



2.5. Galmudug

2.5.1. Galgaduud

Galgaduud is divided into five districts: Cabudwaaq, Cadaado, Dhuusamarreeb (which is also the name of the region's capital city), Ceel Buur (also El Buur, Celbur) and Ceel Dheer (also El-Dheer).⁵⁴⁹ Galgaduud's population was estimated at 844 925.⁵⁵⁰ For more detailed background information on Galgaduud, see section 2.5.1. of the EUAA COI Report Somalia: Security Situation (May 2025).

○ **Actors presence and conflict dynamics**

According to [Map 3](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2026 and [Map 2](#) Somalia – Approximate Territorial Control as of 31 March 2025, Al-Shabaab controlled central and southeastern parts of Galgaduud region, including the towns Wahbo, Elbur (Ceel Buur), Galhareri and Osweyne. Most of the other rural parts south of the road connecting Guri El, Dhuusamarreeb, and Cadaado were under mixed control, including the rural southern part around Ceel Dheer and Masagaway and a small part along the southern stretch of the border with Mudug. The above-mentioned towns Guri El, Dhuusamarreeb, Cadaado, Ceel Dheer and Masagaway were controlled by the 'federal-aligned coalition', as were Bahdo, and Balanbal, Herale and Cabudwaaq near the Ethiopian border.⁵⁵¹

Government (aligned) operations against Al-Shabaab were reported during the reference period.⁵⁵² According to a November 2025 article by SMN, clan-related killings significantly increased in late 2024 and 2025.⁵⁵³ Incidences of clan attacks during the reference period were reported,⁵⁵⁴ for example, in the Meersiis area,⁵⁵⁵ in Hindheere and ⁵⁵⁶Balanbal,⁵⁵⁷ and in the Guudoole⁵⁵⁸ area.⁵⁵⁹

○ **Recent security trends**

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 298 security incidents in Galgaduud region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 580 fatalities.[560](#)

Figure 27: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Galgaduud per month, based on ACLED data.

Figure 27: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Galgaduud per month, based on ACLED data.[561](#)

Figure 28: Evolution of security events in Galgaduud per type, based on ACLED data.

Figure 28: Evolution of security events in Galgaduud per type, based on ACLED data.[562](#)

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, the following actors (coded as either 'Actor 1', or 'Actor 2') were, among others, involved in security incidents: Al-Shabaab was involved in 81 security incidents against Military Forces of Somalia and associated actors (including Hawiye sub-clan militias and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jamaa). Moreover, Al-Shabaab was involved in 18 security incidents against various (sub-)clan militias. 85 security incidents involved clashes between (sub-)clan militias, and 79 incidents involved violence against civilians by (sub-)clan militias.[563](#)

Illustrative security incidents

On 28 June 2025, Al-Shabaab carried out public executions of five men in the town of Ceel Buur accused of spying.[564](#)

In September 2025, Al-Shabaab attacked Ceel Dheer town. However, the attack was reportedly repelled by troops and local militias.[565](#) The number of casualties remained unclear. According to the Ceel Dheer district governor, 71 Al-Shabaab fighters and 6 soldiers were killed.[566](#)

In early November 2025, at least four persons were killed and nine injured in a clan conflict in the Guudoole area. The casualties included both civilians and members of armed militias.[567](#)

Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 1 056 individuals were newly displaced from Galgaduud region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026. The majority of the displaced individuals (1 000) were displaced within Galgaduud in November 2025, moving from Dhuusamareeb district to Cadaado district. In the same period, 11 other individuals arrived from other regions, all from Buhodle district of Togdheer.[568](#)

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed 'very heavy restrictions' regarding humanitarian access in most of Ceel Buur and in parts of Dhuusamarreeb and Ceel Dheer districts.⁵⁶⁹ Parts of Galgaduud were also affected by drought. Water prices doubled, leading to reduced access.⁵⁷⁰ Humanitarian access was reportedly limited by clashes involving government forces, as well as inter-clan violence.⁵⁷¹ In total, UNOCHA recorded five humanitarian access incidents in 2025.⁵⁷² As of January 2026, IPC reported that about 75 % of the total analysed population of 844 925 were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 35 %), 3 (crisis, 29 %) or 4 (emergency, 11 %).⁵⁷³ As of November 2025, UNOCHA mentioned that Ceelbuur district had been under the influence of non-state armed actors for 15 years and faced severe levels of hunger.⁵⁷⁴ NRC recorded no evictions in Galgaduud in 2025 and 2026.⁵⁷⁵

No current information could be found regarding infrastructure damage and access to health.

