

SOMALIA

North-western Somaliland (Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed)

Tropical Storm Sagar

On 19 May, Tropical Cyclone Sagar made landfall in North-western Somaliland bearing winds in excess of 120 km/h and an entire year's worth of rain (200-300mm) affecting approximately 700,000 people and widespread destruction of property, infrastructure and the loss of livestock (Government of Somaliland 21/05/2018; GDACS 19/05/2015; SWALIM 18/05/2018). The cyclone led to flooding that impacted populations previously devastated by droughts and that had not yet recovered, further worsening existing food insecurity. Urgent needs include food, shelter, WASH, and health (OCHA 20/05/2018).

IMPACT



NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



Anticipated scope and scale

Heavy rains and flash floods caused by Tropical Cyclone Sagar are likely to have an extensive impact on livelihoods. Heavy rains are predicted to continue for the next few days (SWALIM 18/05/2018). The floods are likely to lead to the outbreaks of water-borne disease without adequate humanitarian response.

Key priorities



700,000 (est.)
people affected in Somaliland



Food security
food insecure communities affected



WASH
risk of outbreak of water-borne diseases

Humanitarian constraints



Damage to roads due to flash flooding is hampering aid delivery to affected populations. Occasional incidents of active conflict in Sool can also restrict humanitarian operations.

Limitations

Limited information on specific needs on a granular level.

Crisis impact

On 16 May Tropical Cyclone Sagar, formed in the Gulf of Aden, heading towards the coast of Yemen, northern Somalia, south eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti (ECHO 16/05/2018). On 19 May, the cyclone hit the northwestern state of Somaliland bringing strong winds and heavy rains which resulted in flash floods. The most affected areas were Woqooyi Galbeed and Awdal regions. Extensive destruction of houses and critical infrastructure has been reported as well as loss of crops and livestock (NRC 21/05/2018; ECHO 21/05/2018; OCHA 20/05/2018).

According to the Government of Somaliland approximately 700,000 people have been affected by the tropical storm (ADAM 22/05/2018; Government of Somaliland). As of 21 May at least 25 people had been killed and an unknown number of others are still missing, including fishermen who were at sea when the cyclone warning was issued (Government of Somaliland 21/05/2018; Garowe Online 21/05/2018). The area most affected by flash floods has been Lughaya district, in Awdal region. At least 14 of the deaths were in Lughaya and Baki districts. These areas also suffered massive loss of livestock (Government of Somaliland 20/05/2018).

Shelter and NFIs: Approximately 700,000 people have been affected by the floods and thousands have lost their homes in the flooding (ADAM 22/05/2018). The affected populations are therefore in need of shelter and NFI assistance (OCHA 20/05/2018).

Food: The cyclone has impacted an already food insecure region. Supply stores and food markets have been destroyed due to heavy rains and flooding (Save the Children 22/05/2018). The coastal regions of Awdal and Galbeed are currently facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level of food insecurity and are projected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) for the period June-September 2018 (FEWSNET 04/2018). The destruction caused by the tropical storm will likely aggravate the food insecurity situation. Humanitarian agencies are warning of food shortages for the next few weeks, severely impacting already food insecure populations (Save the Children 22/05/2018).

Livelihoods: Flash floods and strong winds caused by the cyclone have resulted in the loss of crops and livestock. Fishing boats were also destroyed or lost at sea. According to Somalia Livelihood Profiles of June 2016, the population in Somaliland mainly lives off pastoral and agropastoral activities. Reports indicate that over half of the livestock owned by communities in Awdal province have been killed by the cyclone (Government of Somaliland 21/05/2018). At least 700 farms in Somaliland have been destroyed (Save the Children 22/05/2018). The cyclone is highly likely to have had a negative impact on the livelihoods of pastoralists and farmers in Somaliland, as well as of households that depend on fishing (ECHO 21/05/2018; OCHA 20/05/2018; FSNAU 06/2016).

WASH: Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions have very poor WASH infrastructure and the flooding will likely exacerbate WASH needs (OCHA 03/03/2018). Floodwaters filled with animal and human faeces as well as surface litter risk contaminating water sources (Save the Children 22/05/2018). Damage to sanitation facilities and lack of clean water as a consequence of heavy rains and flash floods pose a high risk of the spread of waterborne diseases (The Weather Channel 21/05/2018; UK Met Office 16/05/2018).

