

2019-2020

# FLASH APPEAL

DECEMBER 2019 - MARCH 2020



**DJIBOUTI**

TOTAL POPULATION  
OF DJIBOUTI

960K

PEOPLE IN NEED

150K

PEOPLE TARGETED

150K

REQUIREMENTS  
(US\$)

14.3M

# HUMANITARIAN  
PARTNERS

13



This document is produced by the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Djibouti on behalf of humanitarian partners in support of the Government of Djibouti's national emergency response plan. It covers the period from December 2019 to March 2020 and is issued on 11 December 2019. The Government will lead a Post Disaster Needs Assessment that will guide the longer-term resilience and development programmes needed to support Djibouti to recover from the effects of the floods.

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## THE FLASH APPEAL

## AT A GLANCE

## PEOPLE IN NEED



150k

## PEOPLE TARGETED



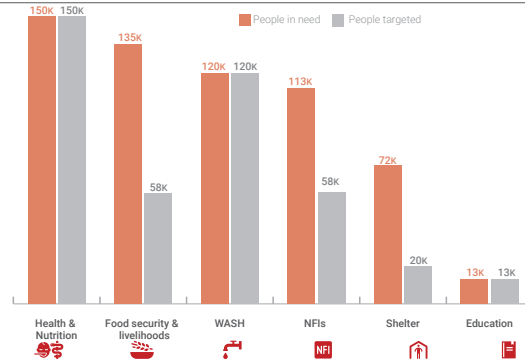
150k

## REQUIREMENTS

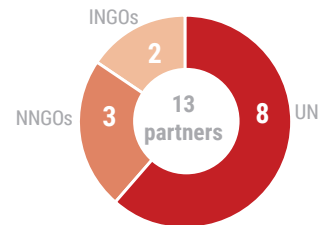


\$14.3M

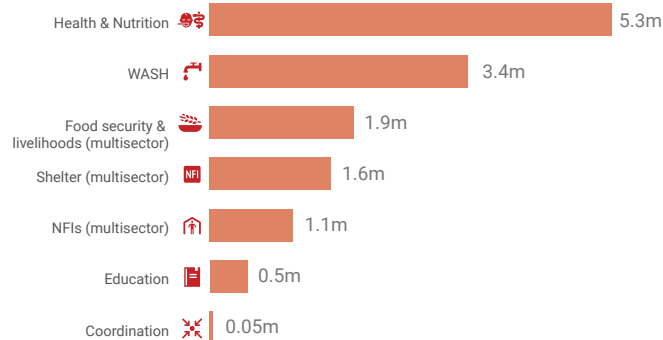
## PEOPLE IN NEED AND TARGETED BY SECTOR



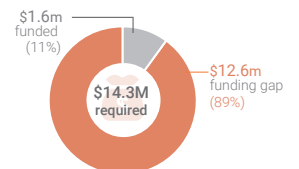
## NUMBER OF PARTNERS



## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY SECTOR (US\$)



## FUNDING STATUS



04

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1



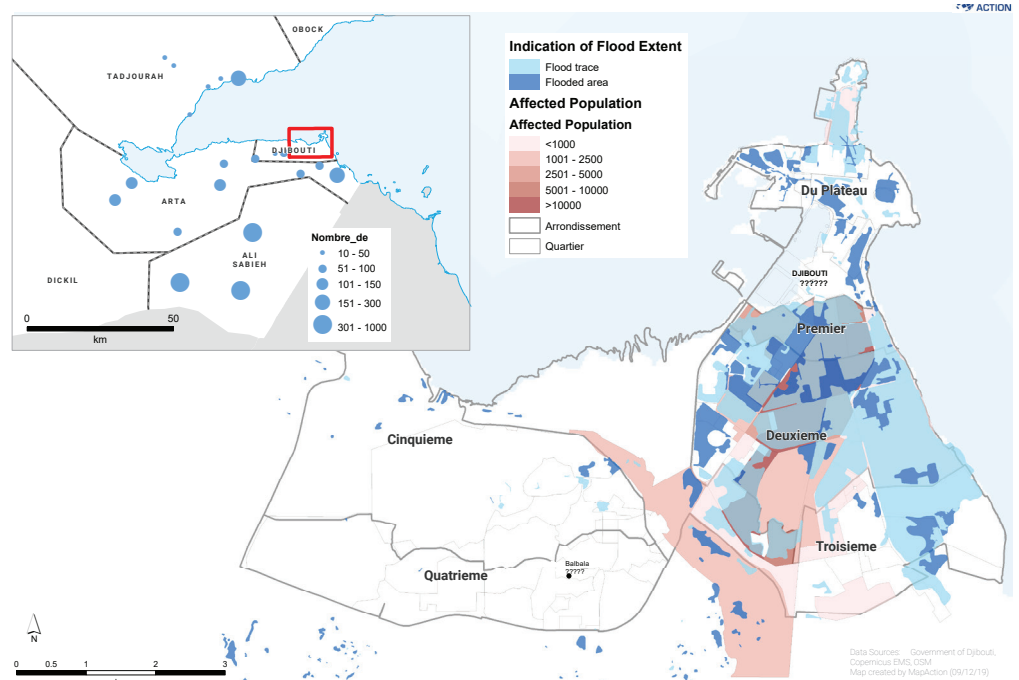
Save lives and alleviate the suffering of flood-affected people by providing integrated and multi-sectoral lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance and protection.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2



Promote resilience-building and complementarity with development partners' interventions.