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UNOCHA, Somalia Administrative Reference Map, as of 20 July 2023, [url](#)

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IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

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PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2026, n.a.;
PolGeoNow, Somalia Approximate Territorial Control, as of 31 March 2025, n.a.

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Dawan, Somalia, U.S forces kill 20 Al-Shabaab militants, 12 May 2025, [url](#); UNSG, Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia, S/2025/613, 30 September 2025, [url](#), para. 13

- ⁵⁵³

SMN, Appeals Court in Galmudug state Sentences Three Over Mother and Daughters' Killing, 30 November 2025, [url](#)

- ⁵⁵⁴

Kaab TV, Bloody Clan Conflicts Escalate in Southern and Central Somalia, 17 December 2025, [url](#)

- ⁵⁵⁵

Hiiraan Online, Clan clashes kill six, injure dozens in Galgaduud, 17 July 2025, [url](#)

- [556](#)

Hiiraan Online, Clan revenge attack kills mother and three daughters in Hindheere, Galgaduud, 9 October 2025, [url](#)

- [557](#)

SMN, Father and son killed in clan revenge attack in Somalia's Galgaduud region, 29 October 2025, [url](#)

- [558](#)

Guudoole is located in Dhuusamareeb district. UNOCHA, Somalia, Galgaduud region, Somalia Atlas, 17 October 2011, [url](#), p. 59

- [559](#)

Mustaqbal Media, Clan clashes in Galgaduud results deaths and injuries, efforts underway to restore calm, 2 November 2025, [url](#)

- [560](#)

EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

- [561](#)

EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

- [562](#)

EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

- [563](#)

EUAA analysis based on publicly available ACLED data. ACLED, Data Export Tool, Somalia, data covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

- [564](#)

Wardheer News, Al-Shabaab seizes Ceel-Qooxle in Hiiraan and executes five men in Ceelbuur for Alleged Espionage, 29 June 2025, [url](#)

- [565](#)

Horn Observer, Al-Shabaab Seizes Soldiers, Vehicles, and Supplies in Dawn Attack on Ceeldheer, 13 September 2025, [url](#)

- [566](#)

SMN, Tirada Xubnaha Al-Shabaab ee lagu dilay Dagaalkii El-Dheer oo gaartey 71, 14 September 2025, [url](#)

- [567](#)

Mustaqbal Media, Clan clashes in Galgaduud results deaths and injuries, efforts underway to restore calm, 2 November 2025, [url](#)

- [568](#)

UNHCR, PRMN Datafile – Somalia, as of 16 April 2026, [url](#)

- [569](#)

UNOCHA, Somalia Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, 27 January 2026, [url](#), p. 17

- [570](#)

UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency, Situation Report No. 3, 2 February 2026, [url](#), p. 2

- [571](#)

UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July – September 2025), 15 October 2025, [url](#), p. 1

- [572](#)

UNOCHA, Humanitarian Access Snapshot (2025), 8 January 2026, [url](#)

- [573](#)

IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis January-June 2026, 24 February 2026, [url](#), p. 4

- [574](#)

UNOCHA, Somalia: 2025 Drought Emergency, Situation Report No. 1, 27 November 2025, [url](#), p. 2

- [575](#)

NRC, Evictions, n.d., [url](#), filter '2025' and '2026', respectively, as year, 'Galgaduud' as region. Numbers include data until 31 March 2026, as of 8 April 2026.