



2.6. Puntland

2.6.1. Nugal

Nugal is divided into three districts, Burtinle, Eyl and Garowe. Garowe is also the name of Puntland's capital.[610](#) As of January 2026, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) estimated Nugal's population at 656 910.[611](#) For more detailed background information on Nugal, see section 2.6.1. 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, Nugal region was controlled by 'autonomous armed forces (unionist)', including the towns of Eyl, Garowe and Burtinle.[612](#)

Political disputes between the Puntland authorities and Abdirashid Yusuf Jibriil, the former speaker of the Puntland Parliament, who supported the inclusion of Puntland-claimed Sanaag region into SSC-Khatumo, intensified during the reference period.[613](#)

Tensions also grew over the FGS's recognition of SSC-Kathumo as federal member state in April 2025, officially renamed North-Eastern State on 1 August 2025 (see section [2.7 Sool, Sanaag, Cayn and North-Eastern State \(NES\)](#)).

In November 2025, FTL Somalia reported on the ongoing increased presence of armed men linked to clan militias and political factions in Garowe.[614](#) Previously, media had pointed to the worsening security situation,[615](#) including a rising number of violent incidents involving members of security forces,[616](#) civilian killings and sexual violence, often in the context of substance abuse.[617](#) A disarmament campaign, launched by the Nugal administration in May 2025 following the killing of two civilians was reportedly met with resistance by clan militias and private security personnel.[618](#)

Media also reported of incidents of piracy[619](#) and of suspected trafficking of arms, narcotics,[620](#) and components of weapons off the coast of Eyl district.[621](#)

○ Recent security trends

In the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, ACLED recorded 20 security incidents in Nugal region, including battles, explosions or other forms of remote violence, and violence against civilians, causing 22 fatalities.[622](#)

Figure 31: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Nugal per month, based on ACLED data.

Figure 31: Evolution of security events and fatalities in Nugal per month, based on ACLED data.[623](#)

Figure 32: Evolution of security events in Nugal per type, based on ACLED data.

Figure 32: Evolution of security events in Nugal per type, based on ACLED data.[624](#)

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: 5 security incidents involved clashes between Police and Military forces of Somalia, all in Garowe city, and 8 incidents involved violence against civilians by Police and Military forces of Somalia, and unidentified armed groups and clan militias.

Illustrative security incidents

- Two civilians were shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in a high-security area in Garowe in May 2025.[625](#)
- Four people, including three police officers, were killed and two more injured in an attack by a former soldier in Garowe in July 2025. The attack was reportedly triggered by a dispute with tax enforcement officers confiscating a vehicle owned by the suspect.[626](#)

• Conflict-related displacement

According to the UNHCR PRMN, 15 individuals were displaced from Nugal region due to conflict or insecurity in the period from April 2025 to February 2026.[627](#) On the other hand, IPC noted that Nugal was among the regions most affected by conflict-driven displacement in the second half of 2025.[628](#) Displacement was also reported due to flash floods[629](#) and drought.[630](#)

Other impacts on civilian life and humanitarian situation

A December 2025 map by UNOCHA showed 'very limited restrictions' regarding humanitarian access across Nugal region.[631](#) In total, UNOCHA recorded two humanitarian access incidents in 2025.[632](#) Regarding the food insecurity situation as of January 2026, IPC reported that about 79 % of the total analysed population of 656 910

were either in Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase 2 (stressed, 40 %), 3 (crisis, 29 %) or 4 (emergency, 10 %).[633](#) NRC recorded the eviction of 14 898 individuals in Nugal region in 2025 and early 2026 (all of them recorded in 2025).[634](#) ‘Notable’ eviction risks in IDPs settlements in Garowe district were reportedly linked to tenure insecurity and unresolved land disputes.[635](#) Radio Ergo pointed to populations in IDP settlements in Garowe district facing shortages of food, water, shelter, healthcare, and education.[636](#) At the beginning of the reference period, Somali media reported of repeated attacks by local armed groups on communication infrastructure in Burtinle district.[637](#)

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