HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN
1-30 November 2019

Country Name: Somalia
Emergency Type: Complex Emergency—Conflict, Drought, Floods, Disease Outbreaks
Reporting Period: 1-30 November 2019

3.0M
In need of life-saving health assistance, HRP 2019.

2.4M
Targeted for health assistance, HRP 2019.

Health has received an additional US$800,000 on top of $20,436,329 received during the last reporting period.

Out of $2.66M total Health requirements for Flood Response, $2.14M has been received from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund

A late-November tropical cyclone forecast by GDACs came to reality during the first week of December 2019 with the passage of PAWAN-19 over Nugaal and Bari regions of Puntland in northeastern Somalia.

The cyclone resulted in heavy rain and floods, affecting an estimated 15,000 people, and posing a high risk of waterborne diseases in the most affected districts of Eyl, Bandarbayla, Galuula and Laasqoray.

Floods Situation Update

In Beledweyne town, River levels have been gradually dropping during the last week of November 2019, with receding waters in the flood-affected areas. This saw the return of close to 50,000 of the displaced people in Beledweyne returning to their homes in the last two weeks of the month.

The weather forecast published by the FAO-managed SWALIM system highlighted moderate to heavy rains over the following seven days, the first week of December 2019. Alarming new floods were reported in the early days of December as moderate to heavy rains increased riverine water levels.

People are exposed to flood waters, contaminated by garbage and sewage. Health Cluster partners are responding to reduce harm resulting from flood waters. Cases of AWD, skin and eye infections and malaria have been reported in flood-affected areas. Photo: SOYDA/Hawo Hussein
Floods Situational Update (cont.)

Many health facilities, including Hiran General Hospital in Beledweyne are still not operational. Two health centers run by Relief International (RI) were also affected and ceased functioning.

RI relocated the services provided by the two affected health centers by deploying mobile health teams to Eljalle where the flood-affected people relocated.

Ongoing Response

A number of Health Cluster partners, including SRCS, RI, SCI, Mercy USA, HIDIG and SMA established temporary health care facilities (7 in total) to counter the challenge of access to health care. WARDI continues to provide services from a HCF in Eljalle that existed before the flooding.

SCI, RI, WARDI, HIDIG, CESVI, Direct Aid, IIRO, MIDNIMO, and the MoH/WHO Integrated Emergency Response Teams continue to provide life-saving health services through a total of 19 mobile teams in Beledweyn and nearby villages, some located as far as 40km from the city.

ZZF established a health center in Eljalle. The first phase of services ran from 4-24 November, with the second commencing on 4 December 2019. Direct Aid and HIDIG (with support from the SHF) planned to establish new mobile teams to provide services to displaced people in and around Beledweyne. Other activities during in the last week of November included:

- A measles integrated polio campaign (POPV, VitA, Albendazole) from 24-28 November;
- A fogging/space spraying exercise conducted by the National Malaria Control Program that started from 27 November to end on 10 December 2019;
- Deployment of twenty SRCS/ICRC health and hygiene promotion volunteers, also leading a household chlorine tablet distribution campaign to prevent AWD in Ejale and surrounding flood-affected areas.

Gaps and Challenges

The major gaps and challenges identified include lack of referral health center/hospital in Beledweyne, as the General Hospital was affected by the floods.

There is also a reported increase post-flooding mosquito breeding sites poses a risk of outbreaks of vector-borne diseases and shortage RTDs to diagnose/detect malaria cases.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: Disability and Inclusion in Humanitarian Action

Humanity & Inclusion (formerly Handicap International) invites Health Cluster partners to participate in two for training sessions under the project “Capacity development for inclusion of persons with disabilities in Humanitarian Action” financed by the German Federal Foreign Office.

The first training of the kind will take place in Mogadishu, on 16 December 2019, and will include Data Collection and Monitoring and Evaluation. Additional training will be conducted between 22 January and 6 February 2020 (to be confirmed), and will include Programming.

The training is suitable for project managers, officers and others engaged in programming. It will be delivered in English (with later sessions offered in Somali) with Somali group works. For additional information, please contact: m.haji@hi.org with a copy to u.last@hi.org
The National Health Cluster meeting of 5 November was an opportunity to enable partners share experiences, challenges and lessons learnt from the HRP 2020, update partners on emergency preparedness planning on the recent floods and discuss the planned health information management activities, including HeRAMS and PHSA, a new Cluster Information Management Officer, Richard Sennoga and introduction of Ahmed Osman from the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office on mission to support roll out of the HeRAMS.