## MAP OF AFFECTED AREAS





## OVERVIEW

## OF THE CRISIS

**Djibouti experienced heavy rains between 21 and 28 November, triggering flash floods and destruction of infrastructure, homes and livelihoods across the country.** While Djibouti's yearly average rainfall is 127 mm or less, in Djibouti city the equivalent of two years of rainfall occurred at the peak three-day period of 21-23 November, with over 295 mm of rainfall recorded. At least 11 people have been killed by the flash floods, including seven children. Current forecast indicates a possibility for more rains to occur, which will further compound the already precarious humanitarian situation.

**According to the Government-led Interagency Rapid Assessment, an estimated 250,000 people have been affected (one fourth of the population, countrywide) by the floods. Of particular concern is an estimated 150,000 people, including migrants and refugees, who are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance.**

Djibouti hosts over 30,000 refugees and asylum seekers, of which some 49 per cent of them are children. In addition, over 100,000 migrants, mostly Ethiopian, live in the country, and an additional 300-400 travel through Djibouti on daily basis. The most severe impact of the rains occurred in Djibouti city, where an estimated 200,000 people (21 per cent of the total population of the country) are impacted and 120,000 people require urgent life-saving assistance. The devastating consequences are most acutely felt by those most vulnerable, including those living in extreme poverty, children, widows, the elderly, disabled and people on the move (refugees, migrants and IDPs). An estimated 15 per cent of affected families are female-headed households (mostly widowed).

**Affected areas are the same hosting vulnerable populations that were hit by Cyclone Sagar and subsequent flooding in late May 2018, many of whom were still recovering from last year's natural disaster devastating effects.** This is testimony on how the climate crisis is adversely affecting those most vulnerable in Djibouti, where two years of subsequent large-scale flooding events are unprecedented, and present a major challenge to systems and populations that have little learned coping mechanisms to deal with flooding and other climate change related events such as the raising of sea levels and stronger tides. This is also a stark reminder of the need not only to act quickly and provide life-saving assistance to those in need, but also to ensure that humanitarian and recovery activity embrace in full the concept of resilience and 'build back better', as similar events are likely to occur with even more frequency and intensity.

**Some 5,000 extremely vulnerable people (women, children under age 5 and disable people) took shelter in collective centres in the first four days of the crisis, where the Government and humanitarian partners provided them with hot meals and some medical assistance. Not all those in need could however be housed there. One week after the start of the rains an estimated 10,000 individuals were still sheltering with family or community members as their dwelling were still flooded, despite sustained pumping and cleaning up operations.** Some of the most vulnerable were sheltering in flooded dwellings as they had no alternative. Vulnerable households are struggling to cope with the floods devastating effects and many unable to repair their damaged homes or recover their livelihoods. At least 25 per cent of those affected (approximately 19,000 people) need urgent emergency shelter support as their – often precarious – dwellings have been further damaged by the heavy rains and floods. An estimated 75 per cent (112,000 people) need support to replace key household items as they are forced to prioritize what little income they have on other essential goods. Outside Djibouti town, 3,667 households were affected in Arta region, with at least 887 in need of emergency food, shelter and NFI support. In Ali Sabieh region, 2,310 families were impacted and 360 households in Obock region need urgent life-saving shelter and NFI assistance as the rain has severely affected shelters and the temperatures have dropped.

**Flooding has impacted household food security, with 95 per cent of affected households reported losing key household food stock in Djibouti town.** Prior to the inundations, about 280,000 people (one third of the total population) were facing chronic levels food insecurity, according to the 2018-2022 IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis. A recent SMART survey conducted in 2019 found that severe acute malnutrition was above emergency thresholds (>2 per cent) with 2.6 per cent and global acute malnutrition was serious across the country at 10.3 per cent. Households spend 68 per cent of their budget on food and are extremely vulnerable to shocks. Following the floods, many households have resorted to negative coping mechanisms, with 89.5 per cent (17 of 19) neighbourhoods interviewed in Djibouti city saying that, on average, the total amount of food people consumed has decreased since. The floods have disproportionately affected women, who bear the primary responsibility for food within the home and are struggling to cope with the additional strain. The rapid assessment found that market access was hampered for a few days in five districts of Djibouti town, and many small shops owners' stock was affected by the flooding.

