

HIGHLIGHTS

- Strong winds and heavy rains in Puntland leave an unknown number of people dead and thousands affected.
- Outlook for food security remains cautious in parts of Somalia due to erratic rains.
- Humanitarian air service seeks urgent funding to maintain its support to humanitarian activities.



People displaced by heavy rains in Jowhar. Credit: UN Photo/T. Jones

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FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	870,000
# of people in stress	2.3m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	206,000
Source: www.fsnau.org (August-December projection)	
# of internally displaced people	1.1m
# of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen	1m
Source: UNHCR	

Consolidated Appeal

FUNDING

1.15 billion
requested for 2013 (US\$)

48% (551m)
(reported as of 12 November)

Source: Financial Tracking Service <http://fts.unocha.org>

Tropical cyclone hits Puntland coast

Disaster response activated to assess and respond to humanitarian needs

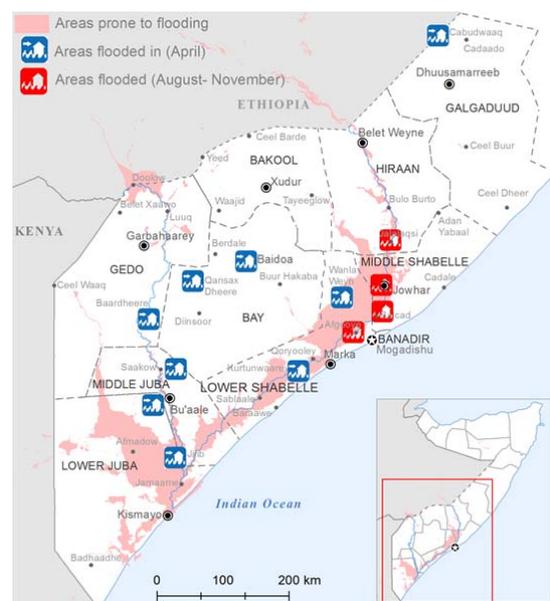
A tropical cyclone made landfall on the north-eastern coast of Somalia on 10 November, creating flash floods and heavy rainfall. The Puntland authorities declared a natural disaster emergency the following day and announced that the storm may have killed 100 people and wiped out large numbers of livestock. Early reports suggested substantial damage to homes, buildings, and other infrastructure in the area. However, communications and road access remained severed in the days following the storm, hampering the collection and verification of information and the delivery of assistance. As the UN and partners conducted an aerial assessment on 15 November to determine the impact of the storm and where the greatest needs are, urgent supplies began to reach some hard-hit areas. In Dangoroyo in Nugal region, medical teams and supplies arrived by road on 15 November. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) system estimates that rainfall in many of the coastal areas on 11 and 12 November nearly equalled the annual amount in 2012, including in Garowe and Dangoroyo.

Erratic downpours and localized flooding

Localized flooding hits hardest in Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle region

Seasonal rains which started at the end of September continue across Somalia. The rains contributed to flooding, especially in and around Jowhar town in Middle Shabelle region, where flooding had already started in mid-August due to rains in the Ethiopian highlands, the source of the Shabelle River.

The flooding in Jowhar district and parts of neighbouring Balcad district was exacerbated by heavy downpours in October and early November. The flooding is estimated to have affected at least 42,000 people in 28 villages, according to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) managed by FAO. About 6,600 people from Bulo Waso, Dhay, Lebiga and Xansholey have been temporarily



Source: FSNAU, SWALIM, OCHA

BASELINE

Population (UNDP, 2005)	7.5m
GDP per capita (Somalia Human Development Report 2012)	\$284
% pop living on less than US\$1 per day (UNDP/World Bank 2002)	43%
Life expectancy (UNDP-HDR 2011)	51 years
Under-five mortality (FSNAU 2013)	0.53/10,000 /day
Under-five global acute malnutrition rate (FSNAU 2013)	14.4%
% population using improved drinking water sources (UNDP 2009)	30%

CLUSTERS

Lead/Co-lead organization

Education	UNICEF SC-Alliance
Food security	FAO/WFP WOCCA/RAWA
Health	WHO Merlin
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF CAF DARO
Protection	UNHCR DRC
Shelter	UNHCR UNHABITAT
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Oxfam GB

displaced, whilst people in the remaining villages have not moved from their homes, but their agricultural land is under water. In addition to the direct impact on people, FSNAU estimated that at least 8,000 hectares of land has been inundated in Jowhar and Balcaad districts. This is about 15 per cent of riverine areas for both districts combined.

Aid organizations continued to support efforts to seal breakages in the river banks, including one in Jowhar town itself and the main breakage in Barrey, 11km north-east of the town. River banks have been reinforced at other locations to prevent flooding. Traditionally, farmers open riverbanks ahead of the rains to irrigate their lands. Barrages are sometimes left open – both due to insecurity and advantages some groups might obtain from breakages at the expense of others. Efforts to close the river breakage distribute aid and chlorinate water sources were hampered by inter-clan fighting due to land dispute east of Jowhar on 9 November.

