

Heavy Clashes in Beletweyne District Cause Displacement of Over 600 people and Civilian Casualties



Displaced Families

110


Displaced Individuals

660


Deaths

6


Injuries

3

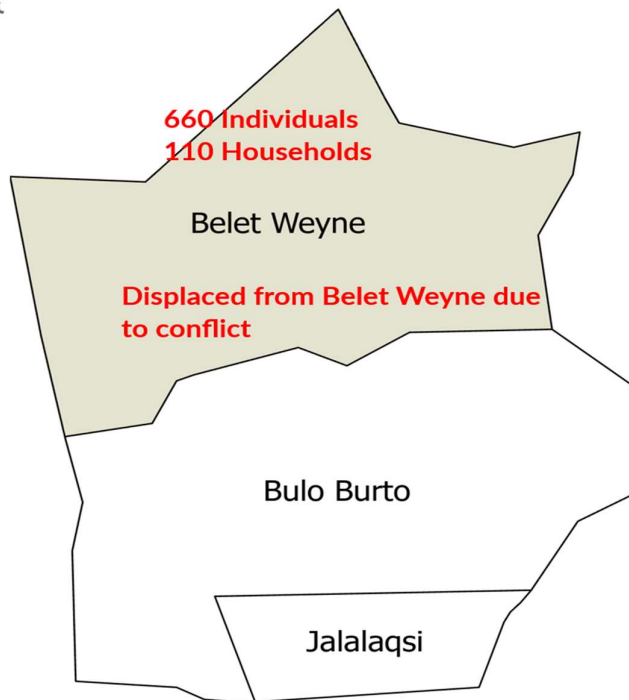

Coordinates

4.7360° N, 45.2039° E



Incident Date

March 14, 2024,



Background

On March 14, 2024, Beletweyne district experienced intense clashes between the forces of the State Administration and militias mobilized to seize control from the administration. The clashes persisted for nearly a full day, resulting in widespread displacement and casualties.

Previous Location	Current Location	#Households
Lamagalaay	Hawlwadaag	33
Buuloxaableey	Buudowayn	20
Kooshin	Hawlwadaag	27
Haglan	Buundowayn	30
110 HHs with approximately 660 individuals		

According to reports from the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), a total of 110 households, comprising approximately 660 individuals, were displaced.

The clashes within the city posed significant danger to residents, many of whom were unable to flee their homes due to lack of access to safe areas. PRMN partners on the ground reported six civilian fatalities as a result of the clashes.

Despite efforts by local elders to intervene and restore calm, residents of Beletweyne remain fearful as both conflicting parties continue to occupy the town. The most vulnerable groups, including children, women, and the elderly, were disproportionately affected, with six individuals sustaining injuries during the conflict.

Protection Issues

Shelter and Property Destruction: The conflict within the town resulted in the destruction of civilian properties.

Loss of Life and Injuries: Six civilians were killed and three civilians suffered injuries as a result of the conflict according to a report by the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN).

Displacement: Many residents of Beletweyne fled their homes out of fear of being targeted by the conflicting parties.

Protection Risks:

Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings, and attacks on civilian objects: The divided support of local Beletweyne residents for the conflicting parties raises the likelihood of retaliatory attacks by the latter.

Unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement: With the conflicting parties presence in the town, residents are confined to their homes, fearing to come under attack if they venture outside.

Gender-Based Violence: The absence of an effective administrative system and the presence of numerous militias in the town have left vulnerable women at heightened risk of gender-based violence.

Urgent Needs



Food



Emergency Shelter



Non-Food Item



Communal Latrine



Safe Drinking Water



Figure 1: Beledweyne town affected by conflict.



The PRMN (Protection & Return Monitoring Network) is a UNHCR-led project which identifies and reports on displacements as well as protection risks and incidents underlying such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 26 local partners in the field in Somalia (South Central regions, Puntland and Somaliland) undertake data gathering (primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants) and monitoring at strategic locations.

For detail statistical information, please refer to PRMN interactive dashboard <https://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org>.

To request further details on displacement and protection information, please contact **SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG**