

**Alert note****Somalia flood crisis (25<sup>th</sup> November 2023)**

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**Forum:** ACT Somalia Forum

**Type of emergency:** Floods

**Date of emergency:** 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (onset of rains)

<p><b>1. The nature of the emergency</b></p> <p>Somalia has experienced massive floods which are because of intense and heavy above normal rains. The heavy rainfall has caused river water levels to rise rapidly resulting to flooding.</p> <p>The floods come at a time when the country was expecting the 2023 Deyr<sup>1</sup> rains (October to December rains) which have come earlier than expected in some areas. Deyr is the term for the rainy season that usually runs from October to December.</p> <p>The rains, which started on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023, are characterized as El Nino induced weather conditions and have affected all regions of Somalia. It has rained consistently and continuously during the months of October to November 2023, causing excessive flooding. The heavy rains are predicted to last until April 2024 (Relief Web).</p> <p>The Somalia federal government and some of her member states has declared a state of emergency (<a href="#">APNews</a>) following the flooding in riverine regions and flash floods in the other parts of the country.</p>
<p><b>2. The impact and scale of the emergency</b></p> <p>This would be a large-scale national emergency as the flooding has affected most parts of the country. However, the severely affected areas included Gedo, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Bakol, and Mudug regions, where rainfall of more than 300 mm was received in early October and November 2023. Official reports indicate that 55 persons have lost their lives (14 children), 695,000 displaced and 5,000 shelters have been destroyed among the 33 worst affected districts.</p> <p>According to <a href="#">UNOCHA</a> flood update (November 2023) at least 1.7 million are expected to face adverse impacts from flooding caused by the El Niño rains in final quarter of 2023 into 2024.</p> <p>Members of ACT Somalia Forum were also involved in various assessments in Jubbaland (NCA), Gedo and Lower Juba (LWF), in Beledweyn DKH local partner conducted an assessment while in Galkacyo, Diakonia Sweden participated a joint assessment. FCA conducted assessment in Baidoa.</p> <p>Reports from the assessment found that women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities are the most affected by the floods and the recommended sector of response include emergency cash / food assistance, education in emergencies, emergency shelters, non-food items (NFIs), nutrition, protection, and WASH assistance.</p> <p><u>Destruction of property:</u></p> <p>The rains have caused massive destruction of infrastructure like roads, residential and commercial buildings. Water structures have also been destroyed- and transport has been disrupted, cutting off several areas from towns, health centres and schools.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Deyr rains are the rains that come between October – December 2023.

Flooding has destroyed more than 450 homes in southern Galkacyo District in Galmudug. Similarly, lower Juba (Kismayo and Dhoobley districts) reported excessive water levels in the Juba River, which resulted in a large scale of displacement. The influx of displaced people is regularly arriving in Kismayo town, searching for lifesaving (UNICEF, 2023).

The floods have destroyed critical water supply systems in the affected districts and as a result access to water is a major challenge for majority of the displaced people. Majority displaced are now relying on un-protected water for domestic use. This has increased incidence of water borne diseases such as cholera/Acute Watery Diseases.

#### Effect on Livelihoods:

Several businesses have also been destroyed, affecting the livelihoods of many. Livestock have died and thousands of hectares of crops have been destroyed affecting agriculture production and food security.

Another source reported that in Beledweyn, floods had affected countless hectares of farmlands, some of which are still flooded, and thousands of families were displaced and are now struggling to survive.

The El-Nino induced floods have caused massive destruction of crucial agricultural infrastructure including farmlands with crops, farms tools, irrigation canals and water pipelines. It is destroyed markets, food stocks and affected the food supply networks. This has created food shortages, escalated the prices basic food commodities, and further contributed to a worsening food security situation in the affected locations of Beledweyn, Kismayo, Dhoobley, Baidoa, Galkacyo, and districts of Gedo region.

#### Health and Nutrition:

The contaminated flooded water is likely to result in an outbreak of water borne diseases. The flooding has cut off access to health and education services due to flooded and destroyed roads and property.

#### Education in Emergencies:

Schools have been affected by floods and learning material like desks, teaching and learning materials have been either swept away or destroyed. Schools are also acting as shelter sites for displaced communities. Other school learning materials such as desks, teaching and learning materials have either been swept away or destroyed. Teachers in the affected communities have also been forced to migrate to other areas in search of other livelihoods opportunities for survival. In Somalia, schools act as best the protection environment for at risk children.

#### Gender

Women, children, elderly, and people living with disabilities have left their homes and are currently hosted in crowded institutions with limited access to basic services such as food, water, clothing, and sanitation services. In most of the flood affected districts, the Gender Based Violence safe spaces were either damaged or inaccessible.

According to UNICEF Flood Update (November 2023), the numbers of those affected are as follows:

Hirshabelle	638,000
Jubaland	607,000
Puntland	81,000
Galmudug	83,000
Southwest	212,000

The short-term consequences of the floods include threatened lives, inundated/destroyed properties, and businesses, destroyed belongings, damaged vital infrastructure, and prevent access to essential public services including health and education services.

