

## Highlights

- The estimated number of people affected by flooding following Cyclone Sagar has increased to 25,000 to 50,000 and two fatalities have been reported.
- Flood waters are now subsiding but several areas remain inundated.
- Response is underway, under the leadership of the Government.

## Situation Overview

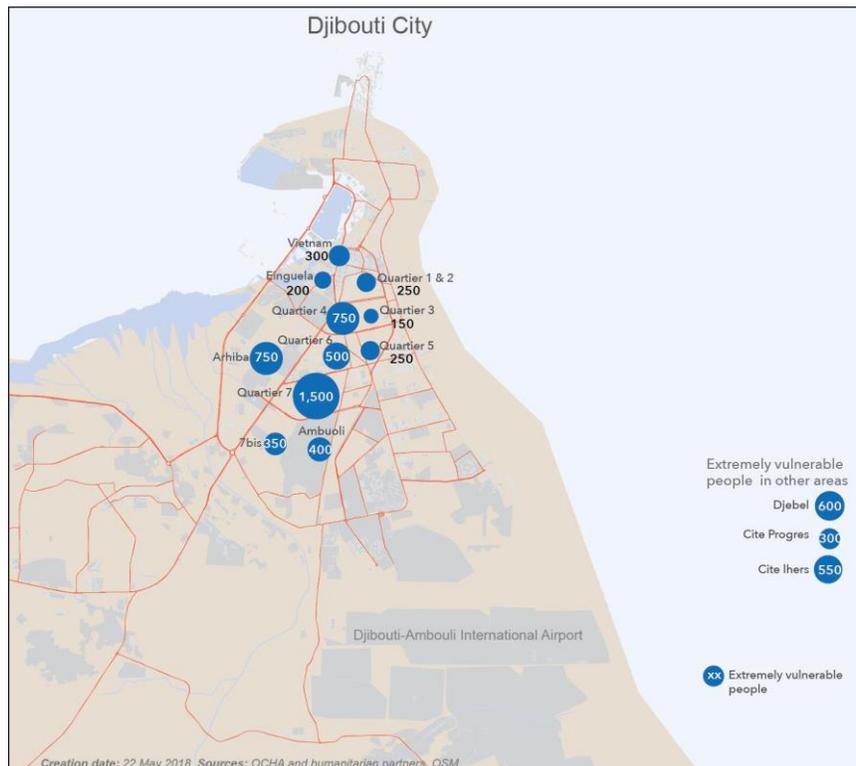
On 19-20 May, 110mm rainfall was recorded across Djibouti as a result of Cyclone Sagar; the equivalent of the average rainfall for an entire year. The rains caused heavy flooding, mostly impacting the Djibouti City area. The bed of Ambouli Oued, a seasonal river, reached its capacity (90cm) but did not overflow.

Authorities have revised the estimated number of people affected upward to around 5,000 to 10,000 families (25,000 to 50,000 people) and two fatalities have been reported. At least 1,500 shelters have been damaged in Djibouti town alone, impacting at least 7,000 people, and this number is expected to rise as assessments continue.

Families whose homes have been damaged are seeking assistance at community development centres (CDCs), where the State Secretariat of Social Affairs (SEAS) has initiated distribution of assistance. These families are the highest priority for assistance, as many lost most or all of their belongings. Tents, non-food items (NFI) and food have been identified as immediate needs.

Although the flood waters are now subsiding, and traffic between Djibouti town and the suburb of Balbala has been restored, several areas remain inundated. Several locations remain without power as electric stations were impacted by flooding and the risk of electrocution is high. At least 16 schools have been flooded and work is under way to clean them up to allow the final exams for 135,000 students—scheduled for this week and now postponed to Sunday—to take place.

Additional rainfall is likely in the coming days due to the formation of another weather system in the Arabian Sea. Although the weather system is not expected to make landfall in Djibouti, further heavy rains are possible and would compound the impact of the recent floods.



## Humanitarian Response

The President of the Republic of Djibouti, together with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior, visited affected areas on 21 May. The Government has established a coordination centre at the firefighters' headquarters in Djibouti town, where UN support is being provided. The Ministry of Interior is overseeing coordination of humanitarian and search and rescue operations and the SEAS is coordinating aid distribution.

Firefighters are working around the clock to clear the flood waters, with the support of several private companies who have lent their pumps and personnel to support Government-led operations. However, large pumps (100m<sup>3</sup>) are still required, as are vehicles for retrieving floodwater.

Schools and other communal facilities have been prioritized for water clearance to ensure that exams can take place. Once this is completed, water clearance activities will focus on the most affected civilian residences, so that people can return home.

SEAS distributed family NFI packages—containing mattresses, bed sheets, plastic sheeting, and hygiene items—to 320 people on 20 May alone and distributions are ongoing. UNICEF has provided support to the Ministry of Education to purchase 10 motor pumps to evacuate waters from schools, and has made 1 million water purification tablets available for the response. UNICEF is also procuring WASH NFIs for 15,000 people (hygiene kits and family water kits, including soap, purification tabs, buckets and jerry cans) as well as mosquito nets, oral rehydration salts and zinc, which are expected to arrive in country soon. UNHCR has made available 2,200 blankets, 2,000 bars of soap, 500 jerry cans, 195 plastic sheets (4x5m); 10 large plastic sheets (4x50m) and 2,150 sanitary items, and is procuring additional items. IOM is mobilizing 1,100 mattresses, 750 bars of soap, 600 toothpaste/toothbrush sets, 150 shampoos, 75kg of washing powder, and 3,200 aqua tabs (water purification materials), and is discussing the possibility of providing additional motor pumps. WFP has dry food stocks available and could support with cash-based interventions in line with ongoing programs, in collaboration with SEAS. The World Bank has been approached to reallocate funds from existing projects to meet urgent needs and is on stand-by for additional support. OCHA is mobilizing staff from the regional office to support the UN Djibouti team. UNDP is also looking at internal avenues to mobilize support, both during the emergency response phase and during reconstruction/recovery.

Several donors and private companies, as well as community members, have generously offered support and resources for the response. However, additional help is urgently needed, both for the emergency response and for recovery.

*The next Flash Update will be issued as required, as soon as more information is available.*