

Rapid Response Team (RRT)

Response to El Niño

14 December 2023

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Situation Update

According to the Somali Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) agency, most of the flood affected districts, including other parts of Somalia remained dry during this reporting week, with only Buale and Jamaame districts recording light rainfall. The dry spell which was also experienced in most parts of the country over the past two weeks, has seen river levels gradually dropping below flood risk levels in Dollow and Luuq in Gedo region, Buale in Middle Juba and Jowhar in Middle Shabelle. However, river levels in key flood affected districts like Bardheere, Beletweyne and Buloburto, remain at bankfull, largely due to the late onset and magnitude of the flood water from the Ethiopian Highlands.

The existing dry conditions is forecasted to continue into the coming week, and minimal rainfall is expected throughout the month of December, signaling the end of the Deyr season in Somalia. It is expected that the ongoing weather conditions will eventually support flood-recession farming, as previously inundated areas as flood waters recede and river levels return to normal.

Information from UNICEF Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) indicated that previously displaced households have now started to return to their homes in Luuq and Dollow districts. However, the returning population are faced with an increased risk of malaria and water borne diseases, owing to the contamination of water sources and the challenge of accessing clean water. In Luuq and Dollow, most of the public water sources are now functioning, but the safety of the water remains questionable because of reported shortages in chlorine supply resulting from challenges with access.

Update by State

Hirshabelle State

There was no rainfall in all flood-affected districts in Hirshabelle State during the week. The Shabelle river level in Beletweyne was at 8.00m as of December 11, 2023, with flood waters slowly receding from roads and most parts of the town. UNICEF integrated mobile team accessed 17 of the 30 evacuation sites during this reporting week, providing integrated services in Health, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection. The UNICEF RRT supported the intensification of the ongoing measles campaign in Beletweyne, vaccinating 796 children, twice the number reached last week. In Buloburto and Jalalaqsi districts, access remains a challenge as both districts remain flooded. For the first time since the commencement of the flood response, the UNICEF RRT was able to physically visit Jalalaqsi district during a high profile mission with other partners. While it was not possible to visit the affected communities due to concerns around security, the team met with UNICEF implementing partners on the ground.

With support from the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), UNICEF was able to provide safe drinking water to 33,184 people (8,182 in Jowhar and 25,002 in Beletweyne) during this reporting week. A total of 1,338 children were vaccinated for measles in the five hotspots in Hirshabelle, and a total of 10,383 people accessed emergency healthcare services from UNICEF supported facilities.

South-West State

In Southwest State, there has been no rainfall for the third consecutive week. However, the trend of AWD/Cholera continue to increase, affecting mostly Baidoa and Afgoye districts. The WASH cluster estimates that a total of 107,000 hygiene supplies are needed to prevent a large outbreak of AWD/Cholera. With the help of the logistics cluster, 15,000 hygiene kits from the regional supply hub (RSH) and partner stocks, would be airlifted to Hudur, Qansaxdheere, Waajid and Marka districts.

UNICEF has initiated a request through the logistics cluster to send health and nutrition supplies to Qansaxdheere district.

Jubaland State

An outbreak of measles was reported in Belet-Hawo in Gedo region. Out of ten samples taken for laboratory tests, eight returned positive. UNICEF continued its response efforts in Jubaland, vaccinating 338 children against measles, and provided emergency healthcare to 4,508 people (2,297 male and 2,211 female), out of which 1,958 were children. Some health facilities that were previously closed because of the flood, have now re-opened, and resumed services. The receding flood waters have left behind ponds with stagnant water, which are serving as breeding grounds for mosquitoes, increasing the cases of Malaria being reported at health facilities.

Galmudug State

Galkacyo has not experienced any rainfall for almost a month, and flood waters have since dried up. Most of the population initially displaced by the floods have now returned to their homes. Schools and commercial activities have resumed.

A joint assessment by Galkacyo Local Government, GCRI and the state MoHADM, found that over 5000 households (30,000 people) were displaced by the recent floods. The floods also destroyed 4000 houses and 7000 latrines. The flood affected 12 IDP camps hosting about 750 households (4500 people), and the inhabitants relocated to higher grounds. UNICEF through its local partner - SAF UK, distributed 1000 cartons of High Energy Biscuits (HEB), reaching 2000 under five children during this reporting week. A second phase of HEB distribution is planned in the coming weeks, with 1900 cartons targeting 3800 under five children.

UNICEF and Partners Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

- UNICEF enabled access to safe/clean water through water point chlorination and trucking to 121,980 people in Baidoa, Hudur, Waajid, Afgoye and Berdale in Southwest State and Jowhar and Beletweyne in Hirshabelle State. A total of 1,315 people living with disabilities were reached out of this number.
- A total of 6,018 hygiene kits were distributed to flood affected households in Southwest (3018 kits) and Jubaland (3000 kits) States during the reporting week.
- A total of 3,386 people were supported with access to safe sanitation facilities

Nutrition

- In all locations, UNICEF screened 13,802 children for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Out of this number, 1,337 children were admitted and treated at UNICEF supported facilities.
- Infant and Young Child feeding (IYCF) knowledge was provided to 6,486 caregivers of SAM children.

A summary of the current WASH supply stock at the Regional Supply Hubs (RSH) is presented in the table below:

General Overview of RSH Stock (5th Dec,2023 RSH report)				
RSH Manager	Location	RSH target (HH)	Current stock enough for HH	Gap (Stock needed HH)
CPD	Adaado	10,000	1,870	8,130
SOPHPA	Mogadishu	20,000	17,200	2,800
IOM	Kismayo	10,000	3	9,997
WARDI	Belet-Weyn	15,000	13,442	1,558
SHRA	Luuq	10,000	650	9,350
GRRN	Baidoa	20,000	3,605	16,395
SAIF	Elwak	10,000	2,255	7,745
IOM	Dobley	10,000	500	9,500
INTERSOM	Jowhar	15,000	12,670	2,330
Total		120,000	52,195	67,805
% of stock available against required stock @RSH			43%	

Health

- In all locations, 1,392 children from flood affected households received measles vaccine, a 37 percent increase from last week.
- A total of 20,102 people accessed emergency healthcare services at UNICEF supported facilities.

Child Protection

- A total of 2,469 people were reached through awareness programmes on impact of violence against children and Gender Based Violence and protection of children.
- A total 2,680 children were linked with different support services that address flood related risks.
- A total of 701 children were enabled access to child protection service hubs
- 680 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 40,000 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).
- Ongoing social mobilization sensitization meetings were conducted in Banadir, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, SWS and Galmudug states, reaching 108,324 people and assessed 14,784 children for zero dose and vaccine compliance (defaulter status).
- 698 people provided feedback during the awareness visits by social mobilizers in Banadir and Galgaduud regions.
- Developed human rights defenders U-Report Poll, translated into Somali languages and disseminated all registered U-Reporters.
- 20 local FM radio stations aired a total of 395 key messages of integrated package of El-Nino safety and disease prevention messages to listeners in Banadir, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, SWS and Galmudug states.

Weekly UNICEF Response



13,802
Child screened for malnutrition



108,324
People reached with risk communication



1,337
Children received treatment for SAM



6,018
People provided with WASH supplies



1,392
Children vaccinated against measles



121,980
People reached with safe water through water trucking and chlorination



680
Children reached with critical Child protection services



567
Children received learning material

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