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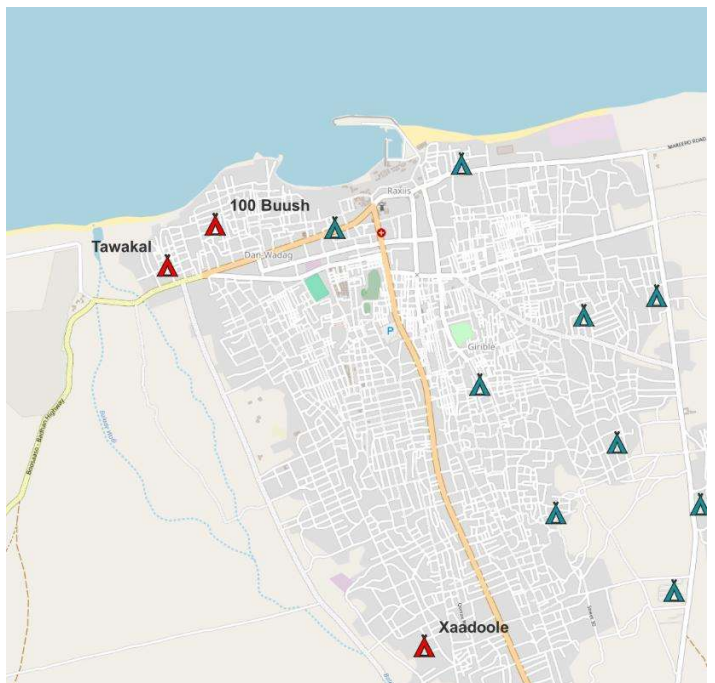
Protection Advocacy Note

Date: 13 April 2026

Forced Evictions Affecting three IDP Sites (Xaadoole, 100 Bush, Tawakal) in Bosaso, Puntland

Context and Operational Environment

Bosaso hosts approximately 20,700 households of internally displaced people (IDPs), alongside refugees and asylum seekers residing in urban informal settlements characterized by chronic multi-dimensional vulnerability, food insecurity, inadequate access to essential services, precarious shelter conditions, and widespread tenure insecurity. The affected settlements of **100 Bush, Tawakal, and Xaadoole**, with population of **18,063 individuals** located in the eastern periphery of Bosaso, have long functioned as de facto places of refuge for populations displaced by conflict, climatic shocks, and structural poverty across Somalia. The affected populations predominantly comprise socio-economically marginalized groups, including minority, female-headed households, older persons, and persons with disabilities, whose survival is sustained through informal livelihoods, humanitarian assistance, and remittance flows.



The ongoing eviction operations are linked to a government-led urban relocation directive associated with broader land-use pressures, including rising land value and planned urban and port expansion. A temporary land of 7km has reportedly been designated; however, its adequacy, habitability, and service availability remain unverified.

Despite the envisaged establishment of a multi-stakeholder relocation coordination mechanism, the absence of effective operationalization has resulted in fragmented, non-phased, and procedurally deficient displacement actions.

Current Situation and Emerging Trends

Local authorities have initiated eviction measures affecting IDP and refugee/asylum-seeker populations, including households of Ethiopian origin. To date, approximately **74 IDP households and 23 refugee/asylum-seeker households** have been forcibly displaced, with additional population movements anticipated.

These actions are occurring in a context of acute humanitarian stress and constrained coping capacity, where affected households already face severe deprivation and limited access to basic survival resources. Reports further indicate heightened community tensions and isolated incidents of detention linked to eviction-related resistance, raising serious concerns regarding procedural safeguards and respect for fundamental rights.

The situation remains fluid and unpredictable, with a high risk of secondary displacement, deterioration of protection, and further erosion of community resilience.

Key Protection Risks and Concerns

- **Forced eviction practices undertaken without adequate procedural safeguards**, including insufficient notice, absence of meaningful consultation, and lack of access to effective remedy or appeal mechanisms.
- **Heightened exposure of refugees and asylum seekers to protection risks**, including arbitrary displacement, loss of housing, disruption of livelihoods, and reduced access to essential services.
- **Reports of deprivation of liberty in the context of eviction-related tensions**, raising serious concerns regarding due process, proportionality, and protection against arbitrary detention.
- **Insufficient humanitarian preparedness and coordination**, resulting in unmanaged population movements and elevated vulnerability.
- **Risk of secondary displacement and prolonged protection crises**, including destitution and negative coping mechanisms.
- **Potential non-alignment with applicable national frameworks and international human rights standards governing forced eviction, adequate housing, and protection from arbitrary displacement.**

Priority Recommendations

- Immediate suspension of all ongoing and planned eviction activities pending establishment of minimum procedural, protection, and humanitarian safeguards.

- Full activation of a **multi-sectoral relocation coordination mechanism**, ensuring principled, phased, and consultative processes involving affected communities, humanitarian actors, and relevant authorities.
- Provision of **urgent emergency protection assistance**, including Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), emergency cash support, and basic relief services for already displaced households.
- Strengthening of **specific protection safeguards for refugees and asylum seekers**, consistent with international protection obligations.
- Guaranteed and unhindered humanitarian access for protection monitoring, rapid needs assessments, and service delivery.
- Verification that all relocation sites meet **minimum humanitarian standards of adequacy, safety, and dignity** prior to any population movement, including access to WASH, shelter, health, education, and protection services.
- Immediate inter-agency protection and needs assessment to inform coordinated response planning.
- High-level engagement by the **Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Humanitarian Coordinator (HC)** with Puntland authorities to ensure compliance with protection standards and prevent further deterioration of the situation.

Key Message

Humanitarian partners are seriously concerned by the commencement of forced evictions in Bosaso affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs), including vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers. The evictions are taking place without adequate preparation, safeguards, or support, and risk exacerbating protection concerns, instability, and humanitarian needs unless immediate corrective action is taken.

Next Steps

Humanitarian actors will continue to closely monitor the situation, engage with relevant stakeholders, and coordinate through the Protection Cluster. Immediate leadership and support from the HCT are critical to mitigate further harm and stabilize the situation.