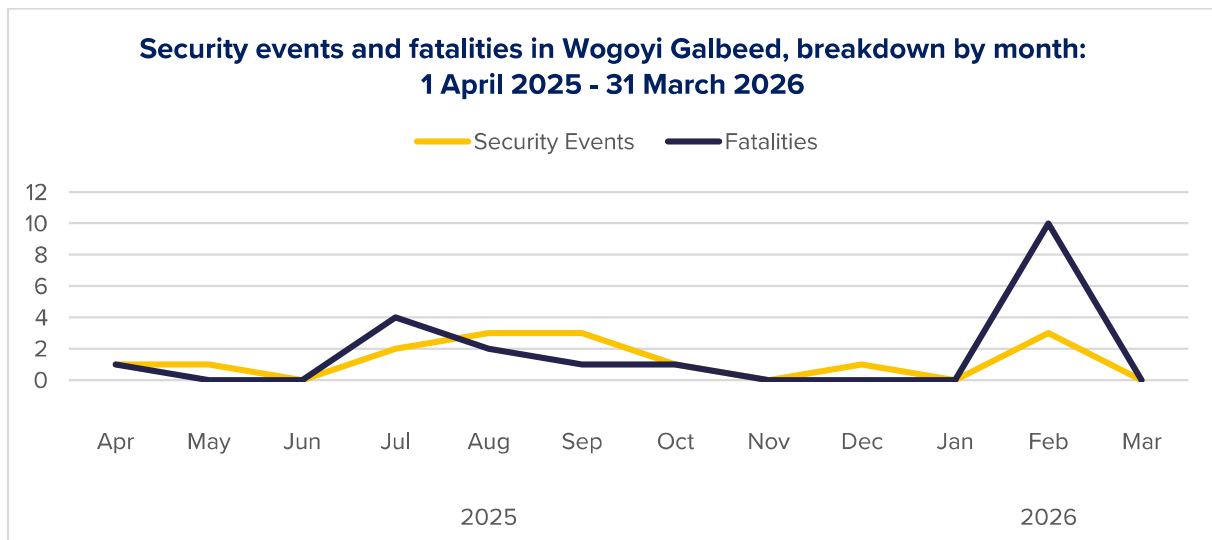


Figure 41: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Wogoyi Galbeed per month, based on ACLED data.⁷⁶⁹

⁷⁶⁶ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁶⁷ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

⁷⁶⁸ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁶⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

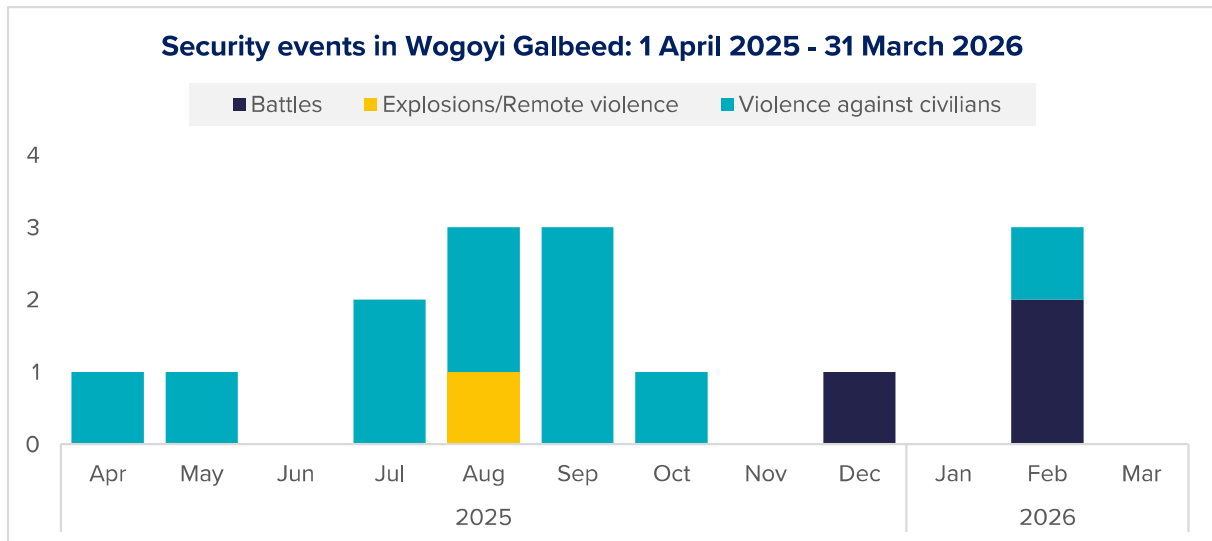


Figure 42: Evolution of security events in Wogoyi Galbeed per type, based on ACLED data.⁷⁷⁰

