

Situation Overview

Humanitarian partners and authorities in Puntland are anticipating new displacements from parts of Somaliland especially in Sanaag after Somaliland authorities in Sanaag issued a statement on the 6 October calling for people from other parts of Somalia to leave Ceerigaabo town and surrounding villages within 15 days (by 21 October). Despite calls for a stay or extension of the deadline (particularly those from South West State), the Somaliland government has not responded yet.

On 2 and 3 October, hundreds of families were forcefully displaced from Laas Caanood. Most of the people are originally from South West and Hirshabelle states, Banadir and a few from Ethiopia. Officials from the Somaliland government were quoted on local media saying that the move was triggered by security concerns and targeted selected people who had unlawfully settled in the area¹. Approximately 3,230 of those affected have reached Gaalkacyo. Onward travel to final destinations is reported with arrivals seen in South West State, Galmudug, Hirshabelle and Mogadishu. They are still being registered.



Displaced people waiting to board a plane to Baidoa from Gaalkacyo on 10 October. Photo: Mayor's office, Gaalkacyo.

Humanitarian Impact and Needs

Authorities in Puntland confirmed one COVID-19 death among the displaced population from Laas Caanood. The displaced include seven unaccompanied minors including one born to refugee parents from Ethiopia. The displaced population were forced to leave immediately and without their belongings from Laas Caanood. It is projected that the displaced will move to towns including Gaalkacyo, Baidoa, Belet Weyne and Mogadishu where they will need assistance ranging from shelter, food, health, WASH, protection, education, livelihood support among other interventions. Protection Cluster partners in Gaalkacyo estimate that about 30 per cent of the displaced people have faced family separation. Humanitarian partners in Mogadishu reported that over 300 people displaced from Laas Caanood have arrived in Mogadishu since 9 October, adding to the IDP caseload where humanitarians are struggling to respond to basic needs.

Ongoing and Planned Response

Authorities and humanitarian partners have scaled up their response efforts. Between 9 and 10 October, Puntland authorities in collaboration with South West State authorities facilitated air transport for 275 people from Gaalkacyo to Baidoa. On 5 October, Puntland authorities provided road transport to 636 people destined for Hirshabelle, South West State and Banadir. So far, 911 people from Laas Caanood have left Gaalkacyo. Some 56 Ethiopian nationals have requested to be repatriated. Some of the forcibly displaced people have reportedly reached Mogadishu and Belet Weyne using their own means.

Regular monitoring and planning meetings for response planning and resource mobilization are being held with representatives from the office the Gaalkacyo mayor, the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA), OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, the Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MOWDFA), the Ministry of Interior and cluster focal points in Gaalkacyo.

¹ Somali Dispatch. October 5, 2021.

The Mayor of Gaalkacyo estimates that about 50 per cent of the displaced people will re-settle in Gaalkacyo but will need shelter, protection, food, WASH and health assistance as well as education for the children. The South West State ministerial committee on the displaced people from Laas Caanood led by the Minister of Planning and the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs are in Gaalkacyo to oversee the relocation and provision of humanitarian assistance for those intending to relocate to Baidoa. Inter-agency coordination meetings, cluster meetings and meetings with authorities in Gaalkacyo are ongoing. So far, partners have provided the following assistance:

- Puntland authorities, diaspora and the host community have provided US\$100 each to families, particularly for those relocating to Baidoa and provided land for local integration of those who wish to remain in Gaalkacyo, as part of durable solutions response.
- Puntland authorities have facilitated transportation to Garowe of 40 businessmen who requested assistance to go back to Laas Caanood to claim their assets.
- Puntland authorities have provided food, water, sleeping mats and materials to the IDPs since their arrival to Gaalkacyo.
- Local communities in north Gaalkacyo are collecting contributions including food, clothing and unconfirmed amount of cash that will be provided to the displaced people.
- On 6 October, authorities in Puntland facilitated road transport for 636 people through Galmudug *en route* to Hirshabelle, South West State and Banadir. One of the vehicles carrying 70 people developed mechanical problems near Bandiradley, prompting a local NGO partner, Aamin Organization and authorities in Galmudug, to offer an alternative truck to transport the stranded people.
- The Somali diaspora has provided housing for one month for 100 displaced families and clothing for 222 children.
- UNHCR through its partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) plans to assist 800 families with NFIs kits.
- The Federal Ministry of Health (MoH) with support from UNICEF plans to provide mobile health and nutrition services for three months for affected people in Gaalkacyo. The ministry had provided health services to IDPs before they were relocated from Dusmadea and Xarfo town.
- The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) is providing 50 housing tents, 60 jerricans, 60 water buckets, 70 mats and 30 blankets to the displaced families. SRCS has also assisted the IDPs with health, nutrition and ambulance services.
- UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Puntland is distributing hygiene kits to displaced families in Gaalkacyo with excess stocks being held in anticipation of new displacements. UNICEF is also providing a portable water tank (30 cubic meter bladder) for water trucking.
- UNICEF in partnership with Puntland Water Development Authority plans to implement a one-month water trucking intervention and to construct 20 emergency latrines.
- UNICEF in Partnership with Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs (MOWDFA) is providing interim care, family tracing and reunification and referral to child protection and GBV services including safe shelter targeting 80 children for 15 days.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), NRC and CARE will each give targeted unconditional cash to 400, 255, 300 households, respectively.
- IOM through NRC and UNHCR will distributed 500 and 800 NFI kits respectively. IOM will also support the repatriation of those originally from Ethiopia who wish to return.
- Save the Children (SCI) will distribute hygiene kits to 1,000 households. In addition, SCI plans to implement water trucking assistance, targeting 2,000 IDPs for 45 days.
- A local partner, PMWDO, has commenced trucking water to the displaced people.
- Golis telecommunication company will support the construction of 20 emergency latrines, provide 100 emergency tents and distribute free SIM cards for each displaced person.
- UNICEF plans to provide daily meals for unaccompanied children, gender-based violence (GBV) survivors and those at risk of GBV. The assistance targets 300 children for a period of 15 days in Gaalkacyo.
- SRSC and UNICEF, through MOWDFA, are engaged in tracing missing family members in order to locate them in Laas Caanood or other reception areas. SRCS distributed eight handwashing tools, 100 detergent powder, 30 plastic bags and 100 sanitary bags.
- Gaalkacyo Education Center Peace and Development conducted case management and provided material assistance to unaccompanied minors. It also trucked water and provided NFIs (utensils, 133 plates, 140 cups, 73 glasses, 8 kettles) to some of the displaced.
- Gaalkacyo Medical Foundation has distributed 20 emergency shelters.



Registration of people displaced from Laas Caanood in Gaalkacyo for assistance. Photo: CARE.