

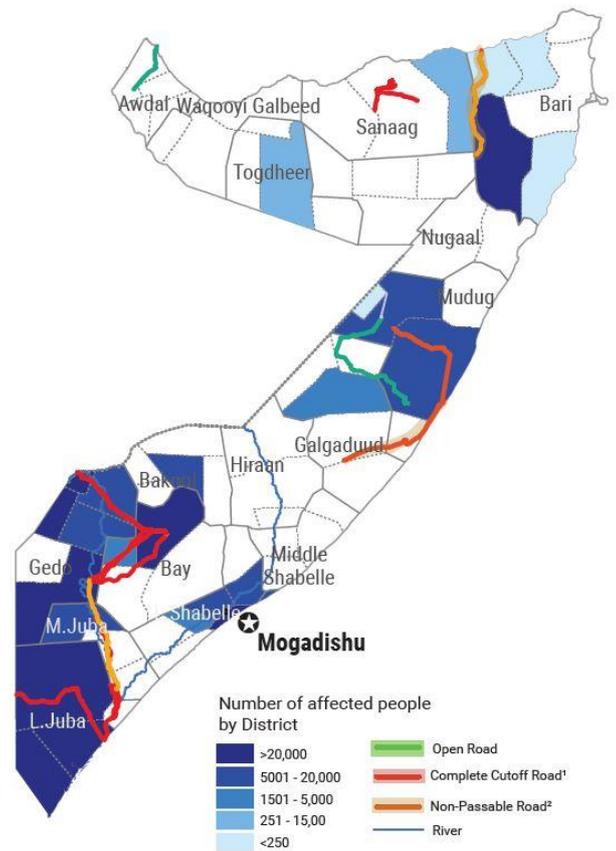
Situation Overview

Flood waters started receding in some areas of Somalia, as the seasonal *Gu'* (April-June) rains decline. In Belet Weyne district, Hiraan region, where 240,000 people including 11,400 IDPs were displaced, flood waters started receding on 19 May. The district was the worst affected after the Shabelle river burst its banks. Twenty-five riverine villages which were submerged since 10 May are drying up and farmers are preparing to take advantage of the moist soil and start planting. In the downstream areas of Middle Shabelle such as Jowhar district, where riverine flooding affected more than 98,000 people in 37 locations, gradual recession of flood water is reported.

Along the Juba river, the water level is at bank full in some parts of Gedo region such as Baardheere, Doolow and Luuq. Downstream areas of Saakow, Buaale, Jilib and Jamame districts are flooded. However, a gradual drop in water levels was reported. Across Somalia, flash and riverine floods have affected nearly a million people, displaced 412,000 and killed 26 people in 29 districts. Large areas of cropland and pasture have been inundated, roads damaged and IDP shelters destroyed. According to the WASH Cluster, the flooding has also increased the risk of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera in affected regions.

FAO/SWALIM¹ forecasts a significant reduction of rains across Somalia from the week of 24 May, with cumulative rainfall of up to 50 mm confined mostly to coastal parts of Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle regions. This week, the high to moderate flood risk along the Juba and Shabelle river¹ is likely to persist due to continuing high flows from upper catchments. On the other hand, vegetation conditions and overall water availability have tremendously improved throughout Somalia, a huge boost to the key livestock and farming sectors in the country.

The floods coincide with the increasing COVID-19 case numbers and a resurgent desert locust infestation, creating a triple threat for Somalia. As of 23 May, with limited testing capacity, Somalia has confirmed 1,594 COVID-19 cases with 204 recoveries and 61 deaths. At the same time, large swarms of desert locusts have been reported in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug. Despite the tripe threat, funding for the humanitarian response remains low with the revised [2020 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan](#) around 20 per cent funded.



Impact of heavy rains, floods and needs in various locations

The *Gu'* seasonal rains have left behind a trail of destruction and exacerbated humanitarian needs in an already complex humanitarian situation in Somalia. Gaps in emergency shelter, non-food items (NFIs), emergency food and WASH response remain high.

Puntland State: Some areas of Puntland have experienced a reduction in rainfall in the past week. However, on 14 May, heavy rains accompanied by thunderstorms affected an estimated 50,000 people, the majority of them IDPs in Gaalkacyo town

¹ FAO/SWALIM; Somalia Rainfall Forecast. 21 May 2020.

Galmudug State: The state has seen reduced rainfall this week. During the reporting period, some heavy to moderate rains accompanied by windstorms were reported in Cadaado and Xeraale in Galgaduud region destroying property. In Cadaado, five IDPs settlements hosting 12,000 people have partially or completely lost their shelters and household items, as did about 4,200 people from the host community. The rainstorms further damaged about 1,500 shops, four IDP schools and 450 latrines. In Xeraale town, the storms brought down telecommunication masts and partially damaged six houses. The road linking Gaalkacyo to Hobyo and other outlying villages such as Wisil and Bacaadweyne re-opened after the rainwater dried up.



A humanitarian flight being loaded at Mogadishu to deliver aid to Belet Weyne. Photo: WFP

Hirshabelle State: Reports from the upper stream villages indicate that the Shabelle river level significantly receded. The Belet Weyne Flood Task Force estimates that 80 to 85 per cent of

the town and 30 riverine villages were inundated by floods caused rising water levels on the Shabelle River water, displacing about 240,000 people in the town and neighboring villages since 6 May. According to the CCCM and Protection clusters, the floods affected 14 IDP sites in three different villages, displacing 11,394 IDPs. In Bulo Burto, the river floods displaced 19,494 people in Indhaceel, Bagabeso, Wadajir and Haji Bube villages. A reduction of rainfall along the Shabelle basin, which extends into the Ethiopian highlands, for the last one week, will further reduce the risk of flooding as the water recedes gradually.

