

Briefing Note – 18 May 2016

SOMALIA

Floods in Hiraan



Need for international assistance	Not required	Low	Moderate	Significant	Major
			X		
Expected impact	Very low	Low	Moderate	Significant	Major
		X			

Crisis overview

Increased rainfall since the beginning of May has led to a sharp rise in the Shabelle River and flooding. Heavy rainfall, river breakages, and flash floods have displaced 1,800 people and affected 16,500 in Beledweyne district, in Hiraan region in south-central Somalia. Flooding has also been reported in other regions in south-central Somalia, such as Gedo, Middle Shabelle, Bari, and Middle Juba.

Flood-affected in Beledweyne

Affected areas	Resident pop.	No. people affected	No. people displaced	Killed	% population affected
Urban Beledweyne		12,000	1,800	0	-
Rural Beledweyne		4,500	N/A	0	-
Total	67,200	16,500	1,800	0	24.5%

Sources: SWALIM 17/05/2016; Tageo.

Key findings

Anticipated scope and scale	As of 16 May, there has been significant reduction of rainfall over the Shabelle basin, however the risk of flooding remains high.
Priorities for humanitarian intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter: Thousands have been forced to relocate, and hundreds of people have been left without shelter as their houses were damaged. • WASH: Drinking water shortages have been reported in the area. • Health: No reported health impact due to flooding. However, the ongoing cholera outbreak and the lack of access to WASH pose a threat for waterborne diseases.
Humanitarian constraints	Humanitarian access is restricted in Hiraan area, which is affected by Al Shabaab attacks and intercommunal conflict.

Limitations

Very limited sources are available on the floods in Hiraan region. There is lack of information regarding sectoral needs of people affected.

No information is available on the response to the floods.

Crisis impact

Since the beginning of May, as of 9 May, hundreds of families have been forced out of their homes following flash floods in Beledweyne. No fatalities have been reported. The worst affected areas are Hawo-Tako and other neighbourhoods in the town (Goobjoog News 09/05/2016).

As of 14 May, 1,800 people have been displaced and 16,500 have been affected (SWALIM 17/05/2016). People have been displaced from Bulo Raaxo to Mareer Gaagaab, from Luuq Dheer to Waririle, from Qarsoni East to Boorey, Jiiq dheer, from Cilanta and Dololo Madow to Waririle, from Bacad to Guricaddo, from Biyo Qurun to Qurac Raamole, from Qoqane to Malmal, from Lafoole to Dongadud/Qurac Qandho, Baslawe, from Dheriyow and Garash to Dongadud, from Lebow and Shinnile to Shirkaneco, from Helo Keylo to Bananey, from Qoydo to Garabdheen, from Kurtunmaley to Abdikarin, and from Kooshin to Ilkacaddo (SWALIM 17/05/2016). 12,000 people have been affected within Beledweyne town. People have been displaced from Xawo Tako, Kutimbo and Ex Italian compound to El-laale, Jawil, Ilkacaddo and El Gaal villages (SWALIM 17/05/2016)

During the week ending 16 May, there was a significant reduction in rainfall in most areas of the Juba and Shabelle basins inside Somalia as well as the Ethiopian highlands. However, water levels remain high along the channels of the two rivers. Observed river levels at Beledweyne have increased sharply. On 17 May, the Shabelle River level was 7.75m, which is above the high flood-risk level. (FAO 17/05/2016).

WASH: Drinking water shortages have been reported in Beledweyne (Goobjoog News 09/05/2016).

Shelter: The flooding has led to housing destruction. Hundreds of families have been forced out of their houses in Beledweyne city and in the surrounding rural areas (Goobjoog News 09/05/2016; SWALIM 17/05/2016)

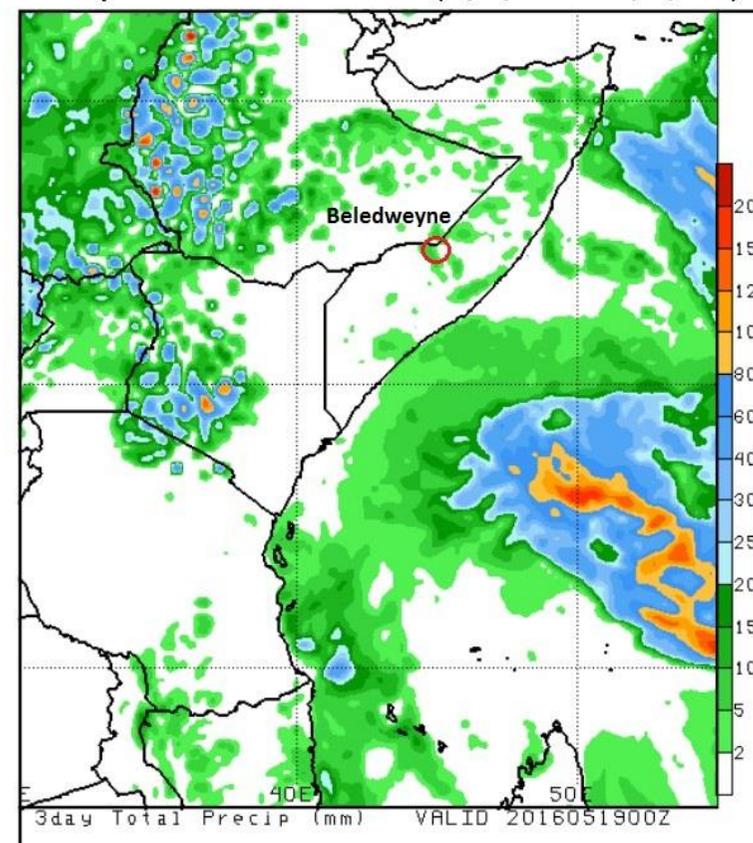
Health: There are no information available for any health impacts due to flooding. However, there is an ongoing cholera epidemic in Somalia, notably in Jalalaqsi district in Hiraan, which in addition to lack of access to WASH services may lead in an increase in cases of waterborne diseases (OCHA 13/05/2016).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Restricted humanitarian access continues to affect aid delivery to affected populations in south-central Somalia. Non-state armed actors continue to impose bans on commercial activities in some areas in Hiraan region, thereby disrupting the delivery of humanitarian supplies and basic commercial commodities (OCHA 26/01/2016; OCHA 30/12/2015).

