UNICEF is appealing for US$1.5 million to sustain the provision of life-saving services for women and children in Djibouti. Without this additional funding, children and their families will be exposed to risk of disease and mortality and education services in affected areas will be severely disrupted.

**Funding Overview and Partnerships**

UNICEF is appealing for US$1.5 million to sustain the provision of life-saving services for women and children in Djibouti. Without this additional funding, children and their families will be exposed to risk of disease and mortality and education services in affected areas will be severely disrupted.

**Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs**

Between 21st and 23rd November, Djibouti suffered three days of heavy rains and floods affecting the entire country to varying degrees. Reports indicate that between 21 and 24 November, almost 300mm of rain were recorded in Djibouti city alone, or over three times the annual average. Intermittent rain albeit with reduced intensity is expected to continue through Wednesday 27 November.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>21/11</th>
<th>22/11</th>
<th>23/11</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>49mm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arta</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>38mm</td>
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<td>Tadjourah</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>100mm</td>
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</table>

*Table 1 – rainfall 21-24 November (source: Meteorological Institute of Djibouti)*
According to initial government estimates, in Djibouti city alone, over 30,000-40,000 families (150,000-250,000 people), including 60,000 children and 16,200 children under five have been somewhat affected by the floods. Reportedly 9 people (7 children) have been killed.

Reports indicate that between 21 and 24 November, almost 300mm of rain were recorded in Djibouti city alone, or over three times the annual average. Dwellings, shops, schools, and infrastructure have been damaged. In some neighborhoods, access to electricity was also interrupted.

The regions are also likely to be affected, particularly the northern regions which also suffered heavy downpours. The information available to date indicates that at least 300 families are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Tadjourah region alone. The recently inaugurated Tadjourah-Balho road and the road between Djibouti and Tadjourah suffered severe damage. Several roads have also been cut off, making access to the affected population difficult. A bridge in the Arta area (PK53) is in danger of collapsing. According to initial reports from implementing partners, Ali Addeh refugee settlement has also been affected with at least 43 families displaced from their residence.

An initial assessment by the Ministry of Education has indicated a total of 11 schools are flooded, including severe damage to sanitation facilities. The precise extent of the damage will be known once a full assessment is carried out. The schools that have been hosting displaced families obviously require urgent cleaning in order to make them ready for reopening on Sunday, 1st December.

A drop-in centre providing basic social services to vulnerable children has also been severely damaged, putting children at risk of violence and abuse, as they are no longer able to access services.

Unfavourable weather conditions over the past days mean that there has not yet been a formal assessment, so figures on the number of affected populations are likely to change over the coming days as rapid assessments will be carried out.

The Government has deployed internal resources and opened 15 support centers for the victims (schools and Community Development Centers) which are now hosting the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and elderly. The civil protection, Water and Sanitation Department (ONEAD), Djibouti Mayor Office, Djibouti Prefecture and the armed forces have immediately deployed to pump the water out of the flooded areas. The Ministry of Social Affairs distributed some 3,500 meals a day to the evacuees, with the Djibouti Mayor’s Office. The Government has also activated a toll-free number (1516) for the victims to report problems and seek assistance.

On 25th November, the Government announced that families being accommodated in shelters (schools and community development centres) would have to leave the shelters by 15:00 local time and return to their homes. This means that families will require immediate assistance in their homes as they will be exposed to the risk of transmission of waterborne and mosquito-borne diseases (in the context of pre-existing malaria and chikungunya epidemics), acute respiratory infections as well as requiring support to purchase food, household necessities/NFIs.

Summary Analysis of Current and Planned Response

As of now, funding is only available to support interventions listed under “current response”. Additional funding will be required to ensure that affected children and their families are protected from the risk of disease, that children can continue their education and protect the most vulnerable children from violence and abuse.

Nutrition

Current response:
- Routine treatment of over 400 children affected by SAM is ongoing in health centres with current levels of supplies sufficient to cover affected children;
- The assessment required to establish whether existing supplies in warehouses and health centres have been damaged.

