

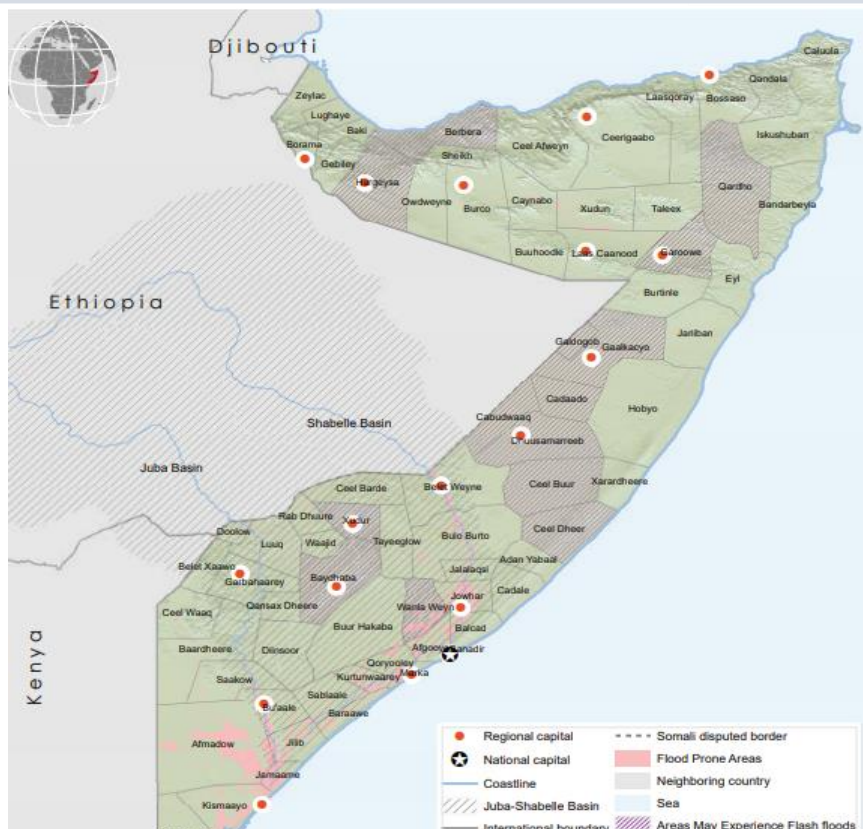
Acted Somalia: El Niño Response

Emergency Flood Alert | September - October 2023



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS*:

The El Niño, exacerbated by a forecasted positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), is predicted to cause widespread flooding across Somalia. Based on historical data, the coinciding weather patterns are raising alarm bells and driving concerns of mass displacements across Somalia: during the El Niño of 2015-16, more than 1.4 million people were affected in the region, while the 2019 IOD in the region resulted in widespread flooding with at least 3.4 million people affected [1]. This year, there is 90 percent certainty that the El Niño will cause above-average flooding, impacting a projected 1.6 million people [2]. The flooding is not only expected to affect the areas surrounding the Juba and Shabelle rivers but also other low-lying areas, which are also expected to receive above-average rainfall. The anticipated flooding will touch all aspects of displaced community livelihoods, causing property damage, destruction of crops, destruction of community infrastructure, and disruption to local supply chain. It is projected that there will also be an increased risk of disease outbreak due to contaminated and stagnant water [3]. IDP communities are particularly at risk, due to the expected impact on critical infrastructure such as the destruction of shelters, flooding of latrines, and contamination of shallow wells. Somalia continues to face a multi-dimensional crisis shaped by conflict, drought, and climate shocks: the effects of an El Niño will exacerbate existing humanitarian needs, particularly at vulnerable IDP sites, resulting in continued displacements and a growing humanitarian needs gap.



Projected areas to be affected by 2023 El Niño floods

Source: Somalia WASH Cluster

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Most at-risk areas include Bardhere, Luuq, Jamame and Kismayo in Jubaland and Jowhar, Dolow, Afgooye, Hudur and Baidoa in South West State, Beledweyne and Buloburde in Hirshabelle State, and areas surrounding the Ethiopian highlands, where water feeds into the rivers of the Juba and Lower Shabelle.
- 1.6 million people are expected to be affected by the flooding across 36 districts with 1.5 million hectares of land at high-risk of inundation along the Juba and Shabelle rivers [4].