Emergency response underway to flood-affected people in Jowhar

The Jowhar floods have contaminated water sources, including shallow wells, and damaged latrines. In Jowhar market, the flooding has led to an average increase of 20 per cent in the prices of food commodities such as rice, sorghum, pulses and sugar, since mid-October. However, the price of maize, which is the major cereal consumed in the region, has been stable since September, according to FSNAU. Further flooding could delay planting for the *Deyr* season and negatively affect food security. The clan fighting in November in Middle Shabelle riverine may also affect farm activities and eventually the harvest. Humanitarian partners have provided emergency assistance in the form of household items, emergency shelter, food, water and sanitation to affected families. Nearly 4,000 empty sacks to block the river break and reinforce the river embankment have also been provided. The Federal Government of Somalia allocated US\$50,000 in late September for Jowhar town rehabilitation and relief.

Food security outlook cautious because of erratic rains

Despite localized flooding, the October-December *Deyr* rainy season is still forecast to be below normal, which could result in increased food insecurity, especially where the previous rains underperformed in agro-pastoral areas of Bakool and Hiraaan regions, and the Sool Plateau in the north. The seasonal rains started on time in most of Somalia, but intensity in parts of Somalia and distribution have been poor. The Food Security Cluster is encouraging its members to extend the “lean season” programming by one to two months and possibly expand it to include more vulnerable households. Based on the post-*Gu* harvest assessment released in September, food security partners are targeting about 214,000 people monthly with responses geared towards improving access to food. In addition, 515,000 people are targeted through safety nets until January 2014 and 2.9 million will benefit from livelihood investment activities between September 2013 and January 2014.

Sustainable solutions sought to displacement

New agreement signed for Somalis who want to return home from Kenya

Over 1 million Somalis live as refugees in neighbouring countries, mostly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen and Djibouti. Nearly half a million Somali refugees are registered in Kenya. On 10 November, Kenya, Somalia and the UN refugee agency, UNCHR, signed a Tripartite Agreement to support the voluntary return of Somali refugees. The agreement establishes a legal framework and other support for Somali refugees in Kenya who wish to return to their homeland. The agreement also defines the roles and responsibilities of the three parties in accordance with international standards. This includes the right of any refugee to choose whether to return home in safety and dignity, after they have been informed about conditions on the ground.

Slight increase in returns and slower pace of displacement and evictions

Evictions of displaced persons in Hodan and other districts in Mogadishu continued in October. At least 2,000 households, mainly the host community including 200 orphan children and people with special needs were evicted from Majo area near the airport in the first week of October, according to UNHCR. The Government stopped the illegal

New products on the**OCHA Somalia website:**

Flash Update cyclone:

<http://bit.ly/HSGdhc>

Funding Snapshot:

<http://bit.ly/17sogwm>

Humanitarian Dashboard:

<http://bit.ly/1j6QXUB>

Humanitarian Snapshot:

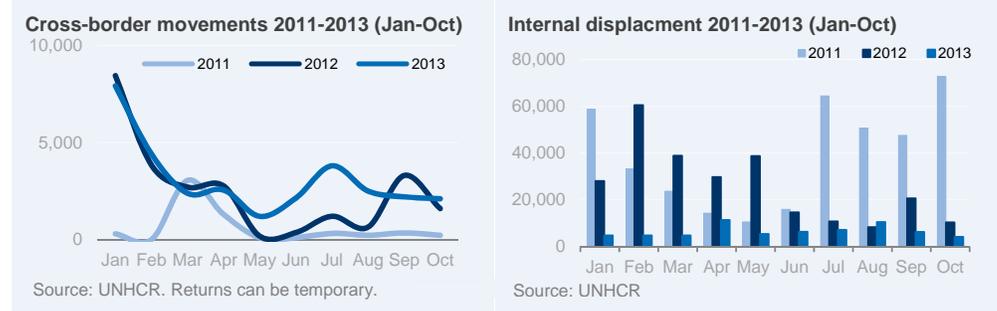
<http://bit.ly/18vyHzo>

Somalia Key Messages:

<http://bit.ly/10viBF>

eviction of 35 blind displaced people and postponed it until the end of the month.

About 4,200 people were internally displaced in October across the country, which is 2,100 less than in September. Reasons for displacement continued to include evictions, insecurity and people's search for livelihood opportunities. The overall number of people crossing into Somalia from Kenya and Ethiopia has increased slightly this year, with some 31,200 people reportedly returning in the first 10 months, compared to 25,000 in the same period in 2012 and 6,000 in 2011. Many of the movements have so far been seasonal or otherwise temporary, since conditions for large-scale permanent refugee returns are not yet in place.

