



AADS
Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia

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مؤسسة للمساعدة والتنمية في الصومال



RAPID ASSESSMENT FOR FLASH FLOODING SITUATION

In South West State, Somalia

Duration: 12 to 15 November, 2023

Conducted by: AGENCY FOR ASSISTANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOMALIA-AADS

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BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia abbreviated as AADS is defined as nongovernmental, non-political, non-partisan and nonprofit making organization, flexible and committed to provide humanitarian programs answering to the community's basic needs relevant on the current situation in Somalia. Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS is an open to all without distinction of origin, race, color or creed, in accordance with the purpose of Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS inception and its existence.

The Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS is operating in Somalia particularly South West State, Jubaland State, Hirshabelle State and Banadir region. The organization was established on 02/03/2008. Therefore Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS was founded by a professional group of people from the different parts of the Somali society living inside and outside of the country.

Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS is mainly focused on education, health and nutrition, emergency relief and rehabilitation, livelihood, mother health care for communities in operational regions. Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS has built its reputation at grassroots level as a visionary organization capable of working with communities mutually to alter the current course of conflicts and dis-empowerment at communal and individual level in the regions.

VISION:

Envisions Empowered Communities and never-ending peace and development.

MISSION:

Supporting communities to achieve long term changes in the lives of families and individuals and attempt to peace and stability, reconciliation of the South/central Somali regions damaged by the civil wars, political crisis, food crisis and at the same time make their hearts to avoid each other through collaboration and cooperation among the communities in South/central regions of Somalia.

PARTNER AND MEMBERSHIP

AADS is friendship with NGO consortium and also AADS organization is partnered with all the local organizations who work in the operational regions to create friendly environment, Therefore, we are partnered with UNHCR, NRC, OXFAM NOVIB, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, UNICEF, UNPOS, UNFPA, ARD , MoH, SOMALI DIASPORA and T4H.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During our assessment report period, there are several areas of Somalia received heavy rains and floods have affected over 1.24 million people, with over 456,800 people displaced from their homes and at least 32 people have died, according to the Somali authorities. Bay region, South West State.

Half of the 30,000 people affected by floods in Buurdhuubo, Garbaharey district in Jubaland State, have been displaced, with some sheltering in six schools, two health centres and mosques. Others have moved to higher grounds within the town. Flood water has reached communities downstream in Middle and Lower Juba, where there are significant access constraints due to the presence of non-state actors. In Saacow district, Middle Juba, where an estimated 60,000 people have been affected by floods, local NGOs are struggling to deliver assistance in the face of access difficulties and funding shortages. In Hirshabelle State, the Shabelle river has flooded about 90 per cent of Belet Weyne town, displacing most of the population to higher grounds. About 250,000 people are living in dire conditions, according to the Hirshabelle El Niño Task Force.

South West State: Overnight rains on 4 November swamped Baidoa town, inundating 384 IDP sites. Roads are flooded and humanitarian movements curtailed. In Xudur district, heavy rainfall on 2 and 3 November, displaced 25,410 people of whom 21,000 have moved to higher ground, according to the authorities. In Berdale district, at least 27,000 people were affected by flash floods in Berdale district following heavy rains on 4 November, including over 9,100 IDPs. Three, including two children, have died. Overall, partners and authorities estimate that 268,243 people have been affected in the state.

OBJECTIVE

1. Assess the impact of the flood in the affected settlements and understand current situation of displaced population
2. Identify the existing community capacity in regard to flood impact mitigation measures
3. Identify the immediate needs of the affected population and give recommendation to relevant partners.
4. Coordinate and plan immediate response measures with other partners based on the assessment findings

GENERAL FINDINGS

During our assessment Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS team found the list information as below

1. All of the assessed areas were flooded and stagnant water is remaining which forces the majority of residents to move to high grounds and away from the flooded areas. Most of them live in temporary structures made of tree branches, old worn out clothing and mats. During the assessment conditions of the submerged shelters were observed, floating households' belongings seen by assessment

team while at areas currently accommodating displaced families people using tins as cooking utensils were witnessed giving clear indication of how households lost their assets in the floods.

2. Assessment team reported to have witnessed families struggling to erect temporary shelters made from sticks and rugs whereas others slept under shades on the bare ground un-protected from cold weather sanitary condition is dire and with no sanitation facilities, open defecation is commonly practiced while highly turbid, contaminated and un-treated stagnant water remains the immediate reach by affected families increasing the possibilities of outbreak of water borne diseases.
3. Community leaders from the affected settlements reported to have witnessed a total disruption of community's way of life after floods submerged 95 % of all shelters in the affected villages and washed away families' belongings and livelihoods including fishing nets impacting severely local economy as fishing, which was one of the main available means of livelihoods is now completely disrupted.
4. The residents depend on the river water for all their domestic needs and household chores. They do not use any kind of water purification measures. With most of the residents confirming that they drink water directly from the river despite the river being muddy during the floods.
5. The general sanitation status of the villages is poor with most of the residents practicing open defecation; the few households that constructed pit latrines have their latrines flooded and collapsed. Leaders confirmed cases of water borne diseases already experienced in the areas covered by stagnant water due to community consumption of contaminated water and other un-safe hygiene practices.
6. Affected villages are cut off from rest of the region as a highways are flooded making movement of goods and people impossible this continues to worsen the food security condition which is destroyed as a result of the flash flood.
7. According to the informants there are no NGOs whether national or international currently working towards the improvement of the health and hygiene status of the affected population.

