

## Shabelle River Overflows, Displacing Over 42,000 Individuals in Beletweyne, Hiran Region



Displaced Families

**7,000**


Displaced Individuals

**42,000**


Deaths

**0**

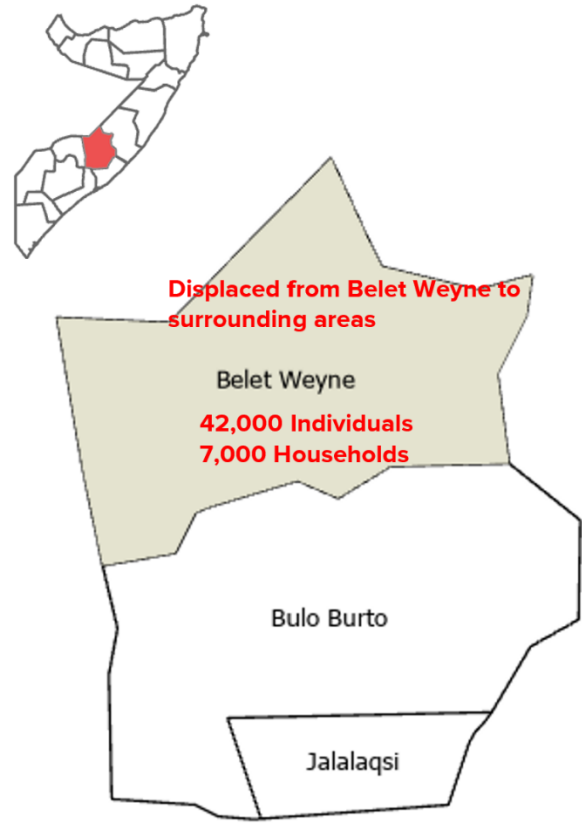

Injuries

**0**


Coordinates

**4.7360° N,  
45.2039° E**


Incident Date

**May 20 - 21, 2024**


### Incident Summary

Due to heavy rains in parts of the Ethiopian highlands, the Shabelle River in Beletweyne has burst its banks, surpassing the high flood risk level, and reaching a bank-full height of 8.3 meters (FAO). This has forced over 7,000 households, or approximately 42,000 individuals, to leave their homes due to the flooding, which has cut off residential areas, destroyed crops, shut down schools, and threatened to cut off the main road connecting the town and the airport.

The flooding in Beletweyne town is significant and is likely to lead to further displacements and affect new locations. Since the Shabelle River burst its banks, Kooshin, Hawo Tako, Buundoweyn, and Howlwadaag villages have flooded, forcing residents to seek safety in higher grounds such as El-Jalle, Farah Afi, Hiran Bile, and Burada Ceynta.

Previous Location	Current Location	#Households
Kooshin	El-Jalle/Farah Afi	4,000
Hawa-Tako	El-Jalle/Hunduley	2,500
Buunoweyn	Hiran Bile	200
Hawl-wagaad	Hawl-wadaag	300
<b>7,000 HHs with approximately 42,000 individuals</b>		



Pic 1: BeletWeyne Town flooded.

No human casualties have been reported. The displaced individuals, including children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and those with specific needs, are in open spaces with some of their property that they were able to salvage. The risk of waterborne diseases is prevalent.

## Protection Risks

**Destruction of Personal Property:** The floods have destroyed property and shelters, farms, and crop production in the affected areas. Residential areas have also been cut off, with a high likelihood of impediments to road access within the town.

**Forced Displacement:** 42,000 individuals have been displaced by the ongoing heavy flooding in Beletweyne town. The number of displaced individuals is likely to rise as the river continues to overflow.

## Urgent Needs



Food



Emergency Shelter



Protection



Non-Food Item



Safe Drinking Water

## Call to Action

### Humanitarian agencies and stakeholders are urged to:

- Mobilize resources for emergency response and support displaced individuals.
- Coordinate efforts to ensure efficient delivery of aid and services.
- Monitor and address the ongoing risk of further displacement and disease outbreaks.

### Next Steps:

#### 1. Assessment and Response Planning:

- Conduct detailed assessments to determine the full extent of damage and immediate needs.
- Develop a coordinated response plan to address the urgent needs of displaced populations.
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#### 2. Resource Mobilization:

- Appeal for aid and support to meet the emergency needs.
- Engage with local and international partners to mobilize resources quickly.

#### 3. Community Engagement:

- Involve local communities in the response efforts to ensure culturally appropriate interventions.
- Establish communication channels to keep affected populations informed and involved in decision-making.

The PRMN (Protection & Return Monitoring Network) is a UNHCR-led project in partnership with NRC 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 analysis and information on displacement and protection trends, please refer to PRMN interactive dashboard <https://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org> and <https://unhcr.github.io/dataviz-somalia-prmn/index.html>.

To request further information on displacement and protection, please contact [SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG](mailto:SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG)