**Further compounding chronic food insecurity is the loss of crops, rearing animals and the expansion of the desert locust invasion, triggered by the heavy rains.**

The most affected is the coastal region of Tadjourah, with an estimated loss of between 35 to 50 hectares of cultivated land (or 96 per cent of the total) and about 1,000 hectares of natural pastures for free-range grazing (or 50 per cent of the total). More than 100 rural households lost all their livelihood assets (over 200 livestock heads), and the surviving livestock are reported to be in poor condition. Other affected regions are Obock, Dikhil and Ali-Sabieh. In the coastal areas of Arta region, reported loss of vegetables and fodder production (25 hectares), have occurred due to excessive and prolonged water stagnation. Reduced availability of livestock feed has immediately reduced milk production, weakening livestock and making them more susceptible to animal diseases. Compounding the agricultural loss is the arrival of the desert locust invasion to the five regions at the early phase of the crop calendar in Djibouti. The rains have provided favourable conditions for the further breeding of locusts, resulting in total loss of vegetable, fruit and fodder crops, including free-grazing areas. The infestation represents a real threat which could trigger human and animal starvation. The locust's destruction has impacted Arta, Ali-Sabieh (100 per cent), and Dikhil (As Eylal and Hanle areas) regions, affecting 80 per cent of the total cultivated land. There are reports indicating that the invasion is expanding to the Tadjourah and Obock regions. Djibouti suffered widespread flooding as a result of Sagar in May 2018, followed by drought and have been hit by the current floods deteriorate the food security situation, especially in rural areas. Crop loss and loss of livestock will compound an already fragile food security situation in rural areas, which has recently worsened by the floods.

**Flood waters has impacted almost 17,000 households who lost access to safe sanitation due to overflowing of sanitation facilities and sewage systems. Some 79 per cent of Djibouti town districts reported visual evidence of contamination. A further 7,200 households report lack of access to safe drinking water and need urgent support to reduce the risk of disease outbreak. Only 22 per cent of affected people report having access to soap and hygiene products.**

Sanitation coverage across the country was already very low, in both homes and schools, prior to the recent rains. While further in-depth assessments are being conducted by the WASH sector, initial estimates indicate that as many as 84 per cent of households and 27 schools have lost or damaged sanitation facilities. Sewage systems have also been impacted, despite continued pumping, which started immediately, the evacuation of stagnant water took time. In some cases, dried up areas were flooded again as the sewerage systems was unable to function properly.

**The risk of disease outbreaks is rising daily, with more**

**rain forecasted in the coming days, heightening the alarming potential of both water and vector-borne disease outbreaks.** Given the concerning sanitation situation, coupled with limited access to safe water, the risk of potential outbreak is rising. Recurring water-borne diseases, including acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), are endemic, and have been affecting the whole population—residents, IDPs, refugees, and migrants—over time. In 2018, some 3,450 AWD cases have been recorded, particularly along migration routes, where water scarcity is severe, and in the capital. The Government took steps to curb the malaria epidemics, which cases have been dramatically increasing year on year, from 24 cases in 2012, to 14,000 in 2017, 22,000 in 2018 and a peak of 43,000 in 2019. The gains made are now lost. This is further compounded by the presence of dengue fever, and other epidemics such as chikungunya, which are reported in the Horn of Africa region. Since the beginning of 2019, a total of 210 cases of measles were also reported, and the outbreak could become widespread, something typical of flood situations worldwide. Initial reports indicate that 14 health centres were damaged by the floods in Djibouti-city alone, disrupting health services to the population.


**At least 32 schools were flooded and damaged, countrywide, and many students have lost their school kits. Schools were closed nationwide between 21 November and on 1 December following a massive cleaning campaign.** Of the 32 affected schools 14 in Djibouti City, four in Tadjourah area, five in Arta and five in Obock reported having sustained damages. Fourteen assessed education facilities in Djibouti City reported the loss of school kits for over 13,000 learners. Many schools were utilized as collective centres in the first few days for those that were displaced by the floods. An additional 12 community development centres, also used as safe havens during the floods, were also flooded and damaged.

**Flooding has increased protection concerns, especially among the most vulnerable, including women and children. Displacement and shocks to the household erode coping mechanisms making people extremely vulnerable, including increasing the risk of exploitation and abuse.** Rising food and nutrition insecurity may force families to adopt negative coping strategies, including school drop-outs, child labour and early marriage. Evidence has shown that climatic shocks increase risk of family separation as male breadwinners move in search of livelihoods, placing women and children at risk of gender-based violence, exploitation and they may find it more difficult to access emergency assistance. The elderly and disabled people also face higher risks they risk being left behind during natural disasters and it is even more challenging for them to seek assistance. Nonetheless, efforts have been made to ensure an active case finding for such vulnerable groups to be sheltered in safe spaces and be assisted.



## STRATEGIC

## OBJECTIVES

-  1. Save lives and alleviate the suffering of flood-affected people by providing integrated and multi-sectoral life-saving and life-sustaining assistance and protection.

