

Somalia: Residents flee Mogadishu violence, head south

Shabeelle Media Network

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Many families that fled the current violence in Mogadishu have now arrived in the Afgooye District in Lower Shabeelle Region [southern Somalia].

A Shabeelle reporter in Afgooye said the highest number of these people arrived in Afgooye yesterday. They are now facing various hardships.

A Shabeelle reporter met Halimo Haji, a mother with her four children at the Afgooye bus station, who said she had escaped from [Mogadishu's] Bakaaraha Market. She added it had been very difficult for her to remain since there were frequent explosions and fighting in that area.

Most of the families that arrived yesterday in Afgooye had fled areas surrounding the Bakaaraha Market. Others came from areas near bases of Ethiopian and Somali government forces.

The families are now living with the local people in Afgooye, and have asked humanitarian agencies to assist them.