

### **Response Overview**

In February, the protection cluster reached 65,555 individuals through its response. Baydhaba (20,646) received the highest number of beneficiaries followed by Banadir (20,322), Lower Jubba (4,634) and Woqooyi Galbeed districts (4,191).

# **Key Highlights**

- The Protection Cluster organized in February a 3-day workshop with the State and Regional Protection Cluster Coordinators. Workshop sessions focused on the Cluster's protection frontline response, HCT-led Area-Based Coordination (ABC), protection of civilians or protection analysis. Participants included Cluster's key operational partners as Agency for Minority Rights & Development (AMARD), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Norwegian Refugee Counil (NRC), REACH, GAASHAAN and UNOCHA.
- Mowlid Maksud from Marginalized Communities Advocacy Network (MCAN), is the new Subnational Protection Cluster Coordinator for Hirshabelle. He can be reached through <u>mowlid.maksud@mcan-africa.org</u>

# **Hobyo District**

- The Somalia Protection Cluster is coordinating with the protection actors and the Explosive Hazards Area of Responsibility the operationalization of a frontline protection response in Hobyo district, a newly accessible area in the Mudug region of Galmudug State where 8,730 individuals were displaced from their homes due to ongoing armed conflict.
- UNHCR's partner, GECPD, has deployed protection desks to Xinlabi town and its surrounding areas within

# Protection

- Hobyo district: The latest update from the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) reveals significant displacement resulting from ongoing military operations, and over 18,000 individuals have been displaced. The displaced populations face protection risks, including (i) Discrimination and stigmatization, denial of resources, opportunities, services and/or humanitarian access; (ii) Psychological Distress and Deterioration of Mental Wellbeing; (iii) Presence of Explosive Remnant of War; (iv)Unaccompanied and Separated Children and (v) Genderbased violence (GBV)
- Urgent humanitarian needs reported include: psychological first aid and support services, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), GBV and Child protection response, food, shelter, water and sanitation.
- These developments highlight the pressing need for coordinated efforts to address the growing humanitarian crisis in the region.

Explosive Hazards

- In February 2024, Dhabad, Abudwaq, Galmudug, and Bur-Hakaba, experienced explosive ordnance accidents. One fatality and injury was reported among children in Bur-Hakaba. In Dhabad, a young girl was also injured due to explosive ordnance. These incidents bring the total number of victims in the past two months across three regions to seven, with a concerning 70% being children.
- Efforts from Explosive Hazard AoR partners on the ground remain dedicated to providing emergency response and clearing explosive hazards to protect vulnerable communities. In terms of prevention, explosive ordnance risk education activities have reached 3,179 individuals, of which 64% are children and 17% are internally displaced persons (IDPs). Furthermore, 2,987 risk education leaflets and 114 risk education talking devices (RETD) have been distributed throughout regions to raise awareness.

the district identifying 301 protection cases (64% female/36% male) among the displaced population affected by the armed conflict. The Explosive Hazards (EH) Area of Responsibility (AoR) is also responding through awareness raising campaigns in Xinlabi town, Laas Gacameey, and Baraag Ciise villages and providing 200 risk education talking devices in Hobyo district.





In addition to education efforts, community-based clearance teams have made significant strides in ensuring safety by removing a total of 61 explosive remnants of war, including landmines. These efforts collectively aim to create safer environments for surrounding communities, mitigating the risks posed by explosive ordnance.

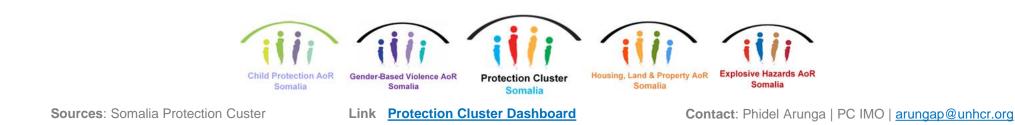
## **Gender Based Violence**

- Updates from the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) reflect intensified efforts in community engagement and preparedness for adverse weather conditions. Partners have redoubled their endeavors to ensure that women and girls affected by forced evictions are wellinformed about and can access critical GBV referral pathways, safe shelters, and Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS). Additionally, discussions have been initiated to mitigate the heightened risk of GBV during adverse weather conditions, with an emphasis on interventions community-based and the implementation of early warning systems at both national and sub-national levels.
- \* The ongoing process of updating referral pathways is progressing, with significant strides made in regions such as Galmudug, Jubaland, and Banadir. This initiative is essential for streamlining access to crucial services for GBV survivors. Meanwhile, targeted awareness sessions have been conducted in various districts and IDP camps, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women collecting firewood, who face increased risks of sexual violence in flood-prone areas like Puntland, Galmudug, Southwest, and Banadir. Additionally, prepositioning of stocks for flood intervention, including dignity and menstrual hygiene kits, has been prioritized to ensure swift response and support to affected populations.
- However, despite these efforts, significant challenges persist within the GBV response landscape. Limited humanitarian services reach government-controlled areas due to insufficient funding, exacerbating the already pressing GBV needs in these regions.
- The politicization of aid delivery along clan affiliation

