

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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Clashes in Belet-Hawo, Gedo region, Trigger Mass Displacement Within Somalia and into Kenya



Displaced Families

6,349



Displaced Individuals

38,094



Deaths

1



Injuries

3



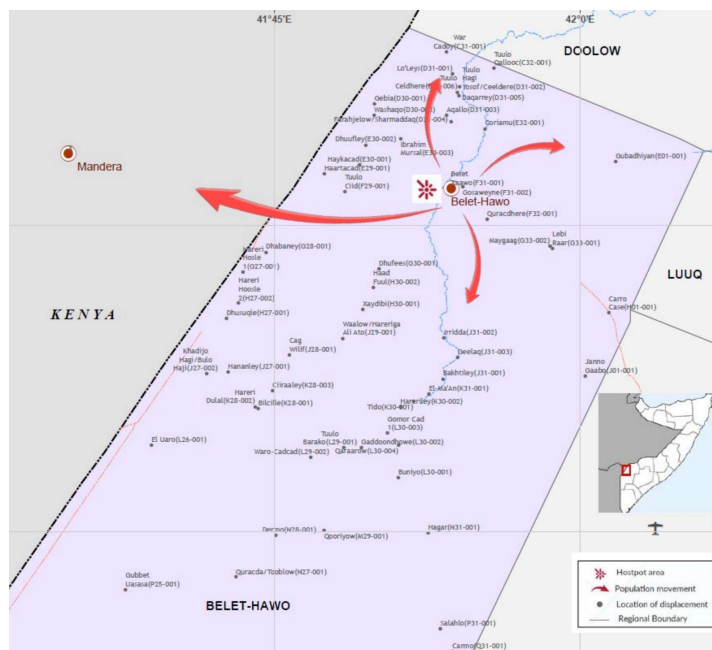
Coordinate
s

3.9289° N, 41.8742° E



Incident
Date

July 23 – 25, 2025,



Background

Between July 23 and 26, intense armed clashes erupted between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) forces and Jubaland security units in Belet-Hawo town, Gedo Region. The confrontation resulted in the displacement of approximately 6,394 households, affecting an estimated 38,094 individuals, who were forced to flee their residences over four consecutive days. The most substantial wave of displacement was recorded on July 25 and 26, coinciding with intensified fighting. A total of 4,649 households, approximately 27,894 individuals, have been displaced to nearby areas. With 1,700 households (10,200 individuals) reportedly fleeing to Mandera, Kenya.

Civilian casualties were also reported, including at least one casualty and three injuries. The conflict caused widespread destruction of property, created an atmosphere of fear and instability, and continues to pose a significant risk of further displacement. While movement is possible, ongoing insecurity and the presence of military forces continue to limit access to safe and predictable essential services. During periods of active fighting, movement becomes restricted, and access to Kenya remains limited as the official border point is closed, forcing people to enter the country irregularly. Vulnerable populations, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, are facing heightened protection risks, including family separation, GBV, overcrowding, and insecurity. Immediate

Displacement within Somalia

Previous Location	Arrival locations	Households
Belet-hawo	Dollow	2,000
Belet-hawo	Luuq	300
Belet-hawo	Garbahaaray	200
Belet-hawo	Ba–amin	600
Belet-hawo	Gaawido	159
Belet-hawo	odaa	400
Belet-hawo	Malkaariyay	400
Belet-Hawo	Haji Garas	199
Belet-hawo	Buurka	199
Belet-hawo	Tulo Jibril	91
Belet-hawo	Warcadey	101
(Total)		4,649 HHs (Approx. 27,894 Individuals)

attention and coordinated efforts are required to address the humanitarian needs arising from this crisis and to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population.

As of the afternoon of 27 July 2025, armed clashes have resumed in Belet-Hawo. PSMN continues to monitor the situation and will provide updates as further information is available.

Protection Risks

Attacks on Civilians and Civilians' Belongings: Heavy shelling and use of explosive weapons have resulted in civilian casualties and damage to homes and public infrastructure, with continued risk of further harm as fighting persists near populated areas.

Restricted Freedom of Movement and Forced Displacement: During peak fighting, movement was completely restricted, leaving many civilians trapped. As clashes eased, people fled within Somalia and to Kenya, often using informal routes due to the closed border. Ongoing insecurity and the presence of military forces continue to limit access and pose risks to those still in the area.

Gender-Based Violence: Women and girls face heightened risks of GBV, including sexual assault and domestic violence, due to overcrowded living conditions, lack of safe shelter, and insecurity.

Forced Recruitment and Labor: Children who have been displaced or separated from their families could face heightened risk of recruitment and use by armed actors, as well as engagement in harmful labor.

Child and Forced Family Separation: Displacement and insecurity have resulted in family separation, particularly among children. These children face elevated protection risks, including exploitation, neglect, and limited access to basic services.

Urgent Humanitarian Needs

Emergency Shelter: Thousands of displaced families are currently without shelter, residing in open areas or nearby towns and villages without adequate protection from the elements, calling for an urgent need of emergency shelter kits and core relief items.

Food Assistance: Many displaced persons left behind all their belongings and are facing acute food insecurity. While local markets have been disrupted, requiring an urgent need for food distribution.

Healthcare: Medical services are crucial for treating injuries, managing chronic conditions, and addressing mental health issues.

Sanitation & Hygiene: Sanitation facilities to prevent the spread of disease and promote hygiene.



Newly Displaced People in Qansahley IDP Camp. UNHCR, July 2025



The PSMN (Protection & Solutions Monitoring Network) is a UNHCR-led project that identifies and reports on preliminary displacements and provides early indicators of immediate priority needs, as well as the protection risks and incidents driving such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 10 local partners across Somalia conduct data gathering—primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants—and monitor displacement trends at strategic locations.

Data Attribution:

All data and information in this Flash Alert are sourced from UNHCR's Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) and its partners. The following citation is required when referencing any part of this report:

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