

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cyclone Sagar leaves a trail of destruction
- Flooding worsens fragile humanitarian situation
- Some IDPs in Baidoa return to take advantage of the Gu rains.
- Pooled funds boost response but gaps remain.



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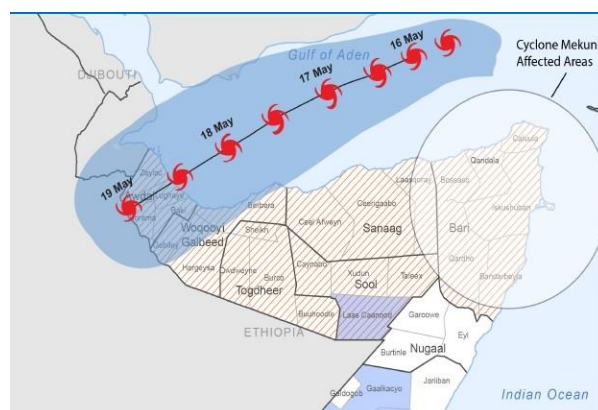
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FIGURES

# of people in need	5.4m
# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	2.7m
# of people Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	0.5m
# of children projected to be malnourished	1.2m
# of people displaced internally by drought since November 2016	1m
# of people in protracted internal displacement	1.1m

Cyclone Sagar leaves trail of destruction

Communities in the coastal areas of Somaliland and major portions of Awdal district, as well as some coastal communities in Puntland are still reeling from the impact of tropical cyclone Sagar. The cyclone, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in Somalia, left an entire year's worth of rain in a matter of hours, according to SWALIM. It left in its trail death, floods and strong winds, as well as the destruction of farmland and infrastructure. Thousands of livestock were killed and civilians displaced. The impact of the cyclone has affected communities that were still recovering from prolonged drought.



Somaliland's Lughaya, Zeylac and Baki districts, in Awdal region, bore the brunt of the impact; some 51 villages in five districts were affected overall. The disaster management authority, NADFOR, estimates that 49 people were killed and 70 others are still missing. Nearly 168,000 people were directly affected. Some 277 hectares of land have been destroyed in the affected villages. Key infrastructure, including roads, fishing boats, medical facilities, boreholes and water wells were damaged. Over 80 per cent of community shelters have been destroyed and 33 schools were affected. Priority needs include food, WASH, health services, shelter and non-food items. The heavy rains and disturbance of tracks have hindered humanitarians' ability to access some affected areas.

In Puntland, flash floods in Bari left three people dead and damaged the road linking the town of Bossaso to areas in the south. Humanitarians have reported that 3,600 families were affected. The worst-affected areas include the coastal towns of Bareeda, Caluula, Gumbax, Murcanyo, Xaabo and some parts of Qandala. Houses and fishing boats were washed away. Agricultural land was also swamped. Access to most of the affected areas is a challenge. Another tropical storm, Cyclone Mekunu, formed in the northern Indian Ocean on 21 May but did not cause much damage in the coastal areas of the Bari region of Puntland where it was felt. Meanwhile, armed clashes in Tukaraq town in Sool region have displaced nearly 2,500 households. This, is compounding the humanitarian situation and further hampering assistance.

Stepping up response in the north

Mr. Peter de Clercq, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia visited some of the affected areas in Somaliland and Puntland from 27 to 30 May, and pledged to support response through the SHF over the coming weeks. He also visited the people affected by the cyclone

FUNDING

\$1.5 BILLION

requested in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

\$420 MILLION

Total humanitarian funding received towards the 2018 HRP

(Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>, 30 May 2018)

An inter-agency assessment was conducted from 23 and 26 May in Somaliland to establish the impact of the cyclone.

at a UNFPA-supported hospital in Borama, the capital of Awdal region and met with the regional Governor and community leaders.

In Somaliland, humanitarians, in collaboration with the local authorities, have established response hubs in the towns of Gargara Bari, Zaila and Baki to coordinate assistance for the districts of Lughaya, Zaila and Baki. The governments of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Djibouti have also provided assistance, including air assets. An inter-agency assessment in Somaliland was conducted from 23 and 26 May, to establish the impact on affected communities. Aid agencies are working closely with local authorities to boost life-saving assistance, including WASH, health and nutrition services and shelter as well as supporting the repair of damaged public service facilities such as schools and clinics.

