

Protection Cluster Update

Weekly Report

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IASC Somalia

• Protection Monitoring Network (PMN)

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This update provides information on the protection environment in Somalia, including apparent violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law as reported during the last two weeks 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 and prompt programming and advocacy initiatives by the humanitarian community and national authorities.

General Overview

Attempts to improve ties between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the government of Puntland were initiated after both the TFG Prime Minister Sheikh Abdiweli Mohamed and the President, Sharif Sheikh Ahmed visited Garowe and met with Puntland government officials. Among other things, the two sides agreed to strengthen security cooperation, fight terrorism and promote and protect human rights in Puntland. However, it remains to be seen what effect the agreement may have on overarching protection concerns in Puntland with regards to ongoing clan conflicts, politically motivated killings, protection of IDPs and violations resulting from piracy-related crimes.¹ Despite the positive political developments, violence erupted in Gaalkacyo between the Puntland police and clan militias on 1 September and continued for three days. The violence resulted in a large number casualties and massive displacement within Gaalkacyo as many moved their families to safer areas. A report suggests that approximately 80% of the Gaalkacyo town population of 100,000 moved out to nearby villages.²

The split within Al Shabaab ranks which ultimately led to its general withdrawal from the capital Mogadishu continues to. A statement made during the past week by the Al Shabaab leader, Sheikh Muktar Abu Zubeir (Godane), indicates that the rifts within the group remain intractable.³ Abu Zubeir criticized and blamed some of the fighters for the group's recent defeat. He further vowed that his "faithful" fighters will continue launching new attacks against the TFG/AMISOM in Mogadishu and fight to retake districts of Garbaharey, Luq, Beled Hawa and Elwak in Gedo region.⁴ Reports received by Protection Monitoring (PMN) partners suggest that the protection environment faced by residents of the capital has changed little despite the Al Shabaab withdrawal in August. Insecurity remains a major protection concern due to the high number of explosive devices planted in vacated areas by Al Shabaab⁵, including continued fighting between pockets of Al Shabaab insurgents and the TFG/AMISOM troops.

¹ AllHeadline News, *Somalia, Puntland sign cooperation agreement*, 30 August, available at <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/90058631?Somalia%2C%20Puntland%20sign%20cooperation%20Somaliareport,%20Piracy%20awareness%20gains%20momentum%20in%20Puntland>, 28 August, available at http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1463/Piracy_Awareness_Gains_Momentum_in_Puntland

² Internal UNHCR report, received on 4 September

³ Reuters, *Somali militant leader denounces reluctant fighters*, 30 August, available at <http://af.reuters.com/article/somaliaNews/idAFL5E7JU2KT20110830?sp=true>

⁴ Reuters, *Somali militant leader denounces reluctant fighters*, 30 August, available at <http://af.reuters.com/article/somaliaNews/idAFL5E7JU2KT20110830?sp=true>

⁵ Somalia Report, *Al-Shabaab Vows New Offensive in Gedo*, 25 August, available at http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1445/Al-Shabaab_Vows_New_Offensive_in_Gedo

⁵ Shabelle Media Network, *Al shabaab accused of committing violations against humanity*, 3 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=10364>

In addition to the general insecurity in Mogadishu during the past two weeks, new figures released by the UN's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), confirmed that Bay region is now suffering from famine. The report also raised the number of people in crisis to 4 million, up from 3.7 million.⁶ Declared famine in Bay adds to the other UN famine declared areas of southern Somalia, including Southern Bakool, Middle Shabelle, the Afgooye corridor and parts of Mogadishu. At the same time, Al Shabaab has imposed increased movement restrictions have been imposed on IDPs. According to a number reports received the affected population of Lower Shabelle and Bay was prevented from gaining full access to humanitarian assistance in Gedo or Mogadishu.

MOGADISHU (BANADIR)

Despite Al Shabaab's general withdrawal announced last month, insecurity remains a major protection concern in Mogadishu. Localised fighting continued to rage between Al Shabaab insurgents and TFG forces resulting in civilian casualties. Guerilla tactics employed by Al Shabaab during the past two weeks emphasized the changing nature of conflict in the capital, putting civilians at heightened risk from improvised explosive devices. Furthermore, clashes between TFG forces and soldiers loyal to the Wadajir District Commissioner have also been reported. The Sukh Ba'ad market, the second largest market and previously a main Al Shabaab stronghold in Yaaqshiid district of Mogadishu was officially reopened for business after having been shut down for two years.⁷



