



An International Medical Corps staff member provides nutrition services at Bonkay health center in Baidoa.

The security situation in Baidoa, Somalia, remains volatile following repeated armed clashes since August between forces aligned with the former South West state president and federal and regional security forces supporting the current administration. The conflict has significantly affected civilian movement, access to healthcare and humanitarian operations.

The hospital in Baidoa has been severely affected by the clashes, resulting in severe infrastructure damage and injured medical staff, patients and caretakers. International Medical Corps' premises in Baidoa sustained significant damage during the fighting, leading to the suspension of essential humanitarian and healthcare services. Médecins Sans Frontières reported damage to a health facility, the killing of a healthcare worker, looting of an ambulance, and injuries and robbery affecting medical personnel. The International Committee of the Red Cross has reported that 106 wounded people were treated at two government hospitals, while another 42 were treated at private facilities. Following the renewed violence, South West state authorities introduced a curfew after evening prayer, restricting non-essential movement of people and vehicles.

Amid fears of continued fighting, 934 households comprising an estimated 5,604 individuals reportedly fled their homes and displacement sites in the Berdale and Wadajir neighborhoods, while others fled to Burhakaba, Diinsoor, Hudur, Qansaxdhere and Wajid. Close to 26,000 people among Baidoa's internally displaced people in the Bay region are expected to be in Phase 5 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity scale, designated as catastrophe at the household level and famine at the area level, and characterized by starvation and the collapse of livelihoods. In a plausible worst-case scenario, in which El Niño leads to more severe flooding and displacement than currently expected, internally displaced people in Baidoa face a growing risk of famine through at least the end of the year, particularly if humanitarian assistance remains insufficient to cover gaps in food consumption.

Humanitarian consequences of this conflict are likely to remain severe, particularly for internally displaced people, women, children and other vulnerable groups. The combination of conflict, displacement, food insecurity, malnutrition and potential flooding could significantly increase humanitarian needs during the coming months.

FAST FACTS

- The conflict in Baidoa, Somalia, has resulted in significant damage to civilian infrastructure and public buildings while displacing residents and increasing humanitarian needs across the district.
- The deteriorating security situation has disrupted access to essential services, including healthcare, and increased the number of displaced people seeking assistance.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has operated in Somalia since 1990, providing a wide range of humanitarian and health services, including primary and secondary healthcare, health workforce training, health education, emergency response, mental health and psychosocial support, nutrition, protection, community empowerment, and water, sanitation and hygiene services.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is working with relevant authorities, clusters and humanitarian partners to support a coordinated response and sustain essential services for affected communities. We have launched a targeted three-month emergency response in Baidoa to support conflict-affected and displaced communities amid escalating humanitarian needs, providing emergency hospital support, primary healthcare and nutrition services through two primary health units and limited rehabilitation of critical infrastructure, prioritizing vulnerable populations such as women and children.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has been operating in Somalia for more than 30 years. We continue to implement programs in the Bay region, including in rural areas surrounding Baidoa district, to support vulnerable and underserved communities. We are currently supporting nutrition services ensuring that vulnerable children and families have access to essential nutrition assistance. In addition, International Medical Corps is distributing emergency hygiene kits and medical supplies. We are also increasing supplies at functional nutrition sites in Baidoa to ensure sufficient stock in the event of movement restrictions or supply-chain interruptions resulting from the conflict.

To further respond to the conflict in Baidoa, International Medical Corps is initiating a targeted three-month emergency response to sustain critical health and nutrition services. Our response will include on-demand deployment of an emergency preparedness and response surgical team to support Baidoa General Referral Hospital with basic emergency care and mass-casualty management actions. We will support two primary health units serving internally displaced populations through integrated health and nutrition services, including activities that target vulnerable women and children. Furthermore, as part of our emergency response, we will undertake limited rehabilitation of our office and warehouse infrastructure damaged in the fighting.

International Medical Corps will continue to work closely with relevant authorities and humanitarian coordination bodies to sustain humanitarian services in Baidoa.