

### Highlights

- More than 105,000 people have been affected by floods since late June in Hirshabelle, South West, Jubaland States and Banadir region.
- More than 40 villages have been flooded especially in Balcad district in Hirshabelle State and Afgooye district in South West State.
- At least 33,000 hectares of farmland has been inundated; shelters, latrines and water wells have been damaged.
- Authorities and local partners are responding, but more assistance is urgently needed especially food, shelter/NFs, WASH, health, nutrition assistance, and COVID-19 awareness.

### Situation overview

Heavy downpours in Somalia have triggered a new wave of riverine and flash flooding, affecting more than 105,000 people and inundating thousands of hectares of farmland in Hirshabelle, South West and Jubaland States. In Banadir region, four IDPs died and hundreds have lost shelters.

Initial reports from **Middle Shabelle region, Hirshabelle State**, indicate that between 14 and 15 July, more than 15,000 people were displaced by the new floods. Nearly 20,000 hectares of crops were inundated in 21 villages in Balcad district, of which eight villages are still flooded. Most displaced people are arriving in Balcad town despite concerns that the town may also flood.

In addition, flash floods affected nearly 51,600 people between 24 June and 4 July, and destroyed 13,000 hectares of vegetable crops in 23 villages in Balcad district following the spillage from a water reservoir, 30 km north of Balcad town. The district also experienced destruction of crops during the *Deyr* season in 2019. In total, from May to July, floods have affected more than 311,000 people and damaged 147,579 farmlands in Jowhar, Balcad and Mahaday districts of the Middle Shabelle region. The presence of mosquitoes has reportedly increased in the flood-affected districts, leading to concerns over a possible malaria outbreak.



Several villages were flooded Afgooye, Lower Shabelle. Photo: OCHA

In **Lower Shabelle region, South West State**, an estimated 30,500 people have been affected, of whom 27,000 people are displaced from their homes. Heavy downpours in the first two weeks of July triggered flash floods in Afgooye district. On 5 July, the riverbank broke in Balguri, Damaley, Raqeyle and Aytire villages in Afgooye, flooding the villages and affecting 6,500 people, of whom some 3,000 were displaced from their homes. Five houses were damaged, along with 20 latrines and 13 shallow wells. In Wanlaweyn district, the floods displaced 24,000 agropastoral people in Bulomamow, Lulutooy, Harbiga, Eeribka, Sigole, Gololey, Gololka and Eeribka Mad Aliyow villages. In May, 10,000 people were affected by *Gu'* seasonal floods in these two districts, of whom 2,000 were displaced. There are concerns of further flooding from open river breakages as the *Deyr* rains season approaches. An estimated 20 plus potential breakage points exist in Lower Shabelle region.

Heavy rains in late June in **Kismayo, Jubaland State**, have affected 8,400 people, of whom 3,000 were displaced. On 30 June, the Jubaland Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation appealed to humanitarian organisations for assistance, noting that at least 350 latrines were damaged leading to fears of an AWD/cholera outbreak. The Kismayo main

road was completely inundated, disrupting movement and local businesses. Kismayo town has poor drainage and road networks and usually experiences flash floods during the rainy seasons. Another 3,000 people were displaced on the outskirts of Kismayo town - along the Kismayo, Jamaame road at Barsanguuni, Bulagaduud and Singlayr - following heavy rains and floods earlier in June. In May, following heavy rains in Kismayo district and surrounding areas, approximately 57,360 people were affected by floods, of whom 32,220 were displaced; 269 latrines and 32 houses were destroyed.

Rains and strong winds were reported on 18 July along the Jubaland State coastline impacting 20 families and destroying their homes in Kudhaa, Burkabo and Raskamboni in Badhaadhe district. The winds have disrupted livelihoods for fishermen with small boats during the past two months. The Federal Government of Somalia issued an alert on the same day warning residents of the rains and winds which are moving northwards. More destruction of shelters and displacement are expected and needs for emergency shelter, food, emergency WASH and health are anticipated.

