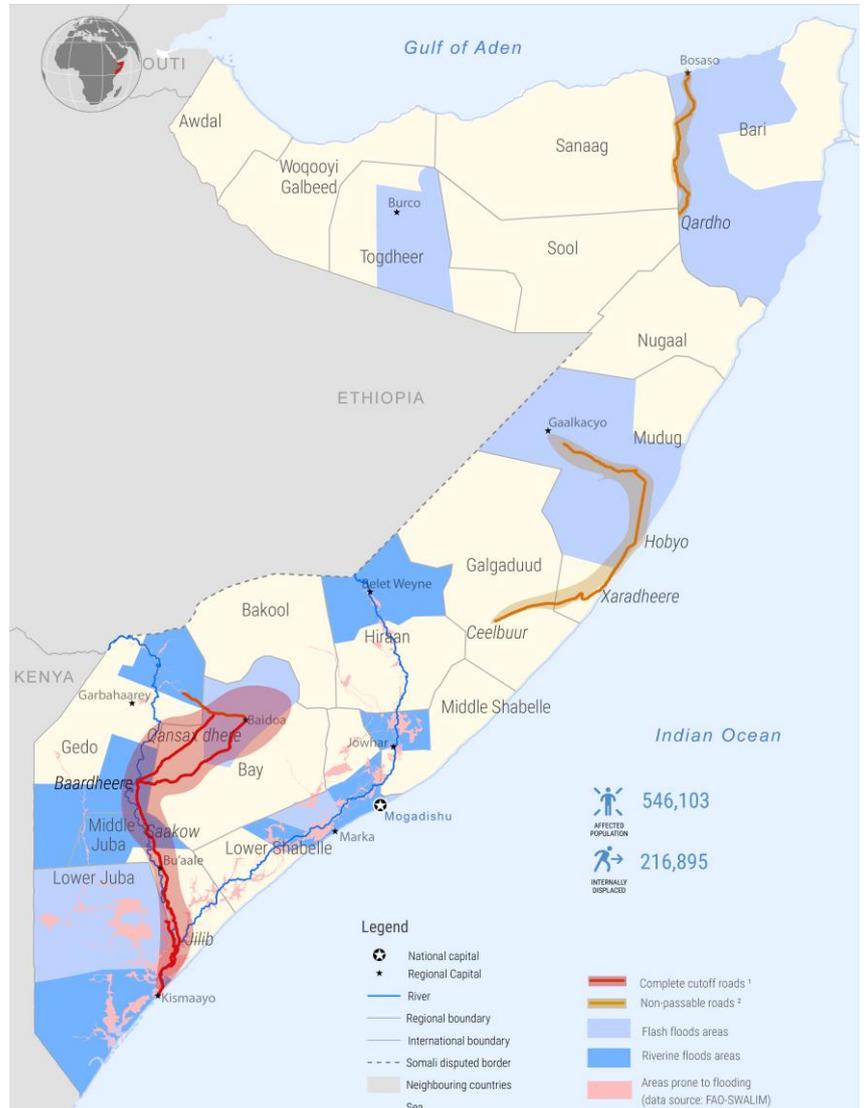


### Situation Overview

The number of people affected by flooding in Somalia has risen to 546,103, of whom 216,895 people have been displaced from their homes and 16 others killed since the *Gu'* rains started in early April. At least 27 districts are inundated; the worst being Belet Weyne in Hiran region where riverine flooding has displaced more than 115,000 people, according to the district flood taskforce. This includes about 91,000 people who have been displaced from the four sections of the town and 23,220 people from 23 riverine villages. The flooding resulted from a sharp rise in the level of the Shabelle river following heavy rains in Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands. According to the taskforce, more people were fleeing their homes as river levels rise. As of 10 May, the river levels reached 7.93 meters which is 0.37 meter below the bank full level of 8.30 meters

Low lying areas of Belet Weyne town such as Hawotako section and Koshin sections are acutely affected. In Laabka, Shaah-Macaan, Dhagaxjibis, Dhuurta and Kutiimbo areas, most residents, have been displaced. According to the district flood taskforce, most people who have fled their homes are moving to higher ground in the nearby villages of Hiran Bile, Ceelgaal and Faaf gumare, Xudulay area. While many were expected to move to Ceel Jaale A and B where people who were displaced by floods in 2019 sought refuge, this has not happened largely out of fear of elevated risk of COVID-19 in crowded areas. There are concerns that the flooding may also result in increased cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera.