The long-term consequences include decreased purchasing and production power, damage to infrastructure also causing long-term impacts, such as disruptions to access to safe water, electricity, transport, communication, education, and health care.

### **3. Local and national capacity**

Communities in Somalia have just come out of a long-term 5-year drought which left communities vulnerable. Communities are adopting negative coping strategies such as engaging their children in child labour, early or forced marriages, deforestation, or migration due to climate change to IDPs.

Before the onset of the floods crisis, the Somalia Inter- Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) developed the Somalia Emergency preparedness and response plan for July to December 2023 in anticipation of the El-Nino events as projected by several weather and climatic prediction centres.

The plan projected that approximately 1.6 million people across 24 districts will be affected by the El-Nino floods. Following the plan, preparations and mitigation steps were carried out to minimize the impact of El-Nino floods on the population.

At the national level the UN clusters, Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA) and Ministry of Humanitarian coordination and disaster management mobilized resources and prepositioned essential WASH and NFI supplies at strategic Hubs across the country in preparation of the predicted El-Nino flooding events.

#### UNOCHA

UN OCHA and the Area Humanitarian Coordination Group Platforms (AHCGs) are coordinating at State level and providing regular weekly updates through online platforms and enabling flood stock mapping from various agencies.

**Jubaland:** State-level cluster forums and flood response task forces have been activated in various flood-affected districts like Luuq, Dolow, Baardhere, Kismayo, and Dhoobley. **Puntland (Mudug region):** An El-Nino task force has been formed under the Humanitarian and Disaster Management Affairs (MoHADM). A joint assessment facilitated by UNOCHA in Galkacyo was conducted. Humanitarian organizations, private companies, and the government have supported the affected with 2,500 non-food items in North Galkacyo. Humanitarian clusters ad-hoc meetings have been held (WASH, livelihood, and protection) involving all humanitarian and government-relevant ministries since the beginning of the crisis to exchange information and improve response mechanisms. Also, the government engaged the local community to mobilize resources such as food, non-food items, and shelter materials to support the affected community. So far, 2,500 non-food item (NFI) kits are being dispatched to north Galkacyo.

**Hirshabelle (Beledweyn):** From October 2023, an El Niño task force was established that comprised of government representatives, humanitarian cluster leads, international and national NGOs to coordinate the response and evaluate the crisis magnitude in the flooded areas. The task force conducted a joint rapid assessment. Some partners have provided response assistance, like water trucking targeting the displaced people. Partners like FAO and UNFPA have developed and disseminated El Niño flood mitigation and response plans that local partners have adopted in responding to the situation.

**Southwest (Baidoa):** Humanitarian communication group, Somali NGO Consortium, Food Security Cluster, Camp Coordination and Management (CCM) are actively coordinating to respond to the crisis in Southwest State Somalia. Humanitarian partners, the authorities, and local communities have stepped up assistance to affected people. At least 743,000 people have received some form of life-saving assistance since the heavy rains and floods started in October 2023.

#### 4. Key needs and gaps

Affected communities have evacuated to higher ground – in areas that are often overcrowded with meagre resources insufficient food, shelter, poor sanitation, and no access to safe water for example in Hirshabelle (Beledweyn).

The identified most urgent needs include food assistance, Education in Emergency, Emergency shelter, non-food items (NFIs), nutrition, protection, and WASH assistance from various assessments conducted in their areas of operation.

These were identified as the most pressing needs for affected communities. Limited flow of support is recorded because major roads and bridges have been cut off, leaving local transporters stranded. Displaced families who were living in makeshift shelters in the IDP sites have been displaced to higher grounds with significant need for shelter, clean water, and sanitation facilities. Contaminated water sources especially the communal shallow wells and other sources pose a risk of water borne diseases. The climate event poses an additional risk to communities already weakened by a historic drought, further undermining food security and resilience to disasters.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> )	
Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
NCA	Gedo Region; (Dolow, Luuq and Beled hawo Districts)	WASH, Economic Empowerment, GBV	Financial	\$300,000
Diakonia Sweden	Mudug region:- (Galkacyo district)	WASH, FSL	Financial	\$300,000
LWF	Lower Juba Region:- (Kismayo and Dhobley districts)	Education, Livelihood WASH	Financial	\$300,000
DKH	Hiraan region:- (Beledweyn district)	WASH Food Security Shelter & NFI	Financial	\$300,000
FCA	Bay region: (Baidoa district)	Livelihood Education/skill training	Financial	\$300,000

#### 5. Potential responses

Five ACT Alliance forum members (NCA, FCA, Diakonia Sweden, LWF, and DKH) have presence in the geographical areas hit by the flood crisis and have current ongoing projects in various sectors and have experience in emergency response programs. ACT Somalia Forum plans to respond in the sectors of Food security and livelihoods (FSL), WASH, and shelter, Protection/GBV and Education in Emergency.

To do this, ASF (ACT Somalia Forum) members are requesting for financial support to respond to the flood affected communities. Additionally, ASF members call for global advocacy and awareness-raising on the adverse effects of climate change to contribute to the global agenda of climate change impact mitigation measures.