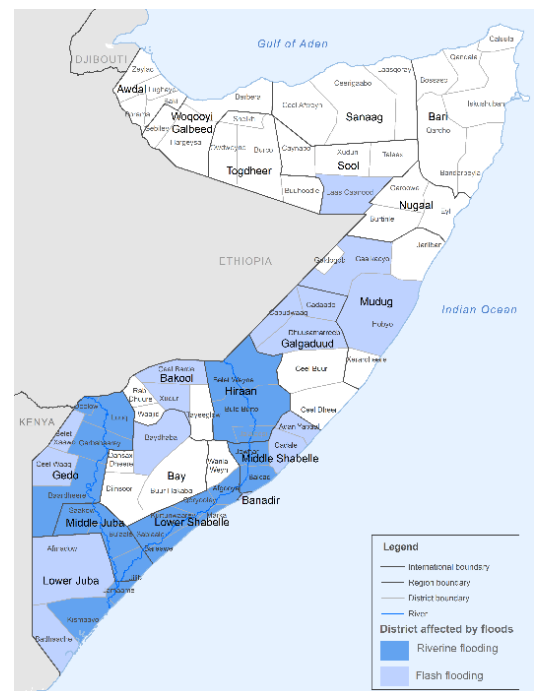
In the midst of this natural disaster, humanitarians have to also respond to populations displaced by the armed conflict between Somaliland and Puntland in Tukaraq. Food security partners are providing vouchers to nearly 6,000 people for three months. Livestock treatment is ongoing in the districts of Taleex, Xudun and Laascaanod. WASH partners are targeting 360 displaced households with clean drinking water. Ninety temporary latrines are under construction. Mobile health teams have been set up for some 360 families. Meanwhile, health partners are carrying out surveillance for disease outbreaks and have prepositioned medical supplies, just in case. A lack of adequate funding and access and logistical challenges continue to hamper efforts to reach the people in isolated areas.

Flooding worsens fragile humanitarian situation

After record levels of rainfall between late March and May, Somalia has now emerged from a prolonged period of drought. However, there was so much rain that the scales have unfortunately tipped in the other direction, with record levels of flooding across the country. Flash flooding in South West and Galmudug states and the Banadir region, as well as severe river flooding, along the Juba and Shabelle rivers, have led to fatalities, mass displacement and damage to infrastructure and cropland, compounding what was already a fragile humanitarian situation.

Overall, an estimated 795,000 people have been affected by flooding across south and central Somalia, with more than 230,000 temporarily displaced, according to the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). Hirshabelle and Jubaland are the worst-hit states, with an estimated 295,000 and 250,000 people affected, respectively. There have been 21 confirmed fatalities, including nine in Hirshabelle, four in Jubaland and eight in Banadir. Flash flooding has affected 13 districts, while a further 16 have experienced riverine floods. The flooding has destroyed roads, bridges, houses, farms and other infrastructure in these areas.

The heavy rains have affected areas that were already highly vulnerable, due to drought, conflict and marginalization. Some immediate priority needs include shelter, non-food items, the provision of emergency education services, food assistance to displaced communities and health and nutrition programmes in flood-affected areas. Other priority areas include establishing transport links through which family protection and humanitarian assistance can be delivered, as well as the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.



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To minimize the impact of river flooding, authorities in Hirshabelle and South West states have repaired river breakages along the Shabelle river.

Scaling up flood response

Despite limited resources, humanitarians are working with authorities to scale-up the flood response. To ease the logistical difficulties and access restraints, the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has deployed a helicopter in support of humanitarian operations, with several other partners sending boats to impacted areas to conduct rescue operations. Partners have reached more than 794,000 people with food assistance, nearly 150,000 with livelihood support, 81,000 people with shelter, nearly 400,000 with health services, over 300,000 with WASH services and more than 186,000 with nutritional support. These include people targeted through the ongoing drought response in the flood-affected areas.



UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has deployed a helicopter in support of flood response operations. (Photo: UNHAS)

To minimize the impact of river flooding, Hirshabelle State authorities have repaired the Shabelle river breakage in Mandheere, which had caused a further 12 villages to be inundated with water. In South West State, local communities in Lower Shabelle worked together with AMISOM to repair weakened and broken embankments along the same river. The joint effort aimed to protect approximately 10,000 hectares of farmland. Inter-cluster assessments were also conducted in Belet Weyne, Jalalaqsi and Jowhar (Hirshabelle State), while others are still pending due to insecurity and access challenges.

