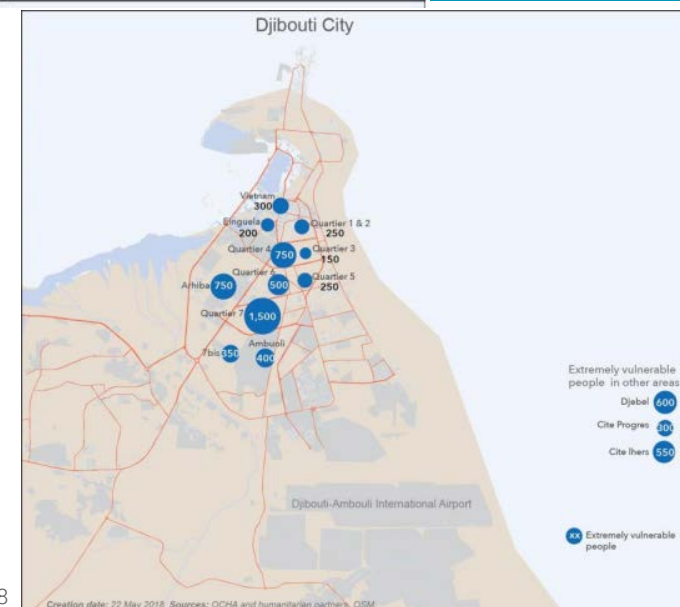


DJIBOUTI

Tropical Cyclone Sagar

A tropical cyclone developed on 16 May in the Gulf of Aden, between Yemen and Somalia, known as **Cyclone Sagar**. It hit Djibouti on 19 May causing **heavy rains and flash floods** (OCHA 22/05/2018; Weather Underground 17/05/2018; ECHO Daily Flash 21/05/2018). The areas most affected by flash floods are **Djibouti City** and the suburb of Balbala. **25-50,000 people have been affected** by flash floods and likely displaced, and two deaths have been reported (OCHA 22/05/2018; OCHA 20/05/2018; ECHO Daily Flash 21/05/2018). Two sectors of **Obock town**, in Obock Region, are also flooded. **Damages to shelters by heavy rains** have been reported in Ali Addeh refugee settlement. No needs have been reported for the population in Ali Addeh and Obock town (OCHA 20/05/2018).



Source: OCHA 22/05/2018

Key priorities



25'000-50'000
people affected, likely displaced



WASH
needs are likely to be high



1,500
damaged shelters in Djibouti City

Humanitarian constraints



Major road networks across the affected area are impassable, restricting movement between Balbala suburb and central Djibouti City (OCHA 20/05/2018).

Limitations

The lack of granular information on the population in need by sector makes it challenging to estimate whether the planned response will be sufficient to meet the needs of the affected population. Most of the reporting on the impact of Tropical Cyclone Sagar refers to the situation in Somalia and Djibouti within the same document. This creates confusion over whether the reported impact and needs refer to Somalia or Djibouti, or to both countries.

NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



IMPACT



Crisis impact

A tropical cyclone developed on 16 May in the Gulf of Aden, between Yemen and Somalia, known as Tropical Cyclone Sagar (Weather Underground 17/05/2018; ECHO Daily Flash 21/05/2018). On 19 May winds reached 120 and 130 km/h and the cyclone advanced towards Djibouti and Somaliland, in Somalia. It caused heavy rains and subsequent flash floods in areas that are normally very dry (La Chaine Météo 21/05/2018). Cyclone Sagar hit Djibouti on 19 May and flash flooding affected between 25,000 and 50,000 people, who are highly likely to be displaced. Two deaths have been reported (OCHA 22/05/2018). The most affected areas by heavy rains and flooding are Djibouti City, particularly the suburb of Balbala, and Damarjog village (OCHA 20/05/2018; ECHO Daily Flash 21/05/2018). 1,500 shelters have been damaged in Djibouti City, impacting some 7,000 people. Two sectors of Obock town, a port town in Obock Region, have also been flooded. An unspecified number of shelters have been damaged by heavy rain in Ali Addeh refugee settlement, in Ali Sabieh province (southern Djibouti). No needs have been reported for the population in Ali Addeh and Obock town (OCHA 20/05/2018).

