

Situation Overview

The number of people who have been forcibly displaced from Laas Caanood and surrounding areas has risen to more than 7,250, according to UNHCR's Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). Some 24 households (have also reportedly moved to nearby villages in Buhoodle district, according to mapping done by PRMN). In Ceerigaabo town, Sanaag region, 75 people have reportedly left for Gaalkacyo and Baidoa towns after authorities issued a notice asking people from southern areas to leave by 21 October,

Over 3,300 displaced people from Laas Caanood have arrived in Gaalkacyo since 2 October when the forced displacements started, of whom 986 have proceeded to South West State, Hirshabelle and Banadir. Another 32 families (75 people) arrived in Margaga settlement in the outskirts of Ba'adweyn town, 50km northeast of Gaalkacyo. On 14 October, they were airlifted to Baidoa. Since 10 October, 561 displaced families (3,366 people) have arrived in Baidoa.

The forceful displacement of scores of families from Laas Caanood has raised protection concerns. The displaced have reported separation of families, child abandonment and loss of property. Protection Cluster partners in Gaalkacyo reported that seven separated minors have now been reunited with their families. One unaccompanied minor is living with IDPs in Gaalkacyo, according to Puntland authorities.



Forcefully displaced people from Ceerigaabo leaving Gaalkacyo airport on 14 October. Photo: Puntland Ministry of Women Development and Family Affairs.

Humanitarian Impact and Needs

Humanitarian partners estimate that 400 households (2,400 people) among those who were notified to leave Ceerigaabo by 21 October and who are registered with the immigration office, are expected to be displaced when the deadline expires. Efforts to get an extension by six months to wind down business and pay debts have not yet been responded to by the local administration in Sanaag region. Another 333 households (close to 2,000 people) who live in the surrounding villages and are not registered with the immigration office, may also be forcefully displaced. In Gaalkacyo, a joint monitoring mission to the temporary IDP settlement established by the authorities found more than 200 children who are out of school following their forced displacement.

Ongoing and Planned Responses

- Authorities and communities in Ba'adweyn and Gaalkacyo provided food, water, shelter and other necessities to 75 new arrivals before they departed for Baidoa.
- The local community, authorities, Somali diaspora and humanitarian partners have mobilized NFIs, shelter, food, water, health, nutrition and protection services to sustain 200 displaced families in Gaalkacyo for more than a month.
- South West State has temporarily housed 700 newly displaced people in Salamay/ADC settlement. The authorities together with Gurmad Walaal group, diaspora and host community, and partners provided food and NFIs including mattresses, bed sheets and utensils.
- Authorities in Gaalkacyo plan to allocate land to resettle those who will stay, under a local integration programme initiated by the administration and the host community.
- Humanitarian responses in Baidoa are reportedly limited although the affected people need urgent assistance. A joint multi cluster needs assessment is planned for next week.