

This update provides information on the protection environment in Somalia, including apparent violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law as reported in during the last week through the IASC Somalia Protection Cluster monitoring systems. Incidents mentioned in this report are not exhaustive. They are intended to highlight credible reports in order to inform programming and advocacy by the humanitarian community and national authorities.

General Overview

A combination of famine, drought, lawlessness and conflict during the last two weeks continues to raise the number of multi layered direct and indirect protection related cases in South Central Somalia.

The United Nations officially declared famine in parts of Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions, declaring that Somalia is experiencing the worst drought in decades. Currently in some parts of Bakool and Lower Shabelle, acute malnutrition tops 50 percent and death rates exceed six per 10,000 populations per day. In other parts of southern Somalia, the humanitarian crisis is escalating as aid agencies struggle with funding constraints and access to Al Shabaab controlled areas.

Although Al Shabaab recently lifted a ban on aid agencies, the group has since retracted the statement and has continued to restrict humanitarian aid access in many areas under their control.³ Hence many aid agencies have reported that they are still unable to reach an estimated 2.2 million Somalis facing starvation in many Al Shabaab controlled areas.⁴ In addition, the militant group has continued to prohibit residents from fleeing to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG)-controlled areas and neighboring countries despite the increasingly dire humanitarian situation. Recent reports have indicated that forced payments, illegal arrests and harsh punishments by Al Shabaab have been on the rise despite the worsening situation.

Reports received during most of the reporting period also indicates that clashes between the warring parties in southern Somalia have declined due to increased pressure on parties to the conflict to deal with mass population movements sparked by drought and famine. Despite the continued humanitarian crisis and the declared situation of famine, African Union peacekeepers (AMISOM) launched a pre-emptive strike on Al Shabaab forces in Mogadishu leading to heavy fighting on Thursday 27 July. The purpose

¹ UN News Service, *UN declares famine in two regions of southern Somalia*, 20th July 2011 available at http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=39086&Cr=Somali&Cr1

² Reliefweb, FAO launches appeal to avert regional disaster, 18th July available at http://reliefweb.int/node/426946

³ BBC News, *Somali Islamists maintain aid ban and deny famine*, 22nd July available at http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14246764

⁴ Associated Press, *Al-Shabab prevents aid from reaching 2.2M Somalis*, 24th July available at http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gAzQvJqOi0be4FkrVYH29lrNKsDw?docId=06fc13705b374f79a498c3ad1d505448

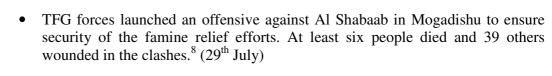
of the attack was to protect famine relief efforts from attacks by Al Shabaab after the militant group announced it was planning to step up operations during Ramadan.⁵

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said in a statement this week, that an estimated 100,000 newly displaced have arrived in Mogadishu over the last two months. The total number of IDPs in Mogadishu is about 400,000, with approximately 1,000 new arrivals each day.

Protections concerns related to insecurity are escalating as more people become displaced throughout southern Somalia in attempts to access scarcely available food resources. Newly displaced people in various regions of Somalia are at a heightened risk of insecurity as there is not enough available assistance to provide the large-scale influxes of IDPs with adequate shelters. Recently, IDPs have struggled with sporadic rain as their makeshift shelters lack water-proofing and flooded areas have contributed to a rise in water-born illnesses with little to no medical supplies available to them. New IDPs have also faced higher rates of thievery and gender-based violence as they become less protected due to lack of shelter.

MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

Although Mogadishu has remained calm in recent weeks as both the TFG and Al Shabaab deal with mass population movements in their areas of control, fighting flared in the previous few days as TFG/AMISOM forces launched an offensive to protect incoming famine relief aid. IDPs in the capital are facing increasing needs as the humanitarian aid currently available is being stretched to reach the thousands of new arrivals to the city. Although emergency aid is being provided, health concerns remain high as there is a lack of sufficient sanitation and health facilities to accommodate the new IDPs.⁷



• At least 60 Somali refugees were forcibly returned to Somalia and left at Mogadishu airport after they had been deported from Saudi Arabia after previous fleeing of Somalia to Saudi Arabia. (22nd July)

Aljazeera.net, *Somali PM accuses UN of holding back aid*, 28 July, available at http://english.aljazeera.net/news/africa/2011/07/201172810315207360.html

Shabelle Media Network, *IDPs in Mogadishu complain of appalling living conditions*, 16th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8845