*Humanitarian programming will prioritize assistance to people with the most acute needs and in life-threatening situations. The response will encompass the provision of food and non-food assistance, as well as restoration of access to quality basic services, such as schools and health, nutrition and WASH facilities. Humanitarian partners will implement an integrated approach, with projects and activities concurrently tackling multiple sectoral issues.*

-  2. Promote resilience-building and complementarity with development partners' interventions

*While the emphasis of the Flash Appeal is on life-saving assistance, it will also promote resilience-building, including through utilization of existing social protection mechanisms to provide assistance, which will in turn help to stimulate the local market. To reduce humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerabilities in the medium to longer term, synergies and complementarities with development, recovery and resilience initiatives, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the National Development Plan (SCAPE), will be encouraged and pursued.*



## OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND

# ACCESS

### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Immediately during and following the flooding, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MASS) in collaboration with other government departments, the Djibouti Red Crescent and the UNFD (Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes) organized assistance in 12 collective spaces across Djibouti town (schools, community development centres) for more than 5,000 extremely vulnerable people, including 2,000 children under age 5, and people living with disabilities. There, people received hot meals and medical assistance. After four days, these displaced returned to their home or their families' or friends' ones. The government also immediately activated a hotline for the public to report on flooding in neighbourhoods in urgent need of support.

Immediate clean-up and water pumping operations were carried out by security forces and the army together with civil protection, government departments, the private sector and foreign armed forces stationed in Djibouti. The Government of Djibouti, with support from international partners started distribution of Food and NFI vouchers, provision of in-kind assistance including tents, household items, hygiene kits and provision of drugs and disinfection activities.

Private Sector and civil society actively engaged in the response effort. A Facebook group was started to connect Djiboutian citizens in how to support the response effort. The private sector donated in-kind support and technical assistance in the on-going pumping operation across Djibouti City.

UN Agencies and humanitarian partners immediately mobilized to support the Government and those affected through distributions of clean water and sanitation and hygiene kits to more than 5,500 vulnerable households; distributed over 300,000 water purification tablets; provided water storage tanks and began door-to-door safe hygiene promotion in the most affected areas; provided of medical kits to hospitals and health centres and mosquito net distributions; and provided food and cash assistance.

### OPERATIONAL CAPACITY INCLUDING ANY ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

Flooding affected primary, secondary and tertiary roads across the country, some communities were isolated for few days during the peak periods of rain. In Tadjourah region, the Randa dike overflowed, damaging the road. The Tadjourah-Balho road was also damaged between Tadjourah and Randa. The road network linking

the village of Ali Ouney to Damerjog was reportedly damaged making access to the area difficult. The Obock town road to Medeho is severely damaged, so are 12 km of the white road linking Obock town to the Waddi sector.

Flood waters have receded for the immediate period, and access to remote areas is now open and should not impact on the planned operations. However, roads are in a deteriorated condition and longer-term programmes should prioritize repair of key infrastructure and ensure that future repairs take into potential for future floods events.

Djibouti acts as a back office for humanitarian operations in Yemen and agencies have logistic capacity on ground. The Humanitarian Logistic Base (HLB) in Djibouti City has been utilized by various partners where NFIs have been pre-positioned. The HLB will remain accessible with high storage capacity for additional needs.

### COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS

On 22 November, the Government activated its emergency plan (ORSEC) and its coordination committee, chaired by the Prime Minister. The Ministry of Interior supported by the Executive Secretariat for Disaster Management (SEGRC) is coordinating the relief efforts at the national level, and the Ministry of Social affairs and Solidarity (MASS) oversees the assistance to the affected populations. UN agencies support the Government led response and line ministry sectoral working groups and continue collaboration with International and NNGO partners as well as civil society.



# SECTOR RESPONSE STRATEGY

# \$5.3 MILLION

## Sector requirements

### PEOPLE IN NEED



# 150k

### PEOPLE TARGETED



# 150k

### # OF MEMBERS



# 7

10

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION



### SECTOR OBJECTIVES:

- To mitigate excess mortality and morbidity through ensuring equitable access to life-saving preventive and curative health services for the flood-affected populations;
- Strengthen early detection, investigation and control of water-borne, vector borne, epidemic-prone and vaccine preventable diseases;
- Monitor and Respond to severe and moderate acute malnutrition for children in flood affected areas;
- Strengthen coordination and leadership to respond to the current health needs.

### IMPACT OF CRISIS ON SECTOR:

Reports indicate that 14 health centres were damaged by the floods in Djibouti-city alone, disrupting health services to the population in the flooded neighbourhoods that also happen to be home to the poorest and the most vulnerable populations. Inhabitants of these neighbourhoods had low access to healthcare services prior to the floods due to unaffordable cost recovery fees and prescription drugs, and lack of medicines in health facilities.

