

# LAAS CAANOOD, SOOL REGION - SOMALIA

## Inter-Agency Situational Assessment Report as at 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023



**SOMALI DANISH WOMEN IN ACTION (SDWA)**

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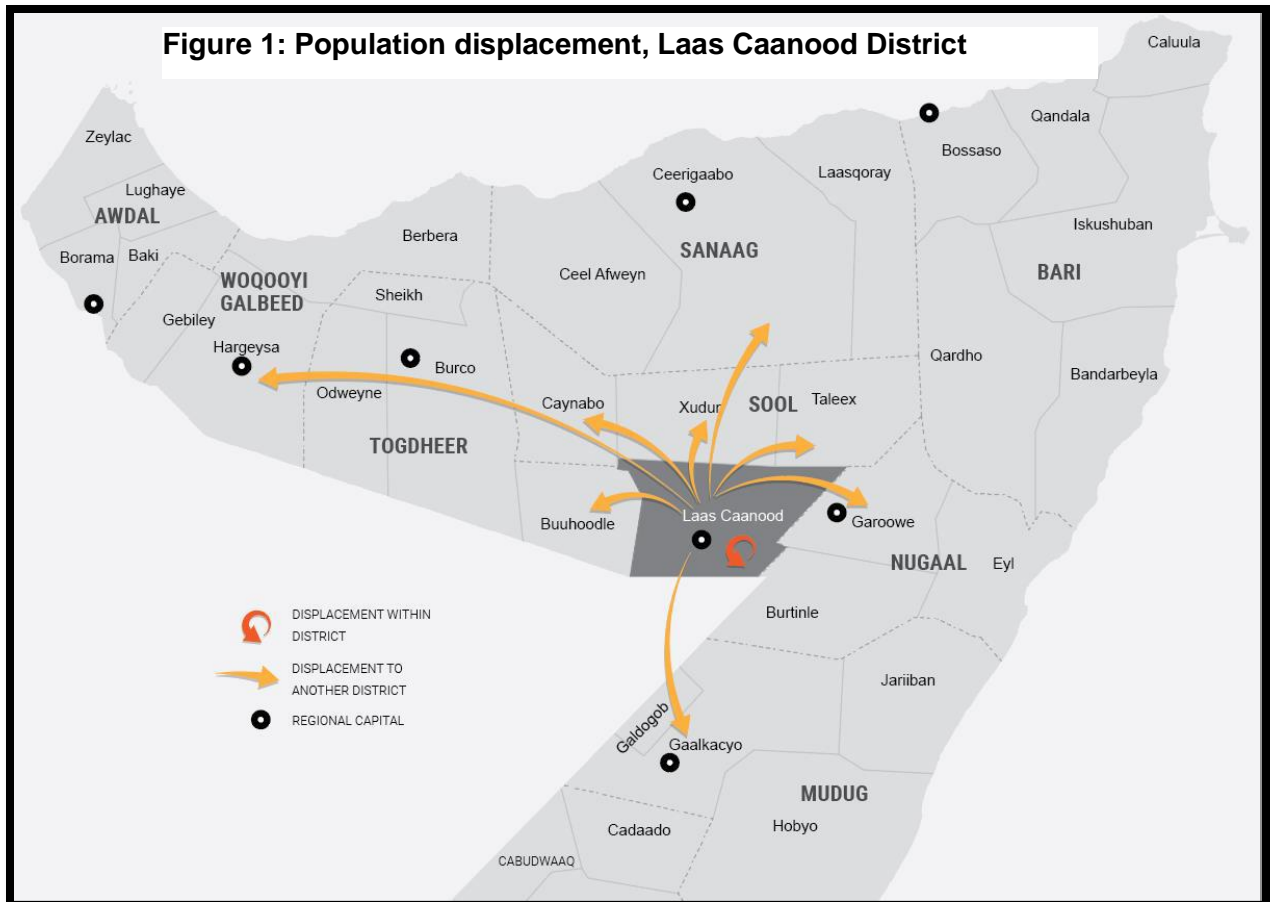
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In response to the ongoing conflict between local SSC militias from Sool region and Somaliland forces, a comprehensive situational assessment was conducted from February 11 to February 13, 2023, in the Laascaanood and surrounding areas of Sool region, Somalia. This report aims to provide a detailed analysis of the humanitarian plight resulting from the conflict, assess its impact on the affected population, and outline critical recommendations for immediate response.



