**THE danish emergency relief fund**

**Alert note**

**Section A: Basic information**

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| Organisation: | *Iftin Organisation* |
| Title of alert: | **Armed Violence in Sanaag and Togdheer regions in Somaliland** |
| Type of crisis: | * *X rapid onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section B)* |

**Section B: Rapid onset humanitarian crisis:**

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| **B.1 Where is the crisis? *Describe the areas affected***  The crisis has primarily unfolded in the Togdheer region, specifically in the Buuhoodle District, where violent clashes erupted between November 1 and 2. The conflict has been concentrated in the villages of Qorilugud and Gadgad, areas shared by the Dhulbahante and HabarJeclo clans. The confrontations between their militias, SSB and SSC, have intensified political tensions and clan disputes in the region.  Following the unrest in Buuhoodle, the situation escalated further in the city of Ceerigaabo in the Sanaag region. This violence began on December 14, 2024, and lasted for two days, affecting the entire city and spilling over into neighboring villages and towns, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of Ceerigaabo. Active war zones during the Ceerigaabo conflict included Masaggan, Dhuurmadare, Dibqarax, Goof, Dhaxamo, and Ceerigaabo city itself. The impact of these clashes has been profound, disrupting lives and destabilizing the affected communities.  **b.2 What is the nature of the crisis? *Please describe the type of crisis and describe potential local social and political implications***  The nature of the crisis in the regions of Ceerigaabo and Buuhoodle is fundamentally rooted in both political and clan conflicts. Somaliland is a de facto self-governing nation that has maintained its independence for the past 30 years, establishing its own governance system, currency, flag, and even passports. However, discontent has simmered among the Dhulbahante clan, which resides in both Ceerigaabo and Buuhoodle, as well as the Warsangeli clan, primarily based in Ceerigaabo and the eastern parts of the Sanaag region.  These clans feel underrepresented within the power-sharing structure of Somaliland, which allocates political positions based on clan affiliations. Believing they have been denied their rightful share of power, they have rallied behind the SSC militia, predominantly affiliated with the Dhulbahante clan. Their aim is to either create an alternative governance system or integrate areas populated by their people into Puntland, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Somali federal government.  In this context, Somaliland is striving to assert control over its territory while also protecting its citizens, including those from the Dhulbahante clan who wish to define their own governance without ties to Somaliland authorities. This has led to a complex situation where different ideologies clash, initially stemming from inter-clan disputes. When Somaliland authorities attempted to intervene, the conflict escalated into broader violence, resulting in casualties and significant displacement.  The recent clashes have led to widespread destruction of homes in Ceerigaabo and surrounding areas, exacerbating robbery and theft, particularly in abandoned properties. The social relations in these communities are defined and influenced by the inter-clan nature of society, with clan allegiances playing a crucial role in local governance, conflict resolution, and resource distribution. The ongoing tensions compel communities to migrate to neighboring cities and towns in Somaliland and Puntland, creating further social and economic challenges.  In Buuhoodle, the conflict has been ongoing for quite some time, tracing back to February 2023, primarily between the Dhulbahante clan and Somaliland forces, particularly the Habarjeclo clan, which constitutes a significant portion of the fighting forces in the area. The tensions are concentrated in places like Buuhoodle, Qorilugud, and Gadgad within the Togdheer region. These conflicts have severely impacted all residents, especially the less fortunate who lack the means to be displaced.  Despite numerous efforts to de-escalate the tensions, so far, nothing substantive has emerged from these initiatives. The recent clashes in Erigavo and Buuhoodle are indirectly linked to earlier tensions in the Sool region between Somaliland forces and the Dhulbahante clan and their SSC militia, further complicating the crisis and highlighting its far-reaching implications for local social dynamics and political stability.  **b.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information?**  **OCHA Rapid Multi-sectorial needs assessment of Conflict-affected populations in Ceerigaabo and Surrounding Area-December 2024.** Between December 18th -25th, OCHA, in Coordination with 23 partners operating on the ground conducted Rapid Needs Assessment across seven districts Laasqrey, Ceel-afweyn, Boosaaso, Ceerigaabo, Taleex, and Laascanood. The assessment involves 264 key informants’ interviews in 42 host and IDPs communities’ together insights into the needs and conditions. The assessment Indicates that 68,191 people are currently living in the assessed villages, sites/camps, 22,052 people have arrived in the assessed area in the past two weeks.  According to Somalia-conflict (DG ECHO partner, UNHCR) ECHO Daily Flash of 11 November 2024 violent inter-clan clashes erupted in Buuhoodle district, Togdheer region, northern Somalia. The conflict is driven by political tensions between Somaliland and the autonomous administration, as well as clan disputes. Around 40 fatalities have been reported so far.  **PROTECTION AND SOLUTION MONITORING NETWORK PSNM FLASH ALERT #18 NOVEMBER 2024** the fighting has caused widespread displacement of approximately 4,25 households, the conflict has led significant displacement, particularly in areas including Qorilugud, Shangeed, Gocondhaale, Maygaagle, Galgal, Horufadhi, sooljoogto, xadhadhan and Shimbiraale.  The top three priority needs on the sites assessed by OCHA in Ceerigaabo and surrounding areas are as followas: - 92% Shelter, 71% Water and 57% is Healthcare Services.  The most vulnerable groups in the conflict affected areas are women and children, children are particularly at risk of mobilization and forced recruitment into clan militia according to the report issued by protection and solution monitoring network psnm flash alert #18 november 2024    ***Please insert link(s) and/or attach relevant documentation to the alert. Documentation may be found at UN OCHA, ACAPS, or other internationally recognised sources.***   * UNOCHA SOMALIA: Armed Violence in Ceerigaabo town, Sanaag region Flash Update No.1 As of 18 December 2024 [*https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-armed-violence-ceerigaabo-town-sanaag-region-flash-update-no1-18-december-2024*](https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-armed-violence-ceerigaabo-town-sanaag-region-flash-update-no1-18-december-2024)*.* * Somalia - Conflict (DG ECHO Partners, UNHCR) (ECHO Daily Flash of 11 November 2024) [*https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-conflict-dg-echo-partners-unhcr-echo-daily-flash-11-november-2024*](https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-conflict-dg-echo-partners-unhcr-echo-daily-flash-11-november-2024) * UNOCHA SOMALIA: Rapid Multi-sectorial needs assessment of Conflict-affected populations in Ceerigaabo and Surrounding Area-December 2024   **b.3.1. Describe as specific as possible when the crisis has started.**  The Violent clashes were reported in Ceerigaabo town,Sanaag region on 14 December as reported by **OCHA - Flash Update No.1 (as of 18 December 2024)**   1. Between 1 and 2 November, violent inter-clan clashes erupted in Buuhoodle district, Togdheer region, northern Somalia as per **Conflict (DG ECHO Partners, UNHCR) (ECHO Daily Flash of 11 November 2024)**   **b.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?**  the rapid disbursement of DERF grants enables timely and effective humanitarian assistance, making a crucial difference in the lives of those affected.   * ***Short intervention (0-9 month)***   We expect the intervention period to be between 2 to 4 months maximum.   * ***Meeting needs of hard to reach populations not catered for by other donors***   Iftin Organisation and our partners have extensive experience working in fragile situations like Somalia, where we have successfully implemented numerous humanitarian interventions funded by the DERF. These efforts have resulted in a positive impact on the affected populations in their respective areas.  We aim to reach those hard-to-reach populations often overlooked by other donors. With a local partner in Ceerigaabo, we effectively identify and address the needs of vulnerable communities, ensuring essential assistance supports their recovery and resilience. |