

### Situation Overview

Fighting around Guri Ceel town, Galmudug State, continued into its fourth day on 26 October. On 24 October, two health facilities were severely damaged, cutting off lifesaving health services.

Outreach and mobile health and nutrition teams have discontinued their operations in the town. Water and electricity supplies are cut. According to partners, at least 30 civilians have been killed and 70 injured since the hostilities began.

More than 100,000 people have been displaced to 28 nearby villages, as well as three new sites. Of those displaced, about 1,800 people have reportedly arrived in Mataban town, Hirshabelle region where they are staying with relatives and friends, and are in need of food, shelter as well as water and sanitation assistance.

Humanitarian partners have documented violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including denial of medical treatment to some of those who have been injured. An interagency needs assessment carried out on 21 October found that displaced women and girls fear possible sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), citing the lack of proper shelter and having to travel long distances in search of water and firewood as risk factors. At least one rape case has been reported.

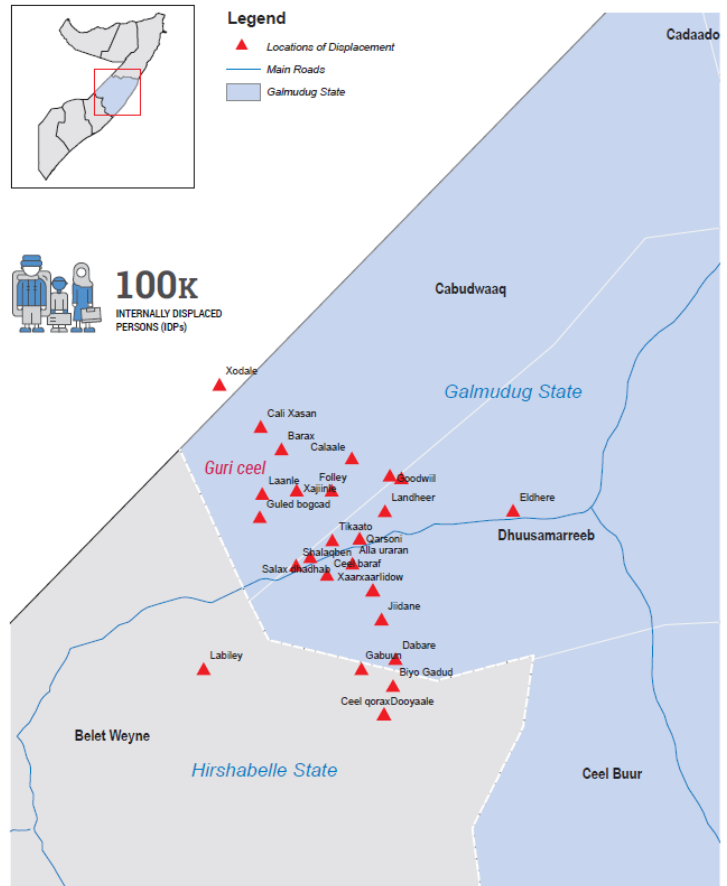
On 25 October, the office of Social Empowerment Rehabilitation and Development Organization (SERDO), a local non-governmental organization (NGO) that provides livelihood and nutrition assistance in areas of displacement, was struck during exchange of fire. The impact damaged biometric registration kits and laptops, disrupting operations. The office had been occupied by one of the parties to the conflict for use as a defensive position.

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, has urged all parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations under IHL. "I ask humanitarian actors to expedite emergency assistance and to work with authorities towards durable solutions, the Humanitarian Coordinator said in a statement, also stressing that "parties to the conflict must ensure that humanitarian workers have unfettered access to all people in need of assistance."

### Humanitarian Impact and Needs

Access challenges have increased in the areas of need, hindering humanitarian response. The closure of shops has limited the possibility for people to redeem vouchers. The damage inflicted on Kulmiye and Starlin hospitals has severely affected the delivery of health services. The damage sustained by the Starlin public hospital was particularly extensive, with the office, male dormitory and the X-ray facility damaged. Health workers who were attending to patients - including civilian casualties and pregnant women - have left the facility. Power shortages are compounding the situation.

Despite ongoing assistance, significant gaps remain. These include:



Map showing the villages where displaced people from Guri Ceel have sought shelter. Map: OCHA.

**Food security:**

- Prices of food and vegetables have increased by 20-30 per cent due to restrictions in movement and taxation. Cross-border trade and movement of goods have been disrupted, creating shortages.
- Assessed locations hosting the displaced have no functional market and nearest market is Guri Ceel itself, 10-40 km away.
- Displaced people are unemployed and not engaged in any economic activities.

**Shelter:**

- Many families do not have access to shelter and are living in the open; a situation that is worsened by rain showers.
- Displaced people are at risk of eviction due to the lack of formal agreements.
- Shelter Cluster partners are concerned about security in the three new IDP settlements of Ceel Baraf, Salax Dhadhab and Dabare.

**Wash**

- Water shortages are reported across all displacement-affected locations. Boreholes serving displaced people are overstretched, have malfunctioned and urgently need pumps and generators.
- About 120 AWD/cholera suspected cases have been reported. An estimated 33,680 children are at risk of contracting AWD/cholera if no immediate WASH services are provided.
- Close to 96,900 people in 17 villages will need emergency WASH assistance and 101,040 displaced people will need urgent sanitation services and hygiene supplies.
- WASH Cluster hygiene stocks in Galmudug and Belet Weyne are short by about 27,500 kits. These need to be replenished to support the affected population and respond to other shocks.

**Health**

- There is a gap in case management through fixed and mobile medical teams including ambulance and GBV/clinical management of rape referral services.
- There is a gap in mental health and psychosocial support services, including psychological first aid.

**Education**

- At least 26 schools and other informal Islamic institutions remain closed due to the heightened tension, affecting learning for over 2,500 children, mostly in primary schools.
- Sixty per cent of the learners have been displaced contributing to poor school attendance.
- About US\$ 300,000 is required to support 10,000 learners in villages with no or non-functional schools as part of education in emergencies assistance.

**Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**

- Only 2 of the 37 IDP sites in Guri Ceel are being supported with CCCM services.
- Some 22 per cent of IDP sites in Guri Ceel have been served eviction notices within the last three months and 67 per cent of the sites are at high risk of flooding. In Gaashaan and Damaanyo sites, food and non-food items (NFI) support is not being delivered.
- The CCCM response in Ceel Baraf, Dabare and Salax Dhadhab is utilizing re-mobilized resources but requires 70 per cent more funding (\$125,000) for sufficient and effective response.

**Protection**

- There is a funding gap for partners to respond to child protection needs. Support to additional government social workers is crucial.
- Some partners in nearby districts cannot respond due to insecurity-related access constraints.
- Displaced children lack assistance. Boys from madrasas across the district are reportedly being recruited to fight.
- There is a risk of children being separated from their parents and caregivers. There is also an outbreak of diarrhea affecting children.
- People from marginalized communities, such as Ajuran and Rahweyne, have stayed in the town due to limited resources.

## Ongoing and Planned Response

UNICEF is planning to start water trucking for 45 days in settlements hosting the displaced families. The agency will also construct 200 emergency latrines, distribute 3,000 hygiene kits and conduct hygiene promotion activities. Through a local partner, New Ways Organization, UNICEF also plans to distribute hygiene kits to 1,500 families in the three new IDP sites. Registration of beneficiaries is ongoing.