

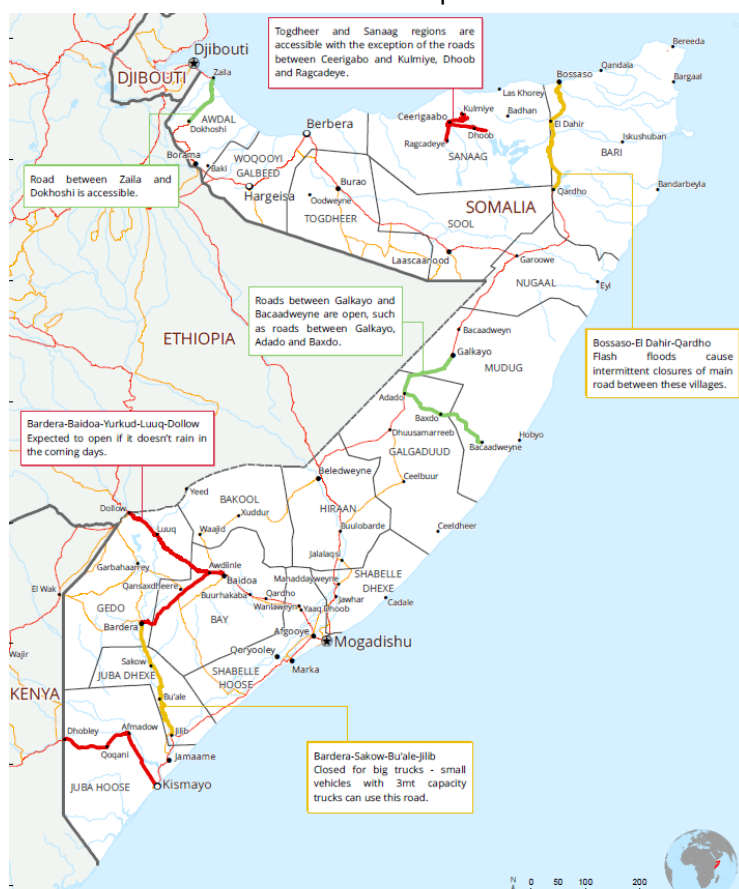
## Situation Overview

Ongoing flash and riverine flooding in Somalia has affected about 918,000 people, of whom 412,000 have been displaced and 24 killed, in 29 districts, as of 16 May. The risk of disease outbreaks is high due to crowding in areas where displaced people are seeking temporary shelter. Belet Weyne in Hiraaan region is the most affected district after the Shabelle river burst its banks on 12 May, inundating 85 per cent of Belet Weyne town and 25 riverine villages. According to the district flood taskforce, about 240,000 people were displaced from the town and neighbouring villages between 12 and 13 May. In Jowhar district, Middle Shabelle region, riverine flooding has affected more than 98,000 people in 37 locations, bringing the total affected in Hirshabelle to 338,000 people. According to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in Hirshabelle State, nearly 40 per cent of those affected in Jowhar have been displaced from their homes.

The flooding in Belet Weyne and Jowhar resulted from a sharp rise in the level of the Shabelle river following heavy rains in Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands. As of 14 May, the main road connecting Belet Weyne town to the airport, UN compound, Ceel Jaale area and the northern regions came close to being cut off due to inundation of the road. On 15 May, the flood taskforce reported that about 1,200 people marooned by flood waters in the Boore highland, upstream of the Shabelle river, about 30 km from Belet Weyne, needed urgent relocation as the water levels around the area continued to rise. At the request of the Hiraaan Governor, AMISOM provided a truck to transport a boat to relocate the population to safer areas.

### 293,000 people affected in Jubaland State

More than 293,900 people have been affected by flash and riverine floods in Gedo, Lower Juba, and Middle Juba regions; including 187,000 people in Gedo region and 165,300 people in Lower and Middle Juba regions as of 14 May. Local authorities in Doolow district reported that 1,200 farms have been inundated and crops covering an estimated 12,000 hectares of farmlands had been destroyed, impacting people's livelihoods. Twelve villages in Sakow, in Middle Juba – a region under the control of the Al-Shabaab group – are reportedly flooded, affecting more than 17,100 people. Floods are also reported in Kismayo, Abdille Birole, Yontoy, Bula Gudud and Gobweyn; displacing more than 2,200 people and destroying or damaging 32 houses and 269 latrines. Rivers Dawa and Juba levels have continued to rise and the Juba river level at Doolow has reached 0.34 m above high-risk flooding level.



Flood-affected roads in Somalia as of 14 May. Source: Logistics Cluster

In Banadir region, eight people including six children were killed by torrential rains in Mogadishu on 11 May. The WASH Cluster estimates that the floods displaced 9,200 IDPs mostly from Daynile, Kahda, Wadajir and Dharkenley districts; washed away 460 communal latrines and destroyed houses. Major roads in the city remained impassable from 11-12 May. WHO<sup>1</sup> has warned that the flooding could exacerbate Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera cases. It comes as Somalia is working with humanitarian partners to urgently contain the growing threats of COVID-19 and desert locusts.

<sup>1</sup> WHO Statement. 14 May 2020.

As of 16 May, 1,357 cases of COVID-19 have been [confirmed](#) with 55 deaths. At the same time, new swarms of desert locusts are reported in Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug states. Despite this 'Triple Threat', funding for humanitarian operations in Somalia remains very low. As of 16 May, the revised [2020 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP) was only 16.8 per cent funded.

## Impact of heavy rains, floods and needs in various locations

The floods have caused widespread displacement, death as well as destruction of infrastructure and property across the country. The Shelter Cluster<sup>2</sup> estimates that around 400,000 people will be in need of shelter and non-food items (NFIs) assistance due to flooding. In Belet Weyne, the current flooding has struck barely six months after the district suffered widespread flooding due to heavy *Deyr* rains from October to December 2019.

**Somaliland:** The Somaliland Ministry of Agricultural Development reported that during the first 10 days of May, some areas received more than 100 mm of rain, including Laso daawo village (119 mm) in Berbera district of Woqooyi Galbeed Region. The CCCM sub sector partners are developing standard operating procedures for flood-related relocation of IDPs.

**Puntland State:** There was a reduction of rainfall across Puntland state this week easing the destruction caused by flash floods at the end of April when eight people died in Qardho town, Bari region. The floods that followed torrential rains on 27 April damaged property and infrastructure, displaced 22,500 people and affected about 48,000 other people in the town. The Federal Government of Somalia in collaboration with partners are raising funds to repair damaged infrastructure, rehabilitate and restore clean water supply to Qardho town, rehabilitate four damaged schools and provide livelihood support to people who lost their businesses to the flash floods.

**Sool and Sanaag region:** During the first 10 days of May, heavy rains were reported in Waridaad village (115 mm) in Sool region. On 11 May, the local authority of Badhan town in Sanaag region reported that heavy rains on 5 May partially damaged around 70 houses in a low-lying area and 50 other houses in the town. Most affected households have remained in their homes, but some have moved to live with relatives. In addition, the local authority reported that rains washed away cash crops on 25 farms in Midigali, and 70 farms in Calmadow mountains. No report on humanitarian needs has been shared so far.

**Galmudug State:** On 13 May, heavy rains accompanied by windstorms were reported in Cadaado and Xeraale districts of Galmudug State. In Cadaado, an unconfirmed number of persons were injured when their houses were destroyed by the windstorms. The local authorities estimate shelters were destroyed for 15,000 IDPs from Badbaado, Salama, Daryel, Kulmiye, and Xeeb settlements. In addition, 9,000 people from the host community in Cadaado town shelters and household items were also destroyed. In Xeraale district, north Galgaduud region, a telecommunication mast was brought down by the windstorms and several houses destroyed.

**Hirshabelle State:** The flood taskforce in Belet Weyne district has identified priority needs among flood-affected people including clean drinking water, emergency latrines, food, health and nutrition, shelter/NFIs, protection and security. The need to facilitate social distancing due to the risk of COVID-19 remains a continued concern as affected populations scramble to find dry areas, which are already densely populated. On the evening of 13 May, heavy rains accompanied by strong windstorm were reported in Belet Weyne town, knocking down trees and damaging houses as well as makeshift IDP shelters. No casualties were reported. Low lying areas of Belet Weyne town such as Hawotako and Koshin are flooded. On 15 May, the flood taskforce reported that about 1,200 people were marooned by flood waters in the Boore highland, upstream of the Shabelle river and about 30 km from Belet Weyne.



