

## SOMALIA

## FACTSHEET

Photo: ©UNICEF Somalia

## Rapid Multi-Sector Needs Assessment of Riverine Flood-Affected Communities Balcad District, Somalia, August 2024

### Background

The Balcad district, located in the Middle Shabelle region of Hirshabelle State, Somalia, is characterized by fertile agricultural land and significant water resources. However, it is also prone to severe flooding, particularly during high-flood seasons when the Shabelle River can rise significantly. Past interventions, including the diversion of water through the Sabuuni barrage, have been compromised due to a lack of maintenance, resulting in the malfunctioning of critical infrastructure.

In recent years, the Hawadley Water Reservoir has breached its banks multiple times, with a notable event on August 3, 2024, caused by extreme river inflows that led to flooding and affected communities along the eastern riverbank in Balcad.

In response, OCHA Hirshabelle, in collaboration with the Balcad ABC and ten local partners, conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) on August 28, 2024. Participating organizations included Mercy Corps, Islamic Relief, and others, aimed at gathering reliable data to inform humanitarian response efforts.

### Assessment Overview

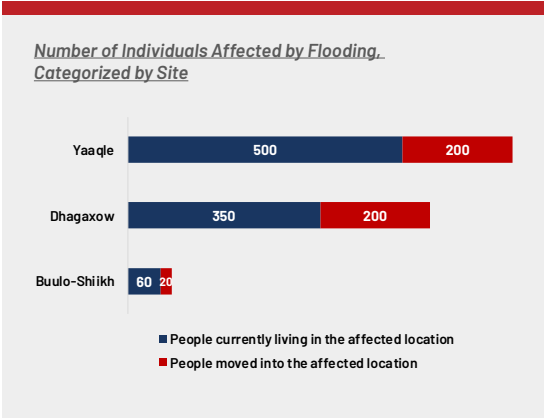
This assessment comprised 53 key informant interviews conducted at 14 sites in the Balcad district from August 27th to 28th, 2024. As explained in the Methodology section, the results should be considered indicative.

### KEY FINDINGS

- The survey analysis indicates that the three most pressing non-food item (NFI) needs for flood-affected populations in Balcad district are **kitchen sets, tents, and jerry cans**.
- **57%** of the assessed sites reported **partial destruction of nearby markets** due to flooding, while **7%** indicated that their markets were **fully destroyed**.
- At **7%** of the sites, **open defecation was identified as the predominant practice for sanitation**, heightening the risk of disease outbreaks, including cholera.
- **40%** of the sites reported that only a **limited number** of flood-affected individuals **have access to sufficient quantities of drinking water**, while another 40% noted that approximately half of the population has access to adequate drinking water.
- The flooding has significantly impacted health facilities, resulting in **increased demand for health services in 62.5% of the sites**.
- On average, **50% of households affected by flooding within the community are residing in temporary shelters**, including makeshift structures such as buuls or tents.

## Population Affected

According to 14 surveyed sites, **93%** indicated the **absence of an active camp management committee**.



Map showing location types in Balcad district



## Priority Needs

The top three priority needs or humanitarian assistance expressed by respondents in the conflict-affected region include:



**93% - SHELTER**



**64% - CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE**



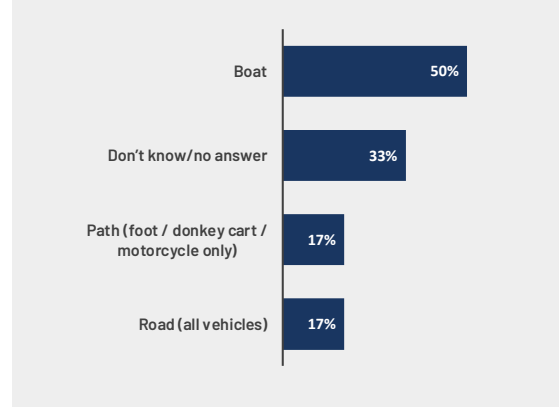
**57% - EDUCATION SERVICES**

## Humanitarian Access and Accountability to Affected People

Commonly reported challenges faced by populations affected by flooding:

- **53%** of sites reported affected households **have not received essential humanitarian support**, including food and cash assistance, within the past month.
- **14%** reported have reported **encountering significant challenges when accessing humanitarian aid**.
- **50%** of sites reported that **aid will not be able to reach affected population if aid has to be transported**.

