



Ministère de l'Intérieur
République de Djibouti

Djibouti Flash Update #2

Humanitarian impact of flooding | 28 November 2019



UNITED
NATIONS
DJIBOUTI

1. Highlights

- *Massive rains triggered flash floods in Djibouti: the equivalent of 2 years of rainfall occurred in in one day. Houses, infrastructure, schools and community buildings were damaged.*
- *Some 150-250,000 people were somewhat affected, countrywide. Over 5,000 people hosted for several days in collective centres.*
- *The government is leading relief operations and activated the emergency plan (ORSEC). Humanitarian partners, civil society and armed forces stationed in Djibouti are supporting the response.*
- *A rapid needs assessment is ongoing, countrywide, with the participation of 50 staff from government, UN and NGOs.*

2. Situation Overview

Some 150-250,000 people have been somewhat affected by heavy rains across the country, mostly in Djibouti town. Nine people (7 children) reportedly lost their lives. Some 300 families have reportedly been affected in Tadjourah region, and 400 in Arta area. Information from other areas is being sought. Initial government estimates indicate that some 20,000 families (100,000 persons) are likely to need some form of humanitarian assistance. With the current weather forecasts, which predicts heavy rains until the end of November, the number of affected people could further rise.

According to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS) more than 5,000 extremely vulnerable people, including 2,000 children under five years of age, were hosted in 12 collective centers (schools, community development centers) across Djibouti and have since returned to their home or their families' ones. Many people are being hosted by friends and relatives across the city. While water pumping reached household level, in some dwellings the water is returning.

Despite substantial decreases of the rainfall, and while water pumping operations managed to considerably reduce stagnant water, in some areas of the city the water is resurfacing. The Ministry of Interior, the national road agency, the hydraulic department and FAO are investigating the cause of this phenomenon and find solutions. Road access remains difficult in some areas.

In Djibouti town, at least 14 schools were flooded to different degrees, with damages to roof, electricity, sanitary facilities and equipment reported. Similarly, some eight Community Development Centres suffered similar destructions. In Tadjourah, roadways have been damaged. The Wadi-Marsaki dike has withstood the high floods. The Djiboutian Road Agency (ADR) has reported that the Sagallou dike has been completely damaged and is seeking support for reconstruction.

3. Response

The toll-free number (1516) activated by the Government for the victims to report problems and seek assistance has been activated received more than a hundred calls per day since the emergency plan was activated.

As part of the ORSEC plan, after four days in community centres, affected families returned to their respective homes or to friends and relatives by MASS through an emergency program of



1. Arthba - Djibouti city on 27/11/19



Ministère de l'Intérieur
République de Djibouti

Djibouti Flash Update #2

Humanitarian impact of flooding | 28 November 2019



assistance and social support. This program will also help in: establishing a list of affected families by site, focusing on vulnerable groups (children under 5 years of age, people with disabilities and the elderly); identifying primary emergency needs, other support (food and non-food emergency kits) and budgeting; and mobilization of resources and kit acquisition plan. MASS also offered 3500 meals per day for evacuees, who also received support from different ministries, NGOs and the Djibouti Red Crescent.

The civil society and the private sector mobilized and generously provided assistance to the flood victims through donations of food and non-food items and opening their homes to welcome the affected population.



2. Rapid Assessment of Needs - Djibouti city on 27/11/2019

Under the Prime Minister and the government members supervision, the security forces and the army, the waste management department, national road agency, and the 'large public work' entity, together with the civil society have been engaged in pumping operations, as well as road repairs, cleaning of schools and community centres, mosques and public spaces to allow for the situation to return to normalcy.

Additional funds are urgently needed to scale up the response.

Coordination – The Executive Secretariat for Disaster Management (SEGRC) supports the Ministry of Interior to coordinate partners' efforts. MASS oversees the response operational coordination. The United Nations Country Team continues to support the government in the response. The Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) assist the SEGRC in coordinating operational as well as monitoring and evaluation activities. OCHA dispatched a senior staff to support the response, IOM is providing a full time Information Management Specialist and ECHO civil protection has deployed expertise in-country. EU has triggered request for satellite imagery, and the French Armed forces provided maps and photographic support.

SEGRC, with the UN support, is leading an emergency needs assessment. Fifty volunteers composed of UN staff, members of SEGRC, Ministries of the Government of Djibouti and International NGOs were dispatched to different neighborhoods of Djibouti. Other teams are doing a similar exercise in the regions. The main purpose of this assessment is to ascertain the scale and scope of the flooding, determine the number of affected people and the immediate and long-term needs of the affected communities. This assessment will help to identify priorities by location and sector, which will increase the optimization of the response.

Education - Water is still being pumped out from some of the schools and a cleaning campaign will take place in 28 November, so to reopen the schools on 1 December. The Minister of Education called for a meeting with partners to share information on the school buildings situation on 27 November. Several schools are still under water and are currently being cleaned, and a more thorough assessment of losses is required. MoE requested partners help to elaborate for a plan to ensure that rehabilitation and future reconstruction consider disaster preparedness and risk reduction with help of international experts.

Food – MASS has distributed hot meals for over 3,500 persons daily for the people displaced in collective centres. WFP has distributed food for 2,000 children in collaboration with MASS and is gearing



Ministère de l'Intérieur
République de Djibouti

Djibouti Flash Update #2

Humanitarian impact of flooding | 28 November 2019



up to start a food vouchers program.

Health - WHO has delivered five emergency health kits (for 50,000 persons for three months) for health centers and hospitals, 30,000 lt of drinking water, ad 30,000 mosquito nets.

Shelter & NFI – The State Secretariat for Youth and Sport (SEJS) delivered mattresses, blankets, and food items to flood victims. IOM distributed 400 hygiene kits for women, 500 blankets, 300 plastic mats, and kitchen utensils for 100 families. UNHCR some 500, jerry cans, 200 tents and 1,000 mattresses. UNDP provided 3,000 blankets and 300 plastic tents. Japan has delivered 810 mattresses, 200 tents, 132 jerricans, 810 covers through the Japan Cooperation Agency International (JICA) in response to the floods.

Water and Sanitation (WASH) - UNICEF has delivered 1,900 hygiene kits, 300,000 water treatment tablets. UNDP is launching a massive cleaning campaign together with the Ministry of Environment and civil societies with the goal of protecting the marine life from the floating wastes and debris filling water drainage systems. It also provided four 2,000-lt water reservoirs.

In addition to government equipment for water pumping from flooded areas, which deployed immediately after the rains, UNICEF provided 27 motor pumps, WHO another 10 and UNDP an additional eight for water evacuation. UNDP provided some 4,000 litres of diesel and FAO 5,000. IOM provided technical support to repair broken pumps. The French armed forces deployed two heavy duty motor pumps, that were put at the disposal of the Minister of Interior (Mol). The Chinese armed forces provided one motor pump to Mol and are ready to provide further technical support. The Japanese contingent is also supporting water evacuation operations.

For further information, please contact:

Idyle Mousse Iye | Resident Coordinator's Office | idyle.mousse@un.org

Ahmed Mohamed Madar | Executive Secretariat for Disaster Management | ahmedmadar1965@gmail.com