* As of October 1, 2023



1. OCHA Eastern Africa: *El Niño, Positive Indian Ocean Dipole Forecast and Humanitarian Impact (September 2023)*

2. Somalia WASH Cluster: *2023 El Niño Flood Risk Analysis*

3. *Ibid.*

4. *Ibid.*

4. OCHA Eastern Africa: *El Niño impact and humanitarian needs (December 2015)*

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Key Messages

- **Early preparation and planning is critical to mitigate loss of livelihoods:** Measures such as early warning are critical to mitigate the loss of livelihoods and prevent further displacements. Early messaging will ensure communities are aware of the support available to them prior, during, and after the El Niño floods. Such messaging delivered at site level or through radio broadcast will also ensure that communities take the necessary preparatory steps to prepare their community infrastructure and protect their own assets
- **Humanitarian actors must prioritize preparedness and prepositioning:** Humanitarian actors must evaluate and position their resources to target key areas most at-risk of flooding. Once flooding hits, it will be challenging to move resources in and out of the region, especially in hard-to-reach areas; therefore, it is critical that these resources are prepositioned and ready to be deployed or distributed to the communities before the shock happens to enhance preparedness.
- **Responses must be multi-sectoral to address cross-cutting needs:** The El Niño will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Somalia is currently hosting 3.86 million IDPs, and 4.3 million people are expected to face crisis-level or worse food insecurity between October to December 2023 [5] [6]. The El Niño will exacerbate these vulnerabilities, driving issues such as food insecurity, water insecurity, poor hygiene conditions, public health gaps, property damage, protection risks amongst others. In face of these cross-cutting issues, it is critical that a comprehensive multi-sector response is implemented in the areas most affected. The interventions should combine in-kind and cash assistance. Indeed, not all affected communities will be impacted in the same way. A combination of in-kind and cash assistance should be implemented to take into account logistical constraints and mitigate access challenges while maximizing community impact.
- **Vulnerable groups must be centralized in responses:** Targeting must also prioritize individuals from minority groups and vulnerable categories, e.g. people with disabilities, as these groups often struggle the most to access services due to their weaker circles of connectivity. Additionally, gender considerations must shape the targeting with particular attention given to female-headed households. Vulnerabilities and challenges will only be compounded under shock-driven emergency conditions.
- **Coordinate with WASH and CCCM Clusters, Cash Working Group (CWG), and Government Authorities to Ensure Effective Targeting and Coordination:** Acted will coordinate with the relevant clusters, working groups, and government authorities to ensure that sites most vulnerable to flooding are appropriately targeted for assistance and gaps are identified and filled in a timely, efficient, and coordinated manner. Acted will advocate for the priorities identified in its assessments to ensure that any priorities outside of its scope of work are met by other well-positioned partners



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Preparedness and Anticipatory Action

Step 1: Preparedness and Anticipatory Action: early planning plays a critical role in ensuring that communities are equipped with the tools necessary to limit the impact of El Nino flooding on lives, livelihoods, and property.



Early Priority Identification: Flood-specific assessments were conducted in priority sites to evaluate flood risk and vulnerabilities and ensure priorities are reflected in potential corrective measures. Geographic targeting is ongoing to promote early preparedness in communities most at-risk of flooding. Acted's assessment partner, REACH, will also conduct RNAs at IDP sites likely to experience an influx following flooding to inform the broader humanitarian response.



Early Warning Messaging: Supporting overall aid localization and in partnership with its local partners, Acted is rolling out awareness-raising sessions in priority sites focused on community-based early warning and flood preparedness using key messages from the Community engagement task force. In coordination with, and in support of, the current planning of government and local authorities, Acted is launching radio messaging campaigns to ensure a wide coverage of the target areas in the pre-flooding /early flooding phase of the response, in Somaliland, Jubaland and South West State.



In-Kind Prepositioning, Targeting and Early Procurement: Acted prepositioned hygiene kits in key target locations as part of its regular programming as well as proceed with early targeting process the smooth and timely distribution of hygiene kits, SNFI and other in-kind support at the onset of the flood, which will be ensured through a timely procurement process. Emergency WASH NFI kits are being procured in both Jubaland and South West State, to ensure rapid deployment of hygiene materials during a period of heightened risk of hygiene-related diseases with the potential damage of sanitation facilities. Acted is actively coordinating with the SNFI and WASH Clusters as well as local authorities to assess the availability of additional SNFI, WASH kits and sandbags, aiming to strengthen the overall response with wider targeting coverage.