Health: There is a risk of the outbreak of water-borne disease in overcrowded areas where communities are sheltering from the floodwaters. Access to health services is generally difficult in the flood affected areas and likely worsened by the floods.

Education: On May 20, The Somali Government postponed the National exams indefinitely nationwide due the prevailing floods in the north-west, central, and south of the country (Radio Shabelle 20/05/2018). Damaged schools due to the floods may hinder the resumption of student's education.

Impact on critical infrastructure

The tropical storm impacted telecommunications in the affected regions making communication and the flow of information between humanitarian actors and the affected populations difficult. As of 19 May, communication with Lughaya district was disrupted when a telecommunication tower was destroyed by the tropical storm (OCHA 19/05/2018).

Key transport routes were damaged restricting access to affected populations and also hindering assessments of the extent of damage done (OCHA 20/05/2018).

Vulnerable groups affected

The district of Hargeisa in Woqooyi Galbeed is the second most populous district in Somalia, with settlements that host economic migrants, refugees, returnees and IDPs. Most IDPs are from areas within Somaliland who are displaced due to drought or conflict (IDMC; JIPS 12/2015). The area has very high WASH vulnerabilities, and any flooding is highly likely to result in serious WASH needs, particularly in camps (Somalia WASH Cluster 03/2018).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Lack of humanitarian access means the extent of the damage caused by the cyclone is not yet known. Access is limited in part due to the active conflict over the regions of Sool and Sanaag between forces from Somaliland and Puntland. Following the cyclone

access is further restricted as roads have been badly damaged and communication lines have also been disrupted (OCHA 20/05/2018).

Somaliland's two main ports, Hargeisa Airport and Berbera Seaport, which are vital to the delivery of aid to the region, remain closed because of damage. As a result, agencies are warning of food shortages for the next few weeks, that potentially put thousands of lives at risk, particularly those who are already food insecure (Save the Children 22/05/2018).

Aggravating factors

April-May 2018 heavy rains

The first half of Somalia's Gu rainy season, which started in March, has recorded an unprecedented amount of rainfall, comparable only to heavy rains last witnessed in Somalia in 1981 (UNAMIS 20/05/2018). Moderate to heavy rains fell across Somalia and the Ethiopian highlands, resulting in increased river flooding, along the Juba and Shabelle rivers and localized flash flooding. Flooding led to fatalities, massive displacement, and damage to infrastructure and cropland, compounding an already fragile humanitarian situation. An estimated 772,500 people had been affected by the flooding in the South and Central regions of the country and more than 229,000 people were displaced (OCHA 17/05/2018).

National and international actors are still responding to the recent floods in the southern and central regions. Both events (floods in the central and southern regions of the country and Tropical Cyclone Sagar) increase the needs of the population across the country and place increased strain on humanitarian response.

Tropical Cyclones in the Arabian Sea

On average, the Arabian Peninsula is affected by a tropical cyclone every year or every other year. Only six tropical cyclones are known to have hit Somalia since accurate satellite measurements began in 1966: Tropical Cyclone ARB02 in 2016, Tropical Cyclone ARB01 in 2013 (the nation's deadliest cyclone on record, with at least 162 fatalities), Tropical Cyclone Murjan of 2012, Tropical Cyclone ARB02 of 1994, Tropical Cyclone 12A of 1994, and Tropical Cyclone 4B of 1984. Notably, all six of these were post-monsoon (autumn) cyclones rather than springtime cyclones, and all of them struck the east coast of Somalia rather than the north coast (Weather Underground 17/05/2018). Tropical Cyclone Sagar is therefore particularly rare. The amount of rain that the cyclone brought is a rarity to normally desert-like terrain, making the risk of destructive flash floods very high.

Food insecurity

Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions have experienced four consecutive seasons of below normal rainfall and had been experiencing high levels of food insecurity prior to the cyclone (OCHA 30/03/2018). The destruction to agricultural fields and livestock is only likely to aggravate the prevailing food insecurity where populations are enduring Crisis (IPC Phase 3) level of food insecurity and are projected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) for the period June-September 2018 (FEWSNET 04/2018).