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either ‘Actor 1’, or ‘Actor 2’) were, among others, involved in security incidents: Police Forces of Somaliland were involved in 7 security incidents involving violence against civilians. Moreover, unidentified armed groups were involved in three security incidents involving violence against civilians.⁷⁷¹

Illustrative security incidents

- On 3 July 2025, Somaliland police opened fire at a protest against a mining company in Agabar area, resulting in two civilians killed.⁷⁷²
- On 7 October 2025, an elderly man was killed over an alleged land dispute in Ahmed Dhagax district of Hargeysa.⁷⁷³

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, no individuals were newly displaced from Woqoyi Galbeed region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026, and no other individuals arrived from other regions.⁷⁷⁴

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very limited’ to ‘limited restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in most parts, while on the border to Awdal small areas are designated

⁷⁷⁰ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁷¹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁷² Caasimada, Faah-faahinta dil laba qof loogu geystay Somaliland [Details of the killing of two people carried out in Somaliland], 4 July 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁷³ Caasimada, Faah-faahinta dil maanta ka dhacay magaalada Hargeysa [Details of a killing that occurred today in the city of Hargeisa], 7 October 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁷⁴ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

as facing ‘moderate restrictions’.⁷⁷⁵ In total, UNOCHA recorded eight humanitarian access incidents in 2025,⁷⁷⁶ of which one was recorded in the period between July and September 2025.⁷⁷⁷ Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 61 % of the total analysed population of 1 504 986 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 47 %), 3 (crisis, 11 %) or 4 (emergency, 3 %).⁷⁷⁸ In March 2026, heavy rains and flooding resulted in the destruction of 162 farms, with the worst affected area being Dararweyne.⁷⁷⁹ NRC recorded no evictions in Wogoyi Galbeed in 2025.⁷⁸⁰

2.8.3. Togdheer

Togdheer consists of four districts: Sheikh, Owdweyne, Burco (or Burao) and Buhodle (or Buuhoodle). The region’s capital is Burco (or Burao).⁷⁸¹ As of January 2026, Togdheer’s population was estimated at 894 874.⁷⁸² For more detailed background information on Togdheer, see section 2.8.3. of the [EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation \(May 2025\)](#).

(a) Actors presence and conflict dynamics

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, the entire region, including the cities of Owdweyne and Burco, was reported to be under the control of the ‘Somaliland administration (separatist)’.⁷⁸³ For information regarding control areas in Buhodle district please see section [2.7.1. Sool](#).

⁷⁷⁵ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁷⁷⁶ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

⁷⁷⁷ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July – September 2025), 15 October 2025, [url](#), p. 2

⁷⁷⁸ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁷⁹ Dawan, Somaliland: Heavy Rains Destroy 162 Farms in Maroodi-jeeh, 25 March 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁰ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’, respectively, as year, ‘Wogoyi Galbeed’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.

⁷⁸¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

⁷⁸² IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁸³ PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

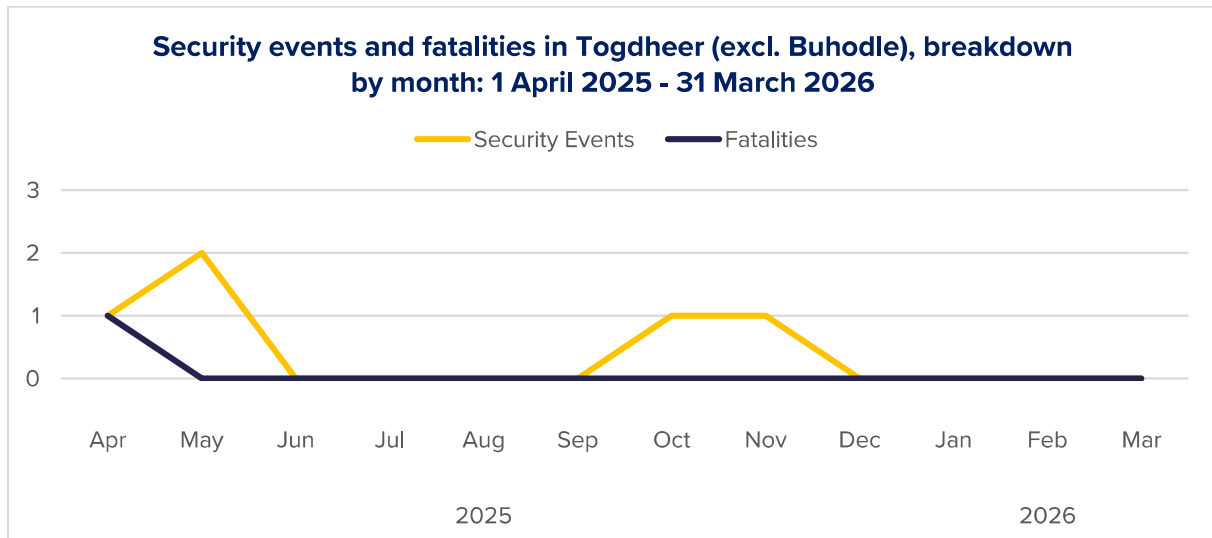
(b) Recent security trends

Figure 43: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Togdheer per month, based on ACLED data.⁷⁸⁴

