SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

BAIDOA'S TRIPLE CRISIS

Conflict, drought and the threat of El Niño



- Three rounds of fighting since August have displaced **thousands more people** in a city of an estimated 1.6 million, where more than half are internally displaced (IDPs).
- The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessment projects that about **26,000 internally displaced people** in Baidoa could face catastrophic levels of hunger between October and December 2026.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

What has been happening in Baidoa?

> In a city of an estimated 1.6 million people, where nearly half were already internally displaced, renewed fighting is forcing more families from their homes as drought deepens hardship and El Niño rains threaten to compound an already severe humanitarian crisis.

Baidoa, the capital of the Bay region and the interim capital of Southwest State, lies about 250 km northwest of Mogadishu. It hosts Somalia's **second-largest concentration of internally displaced persons** (IDPs), behind only Mogadishu, most of whom are women and children fleeing back-to-back drought and conflict.

Clashes have been reported between federal forces and forces aligned with the former Southwest State administration over control of the city, pushing thousands of civilians, many previously displaced, from their homes to the outskirts, neighbouring districts and the capital, Mogadishu.

The clashes and reported airstrikes resulted in civilian casualties, damage to residential areas, IDP settlements, farmland, public and institutional buildings, and disrupted access to shelter and essential services. Baidoa District Hospital, supported by SOS Children's Villages, **sustained significant damage**, with one of our community health workers (CHWs) sadly succumbing to injuries from the explosion.

1.6M
ESTIMATED POPULATION OF BAIDOA

800,000+
DISPLACED PEOPLE HOSTED IN THE CITY

#2
LARGEST IDP CONCENTRATION IN SOMALIA, AFTER MOGADISHU



An aerial view of Wadajir neighbourhood of Baidoa, Somalia (Photo: MSF Somalia)



Floodwaters from the El Niño rains surround makeshift shelters at Edeed Koble IDP camp in Baidoa, Somalia

Famine risk and looming El Niño floods

The 2026 Gu rains underperformed, and humanitarian agencies now warn that El Niño rains from October to December could bring flooding. Somalia's disaster agency has flagged **Baidoa among 29 districts** needing heightened flood preparedness, and estimates that 2.5 to 3.5 million people nationwide could be exposed to flooding.

Over 800,000 people could be forced from their homes in Somalia over the next three months due to flooding, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) warned, as rising rivers and heavy rainfall threaten communities already struggling with drought and repeated displacement.

2.5–3.5M
PEOPLE NATIONWIDE WHO COULD BE EXPOSED TO FLOODING

800,000+
PEOPLE WHO COULD BE FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THREE MONTHS (IOM)

29
DISTRICTS FLAGGED FOR FLOOD PREPAREDNESS, BAIDOA AMONG THEM

- Parts of Somalia are experiencing famine-like conditions, including Burhakaba District in the crisis-prone Southwest State. Reports from late August 2026 indicated that, although the risk of famine had been narrowly averted following late Gu/Xagaa rains and increased humanitarian activities, **food security conditions remained extremely fragile.**

A cycle of displacement

The recent conflict has displaced **over 21,000 people** in the past two months alone, and some people have been uprooted more than once. In March, more than 50,000 people had already fled Baidoa amid fears of fighting.

The fighting has hit a city that was already under severe strain. Baidoa hosts more than 800,000 displaced people, most of them displaced by consecutive failed rains and conflict. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator has warned that repeated displacement is worsening conditions, especially for displaced people, women, children, older people and persons with disabilities.

THREE ROUNDS OF FIGHTING SINCE AUGUST

DATE	PEOPLE DISPLACED	REPORTED CASUALTIES
17 August	600+	At least 4 civilians killed and 94 wounded
3–5 September	14,832	9 deaths and 109 injuries
28 September–3 October	5,604	11 deaths and 86 injuries



An internally displaced man flees with his family belongings in Baidoa following the conflict

> *Many of these families have been displaced not once but several times. Every new wave of fighting pushes them back onto the road, or leaves them stranded with no means to leave. On the outskirts of Baidoa, children are sleeping under trees and in makeshift shelters.*
>
> **Hassan Hussein**
> Area Manager, SOS Children's Villages in Southwest State, Somalia

How is the crisis affecting children and families?

> For families who had already lost their livelihoods to drought and sought refuge in Baidoa, each new round of fighting has displaced them once more, often leaving them with few belongings and nowhere safe to turn.



A newly displaced mother prepares breakfast for her children in Argaduud village, on the outskirts of Baidoa, where many families have sought shelter from the fighting

01

Civilian safety and essential services

Clashes and reported airstrikes have caused civilian casualties and damaged homes, displacement sites, hospitals, schools and community buildings. Disruptions to electricity and communications have further restricted movement and access to essential services.

02

Children's education and protection

Children have experienced interrupted learning, while school damage and insecurity threaten safe access to education. Displacement heightens the risk of family separation, distress, abuse and exploitation. Older people and persons with disabilities face added barriers to fleeing safely and reaching assistance.

03

Growing humanitarian needs

In areas of new displacement, limited access to safe shelter, clean water, sanitation, healthcare and education, alongside disrupted livelihoods, is compounding the challenges faced by families. Displaced families need protection, safe shelter and continued access to services.



OUR RESPONSE

An iCCM+ community health worker measures and demonstrates the correct syrup dose to a displaced mother in Baadicade village, on the outskirts of Baidoa

How is SOS Children's Villages responding?

SOS Children's Villages continues to deliver **health, nutrition, protection, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH), and emergency education** services to displaced and host communities in Baidoa, working with partners and relevant ministries.

In the villages around Baidoa, where displaced families and host communities are sheltering from the fighting, we deliver health and nutrition services through Integrated Community Case Management Plus (iCCM+) to communities with limited or out-of-reach health facilities.

IN AND AROUND BAIDOA

10
VILLAGES AROUND BAIDOA SERVED THROUGH ICCM+

22
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS DELIVERING CARE

BURHAKABA: WHERE FAMILIES FLEEING BAIDOA HAVE ALSO ARRIVED

16
MOBILE SERVICE SITES SUPPORTED BY SOS

3
FIXED HEALTH FACILITIES

16-bed
THE DISTRICT'S ONLY NUTRITION STABILIZATION CENTRE

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

What needs to happen now?

> **Families in Baidoa face conflict today and the threat of flooding tomorrow. The window to act before the anticipated Deyr El Niño rains is closing fast.**

Funding decisions in the coming weeks will determine whether displaced families receive food, clean drinking water, medical treatment and emergency shelter before flooding cuts off access.

WE CALL ON ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND DONORS TO:

1. **Protect civilians and humanitarian access**
   by unconditionally de-escalating, respecting health facilities, schools and humanitarian workers, and ensuring safe, unimpeded access throughout Baidoa and its environs.

2. **Fund life-saving assistance now**
   so partners can scale up healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, protection and emergency education for newly displaced families and host communities.

3. **Invest in early action**
   so partners can pre-position essential supplies and prepare cash assistance in Baidoa and surrounding districts before flooding restricts access.

4. **Provide flexible, multi-year funding**
   to help families recover and build resilience to repeated shocks, rather than responding only after each crisis hits.

> **Floods should not also cut off families who have already fled conflict. We call on all parties to protect civilians and keep humanitarian access open, and donors to fund early action now, so that our teams can reach children and families before the rains do.**

Dr. Mohamed Dakane
Humanitarian Director, SOS Children's Villages in Somalia