Primary Means of Access across 14 surveyed locations



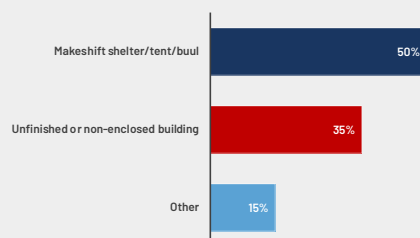
## Shelter and NFIs

**37.5%** of the sites reported that NFIs were unavailable in sufficient quantities at the nearest market, and **86%** reported major increase in the price of NFIs.

The top three shelter and NFI needs expressed include:

1. Kitchen sets (**86%**)
2. Tents (**71%**)
3. Jerry cans (**71%**)

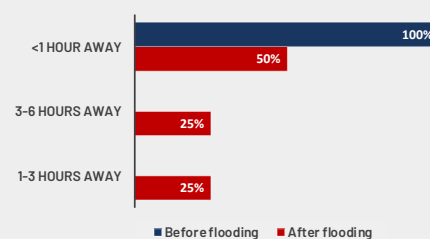
*Percentage of conflict affected households living in each type of shelter (out of 20)*



## Market Access

- **57%** of the surveyed sites indicated that the nearest market sustained **partial destruction** as a result of the flooding, while **7%** reported the complete destruction of the market.
- **53%** of the sites reported that essential food items were **sporadically available** after flooding.
- **87%** of the sites reported slight **increase in prices** of essential food commodities.

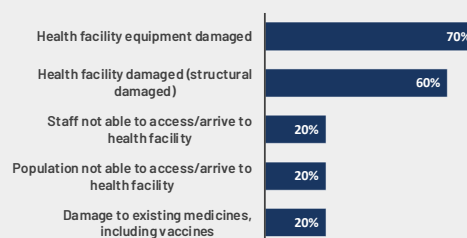
*Distance to the nearest accessible market, both prior to and following the flooding, across 14 surveyed locations.*



## Health

- **22%** of the sites reported the **absence of health facilities** or medical outreach teams at the relocation, evacuation sites, or within the affected communities impacted by the flooding.
- **62%** of the sites reported an **increased need for health services** in the community since the flooding.
- **62%** of the sites reported an **increase in cases** of acute diarrhea, measles, and respiratory illnesses following the flooding.

*Primary impacts of flooding on health facilities in proximity to 10 surveyed sites.*



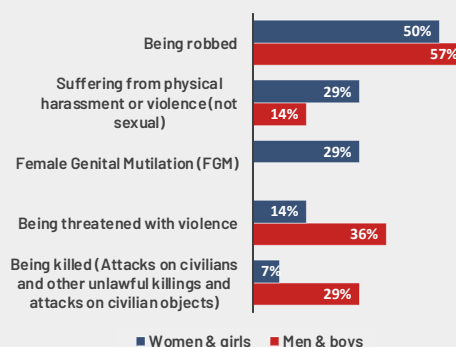
## Protection

- **36%** of the sites reported that children have been separated from their primary caregivers as a result of the flooding.