A family fleeing a flooded area in Belet Weyne with property. Photo: Warsame/OCHA

<sup>2</sup> Somalia Shelter Cluster Fact Sheet. April 2020.

**South West State:** An estimated 144,212 people have been affected by floods in South West State including 54,720 people in Lower Shabelle region, of whom about 26,000 people have been displaced; and 89,492 people in Bay region. Of this, 81,492 are from IDP sites in Baidoa, Bay Region. Partners report that there is a risk of river flooding from over 20 open river breakages in Lower Shabelle region. Most roads in parts of Bay and Bakool remain impassable due to the ongoing rains.

**Jubaland State:** An estimated 293,924 people have been affected by floods in Gedo, Lower Juba and Middle Juba regions including 187,000 people in Gedo region, 165,372 people in Lower and Middle Juba regions as of 14 May. Among this population, 52,956 people are displaced including 28,500 people in Gedo and 24,456 in Lower and Middle Juba regions. There are concerns that further flooding may displace more people in Doolow, Luuq, Buurdhuubo, Baardheere, Sakow and Bualle towns. In the past week, communities have reported rising river levels above the moderate flooding levels in several districts in Middle Juba region.

## Humanitarian coordination and response

Humanitarian partners and authorities have reached at least 182,000 people with life-saving assistance across the country. UNHCR airlifted 2,000 non-food item (NFI) kits, including blankets, soap, jerry cans, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and plastic sheets, which will be distributed to 12,000 IDPs and vulnerable host community members.

Humanitarian partners are delivering food, clean water, emergency shelter, nutrition and medical supplies to people who were affected. Authorities and humanitarian partners have assisted about 48,000 people with food rations, NFI kits and other basic necessities in Puntland. Shelter Cluster partners and the authorities in Puntland have reached over 15,000 people with emergency shelter and NFI kits, while nutrition cluster partners have reached about 19,000 vulnerable women and children with nutrition supplies. On 11 May, the Prime Minister appealed for more support to the humanitarian and short-to-long-term development needs in Qardho. OCHA is working with the authorities and partners to ensure a coordinated approach to the humanitarian response.

In Galmudug State, assorted food rations donated by KSRelief have been distributed to 700 vulnerable households displaced by flooding in Bacadweyne. The same donor provided assorted food rations to vulnerable households, including IDPs, affected by floods in Dhuusamareeb. However, gaps in humanitarian response still exist and areas that need urgent interventions include WASH, shelter and NFI. A nutrition assessment to examine the nutritional needs of displaced children is ongoing.

On 14 May, Save the Children International in Hirshabelle started 15-days of water trucking to 26,664 flood affected people in Ceel Jaale. A local partner is providing clean water to 4,200 displaced people in Ceel Jaale and 1,800 others in Baladnur for one month. Another a partner distributed hygiene kits to 250 households in Shirkaneco village, particularly to those displaced from Lebow and Garash villages; and on 14 May, began trucking water for 250 households for one week. AMISOM provided a truck to transport a boat provided by an international organisation to rescue the 12,000 people marooned at Boore highlands. DRC is providing NFIs while HIDIG NGO is providing nutrition, health and food with WFP.

The WASH Cluster in South West State trained 42 humanitarian workers on AWD and chlorination, and is continuing WASH projects in Afgooye, Barawe, Merka, Kurtunwarey districts in Lower Shabelle including emergency water trucking, rehabilitation of water infrastructure and latrine construction. The Shelter Cluster distributed 63,500 NFI kits. In addition, a partner has distributed mosquito nets to 350 flood-affected households in Anole, Sabiid of Afgooye district. On 13 May, local community members stepped up efforts to close river breakages in Anole, Sabiid and Mareerey in Afgooye district. A local NGO provided 20,000 gunny bags to reinforce the closure of weak riverbanks.

Jubaland State authorities have mobilised emergency food assistance for 500 flood-affected families and distributed 2,150 iron sheets for repair of damaged houses in Kudhaa, Madhawa and Jula islands. During the reporting period, the Lower Juba regional WASH cluster distributed 3,000 hygiene kits in Kismayo and Dhobley districts.

The CCCM Cluster partners in Banadir region are assessing the situation of IDPs in affected settlements. OCHA is mobilising the sub-national cluster focal points and humanitarian actors to provide rapid assistance to all affected people.

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