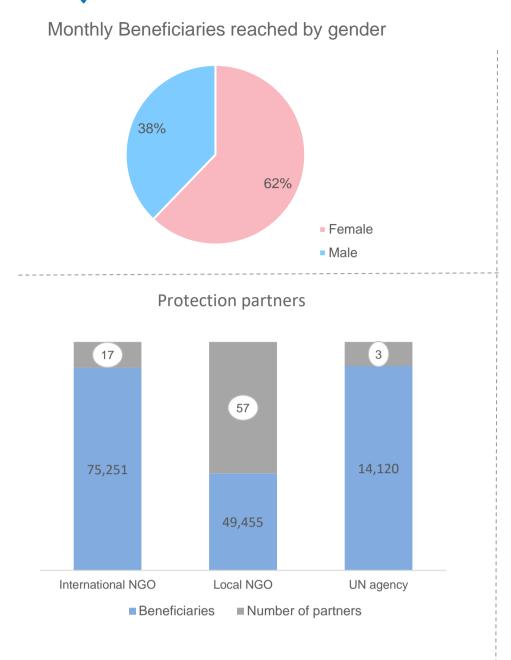
Housing, Land and Property

- Banadir: In February, the District witnessed a series of eviction incidents, underscoring the vulnerability of displaced populations. On the 18th, 159 households, comprising 954 individuals, were forcibly evicted from Buuxaw, Gurdaaleey, Gaaldheere, and Alkhaliif IDP settlements. Among those affected, 75% were protracted internally displaced families, while 25% were newly displaced families due to drought and insecurity. An urgent need of shelter, food, and protection has been reported.
- Similarly, on the 17th, approximately 60 households in Buulo Barako, Dayniile, Banadir district, totaling 360 individuals, faced forceful eviction. The majority of those affected were protracted internally displaced households, with a smaller percentage comprising newly displaced families due to regional instability. Vulnerability assessments revealed pressing needs among the evicted, including children under 5, single mothers, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. There has been no reported humanitarian response. These incidents underscore the critical need for immediate and coordinated humanitarian intervention to address the pressing needs of displaced communities in Banadir District.
- ✤ Puntland: UNHCR, leading the state-level protection cluster, monitored Garowe's IDP site, revealing drought and insecurity's impact. Roving Protection Desks were introduced at Waaberi and Jilab camps, assisting 30 individuals, mainly females, by offering early identification and referral services. Protection Monitors engaged with 35 individuals at Jamacada and Warsan IDP sites through various methods. In Garoowe, home to 50,000 displaced individuals across 25 IDP camps, dire conditions persist, including lack of clean water and sanitation, leading to cholera outbreaks. Urgent intervention is needed to address these pressing needs.

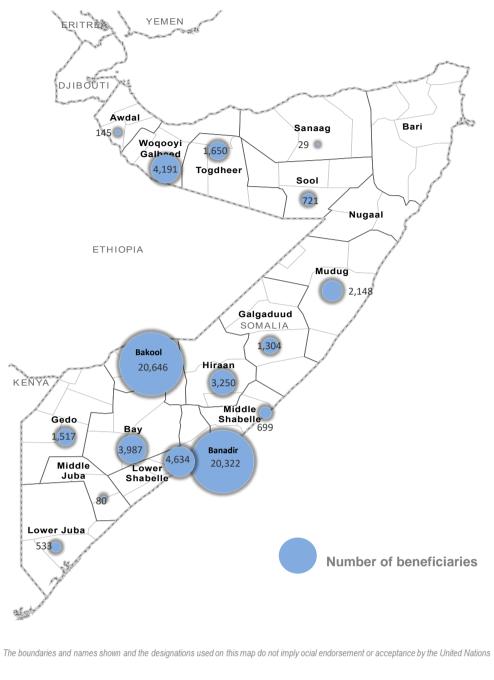
lines poses a considerable obstacle, hindering equitable access to essential services. Furthermore, there is a glaring lack of sufficient presence of protection partners, particularly in areas where minority groups reside, limiting access to vital protection services. Efforts to address these challenges are essential to ensure that vulnerable populations receive the support they urgently require.





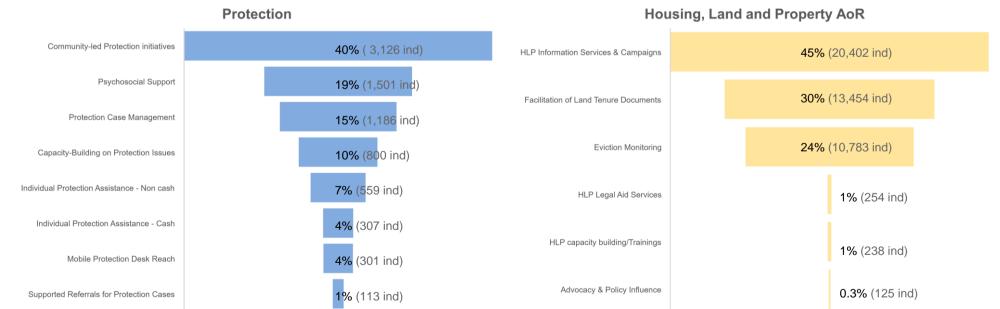


Protection response coverage in February by Region



100% (12,707ind)

## # of beneficiaries reached per activity in February





#### **Explosive Hazards AoR**

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

