

Somalia

Floods update I

Since the publication of ACAPS Somalia Floods Briefing Note on 3 May 18, significant rainfall has continued in southern and central Somalia (SWALIM, 04/05/2018). The Juba and Shabelle rivers have burst their banks in several locations, leading to rising flood waters in riverine areas. New incidents of flash flooding have also been reported, notably in Muldug region (OCHA 02/05/2018; OCHA 08/05/2018).

In total over 700,000 people have been affected by flooding, including over 228,000 people who have been displaced since mid April (OCHA 08/05/2018).

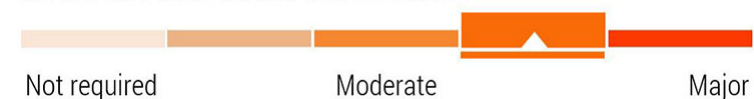
The number of additional people affected since 3 May is unclear however new figures have been reported in some areas. Beledweyne district (Hiraan region) continues to be particularly impacted with the number of people reported as affected rising from 180,000 on 3 May, to 269,000 on 8 May (OCHA/08/05/2018; UNITAR/UNOSAT 04/05/2018; OCHA 02/05/2018).

In the coming days heavy rainfall is expected to continue across central and southern Somalia and in the neighbouring Ethiopian highlands. The Juba and Shabelle rivers will rise and trigger further flooding. This will result in additional humanitarian needs, meanwhile access will likely remain limited due to extensive road damage (SWALIM 04/05/2018; Islamic Relief 08/05/2018).

IMPACT



NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



Key priorities



+220'000
people displaced



WASH
Latrine damage widespread and high risk of water contamination



AWD/Cholera
is active in the affected regions

Humanitarian constraints



Road access remains limited across all flood-affected areas. Roads are inundated with flood water, particularly in and around Beledweyne town in Hiraan region. Most areas in Middle Juba, are under the control of nonstate armed actors further limiting humanitarian access (UNOSAT, 04/05/2018; OCHA 08/05/2018).

Limitations

There is a lack of data available therefore it is not possible to accurately assess to what extent the scale and scope of need has changed since the publication of the last ACAPS report. It is also not possible to ascertain the level of additional displacement.

Forecast

Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected to continue until 10 May at the earliest. The Juba and Shabelle rivers will therefore continue to rise. This will likely lead to a rise in the current flood waters as well as trigger incidents of riverine flooding and flash flooding in new areas. Low lying areas and built up areas of Bay and Bakool are particularly likely to experience flash flooding (SWALIM, 04/05/2018). Heavy rainfall and overflowing rivers in the Ethiopian highlands will spillover in to Somalia's river and further exacerbate the situation. Floods are expected to take several weeks to recede (Garowe 03/05/2018).

Crisis impact

As of 8 May heavy rainfall is ongoing and flood waters continue to rise in the Juba and Shabelle basins (European Commission, 04/05/2018). Over 700,000 people have been affected by flooding in southern and central Somalia, including over 220,000 people who have been displaced (OCHA 08/05/2018). The most affected regions remain Hiraan, Bay and Middle Juba, Lower Juba and Gedo, Banaadir (OCHA 08/05/2018). Since the last ACAPS publication there has been an increase in the number of people affected, most notably in the town of Beledweyne (Hiraan region), where since 3 May an additional 89,000 people have been reported as affected. New flash flooding has been reported in Mudug region where over 1,000 people have been affected including around 500 people displaced. It is likely that people have also been newly displaced elsewhere across the affected regions although there is no available data to verify this (OCHA 08/05/2018). Two more deaths have been reported since the last report bringing the total number of flood related deaths to seven. The two recent deaths were both children in Mudug region (Caj News Africa, 25/04/2018; ECHO 03/05/2018; OCHA 08/05/2018). Urgent needs include WASH, health, shelter and food. With forecasts indicating further heavy rainfall, the level of humanitarian need will continue to increase (SWALIM, 04/05/2018; OCHA 08/05/2018).

