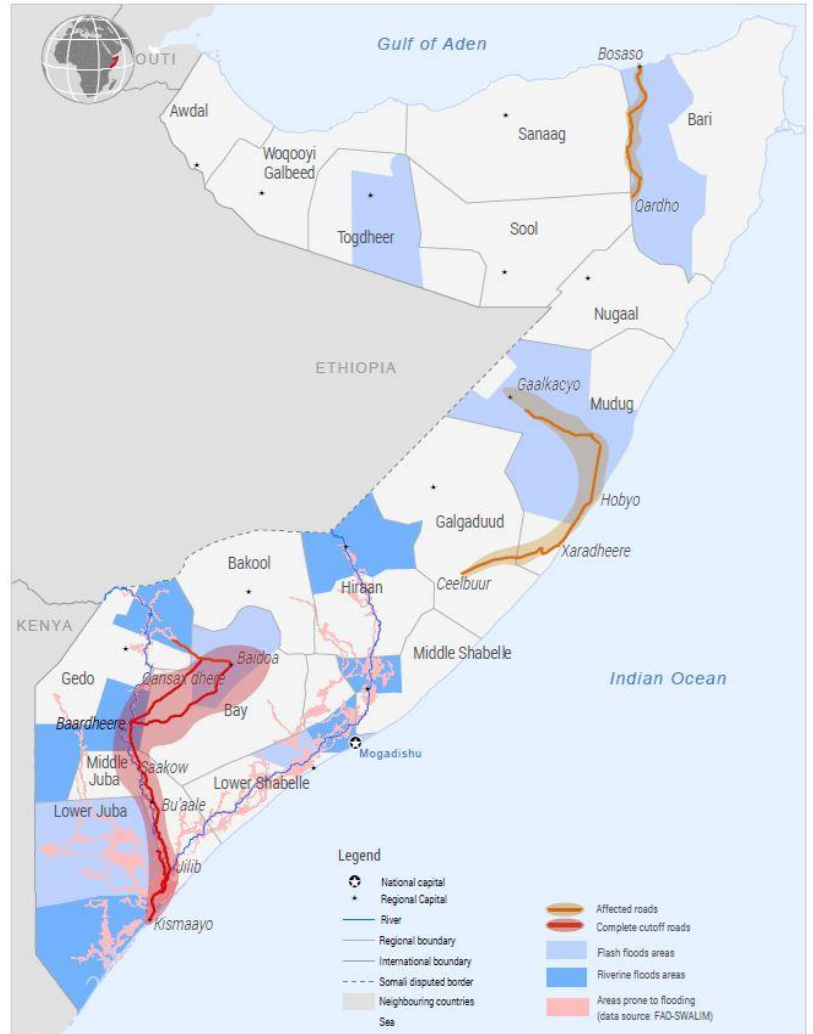


Situation Overview

At least 16 people have died while over 200,000 people have been affected by torrential rains and riverine floods since the *Gu'* (April-June) rains started in Somalia four weeks ago. Ten other people are missing due to floods and at least 2,000 farms have been swamped by water. The most impact has been felt in Puntland where a heavy downpour on 27 April killed eight people and displaced more than 22,000 people, Galmudug where six people have died and approximately 22,000 others are affected by floods, South West State where over 100,000 people have been affected by floods, and Jubaland with more than 11,800 flood-affected displaced families reported in Lower Juba region.

[FAO/Somalia Water and Land Information Management \(SWALIM\)](#) reports that the moderate to high flood risk is likely to persist at least through mid-May¹, threatening urban and riverine populations, including in Belet Weyne (Hiraan) and Jowhar (Middle Shabelle) of Hirshabelle state. River levels have risen along the Shabelle basin and there is a high risk of flooding in coming days. As a result, riverine communities in Belet Weyne are advised to prepare for possible relocation in the course of the week. The Hiraan authorities have activated the Flood Taskforce under the leadership of the Governor and partners have been alerted to activate early warning systems on their respective project sites, and in the wider communities.

The ongoing *Gu'* flooding will exacerbate the humanitarian situation, joining the COVID-19 pandemic and locust infestation to form a 'Triple Threat'. The fast-spreading COVID-19 pandemic that was first confirmed in the country on 16 March. As of 4 May, confirmed cases had reached 756 with 35 deaths and 61 recoveries. Disruptions to transport due to damaged roads and COVID-19 restrictions have pushed food prices up in some affected areas. The country is also facing a resurgent desert locust infestation with mature swarms reported in Somaliland and Galmudug. The rains are likely to increase the risk of water borne diseases. Since January, over 2,780 cases of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera have been reported; higher than the situation over the same period in 2019, when 1,295 cases were reported.



