

## OCHA Flash Update #5

Humanitarian impact of heavy rains | 15 May 2018

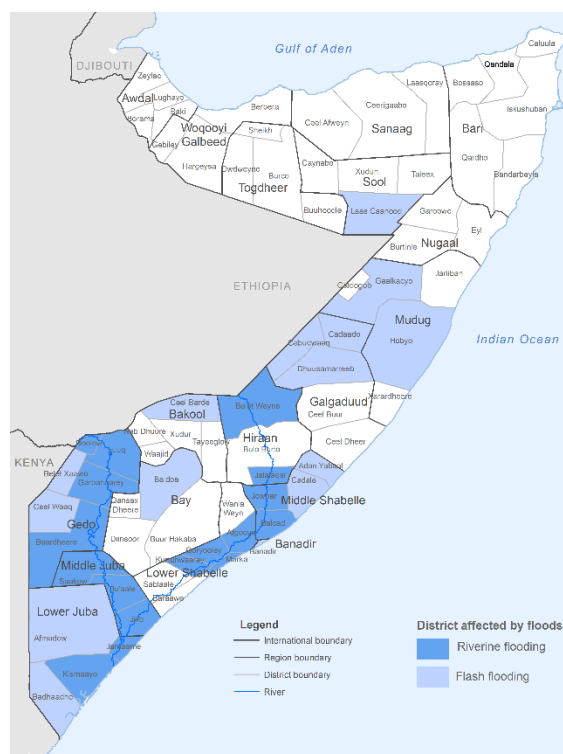


# OCHA

### Situation Overview

Moderate to heavy rains continued to fall across Somali and the Ethiopian highlands, resulting in increased river flooding, along the Juba and Shabelle rivers and localized flash flooding. Since early April, heavy rainfall has marked the end of prolonged drought across much of the country and has supported crop development and the regeneration of pasture and water resources. Rainfall totals so far are some of the highest since 1981, equivalent to between 130 and 200 per cent of the annual average, according to the FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). However, the flooding has also led to fatalities, massive displacement, and damage to infrastructure and cropland, compounding an already fragile humanitarian situation. FEWS NET and FSNAU estimate that 700,000 people in flood-affected areas will need livelihood support through to September, roughly 300,000 of whom are likely to require emergency food assistance.

SWALIM projects that moderate to heavy rains will continue in the coming week, leading to continued overflow in the Juba and Shabelle rivers. Somaliland and Puntland will record the highest amounts of rainfall, according to the forecast, which will address shortfalls in those areas. Flash flooding is likely to impact the coastal areas of Puntland (Bari and Nugaal) and central (Mudug and Galgaduud) regions.



### Humanitarian impact and needs

Flash and riverine flooding is compounding an already fragile humanitarian situation, with more than 5.4 million people already in need of assistance due to drought and conflict. An estimated 772,500 people have been affected by the flooding and more than 229,000 are displaced, according to the UNHCR-led Protection & Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). According to the FEWS NET and FSNAU, the food security outcomes are likely to be more severe than previously projected for many families in areas affected by flooding, especially in riverine areas of Hirshabelle, Jubaland and some agropastoral areas of South West State. In these areas, several roads are now impassible and trade flows are expected to slow, driving food prices higher. Cases of AWD/Cholera are expected to rise as flood waters stagnate and remaining clean drinking water sources are compromised.

In Hirshabelle State, one of the worst-hit areas, around 295,000 people have been affected and more than 145,000 people forced from their homes due to the floods. Another massive wave of flooding hit Belet Weyne on 11 May, worsening the already severe situation. The flooding destroyed roads, bridges, houses, farms with crops, and other infrastructure. At least two people were confirmed dead, while others are still missing. Latrines, water, shelter, health and food assistance are urgently needed.