Region	District	Affected	Displaced (included within affected)
Hiraan	Jalalaqsi, Belet Weyne, Jowhar, and Balcad	269,000	112,300
Bay	Baidoa and Afgooye	174,000	6,100
Middle Juba	Bu'aale, Jilib and Sakow	206,000	94,600
Lower Juba	Jamaame, Afmadow		
Gedo	Doolow, Baaedheere, El Wak, Garbahaarey, Luuq, Ceel Waaq, and Belet Xaawo		
Banaadir		54,000	
Galgaduud	Abudwaq (Cabudwaaq) and Adado (Cadaado)	14,000	6,300
Mudug	Hobyo	1,200	500

WASH: Damage to latrines across IDP settlements is of particular concern as this quickly leads to water contamination. Latrine damage has been reported in Middle and Lower Juba, Gedo, Banadir and Galgaduud regions. While many latrines have been reported as entirely destroyed, the full extent of the damage across all flood affected areas remains unknown (OCHA, 02/05/2018). Standing water is likely to quickly have become stagnant in IDP settlements. Uncollected garbage is also of concern. These factors, compounded by a lack of access to hygiene facilities, exacerbate the risk of waterborne diseases. The lack of WASH facilities is of particular concern in Jowhar, Mahaday and Balcad districts in Hiraan as well in parts of Lower Juba region as these are some of the worst affected areas. Mosquito nets, latrines and hygiene facilities are urgently needed (OCHA 08/05/2018; 08/05/2018; 02/05/2018).

Health: Cholera is active in flood affected areas (mainly Lower Juba, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Banaadir and Gedo). Since late April at least 22 cases have been reported in Afgooye General Hospital in Bay region. Medical supplies are insufficient to meet the growing need in the area (OCHA 08/05/2018). Given the scale of the area affected by flooding the risk of the spread of cholera remains high and it is likely that new cases will be reported in the coming days. In the first week of May there was not significant rainfall in Banaadir compared to elsewhere in the country, however cholera remains of high concern in the area as over 670 cases have been reported since the start of the year (Ministry of Health and WHO, 24/04/2018; Accuweather, 04/05/2018; CNN, 03/05/2018).

Shelter: Given the numbers of people displaced shelter needs are likely to be high. The majority of shelters in IDPs settlements cannot withstand heavy rains (OCHA, 02/05/2018; OCHA, 02/05/2018; OCHA, 04/2018). Shelter needs are likely to be especially high in Beledweyne town (Hiraan region) because the entire town has been badly impacted by floods. Over 50% of the town is reported as completely flooded. In Banadir region most improvised shelters have been entirely destroyed. Some shelter damage has also been reported in parts of Middle and Lower Juba and Gedo regions, and in Cabudwaaq town in Galgaduud region (OCHA, 02/05/2018; 08/05/2018).

Food: Loss of food and livestock will exacerbate food insecurity. Given that over 90,000 hectares of land have been inundated with flood water in the Middle and Lower Juba regions it is likely that crop damage is significant and that the scale of damage has likely increased since the beginning of May (UNOSAT 03/05/2018). Significant amounts of grain reserves are also likely to have been lost as a result of the flooding. Livestock loss is common during periods of heavy flooding as animals are often washed away (Quartz 05/05/2018). In Mudug region around 100 goats and sheep were reportedly killed due to lightning strikes (OCHA 08/05/2018).

In Baidoa the price of camel milk has reportedly almost doubled since the end of April. This is due to increased levies imposed by armed groups since the beginning of the flooding. This risks reducing access to goods (OCHA 08/05/2018).

Livelihoods: Significant damage to crops, farmland and livestock will likely negatively impact livelihoods and weaken resistance of the affected populations to cope with additional shocks.

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Beledweyne airport remains closed. Road damage in Beledweyne town (Hiraan region), is likely significant as the majority of the town is inundated with flood water. Access to the town can therefore expect to be extremely limited (OCHA, 26/04/2018; [OCHA, 22/04/2018](#)). Some areas can only be reached by boat (Garowe 03/05/2018).

Most areas in Middle Juba, are under the control of non state armed actors which limits access (OCHA, 02/05/2018; OCHA, 02/05/2018; OCHA, 04/2018). In Lower Juba, Diif town is completely under siege.