The situation is of special concern in view of the poor hygienic conditions of many areas following the floods, which in turn increases the risk of outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Acute watery diarrhoea syndromes (AWD) are endemic in the country and the region, with 3,450 AWD cases reported in Djibouti in 2018 affecting residents, IDPs, refugees, and migrants. It is worth noting that Cholera outbreaks are currently reported in neighbouring Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, and such epidemic could also affect Djibouti which is located along migratory routes connecting these countries.

Stagnant water has become a breeding ground for mosquitos, increasing the risks of vector-borne diseases. While the government has taken steps to curb the malaria epidemics with significant results in the last few months, gains are at risk of being lost unless the malaria control activities are not urgently expanded. Djibouti experienced consecutive years of malaria upsurge, reaching over 25,300 cases in 2018 (80 per cent in Djibouti town) and almost 43,000 between January and November 2019. Of the latter, 33,000 (76.7 per cent) were caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*, and 10,000 (23.3 per cent) by *Plasmodium vivax*. Some 80 per cent of cases were recorded in Djibouti city Boulaos, Arhiba, Einguela, Quartier 4 and Quartier 6 zones. These happen to also be the areas most affected by the flash floods. Reinforced vector control, proper case management and effective risk communication campaigns are urgently needed to bring the epidemics again under control. The risk for the affected populations is further compounded by the presence of dengue fever, and other vector borne diseases and outbreaks such as chikungunya – which are reported in the Horn of Africa region.

During and after floods, measles epidemics are extremely likely. During the first semester of 2019, some 210 cases of measles were reported, countrywide. An emergency measles campaign, already scheduled to take place in December, needs to be expanded to target all children 6 months to 15 years of age (including migrants, refugees etc.) throughout the Djiboutian territory.

### Contacts

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The risk of increased malnutrition is also high following natural disasters, and particularly so when concerns existed before. The 2019 SMART survey indicate that, despite improvements, Severe Acute Malnutrition rates are still above emergency thresholds (>2 per cent), and Global Acute Malnutrition is still of concern (10.3 per cent), particularly among children 12-23 months of age, as 20.9 per cent of them suffer from stunting. In 2019, some 3,900 SAM cases were recorded (975 with medical complications) and 15,450 children and 4,140 pregnant and lactating women needed MAM support. The regions of Tadjourah, Obock and Ali Sabieh, which are migrant and refugee hosting regions, face some of the highest food insecurity and malnutrition prevalence.

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#### **PRIORITY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:**

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Health interventions will focus on responding to potential water and vector borne as well as measles outbreaks. Partners will work with MoH to strengthen detection and management of potential AWD, measles, dengue, malaria and chikungunya cases through outbreak investigation and rapid response teams.

In order to curb the potential of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue and chikungunya, health partners will provide LLINs mosquito nets; conduct risk communication campaign; sensitizing communities on the destruction of peri-domestic breeding sites and on better health seeking behaviour. Procurement of diagnostic kits will support health centres to identify and treat malaria, dengue and chikungunya. Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in endemic and flood affected areas, which already covered 6,000 highly vulnerable households, need to be rapidly scaled-up to reach a further 19,000 flood-affected households, so to reduce vector populations. The Health Sector will also increase the coverage of the measles vaccination campaign to cover all children at risk from ages 6 months to 15 years to minimize the potential for an outbreak.

Nutrition services will scale-up active screening among flood-affected children and pregnant women for a three-month period following the floods. Further to reduce the burden of under 5 malnutrition promotion of infant and youth child feeding (IYCF) practices will target flood affected communities. Existing community-based networks, including community development centres, CGC and mother-counselor programmes will support in monitoring enrolment and support to mothers of under 5 children and pregnant women.

#### **Humanitarian/development nexus**

In the medium term, health partners will support the rehabilitation of 14 primary healthcare centres (PHCCs) partially damaged during the floods, encompassing the 'build back better' concept. Further programmes will target extension of health services outreach to remote locations and supporting systems strengthening activities aimed at preventing and better managing outbreaks.



# \$3.4 MILLION

## Sector requirements

### PEOPLE IN NEED



# 120k

### PEOPLE TARGETED



# 120k

### # OF PARTNERS



# 9

# 12

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



### SECTOR OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce incidence of water-borne diseases through provision of emergency hygiene kits; water treatment chemicals
- Restore access to clean water, functional sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and promote good sanitation and hygiene practices

### IMPACT OF CRISIS ON SECTOR:

Prior to the floods, people in Djibouti received their water primarily from piped sources and water trucking, with Balbala reporting the lowest, only 50 per cent able to access safe sources. Following the rain and subsequent flooding, 37 per cent (55,500 people) lost access to safe water sources and 63 per cent were concerned with infiltrations and contamination of the available sources.