South West State: As of 17 May, water levels in several villages of Afgooye district (Mashani, Wagadi and Majabto) and sections of Qoryooley and Marka receded, which could allow the possible return of displaced families should there be no rains in the coming days. Three major riverbank breakages in Afgooye and Golweyn canal were reportedly closed by community volunteers supported by local organisations. Access on major roads improved as flood waters recede, but secondary routes remain impassable. Commercial trucks ferrying commodities that were stranded on the Mogadishu-Baidoa road have now reached Baidoa. An estimated 144,212 people were affected by floods in the state including 54,720 in Lower Shabelle region, of whom about 26,000 were displaced; and 89,492 people in Bay region.

Jubaland State: According to preliminary findings by flood impact assessment teams, over 57,000 people were affected by flash floods in Kismayo district, notably in Kismayo town and Abdille Birole, Yontoy, Bula Gudud and Gobweyn locations. Over 2,200 of the affected people were displaced while 32 houses and 269 latrines were damaged or destroyed. In the past week, communities have reported rising river level above the moderate flooding levels in Buaale, Saakow and Jilib districts in Middle Juba region. A local partner reports that over 17,000 people in 12 villages in Saakow district were affected by river flooding. Farms along the river were inundated, destroying food and cash crops.

Humanitarian coordination and response

Humanitarian partners and authorities reached at least 255,000 flood-affected people with life-saving assistance across the country. The recently activated Logistics Cluster has published a map of [Flood Affected Roads](#) which will be updated as the situation evolves. Due to flood-related damage to runways in the worst-affected areas, UNHAS utilized resources from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) to mobilised an Mi8 helicopter to support the delivery of urgent relief items, which arrived in Mogadishu on 15 May. The Logistics Cluster will coordinate the use of these airlifts on behalf of the Government and humanitarian partners.

To respond to the increased risk of AWD/cholera, especially in Hiraan, Banadir and Lower Shabelle regions, the WASH Cluster scaled up life-saving assistance and prevention activities. In April, the Cluster provided safe water to 55,814 people while 18,653 received sanitation assistance and 383,913 hygiene promotion supplies particularly hygiene kits. A WASH and Health Clusters technical working group convened to discuss prevention and response to possible water- and vector-borne disease outbreaks in hotspots areas. The Health Cluster established a new Cholera Treatment Center at the Eljalle neighborhood of Belet Weyne for case management. In addition, rapid response teams from the Ministry of Health and WHO closely monitored the situation, strengthened surveillance and provided decentralised treatment.

In Galmudug, KSRelief donated 234 MT food to 2,600 vulnerable households (15,600 people) in several locations through a local NGO. Each household receiving 90 kg which is enough to last a month. The food included rice, sugar, spaghetti, dates, wheat flour, beans, and cooking oil. Critical gaps remain in WASH, shelter, and NFI responses.

In Hirshabelle State, an inter-agency rapid assessment was carried out between 12 and 19 May by Save the Children (SCI), Danish Refugee Council, Islamic Relief, Development Action Network, Relief International (RI), CESVI, Great Hope Foundation, HIWA, HIDIG and OCHA. The assessment found that the floods affected 30 villages and damaged 159 irrigation channels as well as 30 schools. Over 3,561 hectares of land was inundated. More than two thirds of affected people need shelter assistance and half need latrines. From 14 May, the organisations SCI, HIDIG, SYPD, AADSOM, WARDI, RI and UNICEF in collaboration with the state Ministry of Energy started distributing trucked clean water to 100,002 persons in 25 flood-affected IDP sites. Islamic Relief Somalia distributed Ramadan food packs to 530 flood-affected IDP households in Belet Weyne and women Hygiene kits for 450 households as well as NFI kits to 500 households in two IDP sites. Partners are planning to provide unconditional cash transfers, cash-based transfer and general food distribution to more than 120,000 people in 35 locations.



A rescue team from Boore island where families were marooned. Photo: Warsame

In South West State, the Shelter Cluster partners distributed 12,220 NFI kits in Baidoa and Hudur with funding support from Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and UNHCR. In addition, some 2,058 NFIs and emergency shelter kits were distributed in Afgooye and Marka. CCCM Cluster is providing site level drainage repairing and backfilling of low land and supporting IDPs to temporarily relocate to higher grounds. As of May 10, the CCCM partners have reached 71,200 IDPs with flood response activities.

In Jubaland State, the American Refugee Committee trained 20 health staff from Dhobley on AWD/Cholera prevention and management and distributed 450 hygiene kits. On 18 May, the Ministry of Energy and water started distributing water vouchers to 3,000 households. IOM conducted hygiene promotion activities and water chlorination in Doolow. In Luuq in Gedo, the authorities mobilised emergency food assistance for 500 families. The authorities have also distributed 2,150 iron sheets for repairing damaged houses in Kudhaa, Madhawa and Jula islands. The Lower Juba regional WASH cluster distributed 3,000 hygiene kits in Kismayo and Dhobley districts.

In Banadir region, following an assessment of the IDP situation in settlements affected by the recent floods, WASH Cluster partners are planning to construct 300 latrines in Daynile and Kahda districts, 500 handwashing facilities in Daynile and Kahda districts and as well as distribute hygiene kits to 2,000 households.

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