WASH

- Affected population have no access to safe water, flood water suspected to be highly contaminated remains only available water because the flood water and the toilets are mixed.
- Having lost household assets most families are left with usually no more than one jerry-can now use for water collection, storage containers are not available.

- Members of the community reported to drink un-treated water since large scale water treatment options are not available, use of household treatment methods like boiling is impossible because families lost their utensils.
- Poor sanitary condition in the settlements and lack of community hygiene education accelerates possibilities of diseases outbreak.
- Few existing latrines have been flooded and collapsed, open defecation is practiced in massive scale
- Over-crowding at limited high grounds could trigger the outbreak of water-borne diseases.
- Huge numbers of flies and mosquitos, many of them feared carrying malaria, can be observed as stagnant water creates perfect breeding environment and families do not have means to protect themselves

SHELTER

- Affected population have left behind their shelters after they were submerged by water forcing people camp under shades.
- Roughly 456,800 of the affected population including IDPs have lost household belongings after their assets were washed away in South west State Somalia
- Limited cooking pots, plates and kettles observed – some families are using tins as cooking utensils. Most of the residents do not have soaps, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and blankets
- Displaced population with no shelter are vulnerable to cold weather with no protective clothing to cover themselves or to sleep on.
- Pregnant women and children under five years constitute a significant group of the displaced population and are susceptible to malaria because they lack treated nets to use at night.
- Temporary shelter constructed are made from sticks and rugs which cannot protect users from rains since they lacked proper roofing.

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD

- Families have lost means of livelihoods/income opportunities as their crops and farms products have been destroyed by floods.
- Loss of income reduces purchasing power of farmers to buy (vegetable) seeds
- Farming and fishing are two means livelihood activities and with farms submerged by water and fishing tools washed away by flood affected families are left with no means to catch fish and farm.
- Villages are economically obstructed since they are cut off from the rest of the region as floods made access by road impossible shipment of goods including food can be made only using low capacity and speed boats, this means loss of income in the short term but also inaccessibility of a variety of basic goods
- Accessibility to food among the displaced population is extremely difficult as engulfed villages have no access to major towns to receive supplies from and

having no productive activities like fishing and farming ongoing these villages are food insecure.

- Irrigation canals have been flooded, losing capacity and therefore reduced area that can be irrigated

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

- Provision of shelter materials like plastic sheets for roofing and sleeping mats.
- Provision of basic household items – kitchen sets to restore community normal lives.
- Distribution of mosquito-nets to protect pregnant women and children from malaria spreading mosquitoes.
- Distribution of water treatment tabs to reduce chance of water borne diseases outbreak.
- Increase community awareness on safe hygiene in flood affected environment to reduce risk associated with bad practice.
- Open defecation and lack of sanitation facilities remains a big challenge which if not addressed can lead to disease outbreaks
- Provision of access to food remains a challenge as villages are cut off and existing stocks were destroyed by flood
- Local authorities are trying to address the issue of stagnant water however their capacity is very limited
- Next to emergency response a comprehensive recovery strategy should be put in place focusing on restoring community livelihoods destroyed by floods.
- Agencies willing to respond will require support in terms of logistics as items can be transported by road only to a certain point and further transport requires motor powered, big capacity boats which are not currently available – the one available engine powered boat can carry up to 70 standard hygiene kits at once
- Support in terms of food production in the form of cash or seeds and canal rehabilitation would help affected farmer households

Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS reported that flood-affected people need urgent food, emergency shelter and non-food items (NFIs), nutrition, health, protection; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance. Findings by a local NGO indicate that food, health, WASH and shelter/non-food items are the most pressing needs for affected people in South West State. A limited flow of commodities is reported because the Jamecada road between Mogadishu and Burhabaka is cut off, leaving local transporters stranded on both sides.

Partners report a significant need for shelter, clean water, and sanitation facilities for displaced families, as well as community surveillance, early warning systems and risk communication in Jubaland. Shallow wells in Luuq, Doolow and Belet Xaawo are underwater, which has severely affected access to safe drinking water, therefore

mitigating the risk of water borne diseases is critical especially for communities that are using flood water for domestic purposes.

In conclusion, the last seven days, moderate to heavy rains received by most parts of South West State regions and districts which will positively effect in same circumstances rural & urban communities. On the other hand, the rains created flash floods which impacted communities including IDPs. As rainy season continues, **Agency for Assistance and Development of Somalia-AADS** encourages all humanitarians partially UN agencies and INGOs to be prepared supporting the affected communities as well as advocate for urgent humanitarian support to provide timely response for the affected populations.

PHOTO

