

Situation and Humanitarian Needs

Localized areas of Somalia have received moderate Gu rains since the 12th of March, with the heaviest rainfalls recorded in Gedo and Bay regions, particularly in Baardheere, Wanle Wayne, Luuq and Doolow districts. The rains come at a time when communities are struggling with a surge in disease outbreaks, including Acute watery Diarrhoea and Cholera, which are likely to increase due to the risk of contaminated water and lack of adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities and services. Furthermore, reports indicated that some districts of Hirshabelle State have received light to moderate rains over the past few days, mainly in the rural villages, bringing some relief to the communities that have been struggling to access water due to the ongoing drought. As the Shabelle river broke its banks, some villages, including Raqeyle and Bur Fuule were affected by flooding. Casualties and destruction of property have been reported. In Jubaland State, about 13 people were reportedly killed, and thousands of others affected as heavy rains inundated the Baardheere district. According to the District Committee on Disaster Management and the Jubaland Agency for IDPs and Refugees, out of 29 IDP sites hosting 45,000 households, two were affected by flooding and heavy rains: impacting the livelihoods of 8,118 IDPs. Several houses, latrines and other facilities were destroyed or damaged. The heavy rains, especially in the Ethiopian highlands, have increased the risk of the Juba River breaking its banks, particularly in Baardheere, Buaale, Saakow and Jilib, which could lead to flash floods and major displacements. An increased likelihood of pastoral migration with the onset of the rains has been reported; especially in the southern coastline along the Juba River that normally receives limited rains during the Gu season. Several joint assessments have taken place and a recent one on the 21st of March indicated that the newly arriving IDPs have limited access to health services, including a lack of knowledge on existing health facilities (HFs), accessible services and a lack of active community health activities connecting IDPs to HFs.

UNICEF Preparedness and Response Actions

WASH

- In partnership with Himilo Relief and Development Association (HIRDA), 15 hygiene promoters deployed to deliver key messages on hygiene and sanitation to the affected population.
- From the regional supply hub, UNICEF will dispatch 1,500 hygiene kits to reach 9,000 of the most vulnerable and affected people.

NUTRITION

- UNICEF is supporting two fixed and 6 mobile nutrition treatment centres to reach children with severe wasting and the delivery of Infant and Young Child Counseling for mothers. These emergency nutrition services are exerted in coordination with HIRDA that is providing emergency nutrition services.
- 35 community health workers have been deployed for community sensitization, screening, and referrals.
- As part of UNICEF's preparedness action, 1,500 cartons of RUTF and other essential nutrition supplies were delivered to the district prior to the floods.

HEALTH

- UNICEF delivered emergency health supplies to Bardheere on April 1, 2023, to cover the health needs of 30,000 flood-affected people for 3 months through its partner 'Human Development Concern' - (HDC).
- Re-orientation of existing program documents is well underway to initiate delivery of life-saving services

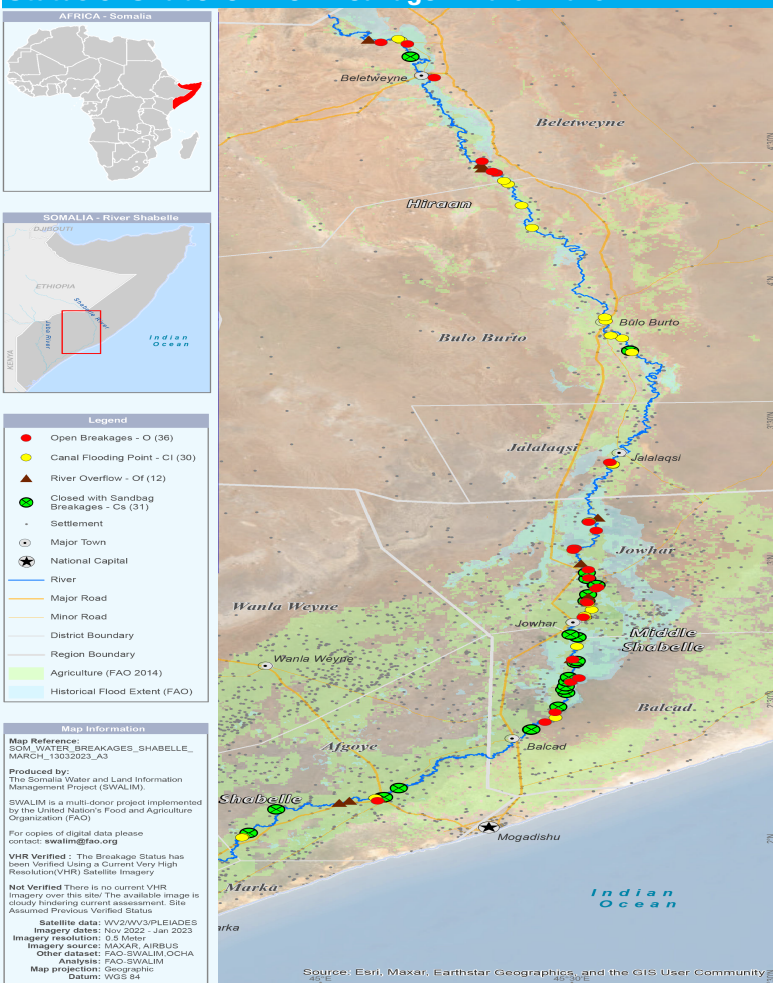
EDUCATION

- Ongoing distribution of teaching and learning material in Jaale Siyad Primary school in Baardheere town to reach 410 children.
- Provision of teacher incentives to 11 teachers including a head master.
- Coordination efforts are well underway with the WASH programme to provide hand washing and cholera prevention messages through primary schools.

CHILD PROTECTION

- UNICEF is supporting Identification, documentation, tracing and reunification of Unaccompanied and separated children, referral of gender-based violence cases to UNFPA one stop center, provision of mental health and psychosocial services, strengthening the existing community-based child protection mechanisms to enhance response, prevention and risk mitigation. In addition, UNICEF is currently supporting one child friendly space in the district. Beneficiary figures for the interventions are not conclusive.

Status of Shabelle River Breakage - March 2023



CHALLENGES

- Delayed supply transportation due to lack of road access:** Response coordination has been established quickly. UNICEF identified the needs of the affected population through its partners, clusters and line Ministries. However, due to the poor road access, timely delivery of supplies has been a challenge.
- Damage to existing schools:** The flooding has caused partial or full destruction of several primary and secondary schools, which has disrupted the education services and rendered some schools unusable.
- Damage and loss of teaching and learning materials:** Some learning materials have been washed away, which has made it difficult for students to continue learning. This raised the need and request for additional teaching and learning materials.