## 2. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- An estimated 185,280 people have been displaced from Laascaanood, with an additional 50,000 individuals trapped in the conflict zone.
- The conflict has led to significant civilian casualties, with over 170 people killed, including many civilians, and more than 500 injured.
- The majority of the displaced population comprises vulnerable groups, including women, girls, children, the elderly, and disabled individuals.
- Displaced families are facing dire living conditions, including inadequate shelter, food shortages, and limited access to essential services such as healthcare and education.
- Education has been severely disrupted, with the closure of all schools in Laascaanood and many schools in other areas of Sool region.
- Water scarcity and poor sanitation practices are prevalent, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases and other health issues.
- Protection concerns, including gender-based violence (GBV) and psychosocial trauma, are on the rise among the affected population.

## 3. SITUATION OVERVIEW

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The conflict in Laascaanood and its surrounding areas erupted following the killing of popular community members in December 2023, leading to demonstrations and escalating violence. The situation has continued to deteriorate, resulting in a significant humanitarian crisis. The conflict has disrupted livelihoods, led to displacement, and strained access to basic services, compounding the impact of past drought episodes in the region.

## 4. ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

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The primary objectives of the assessment were as follows:

1. To assess the impact of the conflict on civilians in Laascaanood and surrounding areas of Sool region.
2. To establish the number of displaced and affected individuals, including their demographics and specific needs.
3. To identify gaps and priority areas for advocacy, resource mobilization, and life-saving response measures.

## 5. METHODOLOGY OF THE ASSESSMENT

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The assessment employed a comprehensive approach, including:

- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted across displaced areas to triangulate information and gather in-depth insights.
- Key informant interviews with local traditional elders, IDP community representatives, and social workers from local organizations.
- Individual interviews with selected community members and key informants.
- Direct observation, including the assessment of problem areas and the identification of subgroups within the affected community.
- Data synthesis with information from secondary sources, cluster head brainstorming sessions, and historical assessments to make assumptions about overall needs.

## 6. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

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We acknowledge and appreciate the valuable contributions of the following organizations in data collection, analysis, technical support, and the successful completion of this assessment: OCHA, UNFAO, UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, WHO, SNC, DARYEEL, NRC, SWA, TASS, CARE, SCI, SOHREF, DRC, SAAI, HRDC, IRC, OXFAM, ISLAMIC RELIEF, ACF, PMWDO, UNICEF, SERDO/WFP, WADA, SRCS, CIAUD, KAALO, NODO, SABA 2.

## 7. COVERED AREAS

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The assessment mission covered the following areas:

- Taleex, Carooley, Godaalo, Xudun, Darayo, Geesawyne, Hol Hol, Xalin, Dhummay, Kalcad, Labaas, Guryosan, Laabaas, Sarmaanyo, Dhubuq Dhubuq, Awrboogays, Xabaalo, Camaarre, Dhaban, Lafweyne, Saxagebo Gebo, Lasacurdan, Gorofley, Higlo fuullaan.
- Boocame, Dan, Karin, Garfood, Fardin, Qorille, Karin Dabayl Wayn, Kalabayr, Buro Wadaal, Gad Qaboowe, Faleryaale, Harwanag.

## 8. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

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### A. Food Security and Livelihood

- The conflict has severely disrupted livelihoods, resulting in food shortages for the affected population.
- Many families are resorting to one meal a day, borrowing, or relying on less preferred and limited portions of food.
- Food prices have increased due to limited accessibility, exacerbating the food security crisis.
- The primary sources of livelihood are borrowing, food assistance, and gifts from household families.

### B. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Water scarcity is a critical issue in all assessed areas, with overcrowded and polluted water sources.
- Sanitation practices are poor, with approximately 80% of the displaced community practicing open defecation.
- The majority of the assessed families lack water storage tools and do not treat or boil water before consumption.
- There is an urgent need for water trucking and the rehabilitation of boreholes and shallow wells in high-need areas.
- Hygiene awareness campaigns and hygiene kits distribution are essential to prevent waterborne and communicable diseases.

### C. Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

- Unquantifiable houses and buildings have been damaged or destroyed due to shelling and artillery fire.
- Many displaced families are living with host communities or in makeshift shelters, including schools and public buildings.
- The lack of proper shelter exposes vulnerable groups to harsh weather conditions, particularly during cold nights.
- Recommendations include emergency shelter provision and distribution of essential NFIs such as blankets.

### D. Education

- All schools in Laascaanood and many schools in other areas of Sool region have been closed.
- The closure of schools has resulted in the dropout of approximately 11,690 primary school students and 3,560 secondary school students.
- Around 700 primary and secondary school teachers are out of work, affecting their livelihoods and the education system.

- Urgent measures are needed to rehabilitate damaged schools, distribute teaching and learning materials, and provide support to displaced children and teachers.