- The recent spate of beheadings carried out by Al Shabaab continued, as the bodies of two men, believed to be 18 and 31 years of age respectively, were found beheaded in Huriwa district, Mogadishu. The reason behind the killings remains unknown and the perpetrators are yet to be identified.⁸ (5 September)
- Four people were killed, and six others wounded after fighting broke out between TFG forces and armed militias in Wadajir district of Mogadishu as TFG forces tried to secure and control the checkpoints in the district.⁹ (4 September)
- At least seven people, including one civilian were killed and seven others injured in Hawl Wadag district when TFG police forces reportedly clashed with soldiers loyal to the District Commissioner after the police forces attempted to disarm the militia members.¹⁰ (30 August)
- Fighting erupted between Al Shabaab and TFG/AMISOM forces after Al Shabaab insurgents attacked more than five TFG bases in Dharkenley and Karaan districts. During the fighting

Shabelle Media Network, *Two beheaded bodies discovered in war torn Mogadishu*, 5 September, available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=10448>

⁶ BBC News, *Somalia famine: UN warns of 750,000 deaths*, 5 September, available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14785304>

⁷ Somalia Report, *Mogadishu's Second Largest Market Reopened*, 25 August, available at http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1447/Mogadishus_Second_Largest_Market_Reopened?PHPSESSID=8e06e4f99bb38d2383b8caa36e70daa3

⁸ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 6th September

⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4th September

Shabelle Media Network, *Somalia: Govt forces clash with armed militias in Mogadishu*, 3rd September available at <http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=10378>

Press TV, *13 die in battle for Mogadishu*, 4 September, available at

http://www.hiiraan.com/news2/2011/Sept/13/die_in_battle_for_mogadishu.aspx

¹⁰ Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

mortars landed on the village of Kahda in Dharkenley district resulting in at least six civilian deaths and injuring 15 others. Those injured were rushed to Madina hospital. ¹¹ (28 August)

- A bomb targeting an African Union convoy went off close to an IDP feeding centre in Mogadishu. A woman reportedly died and another man was severely wounded during the assault. A report suggests that the bomb was planted by Al Shabaab insurgents. ¹² (28 August)
- An eight year old boy was killed and two others aged 11 and 12 severely injured after an explosive device detonated in Kaaraan market in Mogadishu. Local authorities warned civilians to avoid the area due to the risk of similar incidents. ¹³ (27 August)
- The TFG security officers seized a vehicle loaded with explosive devices during a search operation in KM4 area in Hodan district. The explosive devices are believed to have been planted by Al Shabaab insurgents who continue fighting by using guerilla tactics. ¹⁴ (27 August)

NORTH-EAST (MUDUG, NUGAAL & BARI)

During the past week, fighting and violence erupted in Gaalkacyo between Puntland security forces and clan militias, raising alarming protection concerns. The fighting erupted after the Puntland police forces began a security crack down on suspected Al Shabaab members in Garsoor village, following months of insecurity in Gaalkacyo. Most residents of Garsoor are from the Leel Kase sub clan. The conflict has led to more than 1000 displacements within Mudug region as mainly women and children reportedly fled to neighboring towns, such as Burtinle, Harfo , Baadweyn, and Garowe.¹⁵ After three days of fighting, local elders facilitated a ceasefire between the warring parties.¹⁶ Whether the ceasefire will hold indefinitely remains to be seen.

¹¹ Somalia Report, 10 Killed as Al-Shabaab Attacks TFG Bases, 28th August, available at

www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1467/10_Killed_as_Al-Shabaab_Attacks_TFG_Bases?PHPSESSID=d099e99b1352ed58d6a6a5c1877ed47a

¹² The Telegraph, *Deadly Mogadishu bomb 'targeted peacekeepers*, 28 August, available at

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/somalia/8728348/Deadly-Mogadishu-bomb-targeted-peacekeepers.html>

¹³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28 August

¹⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28 August

Somalia Report, *10 Killed as Al-Shabaab Attacks TFG Bases*, 28 August, available at

www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1467/10_Killed_as_Al-Shabaab_Attacks_TFG_Bases?PHPSESSID=d099e99b1352ed58d6a6a5c1877ed47a

Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

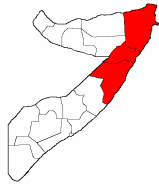
¹⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 7th September

Shabelle Media Network, *Somalia: After two days of battles, there is still tense in central to*, 3 September available at

<http://www.shabelle.net/article.php?id=10367>

¹⁶ Somalia Report, *Elders Succeed in Brokering Galkacyo Ceasefire*, 6 September, available at

http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1520/Elders_Succeed_in_Brokering_Galkayo_Ceasefire



