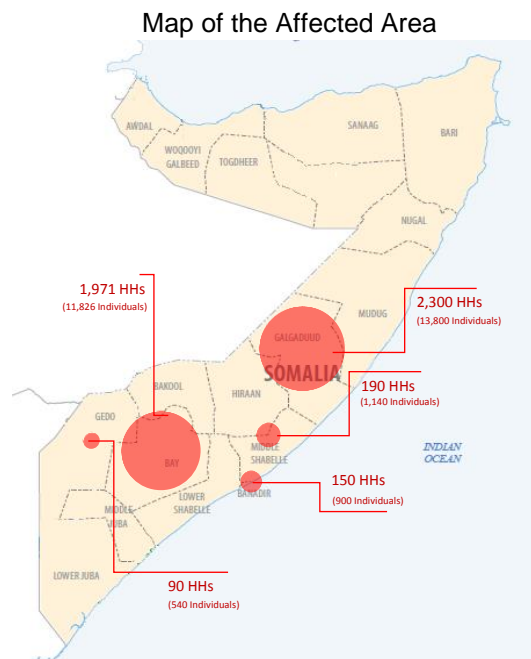


50,000 individuals displaced in South & Central Somalia due to conflict and growing tensions

The Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) has observed a noticeable increase in the number of people that are being displaced by drought and conflict in South and Central Somalia. The upsurge in the number of persons displaced by conflict represents a new displacement trend since drought struck the country in November 2016. Between May and June 2017 alone, at least 8,266 households, or approximately 50,000 individuals, were displaced due to various conflicts and heightened insecurity in South and Central Somalia, compared to the about 70,000 uprooted by drought during the same period. Galgadud, Gedo, Baidoa and Lower Shabelle remain the regions worst affected by recent conflict.

Conflict - Central Somalia (Galgadud)

Galgadud region has been one of the hardest hit by persistent drought in Somalia. Some 19,000 individuals have been displaced to different parts of the region by June this year, however, drought is not the only factor triggering displacements in Galgadud. Conflict-induced displacements are becoming increasingly prevalent in the region; for example, an escalation of tensions between rival clans in Xeraale, Abudwaq district has resulted in the displacement of around 2,300 households (13,800 individuals) between 1 and 18 July 2017, with many more likely to flee. Furthermore, two sub-clans are on the verge of conflict - although there have been no reports of actual confrontation, fleeing residents, most of whom are now displaced to towns such as Huurshe, Mirjicley, Maryeelaan, Guriceel and Baraagdiid, have expressed fear that fighting could erupt at any moment and potentially degenerate into widespread violence. The PRMN continues to monitor new arrivals of persons who are fleeing either ongoing conflicts, imminent threats thereof, or insecurity in other parts of Galgadud. According to information shared with PRMN monitors, the current tensions in Heraale are retaliatory in nature, suggesting that reprisals by rival groups could occur, thus engendering a recurring cycle of violence resulting in displacement. Amid ongoing drought, inadequate local absorption capacities, and weak protective structures, access to humanitarian assistance and protection remain a major concern in receiving host communities. Women, children and the elderly are the most affected among the displaced due to the *Hagaa* windy season which comes with extreme cold.



Conflict - Southern Somalia (Gedo, Lower Shabelle)

In Gedo, a series of confrontations between Al-Shabaab and government forces on 11 and 12 July led to the displacement of at least 90 households (500 individuals) in Bardheere district, while some 190 households (1,140 individuals) in Middle Shabelle were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in other parts of the region due to armed clashes between two Abgaal sub-clan militia in Adale district. PRMN partners monitored arrivals in several towns within Middle Shabelle, including Rage Ceelle, Illig Adobe, Bakaarole and Warshiikh. The fighting in Middle Shabelle was reportedly triggered by a localized dispute over customary land ownership and boundaries between two sub-clans. The federal government has since deployed security forces to contain the violence and initiate negotiations.

Insecurity and conflict continues to cause displacements in Lower Shabelle - during July so far some 1900 individuals including 900 individuals from Marka and Kurtuwarey districts have fled towards Mogadishu. Some of the displaced initially settled in Xoosh village, Dharkenley district, but have since established two new settlements on the outskirts of Mogadishu, namely Al-Rahma and Al-Farah.

The PRMN (Protection & Return Monitoring Network) is a UNHCR-led project which identifies and reports on displacements as well as protection risks and incidents underlying such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) (NRC), 41 local partners in the field in Somalia (South Central regions, Puntland and Somaliland) undertake data gathering (primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants) and monitoring at strategic locations. This 'flash' report highlights only a selection of movements and incidents - some of these reports may not be verified independently by UNHCR. Displacement figures should be read in conjunction with the [Notes on PRMN Methodology](#). Please attribute data to "UNHCR-led Protection & Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) Somalia."

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