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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 10,000 people have reportedly been affected by floods in Marka district, South West State, after two riverbanks broke on 1 August
- New Multi-Hazard Early Warning Center in Mogadishu to help Somalia prepare for and respond to disasters
- Upsurge in access constraints reported in first half of 2020 with 141 incidents recorded up to July compared to 151 in the whole of 2019
- \$15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has been allocated to support a series of anticipatory action interventions in Somalia over the next 18 months



Flooded street in Afgooye, South West State. Photo: OCHA

### FIGURES

# of food insecure people (FSNAU: Feb. 2020)	4.1m
# of people food insecure at emergency and crisis levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4, Feb. 2020)	1.3m
# of people in food stress (IPC Phase 2, Feb. 2020)	2.8m
# of children projected to be malnourished	1.0m
# of internally displaced persons	2.6m

### FUNDING

**\$1.01 BILLION**

Requested in the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

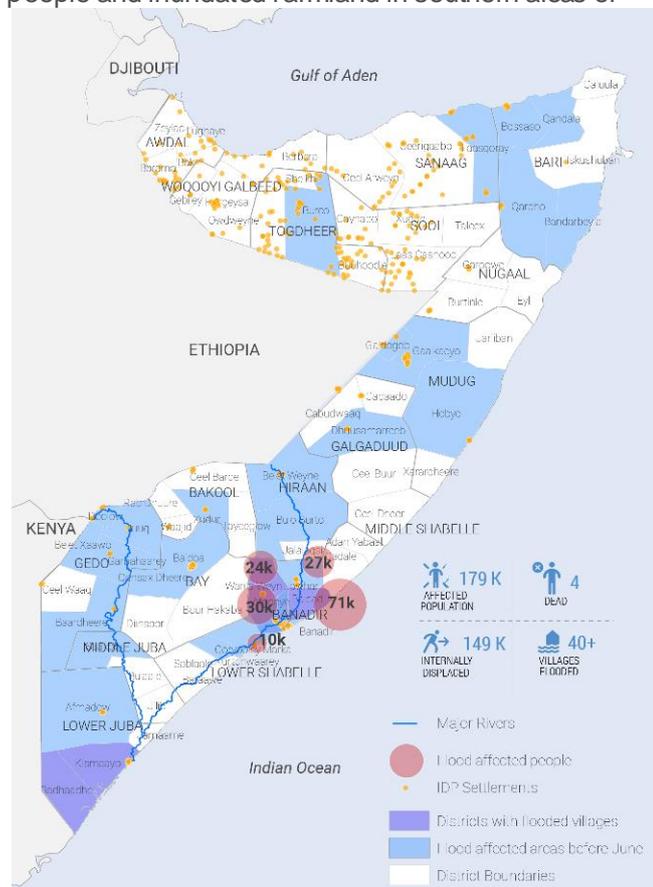
**\$527.4 MILLION**

Funding received for the 2020 HRP (52.2 per cent funded).

## Thousands more displaced by riverine floods in southern areas of Somalia

Riverine flooding has displaced more people and inundated farmland in southern areas of Somalia. On 1 August, partners reported that over 10,000 people were reportedly affected by floods after two rivers broke their banks in Janaale, Marka district in Lower Shabelle region, South West State. Houses and crops were damaged. Some 6,000 people who were displaced by the floods have moved to IDP sites in Buufow Bacaad, Gandawe, Shalanbood and KM50 town of Marka district. Reports further indicate that 27,000 IDP families in eight settlements of Alyasir Camp in KM50 are at risk of flooding as their shelters are located in low lying areas.

There are indications of reducing rains in Lower and Middle Shabelle, which could mitigate the flood risk. In Belet Weyne district, Hirshabelle State, the river level had by 2 August reduced noticeably. In Banadir region, about 800 flood-displaced families from Afgooye district arrived in Kahda district during the last week of July. Afgooye and Wanla Weyn districts in Lower Shabelle are the worst affected, with an estimated 70,000 people affected since 5 July, of whom 42,000 are displaced. The floods also destroyed houses, other properties and large swathes of farmland with crops.