⁶ Irish Weather Online, *Disease outbreaks plague drought stricken Somalia*, 26th July available at http://www.irishweatheronline.com/news/drought/disease-outbreaks-plague-drought-stricken-somalia/26752.html
BBC News, *Somalis displaced by drought hit by Mogadishu rains*, 15th July, available at http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14165509

⁷ Shabelle Media Network, *IDPs in restive Mogadishu complain of lack of health care*, 18th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8928

⁸ Counton 2 News, 6 Die in *Offensive to Protect Somali Relief Effort*, 28th July 2011 available at http://www2.counton2.com/news/2011/jul/28/6-die-in-offensive-to-protect-somali-relief-effort-ar-2198957/
⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23rd July 2011

- An eight-year-old girl was killed during stray fire when TFG forces clashed with each other in Shangani district of Mogadishu. ¹⁰ (21st July)
- At least five people were wounded when a grenade exploded in front of Banadir Hospital in Hodan district of Mogadishu. (20th July)
- TFG forces clashed with each other in front of Villa Somalia in central Mogadishu leading to the deaths of two people and injuring others. ¹² (19th July)
- A university student was shot and killed in Hamar Jabjab district of Mogadishu by a TFG officer after the student refused to relinquish his mobile phone to the officer. ¹³ (19th July)
- A man was seriously wounded by a stray bullet after TFG forces clashed with each other for control of a food distribution point in Waaberi district of Mogadishu. ¹⁴ (19th July)
- A TFG officer allegedly shot and killed a civilian driver while he was travelling through the KM4 junction in Mogadishu. The alleged shooting was due to the driver's refusal to pay an illegal fee to the TFG soldier manning the checkpoint, who then shot the driver for failure to pay. ¹⁵ (16th July)
- Newly relocated IDPs in Dharkenley district were harassed and robbed while some women were raped when a group of people dressed in TFG uniforms entered the IDP camp in the night and began looting and attacking residents. ¹⁶ (16th July)

NORTH-WEST (AWDAL, WOQOOYI GALBEED & TOGDHEER)

Food security in the North-West regions of Somaliland has been generally secure compared to the famine being experienced in southern Somalia. However, general insecurity, especially among displaced residents who lack secure shelter has raised protection concerns. Women and girls within IDP camps continue to facing insecurity and gender based violence.



- A 16-year-old girl was assaulted and raped in Berbera district of Woqooyi Galbeed region when two men attacked her on a vacant road as she was returning to her home from a wedding ceremony. ¹⁷ (24th July)
- An IDP girl was raped at the October IDP camp in Togdheer region while attempting to access water from the water tanks in the camp after she was sent by her mother to retrieve water for the family. ¹⁸ (21st July)

¹⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23rd July 2011

¹¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21st July 2011

¹² Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19th July 2011

¹³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23rd July 2011

¹⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 20th July 2011

¹⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 20th July 2011

Shabelle Media Network, *Somali soldier shoots a civilian driver in Mogadishu*, 18th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8951

¹⁶ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19th July 2011

¹⁷ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 26th July 2011

- An eight-year-old girl was raped in Berbera district of Woqooyi Galbeed region by a man who
 had lured the girl into an abandoned area with the promise of providing the girl money once she
 followed him.¹⁹ (20th July)
- An IDP woman in Burco district of Togdheer region was attacked by men while returning from her workplace as a vendor in a nearby market. The men who were neighbours to the woman physically assaulted the woman and stole all her money that she was carrying. ²⁰ (19th July)
- A 12-year-old girl was refused access to school to work in her home in Borama district of Awdal region and was severely beaten by her abusive mother after the mother became angry due to lack of money to buy drugs and cigarettes.²¹ (17th July)
- An eight-year-old IDP girl was raped in her home in an IDP camp located in Burco district of Togdheer region. 22 (16th July)

SOOL & SANAG

Food security in Sool and Sanag regions has been generally secure compared to the famine being experienced in southern Somalia. Insecurity in recent weeks has been on the rise in the regions as government employees have been targeted. In addition, government impunity as more cases of abuse of power by government officials has been reported in recent weeks.



