Please cite as: EUAA, '2.8.2. Wogoyi Galbeed ' in *COI Report – Somalia: Security Situation* , May 2025.

2.8.2. Wogoyi Galbeed

(a) Background

According to a UNOCHA Administrative Reference Map, Wogoyi Galbeed region shares an international border with Ethiopia, and it borders the Gulf of Aden. It shares internal borders with the regions of Awdal, Sanaag and Togdheer. It consists of three districts: Gebiley, Hargeysa and Berbera. The region's capital is Hargeysa.1346 Hargeysa is also the capital of Somaliland.1347 According to the new Somaliland Regions & Districts Self Management (Amendments and Additions) Law (Law No. 23/2019), taking effect on 4 January 2020,1348 the Southern part of Wogoyi Galbeed region is named Maroodijeex (Marodijeh),1349 while the Northern part is named Saaxil (Sahil) region.1350 Law No. 23/2019 also lists Berbera as the capital of Saaxil region.1351

As of September 2024, sources variously estimated the population of Wogoyi Galbeed region at 1 447 484 (IPC),1352 and 1 022 984 (IOM).1353 The Habar Awal, Habar Yunis, and Idagalle clans make up the majority of the population of Wogoyi Galbeed. There are various clans and sub-clans in Hargeysa, including minority groups as well as the Habar Awal, Habar Yunis, Habar Je'lo (Habar Jeclo), and Idagalle.1354

(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics

Al-Shabaab control areas, presence and influence, along with other actors

According to **Map 3** Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025 and **Map 2** Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 1 April 2023, Al-Shabaab did not control any territory in Wogoyi Galbeed region. The entire region, including the cities of Hargeysa and Berbera, was reported to be under the control of the 'Somaliland administration (separatist)'.1355

Conflict dynamics

In August 2023, clashes between Somaliland forces and Gacaan Libaah militia were reported.[1356] In August 2024, one person was reportedly killed in election-related clashes between a clan militia 'allegedly upset with electoral proceedings' and security forces in Baligubadle town.[1357]

Please see section 2.8.3(b) Actors' presence and conflict dynamics on further information regarding the Gacaan Libaah militia.

☐ (c) Recent security trends

Security incidents, estimated civilian fatalities and casualties

Between 1 April 2023 and 21 March 2025, ACLED reported 14 security incidents in Wogoyi Galbeed region, including battles, explosions, or other forms of remote violence and violence against civilians, causing 22 fatalities. Figure 24 below shows their evolution per type across the reference period.[1358] At district level, Hargeysa recorded the most security incidents (12 incidents), followed by Gebiley and Berbera districts (1 incident each).[1359]

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Figure 24. Evolution of ACLED security events coded 'battles', 'explosions/remote violence' and 'violence against civilians' between 1 April 2023 and 21 March 2025 in Wogoyi Galbeed.[1360]

For incidents resulting in fatalities, including civilian deaths, please see below an illustrative and non-exhaustive list:

- on 11 August 2023, 9 Somaliland soldiers were reportedly killed and 17 others injured in clashes between Somaliland forces and Gacaan Libaah militia in Saaxil region;[1361]
- in January 2024, a police officer and a civilian were killed by Ethiopian forces in Qoolbuulalle near the Somaliland-Ethiopia border.[1362]

Conflict-related displacement

Between 1 April 2023 and 16 March 2025, seven individuals were newly displaced from Wogoyi Galbeed due to conflict or insecurity, according to the UNHCR PRMN. All were

displaced within Hargeysa district in September 2023. In the same period, 507 individuals arrived from other regions, including Sanaag, Sool and Togdheer regions. All 507 individuals arrived in Hargeysa district (among them, 210 from Laas Caanood and 158 from Burco).1363 For information on conflict-related displacement prior to April 2023, please see section 2.8.2 of the EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation (February 2023).

Other impacts on civilian life

UNOCHA recorded 12 humanitarian access incidents1364 in Wogoyi Galbeed region in the period from April to December 2023,1365 and another 19 in 2024.1366

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  UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, url

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  Al Jazeera, Breakaway Somaliland holds vote as quest for recognition gathers pace, 13 November 2024, url

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  Somaliland Law, Somaliland Local Government Laws, updated March 2020, url

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  Somaliland Government, Maps & Regions [Map], n.d., url

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  Somaliland Government, Maps & Regions [Map], n.d., url

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  Somaliland, Xeerka Ismaamulka Gobolladda iyo Degmooyinka, Lr. 23/2019 [(Somaliland) Regions and Districts Self-management Law, No. 23/2019], 4 January 2020, url, p. 11; Somaliland Law, Somaliland Local Government Laws, updated March 2020, url

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  IPC, Somalia Acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition analysis July – December 2024, 23 September 2024, url, p. 3

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  IOM, DTM Somalia – Baseline Assessment Dataset – Round 3 (February 2024 – September 2024), 3 December 2024, url. IOM notes that ‘Regarding the regions in Somaliland state,

DTM teams reached a low coverage of the settlements to be assessed. Therefore, the population figures displayed in this report are underestimated and should be interpreted with caution'.

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  EASO, Somalia – Security Situation, September 2021, url, p. 146

- 1355

  PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.; PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 1 April 2023, n.a.

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  Somali Digest (The), 9 Somaliland soldiers killed in clashes with Garhajis militia, 12 August 2023, url

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  International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch – Somaliland: April 2023 – March 2025, n.d., url

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  EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2023 to 21 March 2025, as of 26 March 2025, url

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  EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2023 to 21 March 2025, as of 26 March 2025, url

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  EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2023 to 21 March 2025, as of 26 March 2025, url. Please note that data covering the entire month of March 2025 was not yet available during the drafting of this report.

- 1361

  Somali Digest (The), 9 Somaliland soldiers killed in clashes with Garhajis militia, 12 August 2023, url

- 1362

  Caasimada, Caro xooggan oo ka dhalatay dil ay ciidanka Itoobiya ka geysteen xuduuda Somaliland [Strong anger over killings by Ethiopian troops on Somaliland border], 12 January 2024, url

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UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 21 March 2025, url

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  The term is used by UNOCHA to describe events or actions that impede humanitarian operations, such as, for example, violence against humanitarian staff, the carjacking of humanitarian vehicles or restrictions on the movement of humanitarian staff or humanitarian supplies. UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Snapshot: October – December 2023, 1 January 2024, url, p. 1

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  UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Snapshot: October – December 2023, 1 January 2024, url, p. 1; UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Snapshot: July to September 2023, 2 November 2023, url, p. 1; UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Snapshot: April – June 2023, 25 July 2023, url, p. 1

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  UNOCHA, Somalia: Humanitarian Access Snapshot: January – December 2024, 22 January 2025, url, p. 2

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