Thousands of families uprooted in Jowhar.

Credit: UN Photo/T. Jones

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Humanitarian actors and Puntland authorities mobilized rapid assistance to areas hardest hit by the tropical storm. But concerns remain for thousands of families who still struggle to cope with the devastation.
- Insecurity and lack of access hamper aid efforts to reach thousands of families affected by floods and violence in Middle Shabelle.
- Humanitarian partners are looking at contingency plans to ensure preparedness and response for the possibility of increased food insecurity.

**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 |
| # of internally displaced people | 1.1m |
| # of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen | 1m |

Source: www.fsnau.org (August-December projection)

**Consolidated Appeal**

**FUNDING**

- 927.5 million requested for 2014 (US$)
- 1.15 billion requested for 2013 (US$)
- 48% (556m) (reported as of 14 Dec)

Source: http://fts.unocha.org

**Disaster response ongoing to Puntland storm**

**Most immediate needs met after Puntland storm, but concerns remain**

A tropical storm made landfall on the Somali coast on 10 November, and the Puntland authorities declared a natural disaster emergency the following day. Humanitarian actors have conducted both aerial and land rapid joint assessments to assess the situation and initiate response to the hardest hit areas of Bandarbayla, Dangorayo and Eyl. Despite challenges, including severed communications and lack of road access in the days after the storm, a large majority of the 4,000-5,000 directly affected households had been reached with critical humanitarian assistance 10 days after the storm struck, according to humanitarian partners in Puntland. However, the risk of water contamination and shortage of safe drinking water remain of concern. Water, sanitation and hygiene partners have prioritised water trucking to cover affected communities until water sources can be restored. The livestock sector was one of the hardest hit, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimated that up to 300,000 animals died within hours of the storm due to a steep decline in temperature and the heavy rains.

The Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Philippe Lazzarini visited Garowe on 19 November to convey condolences to the Puntland authorities and assess the situation following the disaster. Mr. Lazzarini also discussed the ongoing emergency response and ways of strengthening coordination mechanisms between the Puntland authorities and the humanitarian community. On 21 November, a multi-cluster initial rapid assessment (MIRA) was deployed to disaster-affected areas to determine remaining immediate needs, including medium and longer-term needs of affected communities. The assessment teams, led by the Puntland Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency and OCHA, completed the assessments by end of November. Field data was collected from 450 sources comprising affected households and key community informants, including community leaders and elders. The data has been entered into a joint database, and work is ongoing to analyse the information and compile indicative representative findings.

Source: Puntland Task Force comprising Puntland authorities and humanitarian partners.
Weather hazards prompt food security alert

Insecurity and lack of access continues to hamper aid efforts in Jowhar

About 66,000 people have been affected by localized flooding in 33 villages in the Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle, according to local authorities’ reports and a multi-cluster rapid assessment carried out from 7-10 November. Despite challenges, aid organizations have managed to scale up response in recent weeks and continue to reach as many people as possible with emergency supplies such as food, water and shelter. Thousands of people have received shelter and many others have received medical treatments through mobile health clinics. Further compounding the situation was the outbreak of inter-communal fighting in early November, which displaced an estimated 3,000 households and hampered access to those in need. The large majority of those who fled their homes are staying at the airfield in Jowhar. Humanitarian access to eight villages housing some 2,000 households has been hampered due to flooding or insecurity. Gaps have been reported in health, shelter and household items, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, and education. The Humanitarian Coordinator visited the still flooded area on 3-4 December and the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has since allocated nearly $1.2 million to support emergency health activities and access to clean water and sanitation in the area. For the long term, investing in river management is key to avoid recurrence of large scale floods and the cycle of emergency and response.

The localized floods have been attributed to rains in Ethiopian highlands. However, FAO’s Somalia Water and Land Information Systems (SWALIM) weather forecasts since 18 November indicated limited rains in the Ethiopian catchment, which would reduce the possibility of increased food insecurity in Somalia. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (Fews) noted a “missing monsoon” in the country for the first time it has been below 1 million since 2008 – the first time it has been below 1 million since 2008 – there are 2.3 million people who are teetering on the margins of food insecurity. Any reduction in the harvest and the national supply of cereals and grains could lead to increased food insecurity for people who are already vulnerable. The Food Security Cluster has called on members to extend the “lean season” programming through April. The cluster estimates that 630,000 people could be affected by the food security alert and is working on responses geared towards improving access to food and livelihood investments.

Climatic shocks delay planting and threaten harvest

Humanitarians are looking at contingency plans to ensure preparedness and response for the possibility of increased food insecurity in Somalia. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network on 27 November warned that the food security in parts of Somalia is likely to deteriorate in the coming months due to recent climactic shocks, including river flooding and flash floods induced by the tropical storm. In a preliminary forecast for the post-harvest season up to June, The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) expects food security to deteriorate in parts of the Shabelles – the “breadbasket” of Somalia, Middle Juba, parts of Hiraan agropastoral areas and storm affected areas in northern Somalia. No crisis is expected in Gedo, but there could be a short-term deterioration in Lower Juba (one month).