Main Highlights:

- Partner experiences to be shared with OCHA with respect to preparation and technical difficulties in uploading projects on to the Projects Module in HPC tools
- Need for the Cluster to share regular situation reports (weekly or bi-weekly) on the flood situation, share the update presentations made by the partners, the HeRAMS introductory presentation and the WHO report on rapid needs assessment in flood-affected areas.
- Need for the Cluster to come up with a mechanism to monitor and track partner attendance of meetings at the national and sub-national level.

Puntland: Meeting in Garowe, 30 October 2019

The Director of Public Health, Ministry of Health highlighted the importance preparedness (by all Cluster partner organizations) to respond to possible disease outbreaks during the rainy season. MOH CSR Data presented updates during epidemiological week 41 and 42. At least 23 suspected diphtheria cases reported, with 2 deaths in Yube town of Sanaag region. Of the these, 9% were among under 5 year-olds while 91% were among above 5-year-olds since EPI 41.

WHO Somaliland conducted a verification and investigation of the suspected diphtheria outbreak in Yube Health facility managed by Care International-Somaliland. The meeting agreed on having the response to the outbreak be overseen by the Somaliland Health Cluster, considering that Yube was under Somaliland administration.

Key partner updates included the following:

- WVI, implementing EPHS in Burtline district and supporting five health facilities reported service gaps in villages in Burtline district. Details were to be shared by 3 November, including BEmOc Assessment results upon completion of the then on-going assessment.
- CARE highlighted challenges with delivery kits and supplies for immunization activities for the integrated Health and Nutrition Project in Sanaag and Sool regions.
- Integrated Health & Nutrition project by NODO ended September 2019, extended for 3 months, supporting 15 HCFs and one Stabilization Center in Ayn region.
- Mercy USA Somaliland planned on supporting 4 Health facilities, (Withwidth HC, Balicad HP, Xaranran HC and Dhilaalo HP through the Shine Program).
- KAALO local NGO stated that they are facing shortage of supplies and will meet supplies gaps in December since they don’t have funds to procure supplies. there are also immunization service gaps the health facilities supported by KAALO in Cirroley and Awrbogays.
- EPI Partners and MOH EPI established an Inter-agency Coordination Committee to coordinate the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in Puntland.

Follow-up/Action Points

- MoH Immunization Unit to send immunization and other medical supplies to some health facilities in Sool region by 8 November 2019
- Convening of a side meeting on 6 November between MOH, KAALO and UNICEF to discuss how UNICEF could support medical supplies to KAALO for activities in Sool region.

All agencies working EPI to nominate their respective representatives to the Inter-agency Coordination Committee by 10 November 2019.
**South West State: Baidoa, Bay and Lower Shabelle, 14 and 5 November 2019**

**Baidoa Ad Hoc Coordination Forum**

During the Ad Hoc State Humanitarian Coordination Forum with Cluster Focal Points chaired by His Excellency Minister Nasir Arusha, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management at the Disaster Operation Coordination Center, an update was made of an estimated 70,000 people affected and another 40,000 displaced by flash flooding across the region, with Berdale town (60 km northwest of Baidoa) worst affected.

The meeting underscored the impact of the flood in In Baidoa, Xudur and Berdale districts, the ongoing response, gaps and the urgent health and nutrition needs, with an appeal to humanitarian partners operating in the State to support the drought/flash flood and conflict affected population in the entire south west state.

The details are annotated in the following Meeting Highlights. (See also: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/somalia/document/ad-hoc-state-humanitarian-coordination-forum-cluster-focal-points)

- Health cluster to reflect all active partners in all cluster information products;
- Establish a database for the functioning health facilities;
- Partners to respond to the online flood response monitoring tool as soon as possible;
- To field test the form in some health facilities in Beledweyne;
- To revise the form and share the final draft with partners for their input.

The meeting also highlighted the obligation of the partners in availing timely, accurate, and complete data on their response activities to effectively monitor progress in response, avoid duplication and/or concentration of activities in specific locations and identify the gaps.

**Bay and Lowe Shabelle – Highlights**

- Deteriorating situation in Qasahdhere district due to flash floods. 60 flood-affected families fled their homes. Malaria cases were reported on the increase. The floods in Berdale town resulted in contamination of shallow wells by sewerage from latrines. The population in the town had no access to clean water.
- MoH reported that Baidoa IDPs were affected by the floods and were in urgent need of health and WASH assistance. Additionally, AYUUB NGO reported that Qoryoley suffered poor hygiene and water contamination, with waterborne diseases such as malaria, bilharzia and watery diarrhea. ERDO reported that floods also affected Goofgaduud Buurey area.