- A 14-year-old girl was raped by two men Las Anod district of Sool region when the men attacked her as she was grazing animals in a field. 23 (27th July)
- A 36-year-old woman was raped in her home in Erigavo district of Sanaag region by her deceased husband's brother. The rape allegedly occurred after the woman refused to marry the man following the death of her husband.²⁴ (24th July)
- Five people, including one woman, were arrested by government officials of the Ministry of Health and police officers in Aynabo district of Sool region after the previous employees questioned the reason for being fired from their positions working in children's health with the Ministry. ²⁵ (19th July)
- A 20-year-old woman was raped in Aynabo district of Sool region while travelling to her home on the outskirts of Aynabo.²⁶ (18th July)

¹⁸ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21st July 2011

¹⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21st July 2011

²⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 20th July 2011

²¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18th July 2011

²² Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19th July 2011

²³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011

²⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 25th June 2011

²⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22nd July 2011

²⁶ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 22nd July 2011

- Somaliland Criminal Investigation Unit (CID) police in the city of Laas Anod were put on high alert after a female police officer was gunned down by an unknown gunman in front of her house by masked assailants. The victim was rushed to Laas Anod city hospital where she was pronounced dead. The killing was alleged to be politically motivated.²⁷ (17th July)
- A minority businessman was harassed by a government officer in Aynabo district of Sool region after the businessman refused to sell goods at the desired price of the officer, which then prompted the officer to take the goods citing the businessman had not paid tax. 28 (16th July)

NORTH-EAST (MUDUG, NUGAAL & BARI)

Puntland regions continue to experience high levels of violence and insecurity including politically-motivated targeted killings. The recent brutal killing of a young girl demonstrates the increasing violence, despite numerous attempts by Puntland security officers to control the insecurity.



- Accoring to unconfirmed reports approximately 100 people, including IDPs, were arrested in Rahis, Raf and Raho villages of Bosasso district in Bari region during security operations by Puntland security officers. The security crackdown in the villages, which are host to numerous IDPs from South Central Somalia, were allegedly targetting members of the Galgala militia. The arrested individuals were released the following day.²⁹ (21st July)
- A fire destroyed over 45 IDP shelters in an IDP camp in Bossasso district of Bari region. No casualties were reported, however, one man was wounded in the fire. The fire began after a man returned drunk to the camp in the middle of the night and had a dispute with a friend and then proceeded to set the friend's shelter on fire. 30 (20th July)
- An 18-year-old woman was abducted from her home in a settlement in Gaalkacyo district of Mudug region and raped by three unknown men.³¹ (18th July)
- A young girl was found dead in an abandoned building after being raped and stabbed in Gaalkacyo town of Mudug region when she went missing from her home a day earlier. The killing was allegedly politically motivated as the girl's father was suspected to be involved with TFG operations. ³² (17th July)

Somaliapress, *Somaliland: Female Police Officer Gunned Down In Lasanod City*, 17 July, available at http://somalilandpress.com/somaliland-female-police-officer-gunned-down-in-lasanod-city-22983

²⁷ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18th July 2011

Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17th July 2011

Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011

³⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011

³¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 19th July 2011

³² Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18th July 2011

Shabelle Media Network, *Body of raped girl found in central Somalia town*, 17th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8891

- A fire destroyed over 205 makeshift shelters in the Bulo Mungis IDP camp in Bossasso district of Bari region. No casualties were reported and the origin of the fire remains unknown. 33 (16th July)
- A 50-year-old businessman was shot dead in front of his business in Galkacyo town of Mudug region after a money dispute ocurred between the man and the gunman. ³⁴ (16th July)

HIRAAN & GALGADUUD



• Twenty IDP families were evicted from Koshin basketball stadium in Belet Weyne of Hiraan Region by Al Shabaab. The families were evicted after they were told to pay rent by Al Shabaab because they were illegally occupying property not their own. 35 (12th July)

LOWER & MIDDLE SHABELLE (SHABELLE HOOSE & DHEXE)

In order to deal with massive influxes of IDPs in the region, the TFG has during the past two weeks tried to relocate the newly arrived IDPs. Most of the regions are controlled by Al Shabaab, which has limited the ability and scale of humanitarian response to the increasing amounts of IDPs in search of humanitarian aid due to drought. Despite the escalating hardship of drought, Al Shabaab has continued to demand of residents in the regions to provide what little they have to aid in the fighting. In addition, harsh punishments have continued by Al Shabaab for any in the regions disobeying the commands of Al Shabaab.