On 21 May, the storm weakened into a tropical depression. It continues to move inland, across Djibouti, north-western Somalia, and northeast Ethiopia. Heavy rains are now expected in parts of Ethiopia, but Djibouti remains in alert for possible new heavy rains (ECHO 21/05/2018; The Weather Channel 21/05/2018; OCHA 20/05/2018).

WASH: The affected population in Djibouti are in need of water pumps and aqua tabs, and water purification, due to potentially high levels of contamination of floodwater. Aqua tabs and water purification are particularly needed to prevent any possible outbreak of waterborne diseases due to water contamination (OCHA 20/05/2018). Latrines have also been damaged by the heavy rains and flash floods (La Nation 21/05/2018). Rehabilitation of sanitation facilities is also essential for preventing the spread of waterborne diseases.

Shelter and NFIs: In Djibouti City flash floods have damaged schools and community development centres, which are normally used to shelter people who are reallocated in case of disaster, and at least 1,500 shelters (OCHA 22/05/2018). Some shelters have also been damaged in the eastern village of Damarjog. An unspecified number of shelters were damaged in Ali Addeh refugee settlement, in Ali Sabieh province, in southern Djibouti (OCHA 20/05/2018). Between 25,000 and 50,000 people have been affected and are likely displaced. This leads to increasing need for shelter assistance. The affected population are in need of tents and NFIs, including hygiene kits, blankets, mattresses, clothes, towels, and soap (OCHA 22/05/2018; OCHA 20/05/2018).

Food: No food needs have been reported for the affected population in Djibouti City. However as most of the population in Djibouti City lives of market gardening (small-scale

agricultural production), it is likely that heavy rains affected market gardening production, which will have had a negative impact on livelihoods (FEWSNET 11/2009).

Education: Schools have been damaged in Djibouti City due to flash floods. The number of schools affected is unknown. Final exams have been postponed in the affected schools (OCHA 22/05/2018; OCHA 20/05/2018).

Impact on critical infrastructure

Heavy rains and subsequent flash floods have caused damage to several main roads in Djibouti City, making them impassable. Traffic is almost cut off between Balbala suburb and central Djibouti City. In Tadjoura town (Tadjoura region) electric poles and a radio repeater were damaged, affecting communications. The central electrical compound of Djibouti has flooded. The warehouse of the National Office of Assistance for Refugees and Disasters (ONARS) has flooded, which is likely to hamper humanitarian response to vulnerable population and affected population by floods (OCHA 20/05/2018).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Main roads to and from Djibouti City are impassable, namely roads between Balbala suburb and central Djibouti City (OCHA 20/05/2018). Damages to the road infrastructure due to flash floods are likely to hinder humanitarian access and delay both the process of data collection in order to understand the extent of the damage and population needs, as well as the delivery of aid (All Africa 20/05/2018).

Vulnerable Groups

Djibouti hosts some 27,366 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia, and Yemen. Most refugees and asylum seekers (14,757) are living in Ali Addeh refugee camp. Another 5,382 are living in Djibouti city (UNHCR 04/2018). Both areas have been affected by heavy rains and flash floods caused by Tropical Cyclone Sagar, causing damage to shelter and infrastructures. WASH, shelter, and NFIs needs are likely to be higher among affected refugees and asylum seekers.

Aggravating factors and risks

Low preparedness for cyclones

Tropical cyclones are common in the Arabian Sea, in the northern Indian Ocean, especially during spring and autumn, as they are associated with the southwest winds responsible for the summer monsoon in India and Pakistan (FAO 18/05/2018). Since satellite monitoring and tracking of cyclones began in 1964, only two tropical cyclones have moved into the western Gulf of Aden: tropical storm 1A, which hit Somalia on 28 May 1984, and cyclone Megh in November 2015, which specifically affected eastern Somalia and Yemen, (The Watchers 18/05/2018). As Djibouti is not normally hit by tropical storms, the level of preparedness in country for meteorological disasters is likely very low.

Spread of waterborne diseases

Damage of sanitation facilities and lack of clean water as a consequence of heavy rains and flash floods, poses high risks for the spread of waterborne diseases (The Weather Channel 21/05/2018; UK Met Office 16/05/2018).

Desert Locust Plague

Heavy rains due to Tropical Cyclone Sagar in Djibouti, as well as in Somalia and Yemen, are likely to create favourable breeding conditions for desert locusts (Hurricane News 19/05/2018; FAO 18/05/2018). Desert locust plagues threaten agricultural production in Djibouti, which is already very limited as the country imports 90% of its food commodities (WFP 03/2018).

Seasonal information

The coastal capital of Djibouti, Djibouti City, normally sees some 15 days of rain per year, receiving under 163.5 mm of rainfall during the whole rainy season. Tropical cyclone Sagar has brought from 110mm of rainfall in all affected areas, including Djibouti city, in the space of two days (OCHA 22/05/2018; The Weather Network 17/05/2018).

In general, Djibouti is a desert-like arid country, with less than 200mm rainfall per year (WFP 03/208). In Djibouti there are three rainy seasons: the *Diraac/Sougoum* rainy season that normally runs from March to June; the *Karan/Karma* inland rainy season that lasts from July to September; the *Xays/Daaada* coastal rains expected from October to end of February (FEWSNET 06/2017).

National key characteristics

- **Demographic profile:** 865,267 people (July 2017 est.) (CIA Factbook 2018).
- **Food security:** 197,000 people are severely food insecure in Djibouti (FAO 09/2017).
- **Nutrition:** Some 7,000 of children under five suffer from SAM (UNICEF 12/2017).
- **Health:** In 2017 infant mortality was 45.8 per 1,000 live births, and the maternal mortality estimated for 2015 was at 229 deaths per 100,000 live births (CIA Factbook 2018).
- **WASH:** 90% of the population has access to improved water sources, and the 47.4% of the population has access to improved sanitation facilities (2015 est.) (CIA Factbook 2018).

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

Following flash floods in Djibouti City, the government has established a crisis cell at the firefighters headquarters (OCHA 20/05/2018). The State Secretariat of Social Affairs (SEAS) is in charge of coordinating aid distribution, and the Ministry of Interior coordinates search and rescue operations (OCHA 22/05/2018).

International response capacity

UN agencies are supporting the humanitarian response to cyclone Sagar by facilitating the delivery of stocks to assist the affected population. The World Bank is mobilising funds to support the Tropical Cyclone Sagar response in Djibouti (OCHA 20/05/2018).

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Djibouti was closed on 20 May due to flooding (NRC 21/05/2018).

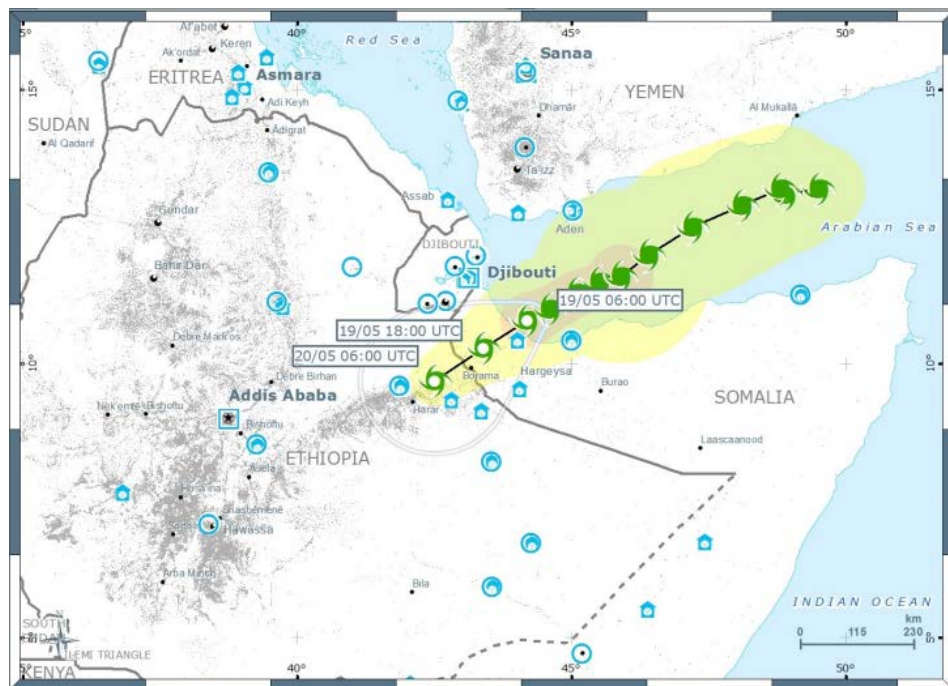
Population coping mechanisms

After the population of Djibouti city received an alert that Tropical Cyclone Sagar would hit, people began to build improvised barricades to block the muddy floodwaters. However, the improvised barriers did not hold. (La Nation 21/05/2018). As Djibouti is not normally hit by tropical storms it is likely that the population has not yet developed many positive coping mechanisms to mitigate the impact of floods and mitigate their impact.

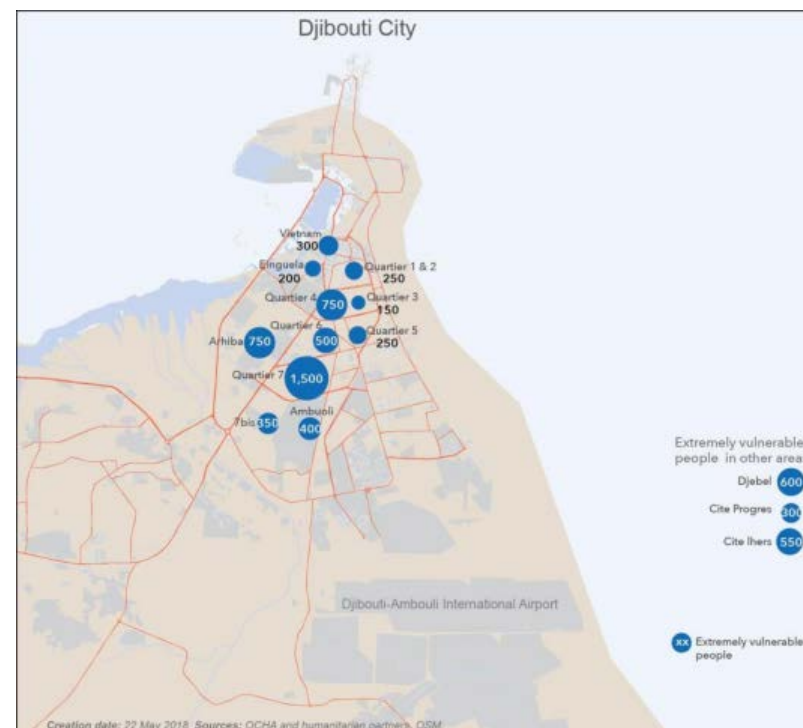
Information gaps and needs

- Information on the extent of the flood damage is unavailable.
- There is no figure of the number of shelters damaged by the floods in Ali Addeh refugee camp.
- There is limited sectoral information available and no data to show the extent to which people are in need per sector. We can assume that the 20 to 30,000 affected people are all in need of WASH, shelter, and NFI assistance.
- According to public reports and news sources, it is unclear if the people affected by floods have been displaced within Djibouti City or to neighbouring areas, and whether they have found shelter with host families or are in improvised settlements, as some community development centres have flooded.
- Information on the conditions of the WASH infrastructure in Djibouti, and namely in Djibouti City, before and after the flash floods is very limited.
- Information on the actors engaged in the humanitarian response to Tropical Cyclone Sagar in Djibouti is limited. Information on the scale of the response is also lacking.
- There is limited information on the level of access to health services for the population in Djibouti. There is also limited information on diseases currently active in the country or past outbreaks.
- Sources reporting on the impact of Tropical Cyclone Sagar on Djibouti are very limited.

Tropical storm impact on Djibouti (May 2018)



WFP 19/05/2018; OCHA 20/05/2018



Source: OCHA 22/05/2018