### Presence of support services across surveyed sites:

- **71%** Mental health and psychosocial support services
- **57%** Livelihood services
- **56%** Legal and protection services
- **36%** Gender-based violence treatment and services

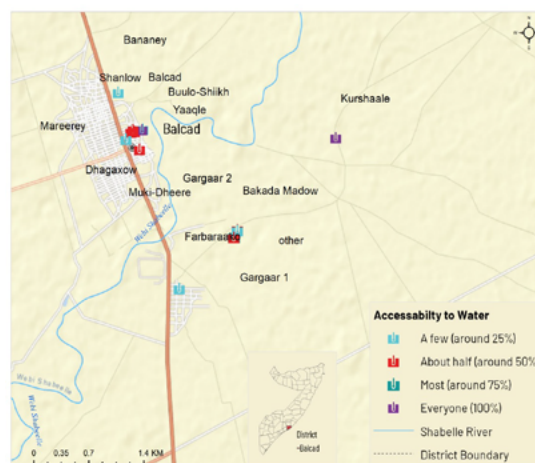
*Top Five Safety and Security Concerns for Flood-Affected Populations Disaggregated by Gender (totaling 14 sites).*



## Water Hygiene & Sanitation

- **40%** of the sites reported that only a **limited number** of affected individuals **have access to adequate quantities of safe drinking water**.
- **Another 40%** of the sites indicated that approximately **half of the affected population is able to access** sufficient drinking water.
- **7%** of the sites reported that **open defecation is the main practice for latrine usage** among the flood affected

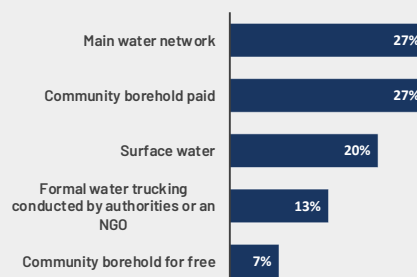
*Map Showing Availability of Drinking Water in The Sites*



## Barriers to adequate menstrual hygiene management for women and girls in nearby sanitation facilities

- Inadequate access to water and soap (**73%**)
- Unclean sanitation facilities (**56%**)
- Lack of menstrual hygiene items - i.e sanitary pads, underwear (**45%**)
- Sanitation facilities are not private (**36%**)
- Lack of discreet disposal mechanisms (**36%**)

*Most common type of latrine or toilet in 20 sites*



## Food Security and Livelihoods

### Most prevalent sources of food accessibility post-flood, categorized by location (across 14 sites)

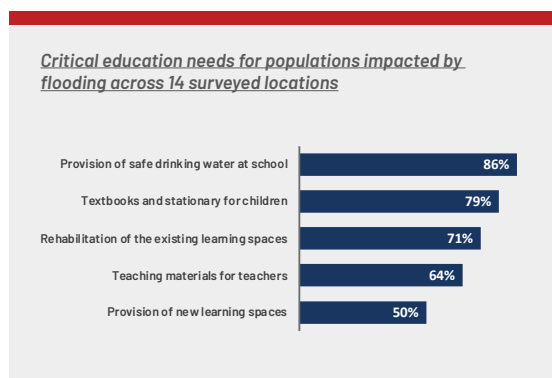
1. Borrowing/debt **(86%)**
2. Work for food **(81%)**
3. Donations from neighbours, relatives, or friends **(81%)**

### Predominant income sources prior to flooding, categorized by location (across 14 sites)

1. Own Stocks/Production **(79%)**
2. Borrowing/Debt **(71%)**
3. Daily wage/labor **(50%)**

## Education

**87%** of the sites reported that flooding has **affected the attendance of school children.**



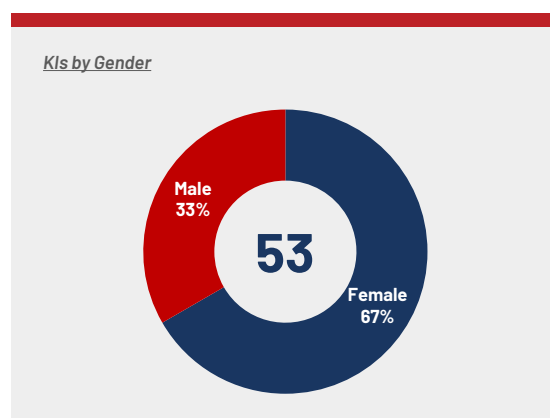
## Nutrition

- **93%** of sites indicated the **absence of nutritional items either on-site or within a three-kilometer radius** (equivalent to a two-hour walk).
- **93%** of sites indicated the **absence of nutritional services either on-site or within a three-kilometer radius** (equivalent to a two-hour walk).