In South West State, the rainfall continued over the past week, but with less intensity. However, rising water levels in the Shabelle River have been reported and the risk of flooding persists along the Afgooye corridor. Around 162,000 people have been affected in the state, with more than 2,900 displaced. At least 52 suspected cases of AWD/Cholera have been recorded over the past weeks. More than 30,000 people need emergency shelter assistance.

In Jubaland State, some 250,000 people have been affected by the floods, around 70,700 of whom are displaced. Destruction of crops, shelters and latrines have been reported. In Gedo, the river Dawa flooded and destroyed the water points in Balet Xaawo, leaving the entire town without access to clean water. In Baardheere, one of the most affected towns in Gedo region, over 600 farms have been affected and agriculture equipment was also damaged. At least 8,000 families in riverine villages along the Juba River have lost their crops. In Lower Juba, Lake Dhera overflowed

and flooded the towns of Afmadow, Diif and Dhobley. Latrines were washed away into shallow wells and water pans, contaminating the only water sources for Afmadow and Diif. The price of food supplies is increasing, as major supply routes are impassible and access is limited.

Most areas in Galmudug State did not receive significant rainfall over the past week, according to the Disaster Management Agency (GADMA). However, the stagnant waters in the affected areas is leading to an increase in mosquito breeding and worsening hygiene conditions in IDP sites. More than 6,700 people have been affected by the floods, around 5,200 of whom are now displaced. At least 57 confirmed cases of malaria have been reported in the town of Caabud Waaq. WASH and Protection assessments were conducted in the Mudug and Galgaduud regions.

No significant rains were received in the Banadir region last week, but AWD/cholera cases continued to spike due to a lack of access to safe water and sanitation facilities. 132 cases of AWD/Cholera - 70 per cent of them concerning children under the age of two - have been reported over the past two weeks. Since January, 899 AWD/Cholera cases, and five resulting deaths, have been reported.

### **Humanitarian coordination and response.**

Authorities and humanitarian partners have continued scaling up the response to flood-affected communities. They are providing life-saving assistance, including food, WASH, health, nutrition, shelter and sandbags where needed. The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan is only 22 per cent funded and this lack of funding continues to impact the ability of humanitarian partners to mount a robust flood response and to sustain ongoing operations. Additionally, logistic constraints and access issues have impacted the ability of humanitarians to respond comprehensively.

In Hirshabelle State, the flood task force continued to provide assistance to flood-affected communities. The rescue of people trapped or isolated by flooding continued in Belet Weyne. Over 400 people were evacuated using boats provided by humanitarians in the Ceel Jaale settlement. A plant that purifies up to 40,000 litres of water was installed in the site. A medical team was deployed to conduct an assessment at Ceel Jaale, to identify the health needs of the affected people. Partners are building temporary latrines in Luqbari, Ceel Jaale, Shirkanace and Banaaney. Food assistance reached 192,163 people, nutrition nearly 11,000; WASH 106,600; health 31,400; and shelter 32,700 people.

In South West State, humanitarian partners are conducting assessments on access to water, sanitation and hygiene services, and stepping up hygiene promotion services in IDP settlements. Food security assistance reached 163,284 people; nutrition assistance reached nearly 25,500; WASH 54,820; health 52,244; and shelter 57,534 people.

In Jubaland State, despite access constraints, humanitarian partners continued to reach people in affected areas. Hygiene promotion and water treatment continued in Balet Xaawo in Gedo. Cash-for-work activities and the reparation of river breakages were conducted in Afmadow. An estimated 144,300 people were reached with food assistance, 30,100 with nutrition assistance, 38,000 with WASH, 42,730 with health services and 28,140 with shelter assistance.

In Galmudug State, nearly 264,097 people received food assistance, 21,600 nutrition assistance and 35,400 were reached with WASH services. In the Banadir region, more than 289,000 reached by food assistance, 50,100 with nutrition assistance, health 98,512 and 22,800 with shelter aid. However, needs are on the rise. In Puntland, authorities in north Gaalkacyo are draining stagnant waters in the affected areas.

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