### **E. Health and Nutrition**

- Health facilities in the assessed areas lack essential medical supplies and services, including mobile health teams.
- Chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension are not adequately addressed.
- There is a shortage of health personnel and infrastructure.
- An urgent need for immunization services, especially for children under one year of age, is evident.
- Malnutrition, including severe acute malnutrition among children, is a growing concern.
- Pregnant mothers lack access to safe delivery services, and there is an increased risk of waterborne diseases and respiratory infections.

### **F. Protection and CCCM**

- Vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, are exposed to protection concerns.
- Gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual violence, is a significant risk, especially for unaccompanied girls seeking medical care.
- Psychosocial trauma is prevalent, particularly among older age groups and persons with disabilities.
- Immediate protection measures, GBV awareness campaigns, and psychosocial support are required.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

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Based on the assessment findings, the following recommendations are made:

- Immediate general food distribution and provision of in-kind and cash assistance to displaced people.
- Emergency water trucking for human consumption, with rehabilitation of critical boreholes.
- Cash-based interventions (CBIs) and unconditional cash transfers (UCT) to support vulnerable groups.
- Rehabilitation of damaged schools, distribution of teaching materials, and support for displaced children and teachers.
- Provision of essential drugs and health services, including immunization and maternal care.
- Expansion and improvement of health facilities, including outreach programs.
- Promotion of hygiene awareness and distribution of hygiene kits.
- Provision of emergency shelters, NFIs, and portable solar lamps.
- Protection measures for vulnerable groups, including psychosocial support and GBV awareness.
- Continuous monitoring of displacement trends and protection concerns.
- Community service measures to protect specific needs groups.
- Further assessment of child protection and GBV risks, with appropriate interventions.



## 10. ANNEX

*Geographical Coverage*

FIGURES OF NEW DISPLACEMENT IN LASANOD.			
S/N	Locations	Households	Direction
<b>1. LASANOD DISTRICT</b>			
1	Bali hadhac	350	South
2	Xidhxidh	400	South
3	Dhumay	450	South
4	Kalabaydh	1970	South
5	Dabataag	470	South
6	Qaydarka Baaraan	220	South
7	Qaydarka xidhxidh	170	South
8	Dhagax iskaraw	200	South
9	Saaxdheer	450	South
10	Dharkayn geenyo	360	South
11	Qoriley	330	South
12	Karin dabaylwayn	720	South
13	Afwayne	270	South
14	Qabribayax	300	South
15	Dab-gudban	310	South
16	Karin-garfood	370	South
17	Boocame	840	East
18	Fardhidin	170	East
19	Buulal	<b>120</b>	East
20	Falaydh yaale	80	East
21	Tukaraq	440	East
22	Higlada	250	East
23	Ganbadhe	200	East
24	Canjiid	130	west

25	Kabaalka xargega	310	west
26	Adhi cadeeye	470	west
27	Saaxo geba gebo	200	west
28	Tuulo samakaab	370	west
29	Yagoori	400	west
30	Guumays	600	west
31	Bali xadhac	200	west
32	Yayle	240	west
33	Shululux	300	west
34	Goljano	270	west
35	Ceel-jeex	80	west
36	Biri qoday	70	west
37	Xawaal gaas	170	west
38	Yaaheel	260	west
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>13,510</b>	
<b>2. TALEH DISTRICT</b>			
1	Taleex	3,700	East
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,700</b>	
<b>3. DEGMADA XUDUN</b>			
1	Xudun	3,470	North
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,470</b>	
<b>4. BUHODLE DISTRICT</b>			
1	Buuhoodle	3,000	S/west
2	Bali hadhac	20	S/west
3	Widh widh	85	S/west
4	Geed dheer	8	S/west
5	Dhalaama cune	15	S/west
6	Banyaal	20	S/west
7	Sarmaan	10	S/west

8	Bali cad	25	S/west
9	Xamar lagu xidh	30	S/west
10	Qararo hawiye	17	S/west
11	Dan dan	20	S/west
12	Ceegaag	25	S/west
13	Horufadhi	12	S/west
14	Galooley IDPS	30	S/west
15	Dara salaam IDPs	20	S/west
16	Gocon dhaale IDP	15	S/west
17	Tog barwaaqo IDPs	6	S/west
18	Maroodi ka dhac	5	S/west
19	Sool joogto	7	S/west
20	Aygaagle IDPs	6	S/west
21	Shangalle IDPs	80	S/west
22	Bali docol IDPs	50	S/west
23	New Bali docol	30	S/west
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,536</b>	
<b>5. ERIGAVO DISTRICT</b>			
1	Ceerigaabo	100	North
2	Fiqifuliye	170	North
3	Ardaa	80	North
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>350</b>	
	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>24,566 HH</b>	



**Somali Danish Women in Action (SDWA)**

<https://www.somwomen.org>