Population density

Hargeisa district is the second most populous district of Somalia after Banadir. Large populations of drought displaced people had moved to urban settings such as Hargeisa from other drought affected areas of Somaliland and the Somali region of Ethiopia (Radio Ergo 18/05/2018). IDP camps are overcrowded and located on low lying areas prone to flooding.

Populations along dry river beds

Due to arid-like terrain, many communities are settled along normally riverbeds that are usually very dry. This increases the risk of their homes and livelihoods being destroyed by floods as the land is unable to absorb large amounts of water quickly (UK Meteorological Office 17/05/2018).

Conflict

There is an increased risk of large-scale armed conflict between the states of Puntland and Somaliland, The two regions have been engaged in conflict over the disputed Sool region for more than 10 years. On 19 May, the government of Puntland declared its intention to go to war with Somaliland (Garowe Online 19/05/2018). On 15 May, fighting broke out between troops of Somaliland and Puntland over the ownership of Tuka Raq village, which was seized by Somaliland last month (Reuters 16/05/2018). Heightened tensions between the forces from Puntland and Somaliland in Sool have recently displaced almost 10,000 people, further complicating an already complex humanitarian situation. (OCHA 20/05/2018).

Risk of Desert Locust Plague

According to FAO, heavy rains due to Tropical Cyclone Sagar in Somalia 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 (WFP 03/2018).

Key characteristics

- **Demographic profile:** 11,031,386 people (Index Mundi, 2018).
 - 0-14 years: 43.15% (male 2,376,526/female 2,383,060)
 - 15-24 years: 19.04% (male 1,059,608/female 1,040,343)
 - 25-54 years: 31.43% (male 1,795,355/female 1,671,421)
 - 55-64 years: 4.2% (male 230,027/female 233,257)
 - 65 years and over: 2.19% (male 93,736/female 148,053) (2017 est.)
- **Food security figures:** 5.4 million people face food insecurity. Over 2.7 million people are in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) (FSNAU 29/01/2018) (Countrywide)
- **Nutrition levels:** 1.4 million people are in need of nutrition assistance in Somalia (OCHA 12/2017). 301,000 children aged 6-59 months are acutely malnourished, including 48,000 severely malnourished (FSNAU, 01/03/2018). (Countrywide)
- **Health statistics:** Infant mortality rate: total: 94.8 deaths/1,000 live births. Male: 103.3 deaths/1,000 live births. Female: 86 deaths/1,000 live births (Index Mundi, 2017). (Countrywide)
- **WASH statistics:** Drinking water source improved urban: 69.6% of population, rural: 8.8% of population, total: 31.7% of population / unimproved: urban: 30.4% of population, rural: 91.2% of population, total: 68.3% of population (Index Mundi, 2011). (Countrywide)
- **Literacy levels:** 37.8% of the population is literate: 49.7% of males, and 25.8% of females (Index Mundi, access on 25/04/2018). (Countrywide)

Response capacity

Prior to the recent cyclone there were at least 18 local and international humanitarian actors in Awdal and 29 in Woqooyi Galbeed responding to the drought crisis (OCHA 30/03/2018).

Local and national response capacity

Somaliland authorities and humanitarian partners are mobilising resources to assess the damage and assist the affected populations; access to the affected area however remains limited (ECHO 21/05/2018).

The government, through the National Disaster Council, met with humanitarian partners on 20 May to assess the situation and plan the response. Detailed assessments commenced on 21 May in the Lughaya district, one of the most heavily-affected areas in Awdal region. Authorities are working with humanitarian partners to provide food, shelter, NFIs, hygiene kits, and WASH and health services (OCHA 20/05/2018).

International response capacity

UN agencies and INGOs are present in the affected regions providing food, WASH, Health, and livelihood assistance (OCHA 20/05/2018).

Information gaps and needs

Due to the lack of access to affected populations and disruption of communication it is difficult to gain adequate information on the needs of affected populations as well as the extent of the damage caused by the tropical cyclone.

There is no information available to indicate where people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed are currently residing.