In **Banadir region**, flash floods caused by heavy rains in early July have displaced over 700 IDPs in Hodan district after their settlement was completely submerged, forcing them to seek shelter outside as the rains continued. During the second week of July, flash floods destroyed over 100 IDP latrines and about 50 houses in Daynile and Kahda districts. More than 30 IDP settlements reported stagnant water inside houses forcing IDPs to stay outside and wait for the water to drain. Main roads have become impassable in Mogadishu creating challenges for the movement of people and supplies. On 14 July, four IDPs were killed after a huge wall fell and destroyed their house during rains at night. Heavy rains have also destroyed unidentified number of buildings in several districts in Banadir.

## Humanitarian Responses

### Hirshabelle State

- In the first week of July, ZAMZAM Foundation and the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) in collaboration with the local authority in Balcad district deployed 5,000 sandbags in three riverine villages but floods washed away the sandbags.
- To date, no other humanitarian interventions have been reported due to very limited humanitarian presence in Balcad district.
- Humanitarian partners and local authorities have appealed for assistance to be delivered to affected people.

### South West State

- Some 10,000 gunny bags deployed to close the river breakages by local NGOs: Samawade Relief and Development Organisation (SAREDO), Shabelle Community Development Organisation (SHACDO), Serving Together for Social-development International Solidarity (STS) and KAAH Relief and Development Organisation. Some 60,000 more gunny bags are planned for donation by WFP.
- STS is working with volunteers to close the breakages through a small Cash-For-Work project but needs further funding.
- Nutrition and Health cluster partners are providing services to some 4,000 people among the affected families.
- The WASH cluster confirmed that supplies and plans are in place to provide hygiene promotion to at least 8,000 people.
- Chlorination of shallow wells has been initiated to limit AWD/Cholera risks.
- Three mobile teams from Physicians Across Continents (PAC) are conducting hygiene promotion, nutrition support and AWD/Cholera prevention.

### Jubaland State

- Kismayo town, authorities have relocated some affected families to safer areas and provided temporary shelters, cleared stagnant water, and are opening clogged drainage.
- In Barsanguuni, the authorities distributed food to 250 families in late June, enough for a week.
- NRC distributed hygiene kits through a cash programme. Construction of communal latrines and a temporary school (four classrooms, an office, six gender segregated latrines) and provision of incentives to 10 teachers. Provision of CEC training and scholastic materials.
- UNHCR provided cash assistance to IDPs in Bulagadud and 250 Shelter/NFI kits to IDPs in Singlayr.

### Banadir region

- The authorities are rescuing IDPs that were trapped in their homes due to flash floods; a total of 50 households rescued in flooded areas in Boondhere district.

## Humanitarian needs and gaps

### Hirshabelle State

- Major gaps include food, shelter/NFIs, WASH, health and nutrition.
- Major gaps in nutrition services that pre-existed due to a lack of funding.
- Need for increased mobilisation and awareness raising on COVID-19 among displaced people to avoid the possible spread of the virus within their communities during the current flooding period.

### South West State

- Very few local partners are active in the affected area and have very limited funding for rapid response activities.
- The affected and displaced families are in need emergency food assistance as most have lost their livelihoods and farmlands.
- Emergency shelter is needed for some 2,000 of the flood-affected families.
- Support needed to drain flood waters in Afgooye – especially near health, education and other social centres and trenches and river drainage system to mitigate further flooding during the upcoming *Deyr* season.
- Gunny bags and cash-for-work needed to close the river breakages. Distribution of hygiene kits and chlorination of wells as there is already an outbreak of AWD/Cholera disease in flooded locations.
- Health and nutrition support to mitigate malnutrition and outbreaks.

### Jubaland State

- Health and nutrition support is needed, including medical checks and treatment, and screening for malnourished children and response/referral.
- Urgent food assistance for most families as they also lost their livelihoods and in view of limited work opportunities due to COVID-19. For example, in Barsanguni, no other food has been distributed apart from what the authorities provided in June.
- Need for farm tools/inputs for those whose farms were affected along the Kismayo/Jamaame road.
- Need for construction of proper roads and a drainage system in Kismayo town.
- Hygiene promotion to prevent disease outbreaks such as AWD/cholera.
- Emergency shelter, food, WASH and health supplies

### Banadir region

- Shelter and NFIs needed especially blankets for children and elderly.
- Food and cash response especially for vulnerable families.
- Latrines and sanitation facilities.
- Clean drinking water to prevent AWD/Cholera and chlorination.
- Health services to prevent diseases such pneumonia.

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