Sanitation coverage before the floods averaged 50 per cent. The rehabilitation of latrines damaged during cyclone Sagar in May 2018, as well as construction of new public latrines in areas where people practice open defecation were ongoing when the 2019 floods occurred. While further in-depth assessment is needed to fully understand the extent and impact of damages, information available indicate that latrines in as many as 84 per cent of surveyed households (16,800) and 27 schools have been damaged across Djibouti city. An estimated 79 per cent of the districts reported evidence of visual and olfactive contamination in communities. The situation is compounded by the fact that only 22 per cent of households interviewed in the aftermath of the floods reported having access to soap and hygiene products and a place to wash their clothes. Hygiene kits, including products for menstrual hygiene management were identified as priority needs.

Despite floodwater evacuation operations, mainly through pumping, in some affected areas water returned indicating poor drainage and soil saturation, rendering the sewerage system non-functional. Some seven districts reported issues with infrequent garbage collection, heavy mud and difficult road access.

### PRIORITY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:

The WASH sector strategy aims at restoring access to clean water, functional sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and to promote good sanitation and hygiene practices for 20,000 affected households. The government, with the support of UN and its humanitarian partners, mobilized immediately to evacuate contaminated water; distributed clean water and sanitation and hygiene kits to more than 5,500 vulnerable households; distributed over 300,000 water purification tablets; provided water storage tanks and begun door-to-door safe hygiene promotion in the most affected communities.

Although the rains affected the entire country, the most severe damages and urgent needs were identified in the neighbourhoods of Djibouti City. Restoration of access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation contribute to the protection of girls and women by providing a safe environment, increased privacy and reduction of exposure to sexual abuse and violence. The immediate

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priority is to restore safe access to sanitation for 4,000 critically affected households and increase community access through the construction of 10 public latrines.

Increasing safe water access through the provision of water purification and water storage containers will target 4,000 households including through the voucher system and provision of additional WASH kits, and dignity hygiene items for women and girls.

Door-to-door cleaning and hygiene promotion activities will target the entire 20,000 households. Key messages related to disease prevention, with the full participation of affected populations and civil society, including volunteers will be undertaken. WASH activities will also support the ongoing community sanitation campaign in the affected neighbourhoods and efforts to ensure functional drainage of stagnant water to prevent disease outbreak.

#### **Humanitarian/development nexus**

With the help of specialists, the strategy will the humanitarian response to ongoing longer-term recovery efforts that mainstream disaster risk reduction and ensure improved preparedness and response strategies, taking into account Djibouti's exposure and vulnerability to climate risks.

# \$0.5 MILLION

## Sector requirements

### PEOPLE IN NEED



# N/A

### PEOPLE TARGETED



# 120k

### # OF PARTNERS



# 9

# 14

## EDUCATION



### SECTOR OBJECTIVES:

- Restore access to safe and protective learning environments and quality education for 13,000 students affected by floods

### IMPACT OF CRISIS ON SECTOR:

The Ministry of Education (MoE) and education sector partners rapid assessment of schools indicate that of 32 schools – 18 in Djibouti City, 5 in Arta, 5 in Obock and 4 Tadjourah - suffered flooding of classrooms, sanitation facilities, and playgrounds. In Djibouti City, data available for 16 educational facilities indicate that 10 of them had their roofs damaged, 11 of the playgrounds were below 1 – 2 feet of water and mud, eight recorded damage to their water and sanitation facilities and five lost electricity. School structures suffered structural damage and loss of equipment, consumables and teaching materials.

Schools that were used as temporary emergency shelters for the most vulnerable required extensive cleaning and sanitation prior to the resumption of classes. Students in Djibouti city have been especially affected as not only their neighbourhood, but also their classrooms were flooded. More than 9,000 of the most vulnerable children lost school kits, textbooks and uniforms. Already 20 per cent of children in Djibouti between the ages of 5 and 13 are out-of-school. Evidence shows that preceding a disaster, many vulnerable children do not return to school due to the associated costs of replacing uniforms and school kits. Restoring access to schools ensure a reduced interruption of education, children are better protected and have a safe space for play while parents and the community seek to restore normalcy.

MoE, with the support of the police, the military and the communities were able to quickly evacuate most of the water, clean the classrooms, yards and toilets, and create temporary walkways to facilitate resumption of classes within one week of the floods. Restoration of education classes has increased the protection and security from the heightened risk of violence and exploitation that children – particularly girls – suffer during emergencies.

### PRIORITY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:

UNICEF supported MoE with the procurement of 40,000 school kits in November, which are being prioritized for distribution to flood-affected children. Since these kits are inadequate for children in the first and second years, an additional 10,000 kits will be needed for this caseload. A further 8,000 school uniforms are also needed to ensure children attendance to school, to restore access to education in a safe and protective environment as soon as possible. Replacement of key teacher training materials and key equipment for the functioning of the school lost in the floods will also be prioritized.