### River breakage in Jowhar

In Jowhar district, further down river Shabelle in Lower Shabelle region, the taskforce estimates that more than 17,300 people were affected by the river breakage and flash floods that occurred in 12 villages. Reports indicate that homes and agricultural infrastructure such as canals and river gates has been damaged, and crops destroyed. The forecast<sup>1</sup> for the coming week indicates increased rainfall in the southern regions as well as the Ethiopian highlands. More rain is expected in the Juba and Shabelle river basins, while there will be a slight reduction in the northern regions. Moderate to high flood risk is likely to persist through mid-May, threatening urban and riverine populations and low-lying areas. Cases of AWD and cholera are likely to increase. Already, 90 new AWD cases were reported in Doolow, Jubaland, on 9 May.

<sup>1</sup> FAO/SWALIM Somalia Rainfall Forecast. 7 May 2020.

The rains have intensified at a time that Somalia has confirmed over 1,000 cases of COVID-19<sup>2</sup> and is working with partners to contain the spreading pandemic. The country is also facing the worst desert locust infestation in 25 years with new swarms reported in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug states. Despite these threats, funding for humanitarian operations in Somalia remains very low. As of 10 May, the revised [2020 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP) is only 16 per cent funded (US\$200 million out of \$1,1254.3 million).

## Impact of heavy rains, floods and needs

Apart from widespread displacement and reported deaths, the heavy rains and flash flooding levels have damaged infrastructure, inundated homes and farmland, and heightened the risk of AWD and cholera.

**Somaliland:** According to the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Somaliland, compared to the average of past years, the total amount of rains in April were particularly high in some areas, including Beer (237 mm), Ga'anlibah (197 mm) and Burco (145 mm); as well as Geeddeeble (360 mm) in Woqooyi Galbeed region. Most of the other regions of Somaliland have so far received moderate-light rains.

**Puntland State:** Puntland authorities estimate that US\$40 million is needed to support humanitarian response and restore Qardho town where flash floods on 27 April killed eight people, displaced over 22,000 people and affected 48,000 others. Shallow wells and four boreholes that supply water to the town were also damaged and or are contaminated. The road between Qardho and Bossaso was cut for several hours on the 28 and 30 April after heavy rains damaged some sections, which has disrupted commercial transportation. The road from Bossaso supplies essential goods including imported foodstuffs to Puntland, parts of Galmudug and Hirshabelle. On a positive note, the rains have contributed to regeneration of pasture and recharge of water points.

**Galmudug State:** The Galmudug flood task force estimates that 12,000 people were displaced by floods in Bacadweyne, Hobyo district, following heavy rains on 2 May. Two boys were killed, and 25 other people injured. In addition, 133 goats have been killed and about 80 per cent of the shops in the town damaged by that downpour. In south Gaalkacyo, flashflooding that followed the heavy down pour has displaced an estimated 6,840 IDPs. In Dhuusamarreeb, flash flooding killed four children and displaced 2,400 people in Waxaracade village. Partners report that there the displaced people need shelter and NFIs.



*A family leaving flood inundated Belet Weyne town. Photo: OCHA*

**Hirshabelle State:** As of 10 May, more than 115,000 people in Belet Weyne district – about half of the total district population of 232,000 people<sup>3</sup> - have been displaced from their homes. More displacements are anticipated from villages and towns along the Shabelle River as river levels continue to rise. The flood taskforce in Belet Weyne district has identified initial priority needs among people who have been affected by floods including clean drinking water, emergency latrines, food, health and nutrition, shelter/ NFIs, protection and security. The taskforce members have set up communication channels with village management committees to share information.

**South West State:** On 5 May, a water canal in Golweyne village of Marka district in Lower Shabelle caused an overflow flooding the village. An estimated 20,000 people were affected and need emergency shelter, NFI kits, water and sanitation and mosquito nets. WFP<sup>4</sup> reported that trucks carrying food supplies to Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions are stranded in Baidoa town waiting for rains to subside and impassable muddy roads to dry up. In Baidoa, key food commodities including rice, sugar and vegetable oil are running out of stock, reportedly, because wholesalers and retailers are unable to replenish their stocks as trucks bringing in supplies from Mogadishu are stranded in Yaaqbarwayne town (140 km from Baidoa). Food prices are also rising in Bay and Bakool regions because road transport has been disrupted. To date, an estimated 134,000 people have been affected by floods in South West State including 50,000 people in Lower Shabelle region and some 83,000 people in Bay region.