- A report suggest that at least 60 people have been killed and 200 wounded, the majority of whom are thought to be civilians due to fighting that erupted in Gaalkacyo between 1 and 3 September.¹⁷ (4 September)
- Between 1 and 3 September a total number of 89 civilians were admitted to the Gaalkacyo Medical Centre (GMC), whereas 9 people reportedly died as a result of severe injuries.¹⁸ (4 September)
- More than 30 people reportedly died and over 100 others were injured when heavy fighting restarted between Leel Khase clan militias and the Puntland security forces in Garsoor village. A report indicates that there was a disproportionate use of heavy weaponry including machine guns, artillery in densely populated areas.¹⁹ (2 September)
- A fire broke out in 100 Bush IDP Camp, Bossasso, Bari region, affecting over 100 families whose homes were destroyed.. The fire brigade reached the area but was reportedly unable to contain the fire. The fire was spread by strong winds.²⁰ (1 September)
- An unknown number of civilians and two policemen were killed and three civilians were injured after Puntland police forces attempted to arrest several Al Shabaab suspects in Garsoor village, in Gaalkacyo town on 1 September.²¹ (1 September)
- Fighting broke out between the Omar Mohamud and the Sa'ad clan militias in the Balibusle area of the Mudug region after a member of the Sa'ad clan allegedly attempted to raid cattle.²² (30 August)
- The bodies of two men thought to be from South Central Somalia were found in North Gaalkacyo, Mudug region after they were allegedly arrested by Puntland security forces along with 10 other people who remain missing.²³ (30 August)

HIRAAN & GALGADUUD

The situation in parts of Central Somalia, particularly in Galgaduud region remain tense as a result of ongoing armed conflict between various clan militias in the region, putting civilians lives at risk from revenge attacks.



- At least 40 people were injured in Dhagtuur village in Galgaduud region after armed clashes took place between the Sa'ad clan militias loyal to the Galmudug administration and the Saleban militias supporting Himan & Heeb administration over control of territory. The fighting occurred after the Sa'ad attacked and seized

¹⁷ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4th September

¹⁸ Internal UNHCR report, 4th September

¹⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 7th September

²⁰ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 1th September

²¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 7th September

²² Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

²³ Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

Dhagtuur, only for the Saleban, who are now believed to control the area, to retaliate.²⁴ (29 August)

LOWER & MIDDLE SHABELLE (SHABELLE HOOSE & DHEXE)

During the past week Al Shabaab continued to restrict the movements of populations from Lower Shabelle. Al Shabaab is reportedly criticizing aid agencies, claiming that they use aid to foster dependency and to convert people to Christianity. The general protection environment continues to be affected by insecurity as robbery incidents were also reported during the past week.



- Three men and two women were killed and five others were injured when armed bandits attempting to rob the passengers of a mini-bus, opened fire on the mini-bus travelling from Bal'ad to Jowhar district, Middle Shabelle.²⁵ (3 September)
- A fire outbreak at Barey village, Jowhar region in Middle Shabelle district, has led to the displacement of 621 households. The fire destroyed underground maize stores and essential maize grinding equipment.²⁶ (5 September)

BAY, BAKOOL & GEDO

Following Al Shabaab leaders declaration that it plans to retake areas in Gedo, sporadic violence broke out particularly in the towns of Dobley, Garbahaarey and Belet Hawo, between TFG troops, Isiolo militias and Al Shabaab. The Islamic group reportedly also continued to restrict the movement of populations in both Bay and Bakool regions while the lack of basic services and livelihoods in both regions continues to be a concern. Towards the end of Ramadan, a number of reports confirm new restrictive policies imposed by Al Shabaab, including enhanced measures to restrict recommended religious customs. Meanwhile, in Baidoa town, Bay region, public gatherings have been organized to raise financial and community support for internally displaced persons.²⁷



- The Al Shabaab local administration in Baidoa town of Bay region released a statement of announcing that IDPs affected by the drought in the rural areas of Bay and Bakool region must not leave the region to go to Mogadishu and will not be allowed to move to other regions.²⁸ (4 September)
- Two women were arrested and sentenced to approximately twenty days of detainment for wearing clothes outlawed by Al Shabaab underneath their veils on Eid ul-Fitr in Tieglow, Bakool district.²⁹ (31st August)
- A report indicates that three relief workers from a local NGO in Ceel Waaq were arrested after being accused of giving beneficiary cards for food distribution to local residents. The workers were reportedly released after the police station was stormed by local militias.³⁰ (31 August)