Planned response:
- Behavior change communication through community actors for promotion of good feeding practices for infant and young child feeding;
- Active SAM case-finding among flood-affected populations/households – potential need for an increase in RUTF.

Health

Current response:
- Communication tools and strategy developed for malaria response earlier in the year – the planned response will build on these achievements to target flood-affected populations;

Planned response:
- Behaviour change communication at household level (door to door) for promotion of use of mosquito nets and environmental hygiene to prevent spread of mosquito- and waterborne diseases, as well as acute respiratory infections among children (focusing on detection of disease signs and early care-seeking behavior) – to be coupled with distribution of water purification tablets;
- Contribution to filling possible gaps in drugs for integrated management of childhood illnesses and treatment of diarrheal diseases (following assessment with MoH).

**WASH**

**Current response:**
- UNICEF was able to immediately deliver 1,000 hygiene kits which were pre-positioned and is currently procuring an additional 900 hygiene kits while 300,000 water treatment tablets (Aquatabs) were distributed to the affected population settled in temporary accommodation.
- UNICEF procured 25 pumps with available funding to support drainage operations in households and public buildings;
- Procurement of high-capacity pumps through reallocation of funding from the Government of Japan.

**Planned response:**
- Behavior change communication through community actors on the prevention and treatment of waterborne diseases and waste management;
- Procurement of 500,000 water purification tablets;
- Procurement of 4,000 WASH and dignity kits for immediate response and prepositioning;
- Rehabilitation of latrines in flood-affected areas (desludging and infrastructures rehabilitation work).

**Education**

**Current response:**
- Provision of school kits to children from vulnerable flood-affected families (numbers to be confirmed based on needs assessment);
- Together with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF is convening Education development partners (including donors) to discuss the situation and response.

**Planned response:**
- Procurement of cleaning materials, including for clean-up operations in schools (emptying and cleaning of the latrine, especially those in schools which accommodated flood-affected families) and engagement of community actors for clean-up operations;
- Rehabilitation of primary schools that were damaged through the floods, with a focus on DRR and building back better – requiring drainage systems at the school level;
- Development of an education-sector and school-level contingency plans, including for disaster risk reduction.

**Child Protection**

**Planned response:**
- Support rehabilitation as well as procurement of equipment, medical supplies and recreational kits for centre providing drop-in services to vulnerable children living on the streets;
- Support immediate education and protection needs of flood-affected children and their families in refugee settlements.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Current response:**
- UNICEF playing a leading role in providing technical support to methodology, training, and implementation of rapid needs assessment.

**Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability**

**Planned response:**
- Technical support in developing tools and approaches for intensifying behavior change communication around WASH, nutrition, and health (see above);
- Providing cleaning materials to community-based actors to enable them to participate in clean-up operations in schools and other areas and additional WASH items based on identified needs.
Social Protection
Planned response:
- Contribute to the cash voucher system managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs (with support from WFP) by covering vouchers for purchasing of NFIs.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination, and Strategy

The President immediately activated the emergency plan (ORSEC) and the government has requested support from international partners as the local capacities to respond to the crisis are insufficient. The Government has initiated a solid coordination system, with partners participation. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior held a meeting on 25th November to formally seek partners’ support.

The United Nations Country Team, including UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR, UNDP, and IOM, is supporting the government by responding to humanitarian needs regarding food, health, WASH, shelter as well as NFIs. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has pledged 50,000 US dollars towards the relief efforts. The European Union has provided satellite imagery of flooded areas (see image above). Foreign armed forces based in Djibouti, including the French and Chinese forces have also been supporting the response.

The preparation of a joint rapid assessment with support from the UN is currently ongoing. The assessment will be carried out on 26th November. Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Affairs is planning an assessment at the household level and the Executive Secretariat for Disaster Management will conduct an assessment of infrastructure damage and the human impact of the floods.

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Funding Status*

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