

Heavy Clashes in Moqokori Town, Hiraan Region Displaces Over 2,000 Individuals



350



2,100



2



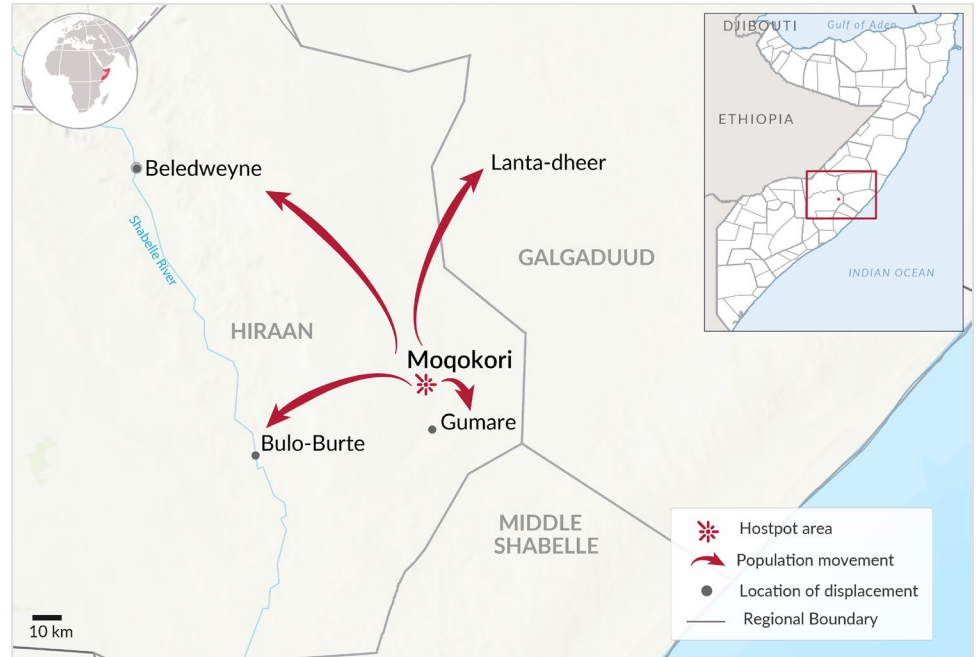
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4.0605° N,
46.1339° E.



7 July 2025



Background

On 7 July, Moqokori town situated in Hiraan Region experienced intense armed clashes between Macawisley local armed groups and the non-state armed group Al-Shabaab. While local forces had been in control of Moqokori for some time, Al-Shabaab launched an offensive to regain the town. After temporarily seizing control, Macawisley forces mobilized and recaptured the area later the same day.

Previous location	Arrival locations	Households
Reed-madoobe	Midnimo IDP site - Bulu-burte	110 HH
Lanta-dheer	Beledweyne	80 HH
Gumare	Beledweyne	160 HH
(Total 2,100 individuals)		350 households

The violence also impacted nearby villages under Moqokori District, with families fleeing to nearby villages of Lanta-dheer, Reed-Madobbe and Gumare in search of safety. The Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) reports that approximately 350 households (2,100 individuals) have been displaced, with majority expected to be women and children. Most of the displaced are now sheltering in Buulo-Burde and Beledweyne. Seven civilian casualties were reported - 2 deaths and 5 injuries - resulting from crossfire during the fighting.

The majority of the displaced, including vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly, have joined existing IDP settlements and host communities, which are already overstretched and still recovering from the recent flash floods impacting residents in May 2025. At the time of issuing this Flash Alert, limited humanitarian assistance has reached the affected population.

Protection Risks

Attacks on civilians and civilian objects: The clashes directly impacted civilians, with at least 2 deaths and 5 injuries reported. Continued conflict in densely populated areas increases the risk of further civilian casualties and damage to personal property and infrastructure.

Forced displacement and impediments to freedom of movement: While many residents from surrounding villages managed to flee to safer areas such as Buulo-Burde and Beledweyne, a significant number reportedly remain trapped in Moqokori and nearby villages due to fear of ongoing violence and siege-like conditions. Risks of family separation leave many individuals unable to reunite with their relatives and increases their vulnerability.

Increased exposure to violence: Displaced communities face heightened risks of violence, including physical attacks, sexual violence, recruitment by armed groups, child abuse and neglect.

Urgent Needs

Emergency shelter and NFIs: Many displaced families have fled with no personal belongings or basic supplies. Many are living in overcrowded IDP sites or with host families without proper shelter, increasing their exposure to protection risks and harsh weather conditions.

Food Assistance: Newly displaced individuals have travelled long distances and are in immediate need of food. As at the time of issuance of this alert, no humanitarian food assistance has been delivered to the affected people.

Protection services and psychosocial support: The conflict has had a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of the affected population, particularly for those who have experienced trauma or loss. The ongoing uncertainty and fear has created stress and anxiety for many individuals, leading to mental health concerns and the need for psychosocial counselling. Additional support to conduct protection assessments and provision of referral services for vulnerable persons and those at heightened protection risk is required.



Newly displaced family from Moqokori seeking shelter at Wabi Shabelle IDP camp in Beledweyne© NRC

Disclaimer: This alert serves as a call for an urgent and coordinated humanitarian response. For that purpose, preliminary information is reported outlining immediate priority needs. Assessments of the situation are ongoing and updates will be shared as further information becomes available.



The Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) is a UNHCR-led project that identifies and reports on displacements, as well as the protection risks and incidents driving such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 10 local partners across Somalia conduct data gathering—primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants—and monitor displacement trends at strategic locations.

To request further details on displacement, please contact SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG