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.

### Highlights

- Djibouti suffered three days of heavy rains and floods affecting the entire country to varying degrees.
- Djibouti city and its suburbs have been heavily impacted. Initial estimates indicate that 250,000 people have been affected by the floods, with 150,000 in humanitarian need. Unconfirmed reports put the death toll at 9, including 6 children.
- Families accommodated in schools and community development centres during the first days were moved back to their homes on 25th November.
- Without a rapid response and investment in infrastructure, flood-affected families will be exposed to morbidity and mortality due to the high risk of water- and mosquito-borne diseases. Children's return to school could be seriously delayed if schools are not fully cleaned and subsequently rehabilitated. Thanks to efforts by the Ministry of Education most schools reopened on 1st December.
- A rapid assessment was conducted by the various national actors and the UN in Djibouti city and other regions, on 27th and 28th November which provided a detailed mapping of humanitarian need and damage to infrastructure.

### 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 rains with reduced intensity fell between 24th and 28th without further aggravating the situation. The National Meteorological Agency has forecast further rain for 6th and 7th December due to a tropical storm approaching the coast of Somalia (Puntland).

### Table 1 – rainfall 21-24 November (source: Meteorological Institute of Djibouti)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>21/11</th>
<th>22/11</th>
<th>23/11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>49mm</td>
<td>91mm</td>
<td>155mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arta</td>
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<td>60mm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damerjog</td>
<td>91mm</td>
<td>45mm</td>
<td>54mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goubeto</td>
<td>8mm</td>
<td>27mm</td>
<td>38mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tadjourah</td>
<td></td>
<td>100mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>100mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to joint humanitarian needs assessment carried out by government with the support of the the UN, a total of 250,000 people have been affected by the floods, with around 150,000 in need of humanitarian assistance. The population in need includes 60,000 children and 16,200 children under five. In Djibouti city alone, 200,000 people were affected and 120,000 (including migrants and refugees) require immediate relief support. 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 was also affected with at least 43 families displaced from their residence.

According to the humanitarian needs assessment, at least 27 schools were damaged across the country, to different degrees and many children have lost their school kits, which will need to be replaced. An additional assessment was conducted by the Ministry of Education to assess damage to equipment in flood-affected schools but a more in-depth assessment will be required to assess damage to infrastructure. Schools were able to reopen on 1st December following a clean-up operation by the Ministry of Education.

A drop-in centre providing basic social and protection services to vulnerable children was also severely damaged and flooded, putting children at risk of violence and abuse, as they were no longer able to access services for several days. The centre has since reopened, despite significant damage and loss of equipment due to flooding.

The Government has deployed internal resources and opened 15 support centers for the victims (schools and Community Development Centers) which hosted the around 5,000 of the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and elderly (including 2,000 children). 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.

The families who were temporarily accommodated in schools and community development centres have since had to return to their homes, which means they are now exposed to the risk of transmission of waterborne and vector-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. The sanitation situation is particularly concerning, given the extensive damage to household sanitation facilities as a result of the heavy rains. Therefore, enhanced disease surveillance to ensure early detection of possible outbreaks, hygiene promotion and awareness activities, provision of mosquito nets, indoor spraying and insecticide/larvicide treatment near/in stagnant open pools of water, are immediate priorities. According to reports health infrastructure has also been damaged by the floods which has led to an interruption of health services in some areas. Further information is required to assess the extent of the damage.

The humanitarian needs assessment revealed that around 37 percent of the affected population has no access to water. Damage to estimated 16,000 families’ sanitation facilities and overflowing sewage systems increase the risk of environmental contamination. Despite floodwater evacuation operations through pumps by firefighters and the army, in some areas water returned, indicating that the sewage systems are clogged or unable to function properly.

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 – procurement of additional RUTF (for treating acute severe malnourished children) and foods supplements for children showing moderate malnutrition and/or exposed to high risk of developing malnutrition and for preventing malnutrition among pregnant women affected by the floods.

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 (procurement and distribution of additional IHEK kits following assessment with MoH).

WASH
Current response:
- UNICEF was able to immediately deliver 1,900 hygiene kits which were pre-positioned while 300,000 water treatment tablets (Aquatabs) were distributed to the affected population settled in temporary accommodation.
- UNICEF procured 27 pumps with available funding to support drainage operations in households and public buildings;
- UNICEF is about to sign a programme document with the Djiboutian Red Crescent to conduct an intensive hygiene promotion campaign in Djibouti City (aiming to reach 20,000 affected households), rehabilitate 348 household latrines and distribute 2,000 hygiene kits.

Planned response:
- Behavior change communication through community actors on the prevention and treatment of waterborne diseases and waste management;
- Intensify households and environment cleaning in the affected 19 districts of the city;
- Procurement of 500,000 water purification tablets;
- Procurement of 4,000 WASH and dignity kits for immediate response and prepositioning;
- Desludging and Rehabilitation of latrines in flood-affected areas (desludging and infrastructure rehabilitation work) in 4,200 households;
- Construction of 10 public latrines blocks in city areas experiencing open air defecation;
- Procurement of household water storage containers for 1,500 families.

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) on an ongoing basis to discuss the situation and response.

Planned response:
- Desludging and rehabilitation of school latrines;
- Support to replacement of school-level equipment (furniture, printers, photocopiers) that was damaged in the floods;
- 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**

**Current response:**
- Commitment to support rehabilitation of drop-in centre for street children and provide support to replacement of damaged equipment.

**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**

**Current response:**
- UNICEF has contributed to the cash voucher system managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs (with support from WFP) by covering NFI vouchers (including hygiene items) for 3,500 vulnerable families. Further assessment by the government (MASS) reviewed by WFP shows an increase in the number of vulnerable families in need of food/NFI support to 6,500.

**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, including sectoral coordination groups, with partners’ participation.

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 UNCT is currently in the process of preparing a flash appeal, outlining interventions for the immediate response (coming 3 months), as well as the medium-term and long-term recovery interventions. UNICEF has the lead for the Education and WASH sectors.

A joint humanitarian needs assessment with support from the UN was carried out on 27th and 28th November. Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Affairs conducted an assessment at the household level. Under the leadership of UNDP and in close collaboration with the World Bank, the UNCT will support government to conduct a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment in order to assess infrastructure damage.

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  Email: spierre@unicef.org
### Funding Status*

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