1. Situation Overview

- Heavy rains fell between 21 and 28 November 2019 with a peak between 22 and 23 November in Djibouti. The equivalent of two years of precipitation occurred in one day. New rains between 7 and 10 December made access to the affected areas more difficult. 11 people (including 7 children) lost their lives due to flooding and a landslide due to heavy rainfall.

- Some 250,000 people have been affected throughout the country and 150,000 (including migrants and refugees) are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. In Djibouti alone, 200,000 people (21% of the total population) have been affected and 120,000 are in need of emergency assistance. It is estimated that about 14,000 migrants are directly affected in flooded areas.

- A rapid humanitarian assessment conducted by the government and humanitarian partners was conducted on 27 and 28 November 2019 with the participation of 50 staff from various ministries, the Executive Secretariat for Risk and Disaster Management (SEGRC), the City Hall, the Djibouti National Institute of Statistics (INSD), the UN, and NGOs. Major concerns include sanitation, food security, non-food commodities/shelter and health, particularly among the most vulnerable groups among those affected by the disaster.

- A door-to-door survey targeting 12,000 households was conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity to identify and assist the most affected households in flood-affected areas. The Ministry of Education also conducted a rapid assessment of schools with 27 schools, including 14 in the regions, damaged by the floods.
2. Strategic response

As early as November 23rd 2019, the Minister of the Interior activated the ORSEC plan and invited humanitarian partners to participate in the crisis cell held at the Djibouti City Prefecture. The government organized the response in close collaboration with the United Nations. A series of crisis meetings were held, including two meetings under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister with the ORSEC Plan Technical Committee. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFA), together with the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Social Affairs and Solidarity, launched a call for funds from the government through an emergency response action plan on 11 December 2019. Response operations were reinforced between 7 and 10 December due to the new rains.

At the request of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, a team from the OCHA Regional Office in Nairobi was deployed as well as a United Nations Disaster Coordination and Assessment Team (UNDAC) to strengthen existing coordination. The UNDAC team also included 2 members of MapAction UK, who provided their expertise in mapping and information management. To date, US$1.6 million has been allocated by UN agencies and the RC has negotiated an allocation of US$3 million from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); Other countries and regional institutions such as IGAD, Austria, Egypt and Italy,
France and Japan, have contributed with regard to food and family kits (NFIs) such as mattresses, blankets, tents, hygiene and water purification kits, water tanks and medical kits.

The Minister of Interior of the Republic of Djibouti and the RC will travel to Geneva to present the situation and launch a substantive appeal by the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to partners and Member States at a conference to be held at the Palais des Nations on 17 December 2019. On this occasion, the Minister and the RC will also have the opportunity to explain the ongoing actions aimed at integrating humanitarian actions with rehabilitation and development efforts (Humanitarian-Development Nexus).

3. Operational response by sector

**Health:**

WHO provided the Ministry of Health with 5 health kits for 50,000 people in affected health centers and hospitals, 30,000 water treatment tablets and 30,000 mosquito nets. Donations in medical kits were also provided by Italy, France and Egypt.

**Food & Non-food items:**

**Djibouti City:** The Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS) organized a food distribution for 3500 people during the four days of travel in the 12 reception centres, in collaboration with the Djibouti Red Crescent. MASS, in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF, has begun distributing food and NFI vouchers (worth US$243) in Djibouti city. The distribution of vouchers, which began on 25 November 2019, has so far reached 3,500 vulnerable and flood-affected families. MASS requested WFP to assist an additional 3,000 affected households through the voucher distribution system, for a total of 6,500 people to be covered. The Rotary Club in Djibouti provided 6,000 bottles of 1.5 L mineral water/bottle and 700 boxes of 400 g/box powdered milk for the benefit of people affected by the floods. Italy and Egypt also provided support for NFI.

In the Tadjoura Region, a food kit and NFI were distributed to 305 households. MASS, in collaboration with ONARS, sent food kits (rice, oil, etc.), blankets, mats, tents to 50 rain-affected households. In the Arta region, a food kit and NFI were distributed to 650 households. In support of the government, JICA and the Japanese armed forces distributed 810 mattresses, 810 blankets, 132 water tanks, 200 tents in the sub-prefecture.
Water & Sanitation:

37% of the affected population requires drinking water. WHO delivered 30,000 bottles of water to the Ministry of Health on 24 November 2019 for distribution in flooded areas. UNICEF distributed 900 hygiene kits to 3,500 families displaced in the host sites. In continuity, Unicef has signed a partnership with the Djibouti Red Crescent to distribute the 300,000 water treatment tablets and the remaining 10,000 hygiene kits. France, Italy and Austria also assisted affected households by providing 600, 100 and 200 family hygiene kits respectively.

The water pumping in the streets of Djibouti City was immediately provided by the Civil Protection, the Sanitation Directorate and the Prefecture of the City of Djibouti, supported by the foreign armed forces (France, China, Japan). This operation is still ongoing in some areas. The Ministry of the Interior received from UNICEF 27 motor pumps, WHO 10 motor pumps and UNDP and FAO a diesel contribution of 4,000 Litres and 5,000 Litres respectively. IOM deployed a technician to repair 5 damaged motor pumps.

UNDP provided 4 2,000-litre water tanks and conducted an awareness campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Civil Society to clean up the city and protect marine life.

Education:

Across the country, 27 schools have been assigned to different levels, including 14 schools in the interior regions. Some children have lost their school kits and uniforms. Some schools served as reception centers for the victims, which led the Ministry of Education to suspend school activities for a week. Despite the damage suffered in these schools, recovery was ensured as of December 1 through clean-up campaigns of the affected schools and those used as reception sites.

Coordination

The Ministry of the Interior, with the support of the SEGRC, is in charge of risk and disaster management and coordination of efforts from partners. The MASS ensures the operational coordination of humanitarian assistance and social support. The RC Office assists the SEGRC in coordinating operations and evaluation activities.

The UNDAC team with MapAction has set up technical support to improve the management and distribution of the stock of in-kind contributions in the 2 ONARS depots. The MapAction team trained SEGRC staff on their methodology for working, maintaining the database and preparing maps. They also transferred all the work done during their intervention.

The World Bank and the United Nations System will support the government to conduct a post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA), which began on 14 December. Training on the conduct of the PDNA was conducted by experts from the World Bank and UNDP for an intersectoral group with the participation of the various government departments, the World Bank and United Nations agencies.