Response:

- Six organizations, including INTERSOS, GREDO, SAMA, Red Crescent, CCC and MOH/WHO mobile teams were on ground. Activities included community awareness and hygiene promotion for disease prevent and control.
- WHO, in partnership line ministries, other UN agencies and NGOs (including MoH, MoEWR and MoHADM), delivered 3 tons of medical supplies to Berdale in October.
- SAMA maintains MCH services in Bardale town, provided medical supplies, aqua tabs and LLINs. EDRO also established MCH services and delivered medical supplies in Goofgaduud Buurey.
Rains in the Juba and Shebelle river basin and the Ethiopian highlands continued to subside giving relief to the flooding experienced in the riverine areas. Along the Juba river, flood waters affected about 76 settlements. Analysis of satellite imagery indicated that a total of 79,229 Hectares were inundated as of 10 November 2019, including 29,748 hectares of agricultural land and 48,481 hectares of natural vegetation.

Besides WHO that trained eight (8) emergency response teams in Bardhere, no partner there were no reports of response of partners responding to the floods in the area. The government stressed the need for immediate support to vulnerable people in the most affected villages, including Yontoy singerler and Bulagadud.

Reported reduction in the number of new AWD/Cholera cases in Lower Juba since September 2019. No cholera-related deaths had been reported across the region during the period. Somali Aid informed the meeting that 28 cases of AWD were admitted at Muslim Aid Health facility from inception of rainfall and number of AWD cases since reduced to 9. More stool samples were collected for transportation to Dhobley for cholera diagnosis.

**Notable response**
- Reactivation of the Emergency Taskforce: Early in February 2019, the Cluster established an Emergency Taskforce to serve as regional steward for standards health emergency preparedness planning. The meetings agreed to reactivate the taskforce to improve coordination. The taskforce comprised WRRS, ARDI, WHO, OCHA, SRCS, MOH, ARC, Governor’s Office, representative from Kismayu General Hospital, and WASH Cluster chair.
- Emergency casualty training: The meeting resolved to improve the capacity of the health workers and practitioners by providing capacity building and training of emergency casualties. The training beneficiaries will constitute CHWs and the emergency taskforce team facilitated by WHO. All partners were encouraged to

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**Access to Health in Quandala District**

On 25 November, local authorities in parts of Quandala District, Bari Region of Puntland State reported that an estimated 2,000 residents from at least eight villages in Qandala district (including Moqor, Golcadaadeed, Gurur, Hoobato, Harawo, Canjeel, Camayro and Jecayl) could not access basic services due to the blockage of the main road by the Islamic State of Somalia (IS).

- Access to health, and food were particularly critical, with **no health facilities** operating in seven out of the eight affected villages in the district.
- The area has been security-challenged and hard-to-reach without effective humanitarian coverage.
- The most recent aggravation of the humanitarian situation occurred when a short-term and large-scale security operation against IS in the Moqor and Golcadaadeed mountainous area (50-78 km south-east of Bossaso) launched on 24 November.
- The local authorities in the area have since appealed for assistance through the OCHA Field Coordination Unit in Puntland State.

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**Radio Ergo: Health Concerns**

During the first week of November, the main talking points on **Radio Ergo**, (a channel broadcasting humanitarian news from Somalia) focused on the impact of flooding on people’s wellbeing. The key health concerns included mosquitoes, extreme coldness, lack of medical supplies in health facilities, diarrhea. Other callers also spoke about contaminated flood waters posing huge health hazards.

"There are mosquitoes here and we cannot afford nets. We need help..."  
**Female from Dhusamareb, Galgadud region.**

"There are cases of diarrhoea in the area and the people have been transferred to Adado. We need to get facilities in the hospitals here so that the people get health care without spending money and time to get treatment...”  
**Caller from Do’oley Galgadud.**

"We have got rainfall, the people are recovering. There are mosquitoes and cold at night, we need shelters and help”  
**Caller from Galgadud.**

"I would like to talk about cold and diseases that have affected children...”  
**Female from Afmadow, Lower Juba.**
People reached with life-saving health services, November 2019

Monthly reporting analysis indicates that at least 293,146 people were reached with health care services in November 2019. The number includes services delivered with both HRP and non-HRP or other funding sources and modalities.

Funding progress (US$ ’000’000) with relation to key Clusters (FTS, https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/667/summary)

Health received additional funding of $800,000 on top of $20,436,329 over the last reporting period. Out of $93,203,762 appealed in the HRP 2019, this leaves the total unmet requirements at $71,167,433 approximately (77.2%) in unmet funding.

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