Impact of heavy rains, floods and needs in various locations

The below state-level analysis shows that while the ongoing rains have triggered flooding in some areas, they have also had a moderate impact in other locations. Humanitarian partners are concerned that there could be further displacement of people and destruction of essential infrastructure such as communal latrines. Apart from NFI and shelter, urgent

¹ FAO/SWALIM Somalia Floods Update. 4 May 2020.

needs among flood-affected people include clean water and food. UNHCR estimates that over 500,000 people will be affected by the *Gu'* rains, of whom 80 per cent (400,000) will need non-food items (NFI) and shelter assistance.

Somaliland: On 30 April, heavy rains in Burco town, Togdheer region, that affected an estimated 720 people, resulted in the death of two women. Another was injured. Flash floods have also affected Beer village near Burco, destroying some houses in the village. Heavy rains also caused some flooding in Buuhodle town in Togdheer region. SWALIM² forecasts a reduction of rainfall amounts with no risk of flash floods in the coming week.

Puntland State: The Government and humanitarian partners carried out an assessment following torrential rains on 27 April in Qardho town, Bari region, and found extensive destruction of property, loss of lives and displacement. Eight people were killed and ten are still missing. More than 22,000 people (3,750 households) are displaced from their homes and 750 houses destroyed. Another 4,460 households (about 28,000 people) were impacted through partial damage to property, loss of household items or injuries. Four boreholes that supply water to the town were also damaged. On 30 April, more heavy rains disrupted road transport along the Bossaso-Qardho highway at Ceeldahir town (95 kms south of Bossaso), cutting off some sections of the road.

Galmudug State: Six people were killed and close to 22,000 people have been affected by flooding in Galmudug. From initial reports, over 2,500 households (15,000 people) have been affected by floods in Bacadweyne, Hobyo District with two boys killed, 50 houses completely destroyed and about 200 others partly damaged, two schools damaged, 150 goats killed, and 75 per cent of shops damaged on 2 May. In south Gaalkacyo, flash floods displaced 6,780 people living in makeshift houses and inundated IDP settlements, a market and roads. Several trucks carrying foods and other commodities have been stuck for days especially on the supply route linking Gaalkacyo to Hobyo, Gawan, Wisil, and Xarardheere districts. Costs of transportation and prices of basic goods like sugar, rice, spaghetti, and cooking oil have risen by approximately 10 per cent. On 29 April, four children died while three others were injured in Innamid village, Dhuusamareeb district, when their house was hit by lightning.

Hirshabelle State: The risk of floods in Belet Weyne is very high. According to SWALIM, following heavy rains within the Shabelle River basin in Ethiopia and inside Somalia, the river level at Belet Weyne rose to 7.20m - just 0.10m less than the high-risk flood level on 4 May. At the same time flooding in Qalafe and Mustaxil, about 90 km north of Belet Weyne, is likely to result in overflowing of the river at Belet Weyne in a few days. On 30 April, a river breakage was reported in Tuugaarey village, 25 km from Jowhar town, flooding Tuugaarey and Maagaay villages. An estimated 700 people were displaced in Tuugaarey. Over 300 hectares of crops were reportedly destroyed in both villages. Heavy rains have also been reported in many parts of Middle Shabelle region, posing a risk of flash and river floods in Jowhar, Mahaday and Balcad districts in the coming days



Flooded houses in Afmadow district, Jubaland. Photo OCHA

South West State: Flooding in Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions affected several areas: Waajid, Dhureey and Kurte in Bakool and Bardaale, Goofgaduud, Ufurow, Qansax Dheere in Bay and Afoooye, Marka and Qoryoole in Lower Shabelle. In Qansax Dheere, Bay region, 335 households (about 2,000 people) have been displaced by floods. Similarly, in Qoryoole, Lower Shabelle, reports indicate that 19,800 people are affected as are another 3,000 in Marka. This is in addition to 73 IDP sites hosting 81,000 flood-affected people in Baidoa district that was reported on 16 April. Reports indicate that food prices are rising in Bay and Bakool regions because heavy rains have rendered several roads impassable.