## Methodology

The assessment was conducted from 27th to 28th August 2024, involving 53 structured face-to-face key informant interviews across 14 sites in Balcad. A survey tool developed by ICCG and OCHA was utilized, deployed via KoBo software. Interviews lasting less than 15 minutes were excluded based on OCHA consultation. Responses to single-choice questions from different key informants for the same site were calculated using "Distinct Count."

Results for single-option indicators are reported by the number of sites and presented at the district level. For selected multiple indicators, all key informant responses are aggregated. Outcomes are indicated by the number of sites where key informants reported a specific result, with the median value for integer responses provided at the site level.



*KIs by Profession*

Member of civil society group	31
Women's group leader	8
Community leader (host community)	6
Community leader (IDP)	3
Member of local relief committee	2
Youth group leader	1
Camp manager	1
Other	1

## Limitations

The results presented in this assessment are based on the perspectives of the key informants and should be understood as indicative only. It is important to note that the analysis did not assign weights to key informant profiles, which means that some key informants may possess more knowledge on certain subjects compared to others.

Therefore, the aggregated site-level results should be interpreted with this limitation in mind. Additionally, due to the key informant approach used, it is not possible to disaggregate the results by gender, age, or disability status of the respondents.

## iMMAP Inc. in Somalia

iMMAP Inc. has been operating in Somalia since 2019 to enhance the coordination of information management in the country, aiming for more effective and efficient humanitarian responses nationwide. In 2023, we established a specialized IM Unit, and also led on the deployment of seven Information Management Officers (IMO) through the Stand-by Partnership, facilitating direct IMO support to the Health, UNHCR Protection, UNICEF Nutrition, and OCHA Coordination clusters.

### Current Project: Humanitarian Information Support Team (HIST) model

In late 2023, following the successful testing of the Humanitarian Information Support Team (HIST) model in Ethiopia and Nigeria, iMMAP Inc. introduced HIST to support the roll out of the model in Somalia. This demand-driven and centralized Information Management request system simplifies the support provided to local and international humanitarian actors involved in the Somalia Response.

The initiative, generously supported by USAID - Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), centers on the establishment of an Information Management Unit that supports and collaborates with humanitarian actors, including UN Agencies, NGOs and INGOs working across various clusters and sectors, including UN OCHA Food Security and Livelihood, Nutrition and WASH clusters, to enhance data collection, validation, analysis, and reporting. This initiative includes the capacity building of the partners, development of interactive dashboards, spatial analysis, and mapping to support processes like the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Needs Plan (HRNP).

In the first half of 2024, the project has facilitated the increased involvement of stakeholders in phase two, including the Operational Cell (OC), Area Based Coordination structures (ABCs), Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA), and Somalia NGO Consortium (SNC). This expansion has enhanced efforts to meet the urgent needs of Somalia's vulnerable populations amidst the ongoing crisis.

## About iMMAP Inc.

iMMAP Inc. is a leading international nonprofit organization specializing in Information Management services for humanitarian and development sectors. Since our inception, we have partnered with organizations worldwide to provide high-quality data-driven solutions that improve decision-making and enhance the efficiency of aid distribution and development projects.

**Disclaimer:** The Factsheet is prepared based on the rapid needs assessment data collected by partners in 14 sites of the Balcad district in the Hirshabelle state of Somalia from August 27th to 28th, 2024. The findings presented in this Factsheet do not necessarily reflect the views of iMMAP Inc. or USAID/BHA. The boundaries shown on the map are solely used for analytical purposes and do not necessarily represent authorized boundaries. iMMAP Inc. and USAID/BHA cannot be held accountable for the accuracy of the boundaries depicted on the map.

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