²⁴ Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

²⁵ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4 September

²⁶ Internal sources, reported on 9 September 2011

²⁷ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28 August

²⁸ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4 September

²⁹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4 September

- A 13 year old IDP boy was accidentally shot and killed at a food distribution site in Baidoa, Bay region, after an Al Shabaab soldier attempted to fire warning shots to control the desperate IDPs. The soldier was later arrested and obliged to pay compensation to the child's family.³¹ (31 August)
- The Al Shabaab administration in Baidoa district of Bay region demanded that everyone pay their Zakatul fitri (tax money collected for the poor after the end of the month of Ramadhan) to the Al Shabaab administration. While people could previously choose whom to give their contributions to, many speculate that the group has changed the rules in order to fund its operations since the withdrawal from Mogadishu.³² (29 August)
- Al Shabaab fighters in Baidoa fired at trucks carrying humanitarian food aid from Mogadishu. According to the report the food aid was funded by local businessmen to assist drought affected IDPs in the town. Following negotiations with Al Shabaab, the businessmen were eventually required to release some of the food to the Al Shabaab administration to enable the food to be distributed to the drought-affected population.³³ (28 August)
- Two imams at mosques in Isha and Horsed villages, Baidoa district in Bay region, were arrested by Al Shabaab for leading the Tahajjud prayers which had been prohibited by Al Shabaab.³⁴ (27 August)

LOWER & MIDDLE JUBA (JUBA HOOSE & DHEXE)

A report raised concerns that Al Shabaab would intensify its recruitment of children, following the TFG's announcement of plans to carry out an offensive on its strongholds in Taabta, 60 km from Doble. In addition to limiting IDP movements from Bay and Bakool regions, Al Shabaab has obstructed movement from the Afmadow region of Lower Juba – a move that has forced IDPs to pursue alternative risky routes to the border region of Gedo district, where humanitarian assistance is now being distributed. Based on PMN reports, including those mentioned in previous updates, restrictions imposed on women by Al Shabaab and other GBV related issues continue to impact the basic rights of the women in both Lower and Middle Juba regions.³⁵



- Following the movement restrictions imposed on IDPs, 120 displaced families were forced to stop in Afmadow and the drivers forced to drop them in a new IDP settlement established by Al Shabaab administration.³⁶ (5 September)
- A 28 year old IDP woman who was celebrating the end of Ramadhan was shot by Al Shabaab militia in Lafole IDP camp in the town of Kismaayo, Lower Juba on the Eid day. The woman was allegedly shot for wearing clothes classified as prohibited

³⁰ Report recorded by organization conducting security analysis in Somalia. Source name withheld

³¹ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 3rd September

³² Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 29th August

³³ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28th August

³⁴ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 28th August

³⁵ Internal sources, reported on 6th September 2011

³⁶ Internal sources, reported on 5th September 2011

by the Al Shabaab authorities. The woman was rushed to the Kismaayo hospital, but died on the way.³⁷ (30 August)

- A woman was raped in Kismaayo town, Lower Juba, whilst grazing her goats in a field. The incident was reported to the police and local elders, while she was referred to the local hospital.³⁸ (28 August)

ACTIONS AND RESPONSE

- A total number of 14 community centers for women in Afgooye have been rehabilitated and equipped with four counselors to provide psychosocial support for GBV survivors.
- The construction of a total number of five and thirteen child-friendly spaces was completed in Baidoa and Afgooye respectively to cater for approximately 1,500 children and students.
- Livelihood training funded by UNHCR took place in Gaalkacyo between 22 and 27 August. The training was conducted by Relief International for 189 beneficiaries of the Protection through Economic Empowerment (PECEM III) project, including eight IDP settlements and host communities. A total number of 1,450 people will benefit from two vegetable gardens and four honey farms established in Gaalkacyo.
- The Puntland Development and Research Center (PDRC) organized a series of workshops funded by United Nations Office for Somalia (UNPOS) in Garowe aimed discussing the impact of piracy on business development, economic growth, social behavior and its violations against women's rights.³⁹ The aim of the workshop was to create awareness on the protection issues related to piracy and come up with concrete ideas on way to tackle related protection concerns.
- At Barey Village, Jowhar district, Middle Shabelle region, NFIs, food, and emergency cash distribution has taken place to support the families affected by fire.

³⁷ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 31st August

³⁸ Report received from IASC Protection Cluster Partner, 4th September

³⁹ Somalia Report, Piracy Awareness Gains Momentum in Puntland, 28 August, available at http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/1463/Piracy_Awareness_Gains_Momentum_in_Puntland