- Al Shabaab demanded that each family in Ruun Nirgood district of Middle Shabelle region give at least one boy to join Al Shabaab, or contribute two camels. The residents have reportedly denied the demand from Al Shabaab.³⁶ (27th July)
- 17 children were reported dead due to malnourishment in Cadale district of Middle Shabelle region. ³⁷ (27th July)
- Al Shabaab arrested at least 30 women in Afgooye district of Middle Shabelle regions for failing to wear the specific veil required by Al Shabaab. ³⁸ (26th July)

³³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 26th July 2011

³⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 17th July 2011

³⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 16th July 2011

³⁶ Somalia Report, *Al-Shabaab Demands Families Hand Over Boys*, 27 July available at http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1237/Al_Shabaab_Demands_Families_Hand_Over_Boys?PHPSESSID=a206 dae1c40a0fa20dbdd31be7d11fb7

Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011

³⁸ Shabelle Media Network, *Al shabaab apprehends 30 women for not wearing special veils*, 26th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9298

- Two women were raped by unknown men in their home in Warsheikh district of Middle Shabelle region after the unknown men entered their home in the middle of the night and attacked the women.³⁹ The women were referred for medical services. (26th July)
- Al Shabaab ordered a ban on the slaughtering and sale of all meat in Afgooye town of Middle Shabelle regions. The ban had immediate negative affects as all traders halted the sales of meat, which account for many trader livelihoods. 40 (25th July)
- Unknown gunman opened fire on two commercial trucks loaded with cargo and food travelling through Wanla Weyne district of Lower Shabelle region. Two passengers in the vehicle were killed.⁴¹ (25th July)
- Two young men were found with their throats slit after being abducted by Al Shabaab recently in a clash with local pastoralists. The whereabouts of the other three men abducted by Al Shabaab during the clash remain unknown. 42 (23rd July)
- The newly appointed minister of women and family affairs, Asha Osman Aqil, was abducted by Al Shabaab while travelling to Mogadishu from Balad district in Middle Shabelle region. The minister was released shortly after being taken into custody by Al Shabaab. 43 (21st July)
- Seven people, including women and children, were reported dead due to malnourishment in an IDP camp in Lafole village of Lower Shabelle region. 44 (18th July)

BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

Residents continue to suffer in Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions as food becomes scarcer each day and humanitarian agencies are denied access to the affected individuals. Baydhaba district in Bay region has received humanitarian aid in recent weeks, which has caused thousands in the surrounding districts and regions to flee to the district in search of food. The influx of IDPs into Baidoa town and Baydhaba district as a whole has strained the town's resources and capabilities to provide for those affected by the worsening drought. Children continue being subjected serious protection related violations in the area.

Shabelle Media Network, *Al Shabaab beheads two herders in southern Somalia*, 23rd July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9180

Shabelle Media Network, *Somali female minister falls into Al shabaab hands*, 21st July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9072

³⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 27th July 2011

⁴⁰ Shabelle Media Network, *Al shabaab bans selling meat in southern Somalia town*, 25th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9250

http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9250

All Shabelle Media Network, *Gunmen open fire on truck killing 2 persons*, 25th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9244

⁴² Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 23rd July 2011

⁴³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21st July 2011
Shabelle Media Network, Somali famala minister falls into Al shabagh hand

⁴⁴ Shabelle Media Network, *Women, kids die of hunger in southern Somalia*, 18th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8950

- Six children were reported dead due to malnourishment in the area between Wanlaweyn and Jamecada villages of Bur Hakaba district of Bay region. 45 (22nd
- Eight children were reported dead due to malnourishment as they were travelling from rural areas to reach IDP camps in Baidoa and access humanitarian assistance. 46 (18th July)
- A woman married to a TFG soldier in Labatan Jirow region of Bay region was forcefully married to a member of Al Shabaab after Al Shabaab told the woman to leave the district or marry a member of Al Shabaab. The woman had no other option but to remain and marry because of lack of family support and her husband was deployed in another region.⁴⁷ (18th July)
- A teenage boy was arrested by Al Shabaab in Baidoa town of Bay region after his neighbor who was an unknown Al Shabaab member reported Al Shabaab that the boy was conducting bets in a game of soccer and had said negative statements against Al Shabaab. The boy was later released by Al Shabaab after his parents paid to have him released. 48 (18th July)
- Al Shabaab confiscated two aid trucks carrying medical supplies traveling through Araa Caas area in Gedo region and set on fire and destroyed one of the trucks and its supplies. The destruction of the truck was allegedly in retaliation of TFG forces in the region that had recently seized an Al Shabaab arms supply arriving from Ethiopia. 49 (16th July)
- At least two children were killed and three other people injured when a hand grenade exploded while children were playing with it in Hudur town of Bakool region.⁵⁰ (16th July)
- Two teenage boys were arrested and publicly beaten by Al Shabaab in Baidoa district of Bay region after an unknown person reported to Al Shabaab that the boys had been watching pornographic videos on their mobile phones. The boys each received 30 lashes as punishment by Al Shabaab.⁵¹ (16th July)