Jubaland State: More than 11,800 displaced families have been affected by ongoing *Gu'* rains in Lower Juba. In Gedo region, approximately 400 farms in Luuq and Buurdhuubo districts, and 1,600 in Baardheere are inundated. In Baardheere, where more than 2,400 families were initially affected by river flooding, the number has increased up to 5,000 households. The river level has decreased but is still above moderate flood levels as it continues to rain. The roads connecting Kismayo to other parts of the state have been made impassable by the rains. As a result, prices of commodities that were already affected by COVID-19 restrictions, are likely to increase. On 29 April, heavy rains accompanied by windstorms were reported in the remote islands of Raskamboni, Kudhaa, Burgaabo and Madhawa in Badhaadhe district in Lower Juba; an estimated 3,340 families were affected and about 270 houses were damaged or destroyed, but a full assessment is planned.

² FAO/SWALIM. Ibid.

Humanitarian coordination and response

UNHCR has 14,604 NFI kits (6,684 kits available and 7,920 kits in pipeline) in Somalia for distribution to affected areas throughout the country. Despite this, a gap of 35,396 NFI kits and 50,000 shelter kits remains and UNHCR requires US\$13.5 million, including transportation and distribution. Transportation of kits to most field locations is only possible by air.

In Puntland authorities on 28-29 April sent assorted foodstuffs and emergency shelter items for distribution to displaced persons in Qardho town. Food security partners are registering displaced persons in Qardho so that they can benefit from a two months' food vouchers. WHO and State Ministry of Health have sent essential drugs to Qardho from Garowe. WASH Cluster partners have begun distributing water purification tablets, portable water and are setting up additional pit latrines in areas where the displaced people are camped to mitigate against water-borne diseases such as AWD/cholera. The findings of the Government-led interagency assessment are being used to inform response.

In Galmudug State, authorities have appealed for urgent humanitarian interventions specifically in terms of shelter, food, and WASH. A nine-member committee comprising political and religious leaders, as well as the business community has been formed to support humanitarian activities in Bacadweyne. Private donations of non-food items and small food rations were provided to 30 vulnerable households in Bacadweyne. Assessments are being carried out in the affected locations to inform the response.

In Hirshabelle, the Regional Inter-Cluster-Coordination Group on 29 April discussed flood emergency preparedness and repositioning of stocks per cluster. The Government has opened drainage canals in the town and strengthened weak river embankments. Assessment are underway to evaluate the flooding in Middle Shabelle.

In South West State, 4,063 hygiene kits have been distributed in 30 IDP settlements. Mosquito nets have been distributed to 3,000 affected households in Xudur and Waajid. However, gaps remain in Qansax Dheere for WASH, shelter and food due to insufficient partners operating in the area and limited funding. One partner distributed 200 hygiene kits and water purification tablets to displaced people. Partners have also reported shortages of nutritional supplies in some remote areas such as Qoryooley, Lower Shabelle. Furthermore, WASH, Health and Shelter responses in Baidoa, Bardaale, Bay region, Waajid, Bakool region and Afgooye, Qoryooley and Marka in Lower Shabelle have been limited by insufficient supplies and funding.

In Jubaland, UNHCR has registered 600 families in Kismayo for cash assistance to help them purchase essential items. The families will receive US\$100 to \$200 in different batches this week. In Afmadow district, UNHCR is planning to airlift NFI kits from Mogadishu to Dholey in the coming week. WFP is looking at responding to the caseloads reported in Lower Juba (Afmadow), Bardheere and Doolow. Jubaland authorities sent food for 500 families in Baadhadhe and 2,150 iron sheets to the most vulnerable families whose houses were completely destroyed. MoHADM has also given some supplies to the flood affected people. However, limited funding and slow delivery of supplies due to impassable roads and few available flights, are major challenges.

For further information, please contact: Ogoso Erich Opolot, Head of Communications, Tel:+2526165480071 Email: ogoso@un.org, Mursal Ali Ahmed | Public Information Officer, mursalali@un.org, Tel:+252619150457/+252615679998. Ayub Ahmed | Public Information Officer | Mobile:+252619150463 | Email: ayub.ahmed@un.org. Yahya Dahiye | Public Information Officer | Mobile: +252618180926 | Email: yahya.dahiye@un.org.