<sup>2</sup> As of 10 May 2020

<sup>3</sup> UNFPA Population Estimates., 2014.

<sup>4</sup> WFP Joint Market and Supply Chain Update, 25 April-3May 2020.

**Jubaland State:** River flooding has inundated 600 farms along Dawa river farmland between Doolow and Belet Xaawo districts of Gedo region, inundating over 10,000 hectares of onion and other vegetable plantations that were to be harvested between June and July. This will have impact on the livelihoods of riverine communities and supply of food to Doolow and Belet Xaawo, among other markets, and may result in further increase in prices. According to the local farmers' association, an estimated crop value of about \$20,000 was destroyed by Dawa river flooding. Ongoing heavy rains and river flooding have affected more than 5,000 people in Baardheere and Luuq districts in Gedo region. Shallow wells in Balet Xaawo town have been flooded potentially polluting water sources for 20,000 families. Some 200 families were displaced in Doolow and continued rains are likely to see more displacement in the towns of Doolow, Luuq, Buurdhuubo, Baardheere, Sakow and Buaille. There is a reported increase of AWD in Doolow with 90 new cases reported on 9 May.

## Humanitarian coordination and response

Humanitarian partners and authorities are scaling up their responses and have reached 157,470 people with life-saving assistance across the country. UNHCR has provided 780 NFI kits and distributed 480 in Qardho and 300 in Baidoa. Another 5,404 NFI kits are available in different locations including Belet Weyne, Baardheere, Kismayo, Qardho, Baidoa, Bardale.

In Puntland State, a weekly inter-agency coordination forum has been activated in Qardho town. The Food Security Cluster has provided food, food vouchers and cash transfers to an estimated 40,000 people in Qardho town so far. This includes WFP rations for two months for 2,500 households and unconditional cash transfers from DRC for 16,200 people. Other assorted foods have been distributed by the Puntland authorities and a local NGO partner. The Shelter Cluster, supported by UNHCR, UNICEF, NRC, DRC, IOM, and Puntland government, has reached about 15,000 people with emergency shelter and non-food items. The Nutrition Cluster with UNICEF support has reached about 19,000 vulnerable women and children with nutrition supplies. The WASH Cluster supported by UNICEF and Save the Children International has reached about 48,000 people with assorted supplies. Health Cluster partners with support from the Puntland Ministry of Health, WHO and UNFPA have sent assorted medicines to Qardho.

In Galmudug State, hygiene kits were distributed to 360 flood-affected households in Xarxaar IDPs settlements in south Gaalkaacyo district. A borehole in Cabud waaq which will serve 1,320 households from the adjacent IDPs settlements, has been rehabilitated. Mercy USA has provided some health and nutrition services. Initial indications are that about 80 per cent of the displaced households in Bacadweyne need food, shelter, NFIs and WASH assistance.

In Hirshabelle, a partner has distributed hygiene kits to 250 households in Shirkaneco village particularly those displaced from Lebow and Garash villages. The kits contain a jerrycan, a basin, a mosquito net and a bar of soap. The same partner is trucking water for 250 households for one-week. Save the Children International is chlorinating 44 water sources in Belet Weyne town. Some 20 drums of chlorine powder (45 kg each) is being distributed to 44 water vendors on a monthly basis with the intention of preventing and containing AWD/cholera and COVID-19.

In South West State, the WASH Cluster trained 42 staff from partners on prevention of AWD and chlorination, and is continuing WASH projects in Afgooye, Baarawe, Marka, Kurtunwaarey districts in Lower Shabelle including emergency water trucking, rehabilitation of water infrastructure and latrine construction. The Shelter Cluster is distributing non-food items (blankets, plastic sheets, mats, soap, jerry cans, kitchen sets) to 12,000 people in Afgooye, 38,000 people in Baidoa and 13,500 people in Baardale.

Jubaland State authorities have mobilised emergency food assistance consisting of 39 MT of assorted food for 500 flood-affected households. The food supplies were sent on 5 April through a sea route as roads remain closed due to the flash floods. The shipment also included 2,150 iron sheets for repair of damaged houses in Kudhaa, Madhawa and Jula islands. As of 10 May, the Lower Juba regional cluster has distributed 3,000 hygiene kits in Kismayo and Dhobley.

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