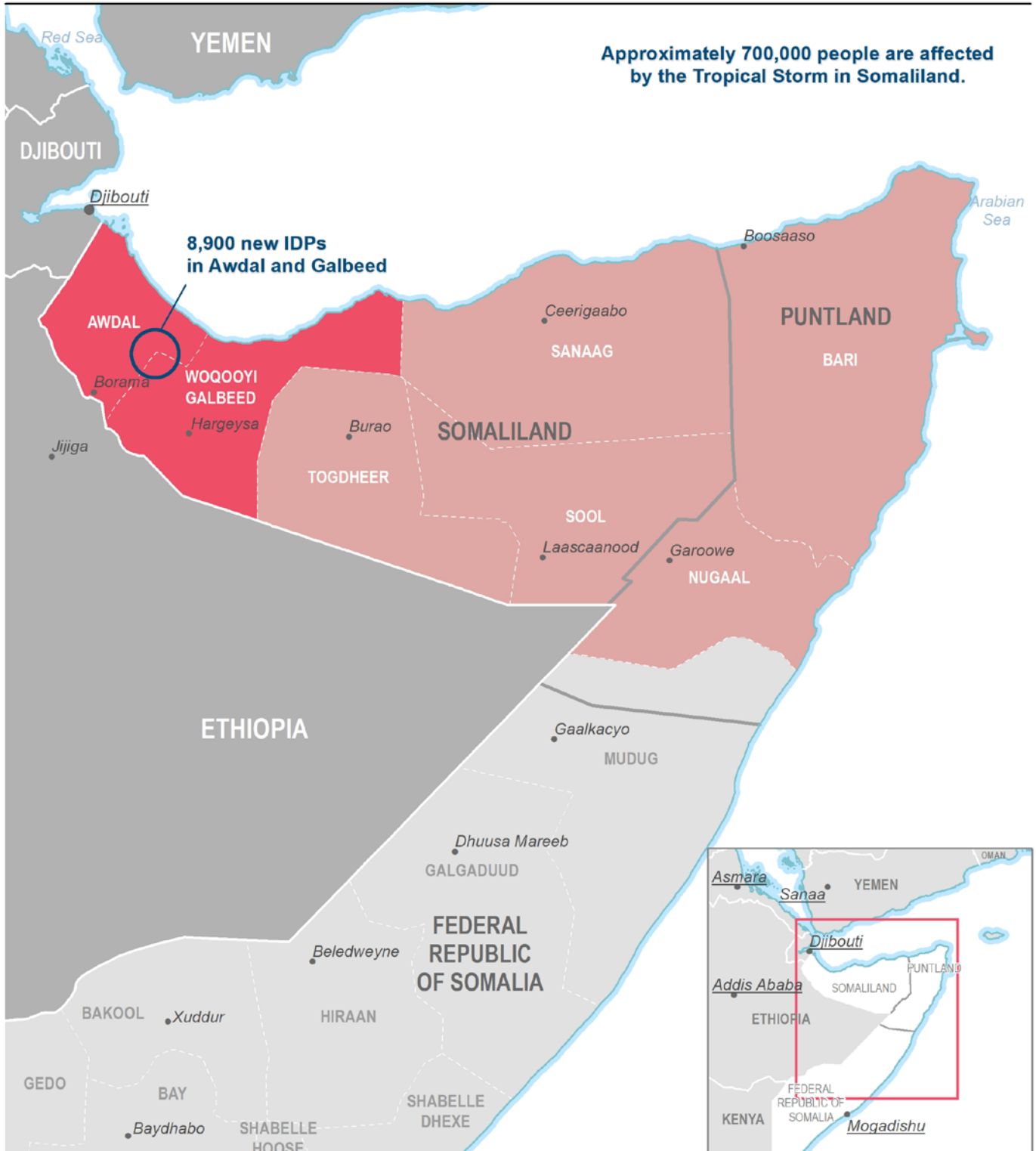
Lessons learned

The use of contaminated water from unprotected or contaminated water sources has been associated with previous AWD/Cholera outbreaks in Somalia after flood events.

Somaliland : Impact of Tropical Storm Sagar

May 2018

Approximately 700,000 people are affected by the Tropical Storm in Somaliland.



LEGEND

- Capital city
- Main city
- Somaliland / Puntland
- Coastline
- Int. border
- Region boundary
- Most affected area
- Affected area
- Not affected / no data



Sources : ICRC, OCHA, GDACS, Government of Somaliland
Map created by CartONG, May 2018