### Contacts

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### Humanitarian/development nexus

Longer term recover efforts will focus on rehabilitation of sanitation facilities and infrastructure with longer term disaster risk reduction planning, adoption of new strategies aimed at investing and improving infrastructure resilience in the face of future floods and increasing the capacity of school management and authorities to cope in the event of future emergencies. Engagement



and future planning will discuss preparedness measures aimed at identifying future evacuation sites and how education facilities can be best protected in the future, ensuring that access to education is restored in the quickest possible timeframe.



## MULTISECTORAL: FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS; NON-FOOD ITEMS & SHELTER

### FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS



**\$1.9 MILLION**

Requirements

PEOPLE IN NEED



**135k**

PEOPLE TARGETED



**58k**

# OF PARTNERS



**5**

16

### SHELTER



**\$1.6 MILLION**

Requirements

PEOPLE IN NEED



**72k**

PEOPLE TARGETED



**20k**

# OF PARTNERS



**1**

### SECTOR OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce risks of worsening of food insecurity through access to emergency food and non-food assistance to the most vulnerable flood affected households
- Restore access to livelihoods for flood-affected vulnerable rural households
- Increase protection of affected vulnerable families by ensuring access to basic shelter

### IMPACT OF CRISIS ON SECTOR:

#### Food security and livelihoods

Prior to the flooding about 280,000 people (one third of the total population) were facing chronic levels food insecurity, including approximately 113,000 in Djibouti city, according to the 2018-2022 IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis. Djibouti's dependence upon external imports and the fact that 21 per cent of the population in Djibouti live in a situation of extreme poverty, makes households highly vulnerable to shocks.

According to the rapid humanitarian assessment data, in Djibouti city 89.5 per cent (17 of 19 neighbourhoods) interviewed report the total amount of food people consume now in the household has decreased since the floods. Some 18 of 19 neighbourhoods recording loss of food stocks as a result of flooding and reported that affected households have less than one week of food stocks left. Key informants shared that daily income for a large part of the most vulnerable population is irregular, many working as daily labors or engaged in small trade and have resulted loss in access to livelihoods for those most at risk. Many local shop owners have also been affected due to heavy flooding. It was reported 89.5 per cent of the households could not purchase needed items, due to extensive flooding and damages to some of the local businesses.

Rural areas are the most vulnerable to chronic food insecurity, with Obock region being classified as Phase 4 (emergency level). The flooding has severely impacted the agricultural production and livestock with the coastal area of Tadjourah and Arta, Obock, Dikhil and Ali-Sabieh all reporting damages and loss to assets. Approximately 600 households have been affected in Tadjourah and Obock regions. Over 96 per cent of the cultivated area (30 to 50 hectares of land) and about 1,000 hectares (50 per cent) of natural grazing pasture for livestock were lost. Reduced availability of livestock feed translates immediately in reduced milk production, and weaker animals prone to diseases. In addition, more than 100 households lost access to their livestock, as more than 200 livestock heads perished during the floods, and the surviving herds are in poor condition. The arrival of the locust invasion was further facilitated by the additional rainfall, which has produced favourable conditions for their reproduction. This occurred at the peak of the crop calendar early phase, resulting in total loss of vegetable, fruit and fodder crops, including free-grazing land, thereby substantially threatening the food security of affected communities and creating a potential for animal starvation.

Flash floods in unprotected watersheds caused the damage or loss of rural community assets to access water such as underground cisterns, water pipelines, and the damage of rainwater

**NON-FOOD ITEMS****NFI****\$1.1 MILLION****Requirements****PEOPLE IN NEED****113k****PEOPLE TARGETED****58k****# OF PARTNERS****6**

harvesting infrastructures, including large reservoirs. At least eight large water catchments (five in the Tadjourah region and three in the Dikhil region) with a capacity between 8,500 and 30,000 cubic meters are in urgent need of repair (cleansing of sediments, rehabilitation of intakes) to ensure food security of rural population living nearby.

**Non-Food Items & Emergency Shelter**

According to the joint assessment, at least 26 per cent of affected people need shelter support, as their homes have been damaged, and many were still hosted by friends and relatives one week after the rains. The most vulnerable flood affected families with partially damaged houses need repair assistance and those who lost their entire houses need new shelters.

Key informants also indicated that many families lost their basic household items, furniture and electric appliances. An estimated 75 per cent (112,000 people) need support to replace key household items as they are forced to prioritize what little income they have on other essential goods. Almost all districts lacked plastic sheeting, blankets and bed sheets.

**PRIORITY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:**

Building on the experience of Cyclone Sagar, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MASS) an existing voucher based programme has been activated to provide vouchers for food and NFI for vulnerable families affected by floods. Vouchers are being distributed to beneficiaries through the social helpdesks (guichets sociaux) and exchanged against food and NFI in identified retailers/wholesalers. While the food voucher will cover a three months' period, NFI will be a one-off distribution to respond to immediate needs following the floods. Priority beneficiaries of the vouchers were 3,500 families who have been registered in support centres where they have been hosted during the first four days of the emergency.