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded five security incidents in Togdheer region (excluding Buhodle district), including battles, and violence against civilians, causing one fatality.⁷⁸⁵ Four of the five recorded incidents involved violence against civilians by (sub-)clan militias.⁷⁸⁶

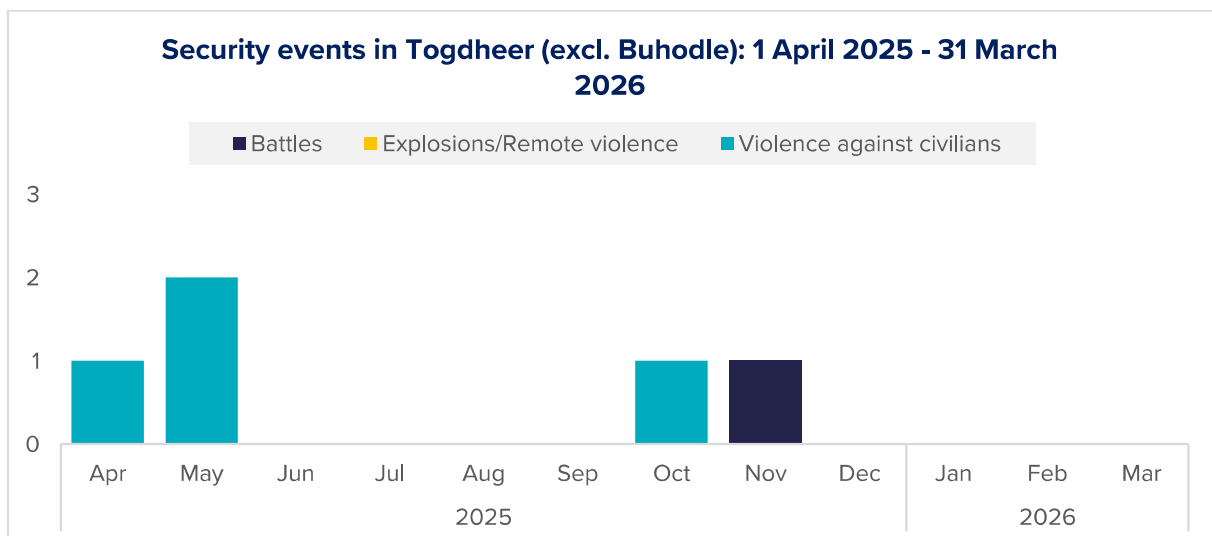


Figure 44: Evolution of security events per type, based on ACLED data.⁷⁸⁷

⁷⁸⁴ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁵ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁶ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁷ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

Illustrative security incidents

- On 15 May 2025, at least 6 people were killed and 18 others injured in clashes between protesters and security forces in Burao, after protests erupted following rumours regarding the release of SSC-Khatumo prisoners.⁷⁸⁸ ACLED recorded the incident under event type ‘riots’ and noted that 2 people were killed.⁷⁸⁹

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, no individuals were newly displaced from Togdheer region (excluding Buhodle district) due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. 36 individuals arrived from other regions, all arrived in Burco from Buhodle.⁷⁹⁰

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed ‘very limited restrictions’ regarding humanitarian access in most parts, while on the northern border to Wogoyi Galbeed and on the southern border to Buhodle district small areas showed ‘limited restrictions’.⁷⁹¹ In total, UNOCHA recorded two humanitarian access incidents in 2025 (including Buhodle district).⁷⁹² Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 63 % of the total analysed population of 894 874 (including Buhodle district) were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 46 %), 3 (crisis, 13 %) or 4 (emergency, 4 %).⁷⁹³ As of November 2025, Boocame, Duruqsi, Ay Jeex, Cali Ciise, and Yucub-Yaboh were ‘severely impacted’ by drought conditions.⁷⁹⁴ NRC data for 2025 and early 2026 (including Buhodle) showed the eviction of 202 individuals.⁷⁹⁵

⁷⁸⁸ Horn Observer, Somaliland Police Kill 6, 18 Others Injured During Violent Burao Protest, 17 May 2025, [url](#)

⁷⁸⁹ EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁹⁰ UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁹¹ UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

⁷⁹² UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#)

⁷⁹³ IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁹⁴ UNHCR, Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network Flash Alert 18, November 2025, 2 December 2025, [url](#), p. 1

⁷⁹⁵ NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter ‘2025’ and ‘2026’, respectively, as year, ‘Togdheer’ as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.



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