Fears of diseases

With flood waters receding in the Juba River, and in some parts of the Shabelle (mainly Belet Weyne and surrounding areas), there are growing fears concerning the outbreak of waterborne diseases such as malaria and AWD/cholera. The destruction of latrines and the subsequent contamination of water sources in flood-affected areas in Galmudug, Jubaland and South West State states has led to a surge in diseases. Belet Weyne town in Hirshabelle and the Banadir region were already grappling with an AWD/cholera outbreak prior to the floods.

Since December 2017, the Ministry of Health, working with the Health Cluster partners, has been trying to contain an AWD/cholera outbreak which was initially reported in Belet Weyne. Some 3,547 AWD/cholera cases, including 23 deaths, have been reported since December with new cases being reported in areas along the Juba and Shabelle rivers. Due to stagnant flood waters and the resultant increase in mosquito breeding, a total of 4,446 malaria cases have been reported since the beginning of the year, mainly in flood-affected areas. In addition, 5,739 measles cases have also been reported during the same period. This is significantly less than in 2017 due to the vaccination campaigns. Only four per cent of the required \$124 million in funding for the Health Cluster has been provided in 2018.

Limited resources amid growing needs

Humanitarian needs were high before the flooding. An estimated 5.4 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance due to drought, conflict and marginalization. While the rains have brought hope, the lingering effects of severe drought remain. The rains have worsened conditions in overcrowded IDP settlements and elevated the risk of disease.

In an effort to bolster the flood response, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has pledged \$1.5 million, in addition to providing other life-saving supplies. An injection of a further \$5 million was allocated through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Furthermore, more than 20 projects from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund's (SHF) 1st 2018 and 2nd 2017 Standard Allocation rounds have been adjusted or partially reprogrammed to address flooding, and partners are already responding in some of the

Major diseases such as AWD/cholera, malaria and measles are on the rise, amid limited resources. The Health cluster is only 4 per cent funded.

The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has pledged \$1.5 million towards the flood response.



hardest-hit areas. In May, the FGS convened a high-level roundtable event, with representation from affected states plus the Banadir region, to agree on a common plan of action. The flood response plan, which is seeking \$82 million in funding, was also launched at this event. The goal of the plan, which is part of the 2018 HRP, is to mitigate the impact of flooding to avert a larger humanitarian crisis, while simultaneously seeking to capitalize on the agricultural potential that is offered by the rains in order to address the food insecurity, which has been exacerbated by prolonged drought.

The *Gu* cropping season not yet lost, but delayed

In June, rainfall across south and central Somalia is expected to dramatically decrease, allowing flood waters to recede and farmers to continue with cropping, according to the FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). Up to 50,000 hectares of farmland are currently underwater along the Juba and Shabelle riverine areas. Of this, 70 per cent has not been cultivated at all, while the remaining 30 per cent accounts for the pre-*Gu* cropping period, which was negated by flooding. Thus, the coming month is expected to bring reprieve. In areas that were not badly affected by the flooding, based on current crop conditions and the forecasted rainfall in June, it is expected that cereal production will be above the recent five-year average. In riverine areas, based on similar criteria, below-average maize production is expected in June. That said, an above-average off-season maize yield is likely in September. Pasture and water availabilities have steadily increased since April, and livestock conditions have improved to normal in most areas, albeit amid growing fears of disease due to persistent moisture conditions. With medium levels of goat and sheep births in most regions, livestock herd sizes are now recovering. However, herd size is still expected to remain well below average in 2018, and several consecutive favourable seasons will be needed to restore herds to normal levels.

Limited IDP returns as *Gu* rains continue

Ali Aden Yusuf, 49, is a small-scale farmer from Huburka, a village in Bay region in South West State. He was forced to flee his rural home with his family due to severe drought conditions and conflict.

The father of eight, and some of his neighbours, eventually settled in the Wariiri IDP settlement, on the outskirts of Baidoa, a town in South West State, more than a year ago. Wariiri is one of the 377 IDP settlements scattered across Baidoa and surrounding areas, which together host an estimated 269,000 people. Wariiri currently hosts more than 600 people. Life in the settlement was not easy, as assistance did not reach the family as early as they had expected it to. However, being in the IDP settlement with their neighbours from Huburka village gave them a sense of belonging and access to some essentials.

