CARITAS SOMALIA CONCERNED OVER ESCALATING VIOLENCE AND DEEPENING OF HUNGER CRISIS

(Mogadishu, 29 March 2026) Caritas Somalia joins the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in raising alarm over the escalating violence in South West State, which has displaced around 45,000 people and forced thousands of families into areas with limited access to basic services and humanitarian aid[1].

This escalation comes as Somalia faces one of its most severe and complex hunger crises, caused by prolonged drought, conflict, mass displacement and critically underfunded humanitarian assistance. This situation is further impacted by the ongoing Middle East crisis. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 6.5 million people are now experiencing crisis-level hunger or worse[2]. Of these, 2 million are in emergency conditions, and more than 1.8 million children under five are expected to face acute malnutrition in 2026.

Women, children, and the elderly, already hard hit, are bearing the brunt of this worsening crisis.

As Mons. Jamal Daibes, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Mogadishu, stated: “The recent outbreak of violence in South West State seriously threatens to further worsen the humanitarian situation by restricting humanitarian access, increasing civilian casualties and accelerating displacement. The population of Somalia deserves a better life. We must act now to protect those who suffer the most, especially women and children. Let us not forget our brothers and sisters in the Horn of Africa.”

With only 11.9% of the Humanitarian Response Plan funded[3], life-saving assistance risks being reduced at a time of critical need. We call donors to mobilise urgently needed funding to provide life-saving assistance and essential services to the most vulnerable, especially women and children, and to ensure they are not left to bear the brunt of a crisis that has already reached catastrophic levels. We also call for immediate de-escalate hostilities, adherence to international humanitarian law, protection of civilians, and safe and unhindered humanitarian access.

Caritas Somalia remains actively present on the ground, including in hard-to-reach areas, delivering assistance in line with core humanitarian principles.

For further information, please contact: caritassomalia@gmail.com

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[1] Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia Mr. George Conway

[2] https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1161023/?iso3=SOM

[3] https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1516?bs=eyJibG9jay1mZDBjMmIwMS1hMzA3LTRiMjMtYjU2Ny1lZjRhNDNkYTg4MTciOnsic29ydCI6eyJjb2x1bW4iOjYsImRpciI6ImRlc2MifX0sImJsb2NrLWVjY2M4NGI2LWRjYjEtNDZjOC1iODZkLTViNTU0YTVhZjMzYiI6eyJ0YXJnZXQiOjF9fQ%3D%3D