

Rapid Response Team (RRT)

Response to El Niño

7 December 2023

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Situation Update

The dominance and combined active role of El Niño and positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions resulted in unusual rainfall across several districts in Somalia, with towns like Baidoa, Bardheere, El Barde, Dinsor, and Huddur receiving rainfall amounts that were an average of 5.8 times more than the usual seasonal rainfall average during the deyr season (Oct-Nov-Dec). A total of 36 districts have now been impacted by the floods, with an estimated 2.4 million people impacted and 1.1 million people displaced from their homes (a 37 percent increase in displacements, compared to the previous week).

The Somali Water and Land Information Management agency (SWALIM) forecasts light rainfall below 50mm across most of the coastal regions of Somalia around Middle Shabelle, Middle Juba and Lower Juba regions. Same conditions are also projected for Burhakaba and Qoryooley districts in Bay and Lower Shabelle regions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the risk of heavy rainfall still exists, as El-Niño conditions are predicted to persist till early 2024.

As water levels recede in some areas along the Juba River catchment area in Luuq and Dollow, the risk of an outbreak of water borne diseases like Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) becomes imminent, because of the contamination of water sources and the challenge of trucking water due to accessibility issues. Already, suspected cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) have been reported in Belet-Hawa and Burdhubo towns in Jubaland State and Beletwyene in Hirshabelle State.

Update by State

Hirshabelle State

Hirshabelle State continues to bear the brunt of riverine flooding, as river levels remain high and have inundated new locations in Jowhar and Balcad towns, in addition to Beletwyene, Bulo Burto, and Jalaasqi that have already been flooded during the past weeks. In Beletwyene a total of 30 evacuation sites are now designated by the government and the local task force, out of which 15 of the sites were reached with integrated Health, Nutrition, WASH and CP packages in the reporting week. A measles outbreak was confirmed in Beletwyene where UNICEF, WHO, and the Ministry of Health are working together with IPs to manage the outbreak. In Buloburto and Jalalaqsi districts, an estimated 14,200 households (85,200 people) are currently displaced. In Jalalaqsi, where the town has been cut in two by the floods, UNICEF has donated a boat which is being used to deliver humanitarian supplies across the town, as well as support evacuation efforts. There is widespread power outage, and the main link bridge, which is currently inundated with water, is under threat of collapsing.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) commenced water trucking and chlorination in Jowhar and Beletwyene, targeting 45,000 flood affected people. During this reporting week, 8,154 people were reached in Jowhar and 21,486 in Beletwyene. A total of 3,600 hygiene kits were distributed to flood affected households in Beletwyene.

South-West State

In Southwest State, the flooding has displaced 2,820 people (470 households) in Afgooye district. Nearly 1m people in 844 sites have now been impacted by the floods in Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle regions. A total of 1,024,460 people are projected to fall in IPC 3 (Crisis Phase) and 4 (Emergency Phase) between October – December 2023, due to the adverse effects of the El-Niño and anticipated reduction in humanitarian funding.

A cluster-led Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) with support from IMMAP and OCHA, has been planned for all the districts affected by flood in Southwest State. Dates to be confirmed.

RNA Assessments plan in SWS district	
Clusters	Assigned districts
Protection cluster	Berdale
Health cluster	Lower shabele (Marka , Afgoye)
CCCM cluster	Burhakaba/ Qansaxdhere /Dinsor
Nutrition cluster	Hudur
Wash cluster	Wajid

Jubaland State

An estimated 1.1 million people have been affected by the floods in Jubaland State – 594,793 in Lower Juba, 290,250 in Gedo region, and 244,344 in Middle Juba. With the loss of the Baardheere and Buurdhubo bridges, and the destruction of 55 roads and supply routes across the state, there is an increasing challenge of accessing essential commodities like food and other household needs. UNICEF is currently coordinating with WFP to distribute High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to affected households in the Lower Juba region.

Belet-Hawa: The situation in Belet-Hawa is gradually improving, but the risk of AWD remains high due to the contamination of available water sources. Reports also indicate an increasing number of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases. Nutrition and WASH supplies are still stuck in Mogadishu, pending when flights can access the area.

Luuq: Though water levels are gradually receding in Luuq, many villages remain inaccessible due to the floods - Gudey, Miradgubow, Shidlo. Taganey, Bandumdule. Garbolow, Sheikh Maxaad, Bulo Musley, Bacaadley, Luuq Godey, Herokowaad, Bohol Yahaas, Kormari, Jaziira, and Howlwadaag. Transportation of food and nutrition supplies remains a major challenge, as roads are impassable because of unsafe water levels or muddy remnants of the recent floods. Women and children are faced with a heightened risk of contracting water borne diseases, because of the destroyed sanitation facilities and the contamination of water sources by sewage.