As the *Gu* rains intensified, Ali saw an opportunity to turn the family's fortunes around. Alongside his eldest son, 17-year-old Ibrahim, he joined the growing number of displaced persons who were returning to Huburka to take advantage of the rainy season and cultivate their farms. The rest of his family stayed behind, a common coping strategy employed by families to mitigate risk. It has been three weeks since he returned and Ali has no regrets, despite persistent insecurity in the area. He has started planting his four-hectare farm; he is hopeful that the rains will support cropping activities and that he will soon bring the rest of his family back home.

An estimated 269,000 IDPs are hosted in Baidoa town in South West State.



Members of Ali's family who remained behind in Wariiri IDP settlement. (OCHA)

Food security partners are providing agricultural inputs to take advantage of the rains.

The SHF already channeled more than \$23 million for urgent response in Somalia in the first five months of 2018.

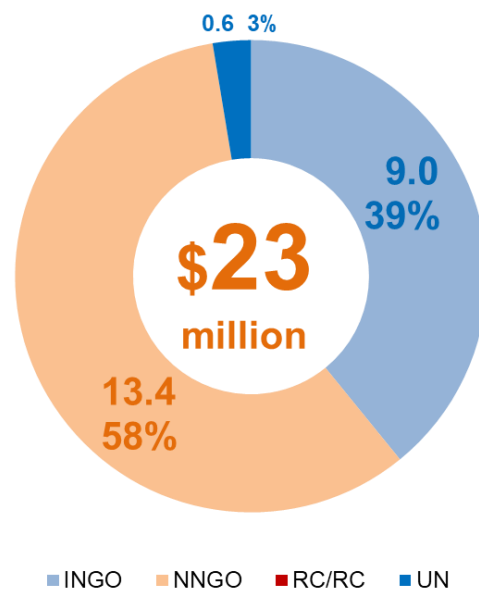
Since early April, Baidoa and its surrounding areas have received good levels of rainfall, which has provided a window of opportunity for drought recovery. Food security partners are providing agricultural inputs (seeds and tools), irrigation and animal treatment with the objective of helping farmers such as Ali to take advantage of the rains. Ali has other plans, including to repair the damaged family home before his family returns to the village. According to the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), between 18 and 24 May, some 495 IDPs left Baidoa, heading home to take advantage of the rains. This marks the second-highest IDP exodus from the town since August 2017.

Pooled funds boost response, but gap remains

The Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) has already allocated or programmed more than \$23 million for urgent response in the first five months of 2018. The bulk of the funding, nearly \$22 million, has been released through the First Standard Allocation for 52 life-saving projects, mostly supporting the work of national and local partners (57 per cent).

Up to 15 projects from the 1st 2018 Standard Allocation, and at least 7 projects from the 2nd 2017 Standard Allocation have been partially reprogrammed or adjusted to assist the flood-affected population in South West, Galmudug and Hirshabelle states. In addition, around \$1 million has been released from the SHF Reserve to support integrated education and child protection interventions which aim to respond to floods in Hirshabelle and Jubaland state. This complemented a further \$5 million allocated to the flood response by CERF, which brings the global emergency response fund's support to Somalia in 2018 to more than \$17 million. While CERF continues to boost the capacity of the UN humanitarian partners to provide critical assistance in the case of unforeseen emergencies across the country, SHF support in 2018 remains focused on non-governmental partners. Some 97 per cent of the SHF funding to date has been channeled through NGOs, of which almost 58 per cent went to either local or national organizations, far exceeding the global target of 25 per cent.

2018 SHF allocations (allocated & programmed)



This is far higher than the global 25 per cent Grand Bargain target from the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, and has only been possible in Somalia due to the SHF's robust accountability systems and investments in partners' capacities through training, monitoring and other assurance activities. The SHF continues to promote the integration of the humanitarian response in 2018 to maximize impact of limited resources. Approximately one third of this year's funds have been channeled through integrated and multi-cluster projects.

By the end of May, the 2018 HRP, which seeks \$1.5 billion to assist 4.7 million people, was only 27 per cent-funded (\$420 million), in addition to some \$190 million reported available resources outside of the HRP. With persistent humanitarian needs, aggregated by flooding, cyclones and conflict in the north, the funding received so far is not sufficient to

sustain on-going operations and to mount a robust flood response.

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