Al Shabaab has control over parts of Hiraan and often conduct attacks in areas under SNA/AMISOM control. The city of Beledweyne is under SNA/AMISOM control. Fighting with Al Shabaab and attacks often occur in the area. Ethiopian militias are present in the area as part of AMISOM.

3-day accumulated rainfall forecast (17/05/2016 to 19/05/2016)



Source: FAO 17/05/2016

Aggravating factors

Al Shabaab attacks

Fighting is frequent in the area. On 15 May, Al Shabaab attempted an attack in Halgan, in Hiraan, close to Beledweyne. The Somali army and AMISOM repulsed the attacks (Goobjoog News 17/05/2016; ETHSAT 16/05/2016). On 30 April, Ethiopian troops, part of AMISOM, tried to reclaim Bo'ame, a village close to Beledweyne, from Al Shabaab (Mareeg 30/04/2016).

Intercommunal conflict

Heavy fighting is ongoing as of 17 May between two rival clan militias in Beledweyne. Several people have been reported wounded (Shabelle news 17/05/2016).

Drought

Until April, Hiraan was affected by drought. Severe water shortages have been affecting farming communities in Beledweyne as well as other areas of the region (local media 11/03/2016).

Cholera outbreak

There is an ongoing cholera outbreak in Somalia, with more than 7,000 reported cases and 336 deaths in the first quarter of 2016, including over 2,200 reported in April. Jalalaqsi district in south Hiraan has reported cases (OCHA 13/05/2016).

Lack of access to health facilities

In Somalia, 1.8 million people are in need of emergency health services (OCHA 03/03/2016). An estimated 0.035 physicians and 0.114 nurses and midwives per 1,000 population are available (WHO 2014). As of January 2016, at least ten health facilities across Somalia have either reduced their services or closed due to lack of funding (OCHA 11/03/2016). There are insufficient drugs in health facilities across Somalia (OCHA 03/03/2016).

Key characteristics

Demographic profile: 12,316,895 total estimated population. 40% of the population in Somalia is rural. 6% is over 65 years old (UNDP 2013).

Population of Hiraan region; 520,685 (Statoids 2014). Population in Beledweyne district is estimated 67,200 (Tageo).

Food security: 3.7 million people are in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security in Somalia. 953,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The most affected areas are in central and north Somalia (FEWSNET 17/02/2016; FEWSNET 29/02/2016).

Health: In 2013, under-five mortality rate was 146 per 1,000 live births, a slight decrease from 150 in 2011 (UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation 2014). In 2015, maternal mortality was 732 per 100,000 live births, down from 1,210 in 1990 (UNICEF 2015).

WASH: 56% of the population drinks from unimproved water sources. 21% surface water; 19% other improved sources of water; and 4% piped water. Sanitation: 53% of the

population practices open defecation; 15% shared facilities; 11% other unimproved facilities; and 22% uses improved facilities (Global nutrition report 2015).

Nutrition: 1.3 million people are estimated to be in need of nutrition assistance in Somalia. 304,000 children under five are moderately malnourished and 58,300 children are severely malnourished (OCHA 03/03/2016).

Literacy: 25.8% female; 49.8% male (UNICEF 2011).

Response capacity

No response has been reported.

Population coping mechanisms

People living in flood-prone areas have relocated to neighbouring areas (Goobjoog News 09/05/2016).

Information gaps and needs

- Very limited information is available on flooding in Hiraan region. There is lack of information regarding sectoral needs of people affected by floods.
- No information is available on the response to the floods.

Lessons learned

- Implementation of an improved real-time flood and drought control warning system can reduce the damage caused by floods. Improved forecasting and early warning system and preparedness measures have helped to reduce the number of lives lost and impact on livelihoods by flood (WFP 2014).
- Flood forecasting and early warning should be further developed as the areas around Shabelle river are prone to floods and flash floods (SWALIM 2010).

Map

