

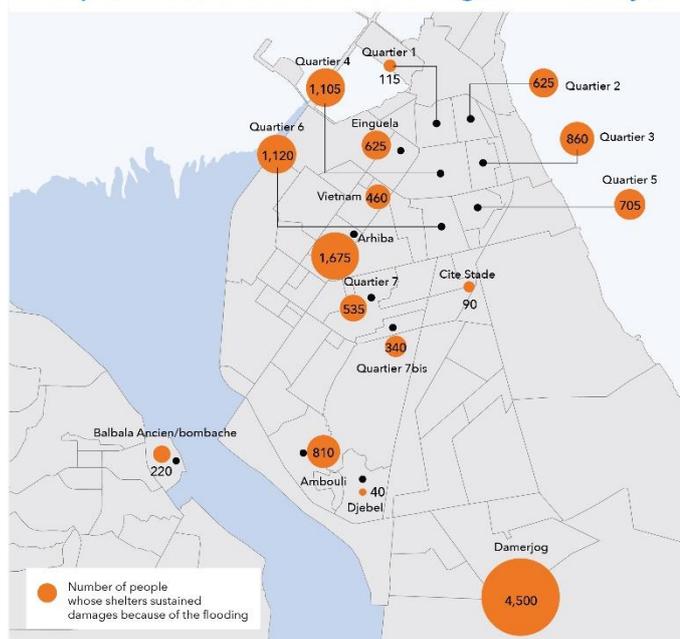
Highlights

- At least 1,865 shelters were damaged or destroyed by Cyclone Sagar in Djibouti City.
- A voucher programme for 2,000 vulnerable households has been launched.

Situation Overview

At least 1,865 families (9,350 men, women and children) had their shelters damaged or destroyed in Djibouti town and at least 630 households (3,150 men, women and children) were still displaced as of 26 May, according to an initial rapid assessment undertaken by the State Secretariat for Social Affairs (*Secrétariat d'Etat aux Affaires Sociales* (SEAS)) and UN and NGO partners. The assessment evaluated the humanitarian needs of people affected by Cyclone Sagar in 15 districts in Djibouti City and Damerjog Camp and found that most people initially displaced by the floods had returned home when the waters receded. The affected population, however, remains concerned regarding sanitation, food security and shelter, especially amongst the most disadvantaged families, whose houses were flooded for several days, and refugees, migrants and internally displaced people.

People whose shelters were damaged or destroyed



According to the assessment results, immediate emergency response priorities include emergency shelter and repairs to houses and sanitation facilities that were damaged, provision of non-food items and disease prevention. Analysis from UNOSAT has found that the Oued Ambouli neighbourhood was one of the most affected, with more than 350 houses made of poor materials categorized as potentially damaged. The area is located along the floodplain of Oued Ambouli River, which was severely affected by flash floods and heavy rains.

During the rapid assessment, people reported having lost household items as a result of the flooding and highlighted the need for emergency shelter materials, blankets, bed sheets and mosquito nets as well as soap, jerry cans, washing powder. Vulnerable people of particular concern include children, widows, elderly and the disabled, who have limited ability to undertake shelter repairs. There are also protection concerns arising, as some people reported losing their national identification cards, which provide proof of citizenship and are needed to obtain employment, register for schooling, access health services and apply for government benefits.

Food security was highlighted as a priority, as households are now having to prioritize purchasing other items, such as shelter and sanitation repairs, over food. Most households are reporting resorting to negative coping strategies including a decrease in food consumption, as they have less available income for food.

Water drainage of affected areas in Djibouti City remains a priority. Stagnant water was still visible one week after the cyclone had passed as the sewerage system was unable to absorb the floodwater. While subsequent high temperatures evaporated much of the surface water, water tends to return to specific

areas where drainage is poor and pumping of water is therefore ongoing. Sanitation facilities have been significantly flooded and damaged throughout the city. Faecal contamination is visible in many districts and there is an increased risk of water-borne disease as a result. Despite the existence of a garbage collection system, trash accumulated in some districts during the flooding, heightening the risks of contaminated water. Some cases of diarrheal diseases have been reported in at least two districts of Djibouti town. Outside of Djibouti City, there is a significant presence of large pools of stagnant water along the road heading to Ethiopia and around Damerjog camp.

More on UNOSAT floods rapid assessment: <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/node/44/2811>

Humanitarian Response

The Ministry of Interior and the fire fighters department continue to work on clearing remaining surface water for people to return home. UNICEF has provided 10 pumps to the Ministry of Education and will provide another 15 to the water utility company (ONEAD). IOM will provide three high-capacity pumps to the Ministry of Interior to support the water clearance efforts.

On 28 May, under the coordination of SEAS, WFP and UNICEF launched a voucher programme for food and non-food items targeting 2,000 vulnerable households affected by Cyclone Sagar, with 675 households reached with the vouchers on the first day. The voucher programme is being funded by the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), through an Emergency Cash Grant, WFP and UNICEF.

The assessment recommends continuing and expanding the in-kind and voucher system to cover all affected households, and including funding and items to repair shelters and sanitation facilities. It recommends carrying out an intensive hygiene promotion campaign and distribution of water purification tablets, water containers and hygiene items. It highlights the urgent need to enhance disease surveillance, to detect and respond to possible outbreaks, to distribute mosquito nets, and to treat stagnant pools of water with insecticide. It also encourages the identification of key interventions to improve sanitation conditions, including garbage collection.

WHO will receive additional emergency stock of 2,000 cholera response kits (to cover 20,000 cases) and five malaria kits (to cover 5,000 cases) to be pre-positioned in country in case of an outbreak. UNICEF has mobilized additional emergency stock of hygiene kits and hygiene promotion activities are set to begin this week throughout the city. UNFPA will begin distribution of dignity kits and NRC will support shelter rehabilitation and sanitation for affected families. UNDP and UNICEF are assisting those affected in Damerjog, including through the construction of an additional five blocks of latrines. FAO is working with the Ministry of Agriculture to assess the damage to the Ambouli Gardens, as well as other areas throughout the city where livelihoods and agriculture could have been affected by the flooding.

To date, over US\$ 1.5 million has been mobilized by UN Agencies and donors, including DFID, USAID and START fund, along with in-kind donations from the Government of Japan.

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