Map of Somalia showing areas affected by recent floods. OCHA

In many areas of southern and central Somalia, the ongoing *Hagaa* season rains have been heavier than previous years, with strong winds and lower temperatures reported. Overall, more than 191,800 people have been affected by flash and riverine floods between May and July in Hirshabelle, South West and Jubaland states. Nearly 147,579

Source <http://fts.unocha.org>, 5 August 2020

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hectares of farmland has been inundated in 100 villages in Balcad, Jowhar and Mahaday districts. In Banadir region, four IDPs died and hundreds have lost shelters.

### Flooding has worsened the impact of the triple threat

The floods, along with COVID-19 and desert locusts, have significantly changed the humanitarian context in Somalia. Since April, the triple threat has compounded pre-existing vulnerabilities, escalating humanitarian needs and hurting livelihoods – especially for low-income earners and poor families. As a result, at least 3.5 million people are projected to fall into Crisis or Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher) from June to September, with 1 million children projected to be malnourished. Some 2.6 million people remain displaced and nearly 1 million children out of class due to the COVID-19-related closure of schools. At the same time, desert locusts are eating up thousands of hectares of cops and pasture in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug.

Humanitarian partners have ramped up responses to the triple threat. Authorities and humanitarian partners have expanded flood assistance, but gaps remain in WASH, food, shelter and NFI assistance. In Marka district, authorities and partners are relocating affected families to higher grounds. In Afgooye and Wanla Weyn, the Food Security Cluster has provided one-month food rations to 2,000 households. The WASH Cluster has provided hygiene kits to 2,000 households and trucked water for 700 households. WHO has deployed primary health and rapid response teams to support health services. Further support is needed for Wanla Weyn as the response has mostly targeted Afgooye district.

As COVID-19 cases exceed 3,200, partners have boosted testing and treatment capacity. Risk communication and community engagement has reached about 10.9 million people. Responses to desert locusts have equally been expanded. FAO and regional authorities have sprayed at least 31,086 hectares in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug, saving about 62,100 MT of staple foods. Overall, 279 humanitarian organisations are implementing programmes in all 18 regions of Somalia. In May, 2.3 million people received food assistance, a more than three-fold increase from previous months, while 1.8 million were reached in June.

## Federal Government opens Multi-Hazard Early Warning Center in Mogadishu

The new system will enable the Somali Government to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.

The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management of the Federal Government

of Somalia opened on 5 July the National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Center in Mogadishu, which is expected to help prepare for and respond to disasters. The then Deputy Prime Minister HE Mahdi Gulaid, who spoke at the launch of the center, said it is a milestone for the government and people of Somalia. Equipped with both technology and manpower, the center has four major sections:

- Data collection and multi-hazard research.
- Monitoring and early warning.
- Information sharing.
- Multi-hazard early response unit.



Source: Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management

The new system will enable the Somali Government to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning. Early warning systems are integral components of any nation's disaster risk management strategy, enabling national governments and local communities to build community resilience before disasters strike.

Somalia's National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Center will produce regular information products on rain and temperature forecasts, weather forecasts, early warning on floods and droughts, cyclones, as well as projections on desert locust movement and disease. The early warning system aims to notify people of an impending natural hazard so that those vulnerable are aware of the potential impact in order to respond appropriately and minimise damage.

Climatic variability is a major problem for Somali societies and economies, where the majority of the population is still largely rural and directly and indirectly dependent on livestock and rain-fed agriculture. An example is the widespread flooding between 2018 and 2020 in the areas along the major rivers.

## Restricted Access Continues to Hamper Aid Delivery in Somalia

The first half of 2020 has seen an upsurge in access constraints with 141 reported incidents up to July, compared to 151 in 2019.

Somalia's volatile security context combined with poor infrastructure continues to create a challenging operational environment for humanitarian partners and hampers their ability to conduct assessments and deliver aid. The first half of 2020 has seen an upsurge in access constraints with 141 reported incidents up to July, compared to 151 in the whole of 2019.

Violence against humanitarian workers has led to 11 being killed, 11 wounded and 23 kidnapped, with seven of them being kidnapped and subsequently murdered in a single incident. At the same time, the UN compound in Mogadishu has been subjected to six separate mortar attacks, with one UN contractor wounded. The *Gu* rains resulted in flooding, limiting the movement of humanitarian aid by commercial contractors and, in southern and central areas, compounding restricted access along key routes where the security situation already limits movement, despite repeated promises by authorities to open up roads.



Violence against humanitarian workers is a constraint to humanitarian operations in Somalia. Photo: OCHA.

