

Over 200,000 people fleeing river flooding in Beletweyne in Somalia



A DRC staff monitors a water trucking delivery in Farah Caafi Village in Beletweyne where over 200,000 people have been displaced by floods. In total, 40,000 litres of clean water is daily distributed to cover the basic drinking needs of affected populations in Hiran Bile, Xodeley and Farah Caafi villages. Photo: DRC

FLASH REPORT #2

21st of May 2023 (data reported as of 18th of May 2023)

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Context

Somalia faces an extreme and persistent drought, affecting up to 90 percent of its territory and 7.8 million people. In 2023, the drought coupled with conflict, and flooding has caused 912,000 people to be displaced within the country. Beletweyne, the capital of Hiiraan province in Hirshabelle State and is hosting around 115, 536 (19,256 households) who have fled, including new 11,682 individuals (1,947 households) since January 2023.

Situation

Following heavy rains in Ethiopia, the Shabelle river overflowed in Beletweyne during the night of the 9th of May 2023. Approximately 90% of Beletweyne town has been affected, including all main infrastructures. Twelve days after the flooding, the water has still not decreased, leaving infrastructures and roads unpracticable and consequently delaying the humanitarian assistance. The main hospital is still closed and only a few shops are open to provide food and other commodities to communities while many have to walk long distances in the water to find open shops.

DRC staff observation in Beletweyne, prices have increased and for example the price of half a litre milk has doubled from 1 to 2USD, fruits price increased in similar or worst proportion and 50 KG rice went from 28 USD to 34 USD. It has been reported that IDPs are using coping mechanisms such as requesting loans in shops and support of relatives while skipping meals or begging to access food.

“Not only the flood has caused displacement, distress and dire living conditions, but it has also aggravated the situation of the most vulnerable. We are finding elders left behind in flooded streets or alone without relatives and thus without support.”

explains Community Based Protection Network member who has been referring protection cases to DRC team in Beletweyne

In total, around 37,782 individuals (6,297 households) have evacuated twenty-six DRC managed IDPs' sites affected by flooding while around 9,000 individuals (1,500 households) remained in five DRC managed sites not affected by flooding, but isolated.

DRC Response



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

As of May 21st, CCCM Cluster has allocated distinct evacuation sites to the different CCCM partners (DRC, MRDO/IOM, DAN, and SOMLIFE) to facilitate coordination, avoid duplications, and map the needs, gaps and assistance being provided on the ground. DRC will be the response focal point for the different entities on the ground for the whole Al-Jhalle.

DRC is continuously mobilizing 269 Camp Management Committees' (CMC) members from the flooded IDPs sites and 18 outreach workers (ORW) to collect information as well to support response interventions and to identify needs in their respective current evacuation area.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion

Since 17th of May, 4 bladders have been installed in 3 evacuation areas, allowing to deliver 40,000 litres of clean water to around 5,332 individuals to cover basic drinking, hygiene and cooking needs through daily water trucking to Hiran Bile, Xodeley and Farah Caafi villages, thanks to SIDA funds.

Water quality monitoring activities are planned for all shallow wells affected by the floods, as soon as logistics and access issues will be solved.

DRC is actively participating in WASH cluster meetings to identify gaps and to coordinate the response. The following recommendations have been notably shared on 18th of May:

1. The National Cluster and OCHA to advocate for more funding to the affected populations since the impact of the flooding is broad.
2. Partners to scale up the activities and focus more on emergency latrine construction, specifically whereby open defecation is rampant in evacuation areas. Also, the distribution of Hygiene kits should be a blanket distribution.
3. Share information related to locations, response and gaps on a timely manner with partners and clusters.



A water bladder inside a camp in Farah Caafi Village in Beletweyne where a water trucking delivery by Danish Refugee Council is underway to cover the basic drinking needs of the flood-affected populations. Photo: DRC



Shelter and Non-Food Items

DRC has 270 Non-Food Items kits, 164 Shelter kits and 164 Hygiene kits funded by ECHO and prepositioned in Beletweyne. DRC has requested Shelter and WASH Clusters to support with targeting while our team is considering to provision 500 additional Hygiene and Shelter kits.



Protection

With the support of Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPN) and Camp Management Committees' (CMC) members and thanks to the support of BHA and SIDA, a total of 19 individuals facing protection related issues including Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) cases have been identified and supported by DRC with

- ✓ Transportation solutions, medical treatment, psychological first aid (PFA).
- ✓ Individuals Protection Assistance (IPA) to notably procure food items.
- ✓ Referrals to food partners for malnutrition cases, to specialized child protection agencies and to medical services.



Coordination and Partnerships

Under the Somali Cash Consortium, DRC has requested to activate a blanket MPCA distribution for one month, targeting around 18,000 vulnerable individuals (3,000 households) for basic needs such as food, water and NFIs.

In July 2022, DRC donated three boats funded by ECHO to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADM) for rescue operations, as part of our Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project. On 18th of May, local flood response committees and a local partner - DAN - have utilized the boats to deliver assistance and high-energy biscuits given by WFP to around 360 isolated individuals (60 households) in remote villages surrounded by floods.



A DRC donated boat used to reach vulnerable communities affected by river flooding. Photo: DRC

“Shabellow is one of the most flood-submerged locations surrounding the water, and many of the communities couldn’t escape the water into the higher ground due to the sudden turnaround of the flooding. With your support through the donation of the flood rescue boats, DAN and the flood response committee assisted 60 households in Shabellow.”

**says Mr. Abdifatah Mohamed Yusuf, Director General MoHADM Hirshabelle State
Director General MoHADM Hirshabelle State**

On 17th and 18th of May, DRC has participated in a joint assessment led by OCHA to ensure multi-sectoral needs are identified by partners, the outcome should soon be shared by OCHA.