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

There are numerous local NGOs operating along side UN agencies and INGOs across the flood affected regions on central and southern Somalia.

International response capacity

There was significant UN and INGO presence in central and southern prior to the flooding. Not all are currently operating, however all flood affected regions have an active international response. OCHA reported on 8 May that authorities in Lower Shabelle have appealed for additional assistance (OCHA 08/05/2018, 08/05/2018):

Hiraan: UNICEF, WFP, IOM, UNHCR.

Bay: IOM, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, WHO, DRC, Intersos.

Middle Juba: FAO

Lower Juba: UNICEF, FAO, WFP, UNHCR, IOM, NRC, CARE, ACTED, Mercy Corps, SCI.

Gedo: UNICEF, WFP, DRC, IOM, FAO, ACTED, WVI.

Banaadir: UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, WFP, IOM.

Middle Shabelle: UNICEF, FAO, WFP, IOM, Mercy Corps, Intersos, Aid Vision.

Galgaduud: UNICEF, WFP, Mercy Corps, DRC, FAO, SCI.

Mudug: UNICEF, FAO, WFP, Mercy Corps.

Information gaps and needs

Data on specific sectoral needs is very limited.

The severity of shelter damage is largely unknown across most flood affected areas.

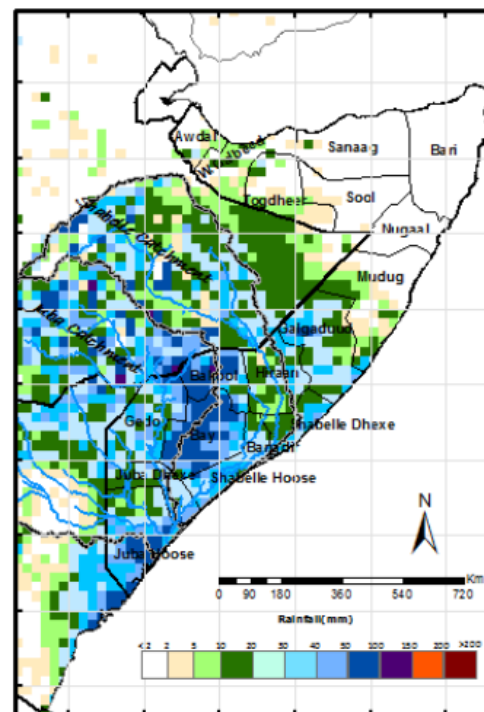
The extent to which food stocks have been damaged or lost is unknown.

The extent of livestock loss is unknown.

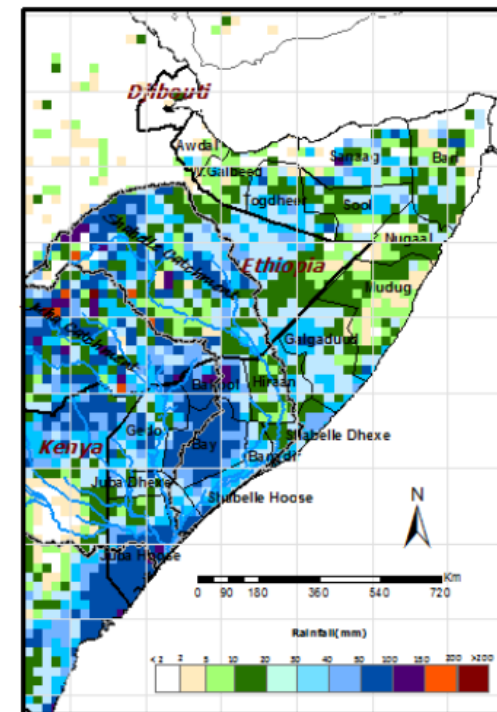
The extent to which education has been affected is unknown. There is no data available on the number of schools damaged by flooding or how access to education facilities may have been impacted.

There is no new data available to indicate the extent to which health needs have grown following the flooding.

Map 1: 3 days rainfall forecast (04 - 06 May 2018)



Map 2: 7-day rainfall forecast (04 - 10 May 2018)



Source: SWALIM 04/05/2018

This update has been provided with the kind assistance from OCHA and UNDAC operational partners