Site Preparation and Capacity-Building: Acted is working with the Camp Management Committees (CMCs) and Site Maintenance Committees (SMCs) to target IDP sites at high-risk flooding. These efforts aim to build their capacity for flood preparedness and mitigation measures. Without replicating community governance structures already in place, there will be the establishment of a community-led flood response task force. Further mitigation measures, such as the procurement of site maintenance and improvement tools specifically linked to flood preparedness and response are being taken based on assessed need. A specific drainage kit will also be anticipatively distributed to priority sites for the flood-prone communities, in order to better evacuate the excess water after being affected. In parallel, Acted will procure diesel pumps and pipes to support the communities in draining flooding water.



Centralization of Vulnerable Groups: Throughout all steps of the plan, specific attention will be given to vulnerable groups-- specifically women-headed households, minorities, and persons with disabilities-- to ensure adequate coverage under the response. Where possible, Acted, in consultation with its local partners SADO, MCAN and GREDO, will ensure that assessments and activities are carried out in a manner that is inclusive of minority communities and other vulnerable groups.

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Response Interventions

Step 2: Response interventions: Acted will draw from its emergency portfolio to ensure communities are able to recover in-face of weather-related shocks.

393,846 individuals

Estimated Target Beneficiaries
with Acted Response

156

Number of targeted IDP Sites

\$ 3 M

Estimated Cost Needed
For the Response



Establish the priority needs, available services, and access barriers to inform immediate operational response planning: The Assessment Working Group (AAWG), co-chaired by OCHA and REACH, developed a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) tool to be deployed in Phase 2 of the crisis, i.e. within 72 hours of onset, and endorsed by ICCG on October 15, to be used in all flooding RNAs in Somalia during this period.



Support and Enhance Site Response and Flood Response in Acted managed sites: To ensure an enhanced flood communication risk towards and from the flood-affected communities as well as a strengthened community surveillance prior and during the flooding through i) the enhancement of a two-way community-based alert system in each target location; ii) regular follow-up with the CMCs and SMCs; iii) facilitation of humanitarian-institutional taskforce catch-up meetings.



Support up to 3,910 HHs with Emergency WASH and shelter NFI Kits to Ensure immediate in-kind Support: Following a rapid needs assessment, Emergency WASH kits, along with the stored caseload of WASH kits, started to be distributed to the most-affected IDP communities, along with the roll out of hygiene promotion sessions. The distribution of Shelter NFI kits is also taking place through a prioritization exercise towards flood-affected HHs, based on identified needs.



Target up to 13,300 HHs with Emergency WASH Activities to Reduce Risk of Water-borne Diseases: Acted is activating further needs-based WASH activities in Jubaland and Southwest State. **The response is being tailored according to the most appropriate intervention identified in the target sites.** Activities could include pipeline extensions to ensure connectivity to alternative sites; construction and rehabilitation of additional flood-resistant latrines; emergency water trucking; procurement and distribution of drainage kits or other tools and materials for flood response; among others. Moreover, the planned rehabilitation of latrines will specifically focus on sites of which sanitation facilities have been affected by floods.



Support 1,700 HHs with Water Trucking to Address Severe Water Needs: To provide immediate relief to sites with highly urgent water shortages, a high influx of new arrivals, and/or dysfunctional water assets, Acted will launch its water trucking response in Baidoa and Kismayo to ensure communities have continued access to clean water. This activity, combined with any additional emergency WASH interventions deemed necessary, will mitigate the negative impact of the El Niño on WASH infrastructure and risk of water-borne diseases.



Target at least 1,725 HHs (individuals) in Bardheere with Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) and Food Assistance (FA) to Ensure Households can Meet their Most Urgent Needs: In areas where markets are functioning and accessible, including hard-to-reach areas, Acted is conducting RNA to target the most vulnerable IDP communities with MPCA and newly registered IDPs addressing flood-linked cross-cutting issues including access challenges to food, water, healthcare, and shelter.

In partnership with its donors, Acted is committing its available resources to prepare and support IDP communities ahead of the predicted El Niño to ensure a comprehensive, multi-sectoral response to cross-cutting vulnerabilities:



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