

May 18, 2022

EVICTIOIN FLASH ALERT

Name of location/site	Hafatul Arab, Shabeele and Absame IDP settlements, Bossaso, Puntland state of Somalia
GPS coordinates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Absame (11°17'00"290; 49°10'33"310) 2. Hafatul arab (11°17'11"034; 49°10'39"960) 3. Shabelle (11°16'13"057; 49°12'19"003) 4. Raf iyo Raho IDP (11°15'57.146; 49°11'34.933) 5. Xadoole IDP (11°17,11,034 ; 49;10,39,960)
Number of Households	41 households (246 individuals) - 4 HHs in Hafatul Arab, 6 HHs in Shabelle, 3 HHs Raf iyo Raho, 2 in Xsdoole and 26 households in Absame IDP sites.
Reason for eviction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renovation of shelter structures within the plot of land. The IDPs rent the shelter units from the landowner 2. Arbitrary increase of rent.
Evicting person/institution	Individual citizens

Eviction incident

On 15th May 2022, several forced eviction incidents took place in some sections in four IDP sites in Bossaso i.e Hafatul Arab, Raf iyo Raho, Xadoole, Shabeele and Absame. In total, 41 households (246 individuals) were evicted without any due process (i.e. adequate notice and prior consultations). The evictees included vulnerable displacement affected communities who have been living in the IDP sites for 7 months to 10 years. Of the total affected households, 17 HHs are female-headed households, while 15 HHs are drought displaced. Furthermore, two families stated that they had experienced multiple evictions since their forced return from Lascaanood by the Somaliland government. In Hafatul Arab, Xadoole, Raf iyo Raho and Absame IDP sites where 35 HHs were evicted, the landowners raised the rent from 20 to 25 USD without any notice and subsequently threatened evict the IDP communities if they did not comply. In Shabeelle IDP site, the evicted families reported that the landowner wanted to develop his land by building large food stores and shops (see photos in annex).

Only 16 HHs have joined other families in surrounding plots of land within Absame IDP, Raf iyo raho and Hafatul Arab IDP sites. However, these sites remain overcrowded. So far, NRC has registered 15 vulnerable families among those evicted from Hafatul Arab, Raf iyo Raho, Xadoole and Shabelle IDP sites with post-eviction cash assistance. Additionally, in coordination with the Bossaso Municipality, negotiations with various landlords are taking place to secure tenure for all the affected families.

Key observations made

- Severe water shortages continue to contribute to conflict and rising tensions in the existing IDP settlements due to the drought influx and pressure on already-limited resources.
- Exposure to protection risks for elderly, women, and children due to the lack of proper shelter and privacy in overcrowded IDP settlements. Women and children remain vulnerable as they face risks of gender-based violence, including rape and physical assaults.
- The evicted families continue to face risks of forced eviction as they settle on private land with no secure tenure arrangements in place.

Humanitarian needs

The evicted population are in urgent need of the following humanitarian interventions:

- Post-eviction cash assistance
- Shelter and Non-Food Items
- Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services
- Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods support
- Access to land with security tenure arrangements in place

“I WAS TOLD TO LEAVE MY HOUSE IMMEDIATELY”

Seyruq is a mother of seven children. Seyruq and her family have been living the house in Hafatul Arab IDP site for more than a decade. She was displaced from Mogadishu due to conflict.

“Yesterday morning I was told to leave my house in three days since the landowner is planning to develop his land and demolish the house. My husband was a wheelbarrow hawker before but due to the hard life and economic crisis, he stopped hawking as he was barely making enough. My son who is a ten years old is the breadwinner of the family. He polishes shoes and we are surviving on the two dollars he brings in.”- Seyruq

Since the forced eviction incident, Seyruq is staying in one of her relative’s home in another plot of land within Hafatul Arab IDP site. She has also found a new house to rent out at 30 USD monthly but she cannot afford the rental deposit.

“Yesterday, I searched for another rental house but when I found one I was told to pay deposit of two months that is 60 USD in advance. This is the reason I have reported my current situation to NRC. I request the organisation to pay our rental arrears of 30 USD and the deposit of 60 USD in order to move” Seyruq adds.

ANNEX: PHOTOS



Caption: Nura, an evicted mother with five children who is looking for a place to relocate in Hafatul Arab IDP camp



Caption: Asho, a mother displaced from Mogadishu whom is living in Hafatu Arab IDP site has been issued with an eviction threat due to delayed payment of rent.



Capt: Fahima Abdi is a destitute mother and she was given a notice to evacuate another place since the land is going to be constructed by the landowner. Therefore, she moved and stranded to her relative's home in the camp.



Caption: Sayruq is a mother with six children that was evicted from Hafatul Carab IDP site



Caption: This is a place in a Shabele IDP settlement where the previous occupants were evicted from. The landowner wants to construct a business center.



Caption: The area where the IDP dismantled their shelter structures in Shabele IDP site.



Caption: This is the place where the IDPs were evicted from in Shabeele camp and the landowner is building a large food storage