International Medical Corps

SITUATION UPDATE

Conflict Response in Baidoa, Somalia
Situation Report #2
November 25, 2026



An International Medical Corps staff member provides nutrition services at Jubbada Dhexe PHU in Baidoa.

Baidoa, Somalia, continues to face a fragile security and humanitarian environment following months of political tensions and armed confrontations. The situation remains concerning due to the risk of renewed hostility between rival security forces.

From October 8 to 11, several political and security developments further heightened tensions across the Bay region. Forces loyal to the former Southwest state president reportedly established control over several strategic districts, including Awdiinle, Berdale, Buurhakaba, Diinsoor and Qansaxdheere. These territorial changes have altered local security dynamics, increased uncertainty among communities, disrupted administrative structures and contributed to population movements.

The security situation in Baidoa and surrounding districts remains unpredictable. On October 26 and 27, several confrontations occurred, resulting in civilian casualties, destruction of public and private infrastructure, disruption of essential services and significant displacement of affected populations. The presence of competing security actors and shifting territorial control continues to pose risks to civilian safety and to humanitarian access and operations.

Food security conditions remain critical, with many displaced households facing severe food shortages, acute malnutrition and loss of livelihoods. Amid fears of continued fighting, more than 930 households—representing an estimated 5,600 people—reportedly fled their homes and displacement sites in Berdale and Wadajir neighborhoods. Displaced families sought refuge in Buurhakaba, Diinsoor, Hudur, Qansaxdheere, Wajid and other locations perceived to be safer.

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.
- Control of several territories has changed, further raising tensions in Baidoa.

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 has deployed two primary health units to provide integrated health and nutrition services to internally displaced persons and vulnerable host communities in Baidoa.
- We established a standby emergency response team to support Bay Regional Hospital during mass-casualty incidents and conflict-related emergencies.
- Ongoing projects have delivered lifesaving nutrition support to drought-affected communities in rural villages across Baidoa district, helping residents who displaced by the conflict in Baidoa benefit from these services.

Furthermore, escalating insecurity across Bay region—particularly in Buurhakaba district—has adversely affected humanitarian access and operations, according to OCHA. Humanitarian workers were temporarily relocated from Buurhakaba during periods of heightened insecurity, while many civilians fled to safer locations. Despite these challenges, some frontline responders continued to provide lifesaving assistance.

The humanitarian situation is expected to remain severe, particularly for internally displaced persons (IDPs), women, children, older people and other vulnerable groups. Conflict-related displacement, severe food insecurity, malnutrition and the impact of seasonal heavy rains and flooding are putting pressure on already overstretched health services, water systems and humanitarian response capacities.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps, which has been operating in Somalia for more than 35 years, continues to support vulnerable communities across the Bay region, including Baidoa district and surrounding rural areas.

In response to the recent conflict in Baidoa, International Medical Corps is providing critical health and nutrition services to affected populations through our emergency response program. We are delivering essential healthcare—including nutrition services, maternal and child healthcare, and referrals for displaced and host communities—through two primary health units. The program has so far supported 4,982 people.

The Ministry of Health trained an emergency response team consisting of International Medical Corps staff that remains on standby to support Bay Regional Hospital, a major referral hospital in Baidoa. The hospital can rapidly activate the team in the event of renewed conflict, mass-casualty incidents or other emergencies.

In addition, International Medical Corps continues to deliver emergency, lifesaving nutrition interventions to drought-affected populations in rural villages across Baidoa district. Several newly displaced households have accessed nutrition services at project locations. In response to increased population movements, International Medical Corps expanded services in several rural locations to accommodate the growing number of newly arrived IDPs and to ensure continued access to essential nutrition assistance. Program implementation is ongoing.

Despite ongoing response efforts, humanitarian needs remain high due to increasing displacement, food insecurity and pressure on health services. International Medical Corps remains committed to supporting affected communities and working closely with health authorities and humanitarian partners to sustain lifesaving services in Baidoa.