**New site for displaced in Hargeysa aims to improve living conditions**

Local authorities and aid workers inaugurated a new displaced persons settlement in Hargeysa on 31 October. Beginning in November, about 4,900 displaced people living in Mohamed Mooge settlement will be assisted to relocate to the new site, Digaale, where they will have access to improved basic services. Humanitarian partners have started construction of temporary houses made from corrugated iron sheets, sanitation facilities and water storage facilities. Plans to establish a mobile clinic, provision of household items and implementation of livelihood support activities also commenced, however, access to water remains a gap. At the ground-breaking ceremony, the Mayor of Hargeysa acknowledged aid organizations' efforts in supporting the vulnerable communities in Somaliland and pledged continued support in improving living conditions for the displaced.

Operating environment remains constrained**Humanitarian activities curtailed in most southern areas due to insecurity**

The security situation remains unpredictable, especially in southern parts of Somalia, including Mogadishu, with security incidents including armed conflict and asymmetric warfare tactics continuing to curtail humanitarian work. In November, clan fighting in Jowhar in Middle Shabelle slowed down ongoing relief efforts for people affected by flooding. In addition to insecurity related-constraints, physical access, both for humanitarians to reach people and for people to move to access services, has been further constrained by the ongoing October-December *Deyr* rains, which leave many roads impassable, as well as by the tropical cyclone that hit the north-east in November.

Despite operational constraints, the response to the wild polio virus outbreak continued. Somalia has now registered 183 cases and a country-wide campaign carried out between 20 and 26 October 2013 targeted Somalia's entire population, including adults. To reduce the impact of the spread of polio into security compromised areas, vaccination posts have been set up at 299 cross-border and transit points, vaccinating more than 50,000 children every week. Further campaigns are planned for November and December.

Temporary reprieve for remittances to Somalia

The British-Somali transfer company Dahabshil won a further stay in its legal battle to prevent Barclays Bank from closing its account. The High Court in London granted an injunction, which prevents the account's closure until a full trial is concluded. Although a reprieve, the injunction does not resolve the issue. Somali diaspora are a critical source

The physical access is also impacted with the ongoing October-December Deyr rainy season limiting road access in parts of the country.

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of support for families in Somalia, 40 per cent of whom receive remittances, with 75 per cent of the funds used for essentials such as food, health care and education.

Priority areas and funding needs elaborated

Humanitarian funding increases, but appeal still below half funded

The Somalia Consolidated Appeal (CAP) funding coverage for 2013 improved to 48 per cent of the requested \$1.15 billion by mid-November, up from 39 per cent a month earlier. The 2013 appeal is the first of the 2013-2015 multi-year CAP. Due to slow funding levels this year, humanitarian actors have focused on life-saving activities, while insufficient resources have been devoted to the resilience building needed to address widespread vulnerability among the Somali people

In October, humanitarian partners came together to look at the projected humanitarian needs in Somalia for the coming year. The priority focus areas for humanitarian action in 2014 were identified as: a) acute and chronic food insecurity and high levels of malnutrition; b) inadequate and poor basic services; c) violations against civilians; and d) displacement and returns. The main elements of the 2014 strategic direction include a leaner CAP, based on realistic ability to implement, which is contingent on access and technical capacity. Protection and assistance to returning refugees and displaced people will also be given due emphasis. The scope of resilience programmes will be better defined; modalities adopted that ensure gains made are built on and articulate the need to establish an early action trigger mechanism for early warnings on disaster. The revised CAP requirements will be published in December.

Pooled fund replicates project for two-way communication and monitoring

The Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) in October set up a second call centre to obtain feedback from people receiving assistance through projects it funds. The method is employed in parts of Somalia where the challenging operating environment hampers humanitarians' access to directly monitor the delivery of aid or interact with the people receiving it. Monitoring humanitarian programmes in Somalia is similarly difficult due to the remote nature of many locations and the pervasive insecurity. In the initial stage of the pilot, which started in June, over 25 projects across different thematic areas that had received pooled funding last year were targeted. In the current phase, about 30 ongoing and completed projects in Puntland and southern and central Somalia are targeted. About 3,000 people receiving assistance will be contacted and asked about the services provided. The calls will be made based on random samples from the list of all people registered for assistance. The first phase of this exercise will be concluded in January 2014. The feedback helps the CHF to identify underperforming projects so corrective actions can be made and to highlight best practices.

Humanitarian air service seeks urgent funding to maintain support

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operation in Somalia is currently facing a funding shortfall with current funding enabling it to continue the service only until the end of January 2014. The significant size of the humanitarian aid community in Somalia and staff based in neighbouring Kenya, but travelling to Somalia on regular missions, combined with a precarious security situation, demands a continued and augmented humanitarian air transport capacity. UNHAS has regular flights to eight locations of which only two are served by domestic commercial airlines that do not yet meet United Nations standards for staff travel. The UNHAS operation in Somalia transports about 2,300 passengers and 13 metric tons of cargo every month. About 155 humanitarian organizations, as well as the donors and the diplomatic community operating in Somalia, rely on the operation.

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