ACTIONS AND RESPONSE

The Somali community, both locally and internationally, has continued to be a strong force in the response to the humanitarian crisis. Reports have indicated that numerous groups of residents of Mogadishu, Baidoa and other towns coping with massive influxes of new IDPs have assisted in

Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 18th July 2011

Shabelle Media Network, Al shabaab torches vehicle carrying aid medicine in southern Somalia, 16th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8846

Shabelle Media Network, Govt forces seize military supply in southern Somalia, 16th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8843

⁴⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 24th July 2011

⁴⁶ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 24th July 2011

⁴⁷ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21st July 2011

⁴⁸ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21st July 2011

⁴⁹ Report received from UNHCR internal sources, 18th July 2011

Shabelle Media Network, Explosion kills two children in Somalia, 16th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8842

51 Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 21st July 2011

organizing emergency relief to new displaced people recently arriving. In addition, local businesses have organized for assistance to newly displaced people as well. Shabelle Media Network recently donated 280 plastic sheets for shelter to IDPs in Hodan district of Mogadishu. Hijra organization also continued their disbursement of fishing equipment this week to displaced fishermen in areas of Mogadishu, which concluded and reached over 2,000 displaced fishermen. Hormuud, a large privately owned telecom company, distributed food items to IDPs in Wadajir and Waaberi districts of Mogadishu. Mogadishu.

AMISOM forces have continued to assist IDPs in Mogadishu, and most recently erected five large waterproof tents in an IDP camp in the TFG-controlled area of Mogadishu to serve as accommodations and a medical centre. AMISOM doctors have begun offering free medical treatment, including distributing Vitamin A pills and recently assisting in controlling an outbreak of measles at the camp. ⁵⁵

UNICEF continues to airlift food to southern regions in Somalia, while WFP has recently initiated airlifts to Mogadishu. ⁵⁶ The International Committee of the Red Cross has distributed 400 tonnes of food aid to 4,000 families in Gedo region. ⁵⁷ Kuwait Direct Aid opened two feeding centres in Lower Shabelle, catering for 24,000 children younger than 15. ⁵⁸

In response to the gender-based violence protection concern, the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Working Group in Gaalkacyo conducted a rapid assessment on sexual violence in three IDP settlements reaching 1,180 females and 820 males. The findings of the assessments will inform the GBV responses in Gaalkacyo.

In response to malnutrition amongst children, UNICEF implementing partners conducted one day orientation session for relevant staff operating in Mogadishu and Afgooye corridor. The aim of the session was to link child protection and nutrition program interventions to address the increased problem of malnourished children coming in to Mogadishu and its surrounding areas.

UNHCR has distributed assistance packages reaching over 63,000 people in southern Somalia. More supplies are currently being distributed to an additional 114,000 drought-affected people.

⁵² Shabelle Media Network, *Shabelle Drought Committee delivers aid to IDPs in Mogadishu*, 4th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8915

⁵³ Shabelle Media Network, *Hijra concludes distributing fishing equipments to displaced fishermen*, 18th July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=8955

⁵⁴ Shabelle Media Network, *Hormuud (Hortel) donates aid food to some IDPs in Mogadishu*, 21st July available at http://shabelle.net/article.php?id=9089

⁵⁵ Horseed Media, *AMISOM Comes To The Aid Of Somali IDPs*, 17th July available at http://horseedmedia.net/2011/07/17/somalia-amisom-comes-to-the-aid-of-somali-idps/ All Africa News, *AMISOM Helps Fight Measles in Somali Camp*, 19th July available at http://allafrica.com/stories/201107201197.html

⁵⁶ VOA News, *The UN World Food Program begins relief flights to Somalia*, 27th July available at http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/The-UN-World-Food-Program-Begins-Relief-Flights-to-Somalia072711.html

⁵⁷ Google News, *Food aid distributed in rebel-run Somalia*, 24th July available at http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gzbnXX1HN1HtRWdqcKEcCmv0VxIA?docId=CNG.ea533d48f15f37d2fc7eb24ddb07ad35.b01

⁵⁸ IRIN News, *Aid agencies gain access to Al-Shabab areas*, 26th July available at http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93333