COVID-19 restrictions, including the suspension of international and domestic flights (with the exception of humanitarian cargo) which was lifted on 3 August, the closure of borders and most notably, social distancing restrictions added an extra layer of complexity, resulting in the reduction, suspension or cancellation of humanitarian projects and programmes. The first half of 2020 also saw four incidents involving aircraft carrying humanitarian aid, with two crashing on take-off or landing, one being hit by ground fire and the fourth being shot down with the loss of all six people on board. On a positive note, on 9 May, Al Shabab released a female international NGO worker kidnapped by the group in Kenya in November 2018. They continue to hold one other international staff member.

## Scaling up response to the triple threat of COVID-19, floods and desert locusts

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Emergency Relief  
Coordinator Mark  
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The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock has agreed to allocate up to \$140 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support a series of anticipatory-action interventions over the next 18 months, starting with \$15 million in Somalia. This pilot aims to combat the projected increase in humanitarian needs due to food insecurity caused by locust infestation, flooding, and the COVID-19 pandemic by providing a targeted response through five key clusters and interventions.

The cumulative impacts of the triple threat and other shocks are expected to lead to severe food insecurity. Therefore, \$4.6 million (31 per cent) of the CERF grant was allocated to the Food Security Cluster to mitigate this impact by supporting the most at-risk with unconditional cash transfers, cattle vaccination and desert locust control operations in Somaliland, Puntland and Banadir region.

The remaining \$10.4 million will provide an integrated Health, Nutrition and WASH response with overarching protection services. Some \$4 million (27 per cent) was allocated to

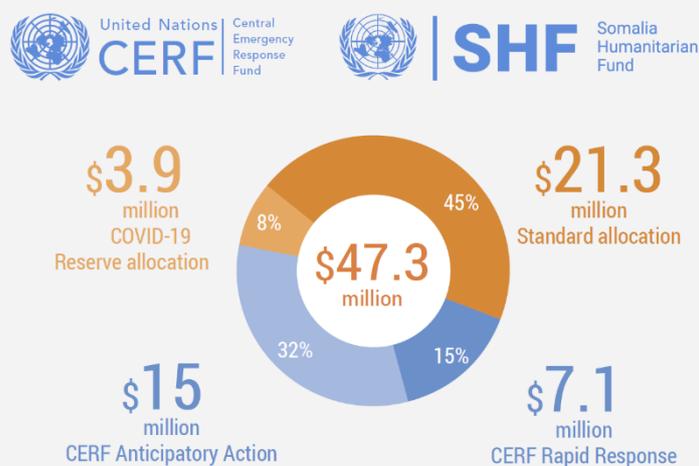
ensure proper WASH services through rehabilitation of boreholes and wells, conducting cholera prevention measures through disinfection of shallow wells, and provision of hygiene kits in Galgaduug, Mudug, Lower Juba, Bakool and Lower Shabelle region. Meanwhile, \$5 million (33 per cent) will support Health Cluster interventions and strengthen readiness for disease outbreak detection and response ahead of malaria, measles, and cholera outbreaks. This will include distribution of essential medicines, health kits, vaccination and provision of medical supplies, training and deployment of rapid response teams, and training of volunteers, health workers, district officers, medical staff and community social mobilisers on the ground.

Approximately 7 per cent of funds will be directed to Nutrition Cluster interventions to improve maternal and child nutrition and prevent chronic and acute malnutrition through provision of nutrient supplies, screening and counselling. Target locations are Bari (Bossaso), Nugaal (Garowe); Middle Shabelle (Jowhar, Balcad); Lower Juba (Afmadow, Kismayo); Bay (Baidoa, Dinsoor). Some \$300,000 has been allocated to deploy protection monitors and apply monitoring procedures that will help maximise the impact of the anticipatory actions. This will ensure safe, dignified, equitable and meaningful access to humanitarian assistance, and essential services and resources, in communities at risk from the triple threat.

As of 5 August, \$710 million has been mobilised for the Somalia operation, of which \$527 million has been channeled through the Humanitarian Response Plan and \$183 million for activities outside the appeal. Overall, current funding levels for humanitarian interventions and activities cannot meet the actual needs on the ground, with 5.2 million people still in need of humanitarian assistance. Donors are urged to generously contribute to sustain response efforts as the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate.

#### 2020 HUMANITARIAN POOLED FUNDS' ALLOCATIONS

BY FUND (million \$)



Data as of 27 July 2020

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