The recent climatic shocks come on top of a country-wide harvest season that was already expected to be potentially below average. While the number of Somalis in crisis has reduced to 870,000 – the first time it has been below 1 million since 2008 – there are 2.3 million people who are teetering on the margins of food insecurity. Any reduction in the harvest and the national supply of cereals and grains could lead to increased food insecurity for people who are already vulnerable. The Food Security Cluster has called on members to extend the “lean season” programming through April. The cluster estimates that 630,000 people could be affected by the food security alert and is working on responses geared towards improving access to food and livelihood investments.
Viable living conditions sought for displaced

Humanitarian partners prepare for uptick of voluntary returns

Somali refugees in Kenya who wish to return to Somalia will be able to receive support from the UN refugee agency, UNHCR, and partners from January 2014. A six-month pilot phase during which Somali refugees can receive support to return and reintegrate is the tangible outcome of the Tripartite Agreement signed on 10 November by the governments of Kenya, Somalia, and UNHCR. Three districts have been selected for assisting spontaneous returns: Luuq (Gedo), Baidoa (Bay) and Kismayo (Lower Juba). About 10,000 Somali refugees will be supported based on the criteria that voluntary returns must be to the area of origin in Somalia. Registration for support has started in Dadaab. Lessons learnt during the pilot phase from January to June will inform future assistance for voluntary returns of Somali refugees in Kenya. Kenya hosts around half a million Somali refugees, mainly in the Dadaab refugee camps, which were established in 1991 when civil war broke out in Somalia. The Tripartite Agreement establishes a legal framework to govern the voluntary return of Somali refugees in Kenya who wish to return to their homeland. It defines roles and responsibilities of the three parties in accordance with international standards, and emphasizes that any refugee should have the right to return home in safety and dignity, or to remain in Kenya should they wish to do so.

Eviction threats remain for vulnerable displaced people

Since mid-2013 tens of thousands of internally displaced people living in formal and informal settlements in Mogadishu have been forced to move to makeshift settlements north of the city, Kilometre 7 to 13. Among vulnerable groups in informal settlements are several blind people who are residing at the former US embassy plot where around 2,000 families are believed to live. While humanitarian assistance is provided to the displaced people in their current locations, the objective is to identify land and sustainable options for the displaced together with the Government. On 20 November, authorities in Kismayo informed people occupying public buildings and land in Kismayo to vacate them within two months. The order concerns both local citizens and displaced people. There are about 4,000 displaced families spread across 40 settlements in Kismayo. Of these, 14 sites are in public buildings or land, affecting about 1,200 families, according to UNHCR.

People start moving to new homes on outskirts of Hargeysa

On 12 December, aid organizations and Somaliland authorities started resettling 100 of 816 displaced families set to move from Mohamed Mooge to a new site, Digaaale settlement, outside Hargeysa with access to improved services. The construction of shelter units and latrines are underway. The Common Humanitarian Fund will provide $75,000 for water trucking for up to six months while water sources are established at the site and solutions for longer term provision of water are found. Other essential support is also underway, including household items and education.

Focus on children affected by violence

Children in Somalia face multiple risks and threats

Armed groups continue to commit grave violations against children, primarily abductions and forced recruitment, particularly in conflict areas in southern and central Somalia. Since the beginning of 2013, over 2,300 children have suffered from grave rights violations according to the UN country task force on monitoring and reporting child rights. Other main child protection concerns include separated and unaccompanied children, and child trafficking. Almost half of survivors of gender-based violence incidents, such as rape and sexual violence, assisted by the UN and its partners in 2013, were children. Child protection workers have focused on three major activities: service delivery, capacity building and advocacy. In the third quarter of 2013, about 78,000 people were assisted with these services.

Child protection concerns

- Forced recruitment of minors
- Gender-based violence
- Forced early marriages
- Child labour
- Child trafficking
- Unaccompanied children
In early December, when the 2013-2015 Consolidated Appeal for Somalia was revised, and in accordance with the Humanitarian Country Team strategy, protection was added as a strategic objective. Child protection activities account for 27 per cent of the Protection Cluster’s 2014 CAP budget. Child protection actors will continue to focus on protection of children from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect. Preventing violations will be achieved through capacity development of duty bearers, the use of trained child protection actors, and improved delivery of services at all levels. The strategy focuses on strengthening child protection information management systems with a view to use data and evidence to inform programming.

### Mass vaccinations against wild polio outbreak

**Health workers continue emergency response in accessible areas**

Health partners continue emergency response to curb the wild polio outbreak in Somalia. The number of cases remains at 183 – the most recent case had an onset of paralysis on 9 October. No new cases have been reported from Banadir, the epicentre of the outbreak since July. A ninth round of outbreak response was conducted on 17-20 November targeting children under 5 years of age in accessible districts of Somalia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child protection activities (July-September 2013)</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service delivery</td>
<td>5,615</td>
<td>5,921</td>
<td>1,610</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family tracing and reintegration</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity development</td>
<td>11,782</td>
<td>11,959</td>
<td>11,479</td>
<td>11,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy and awareness raising</td>
<td>5,615</td>
<td>5,121</td>
<td>3,057</td>
<td>2,276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Somalia Child Protection Working Group. The table shows #people supported/assisted with child protection services.

**Emergency reserve to disburse $3.85 million to support critical needs**

In October, $2.65 million from the CHF emergency reserve was allocated to ensure health and nutrition activities continue for a six-month period in facilities previously run by the aid group MSF. The projects would cover 11 facilities in six regions including three hospitals and eight health centres. An estimated 335,000 people, including 110,000 women and 150,000 children will benefit from primary and secondary health care and nutrition services. Key services targeted for continuity include basic emergency obstetric care, immunisation and treatment against acute malnutrition. In November, an additional $1.2 million of from the emergency reserve was approved for allocation to boost the ongoing response to flooding in Jowhar and parts of Balad districts in Middle Shabelle. About $545,000 will be used to establish seven temporary health posts and referral services to 84,000 people displaced by flooding and conflict, and $640,000 will be used to improve access to safe water and sanitation facilities for about 19,200 affected people.

**Humanitarian partners review three-year strategy for Somalia**

One year after the 2013-2015 Humanitarian Appeal for Somalia was launched in Mogadishu, humanitarian agencies have revised the plan to reflect the changes in need and operational context. The strategy seeks to provide integrated life-saving and resilience building assistance to people affected by the protracted crisis in Somalia.

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