Of the Government-identified caseload of 12,000 households in need of food and NFI, humanitarian partners will aim at reaching 6500 among the most affected, including migrants and refugees, with food and NFI vouchers, and an additional caseload of 2,600 people, including migrants, with an NFI voucher programme. In the affected areas, to avoid duplications with the regular cash distribution social protection programme implemented by WFP through e-voucher, the MASS will crosscheck the data of survey with the social register and ensure that people benefit only from one of the available schemes. As such, it is expected that number of families benefitting from the food voucher system will be reduced starting from the second month of distribution.

Emergency shelter kits distribution will target 3,125 households among the most vulnerable, or 26 per cent of the 12,000 families recorded by MASS. Priority will be given to flood-affected families among migrants and host communities with very low or no income, with elderly or people with disabilities within the household.

In rural areas affected by the floods and the locust infestation, the government, through MASS and with support from partners, is providing immediate assistance to 1,000 rural households. Food security partners will provide additional agricultural inputs (vegetable seeds and fodder) for an additional 2,000 households most affected by the locust infestation in Obock, Ali-Sabieh, Dikhil, Tadjourah and Arta Regions; and asset rehabilitation for 660 vulnerable rural households.

**Contacts**

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**Humanitarian/development nexus**

Recurrent flooding highlights the need for ensuring that vulnerable households have access



to shelter repair and rehabilitation that integrates gender and environmental considerations. Careful examination of material choices will need to be assessed for suitability from a range of perspectives, including availability, usability, durability, and microeconomic benefits so that synergies can be established that support local production techniques with income earning opportunities for recipients through participation in the construction process as appropriate. Where possible, supplies for shelters should be derived from indigenous and salvageable materials, only so long as they do not exacerbate environmental concerns.

The establishment of safe spaces where affected communities could take shelter in case of natural disaster is a priority. Many infrastructures identified as collective centres, however, have been flooded or damaged. This includes 12 community development centres which registered damages (roofing, structure, sanitary facilities, equipment, etc.) because of the flooding, and need a longer-term rehabilitation fully integrating the 'building back better' concept.

A similar approach will need to be incorporated in the restoration of assets focusing on repairs to key infrastructure such as fences, water pumps, pipelines, well rehabilitation (10 in Tadjourah and Arta) through livelihood support, which will focus on labour-intensive cash-based programmes aimed at ensuring repairs of basic rural infrastructure, including drainage systems. In addition, during the 12 months period, a in depth assessment of the damages of large water catchment and underground cisterns, will be required in specific areas of the Dikhil and Tadjourah regions, for the benefit of an estimated 2,400 households. The result of the assessment will help outline and estimate the costs of future actions to take.

Partners will work with Government line ministries to propose improved flood management systems, including in remote rural areas and agricultural land where people reported significant losses of livestock and assets. This will also include the establishment of an early warning systems for movement of livestock ahead of predicted rainfall and working with farmers on better to cope with future floods.

**\$50K****Sector requirements****COORDINATION****COORDINATION STRATEGY:**

- To ensure that humanitarian action is guided through a coordinated national level emergency response mechanism that responds to the urgent life-saving needs of people affected by the floods in Djibouti for the next three months. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator existing national coordination mechanisms will be strengthened in support of the Government led response.

**PRIORITY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:**

- Ensure a coordinated humanitarian response working in partnership with the Government of Djibouti.
- Assist the National Disaster Management Agency and International Humanitarian Community with response planning and monitoring.
- Strengthen humanitarian coordination mechanisms and strategies required at national level to respond to the floods and post-flood effects.
- Support the Government of Djibouti and international partners in resource mobilization.
- Promote complementarity between the humanitarian response and longer term development programmes.

# GUIDE TO GIVING

There are multiple ways to give to this flash appeal including the modalities listed below.

## DONATING THROUGH THE DJIBOUTI FLASH APPEAL



Donors can contribute directly to aid organizations participating in the international humanitarian coordination mechanisms in Djibouti, as identified in this Flash Appeal. For a full list of contacts and information on humanitarian activities included in this plan, as well as information on humanitarian activities throughout the country, please:

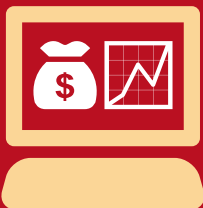
**Contact the sector focal points identified in this appeal.**

## CONTRIBUTING THROUGH THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY FUND



The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a fast and effective way to support rapid humanitarian response. CERF provides immediate funding for life-saving humanitarian action at the onset of emergencies and for crises that have not attracted sufficient funding. Contributions are received year-round.

**[www.unocha.org/cerf/donate](http://www.unocha.org/cerf/donate)**



## REGISTERING AND RECOGNIZING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank you in advance for your generosity in responding to this urgent appeal. OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its purpose is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and expose gaps in humanitarian plans. Please report yours to FTS, either by email to [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org) or through the online contribution report form at <http://fts.unocha.org>