Children are still out of school because of the massive destruction of school buildings and facilities by the flood. Below is a table showing the schools impacted and the level of destruction of WASH facilities:

Rapid Response Team



430K

People Reached



266K

Children Reached

UNICEF Response



39,070

Child screened for malnutrition



426,190

People reached with risk communication



10,801

Children received treatment for SAM



213,746

People provided with WASH supplies



9,548

Children vaccinated against measles



475

People reached with safe water through water trucking and chlorination



821

Children reached with critical Child protection services



737

Children received learning material

#	Name of School	Classrooms Destroyed	# of Latrines in the School	# of Latrines Destroyed by Flood
1	Jazeera IDP		6	6
2	Kormareey IDP		6	6
3	Akara IDP		6	4
4	Kulmiye IDP		6	3
5	Busley -KfW		8	3
6	Al- Omar- KfW	2	8	4
7	Shiirgalol - KfW	2	10	4
8	Qeydar Subow KfW		10	4
9	Baletu Rahman- KfW		10	5
10	Horseed - KfW		10	6
11	Al-Furqan Primary School		10	0
12	Luuq Primary school		11	0
13	Sinay Primary School		8	8
14	Salahudin Primary school		6	6
15	Taleh Primary school		6	6
16	Boyle Primary School		6	6
17	Doryanley Primary School		3	3
18	Hanooy Primary School		4	4
19	Qoney Primary School		6	6
20	Geerbolow Primary School		3	3
	Total		143	87

Galmudug State

Situation remains stable in Galkacyo as no rain has been recorded in over 2 weeks. UNICEF continued providing Nutrition, Health and WASH services to the households affected by the flash flood. A total of 22,000 under-five (<5) children have so far been registered to receive High Energy Biscuits (HEB) from UNICEF.

UNICEF and Partners Response

Coordination

- UNICEF has purchased six Fiberglass boats, each equipped with a YAMAHA engine with 40 KVA. Each boat can carry between 15-20 people, depending on weight, with a maximum capacity of 20 people per boat.
- The boats are meant to support evacuation efforts and the delivery of humanitarian supplies in flood affected districts, where access has increasingly become challenging because of the rising water levels. So far, three of the boats have been safely airlifted and delivered to Dollow and Luuq in Jubaland state, and Jalalaqsi in Hirshabelle state. Efforts are being made to have the remaining boats airlifted to priority locations.
- A Standard operating Procedure (SOP) with clear operational guidelines on the use of the boats has been developed and shared with partners responsible for the operation and maintenance of the boats.
- UNICEF is also covering the cost of operation and maintenance of the boats and has engaged its local partners – HIRDA and HIDIG NGOs, to oversee the operation of the boats in Gedo region and Jalalaqsi respectively.

- UNICEF RRTs continue to support local level coordination arrangements and participating in joint assessments of flood affected populations and sites.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

- UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), delivered clean/safe water through trucking to 39,906 people in Southwest and Hirshabelle states.
- A total of 10,321 people were enabled access to safe water sources in Lower Shabelle region of Southwest State.
- A total of 9,425 people were supported with access to safe sanitation facilities

Nutrition

- In all locations, UNICEF screened 9,176 children for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Out of this number, 1,164 children were admitted and treated at UNICEF supported facilities.
- Infant and Young Child feeding (IYCF) knowledge was provided to 7,622 caregivers of SAM children.

Child Protection

- A total of 1,209 people were reached through awareness programmes on impact of violence against children and Gender Based Violence and protection of children.
- A total 5,068 children were linked with different support services that address flood related risks.
- A total of 737 children were enabled access to child protection service hubs
- 696 people were reached with mental health and psycho-social support services (MHPSS).

Social and Behaviour change (SBC)

- RUTF bulk messages were translated successfully and disseminated via short message service to 5,000 people.
- Community Social Mobilizers (CSM) provided key integrated messages on safety measures during the week to 60,674 people (21,567 in Banadir, 20,690 in Hirshabelle, 8,314 in Jubaland and 10,103 in SWS).
- 845 people provided feedback during the awareness visits by social mobilizers in Banadir and Galgadud regions.
- 20 local FM radio stations aired a total of 345 key messages of integrated package of El-Nino safety and disease prevention messages to listeners in Banadir, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, SWS and Galmudug states.

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More information on the situation in Somalia and UNICEF's response, including the latest situation reports, can be found at www.unicef.org/appeals/somalia/situation-reports.