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Rapid Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment of populations affected by Gu flooding

Xawaadley, Balcad District, Somalia, September 2024

Background

Xawaadley, a densely populated village in the Balcad District of Somalia's Middle Shabelle region (Hirshabelle State), is characterized by its fertile agricultural land and abundant water resources, yet it is highly susceptible to severe flooding. The recent Gu floods have blocked the main supply road from Balcad to Xawaadley following the breakage of the Maandheere River.

Historically, the Hawaadley water reservoir, part of the Jowhar Off-Stream Storage Project, functioned as a flood mitigation system. During high-flood seasons, when the Shabelle River reached 5.5 meters at the Belet Weyne gauge, water was redirected through the Sabuuni barrage.

However, a lack of maintenance has rendered both the Sabuuni and Balcad barrage gates non-functional. On August 3, 2024, excessive inflows caused five river breakages, particularly at Hurwaay, Kulmis Weyne, Maagay, and Baardheere, leading to flooding that submerged settlements along the eastern bank of the Balcad district.

Assessment Overview

On September 16, 2024, OCHA Hirshabelle coordinated a Rapid Needs Assessment in collaboration with Jowhar ABC and 10 local partners.

This assessment comprised 11 key informant interviews, conducted at one site in the Xawaadley. As explained in the Methodology section, the results should be considered indicative than statistically representative.

KEY FINDINGS

- The survey analysis indicates that the three most pressing non-food item (NFI) needs for flood-affected populations are **mosquito nets, plastic sheets, and blankets.**

- Approximately **36%** of respondents reported that the nearest market**s were partially destroyed b**y floods, while **36%** reported that markets were **fully destroyed.**

- **36%** of respondents reported that only a few flood-affected people **have access to sufficient drinking water,** while **18%** reported **no access** to safe drinking water at all.

- **Flooding has damaged health facilities, reducing their capacity and leading to an increased demand for medical services.**

- On average, **50% of households affected by flooding within the community are residing in makeshift structures,** such as buuls or tents.

- **80%** of respondents reported major increases in NFI prices.

- **91%** asserted that **children have been unable to attend school** after the flooding.

- **64%** reported **open defecation is the main practice for latrine usage** among flood-affected people, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks, such as Cholera.

NUMBER OF AFFECTED POPULATION

38,117
People are currently living in the site.

585
People moved in the past two weeks.

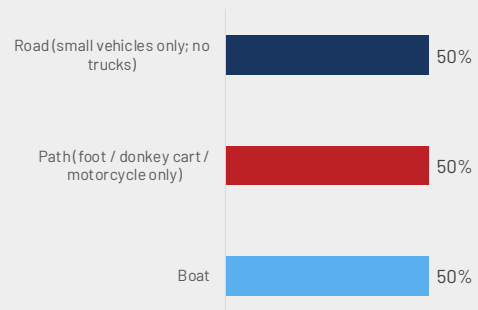## Humanitarian Access and Accountability to Affected People

Commonly reported challenges faced by populations affected by flooding:

- **45%** of sites reported affected households **have not received essential humanitarian support**, including food and cash assistance, within the past month.

- **All** respondents reported that the affected households **have not yet received humanitarian food and cash** (in the last month)

- **18%** of sites reported that **aid will be able to reach** affected population if aid has to be transported.

- **All** respondents indicated that the **primary obstacles** confronted by humanitarian actors in accessing this region are the **limitations imposed by groups or entities controlling the area**.

The top three priority needs on the site:

1. Shelter **(91%)**
2. Education **(55%)**
3. In-kind assistance (NFIs) **(55%)**

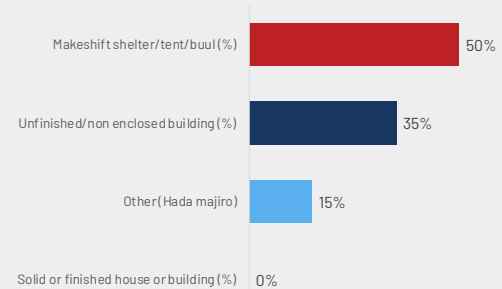*Primary Means of Access across 14 surveyed locations*

Road (small vehicles only; no trucks)	50%
Path (foot / donkey cart / motorcycle only)	50%
Boat	50%

Shelter and NFIs

The top three shelter and NFI needs expressed include:

1. Mosquito Nets **(91%)**
2. Plastic Sheets **(55%)**
3. Blankets **(36%)**

- **91%** of the respondents reported that NFIs were **unavailable** in sufficient quantities at the nearest market.

- **80%** of respondents reported a **major increase** in the price of NFIs.

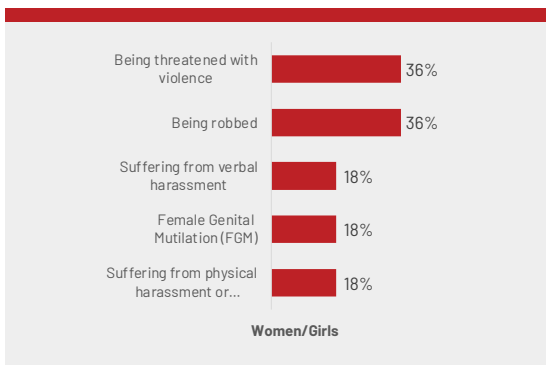*Percentage of Housing Types for Individuals Affected by Floods*

Makeshift shelter/tent/buul (%)	50%
Unfinished/non enclosed building (%)	35%
Other (Hada majiro)	15%
Solid or finished house or building (%)	0%

Protection

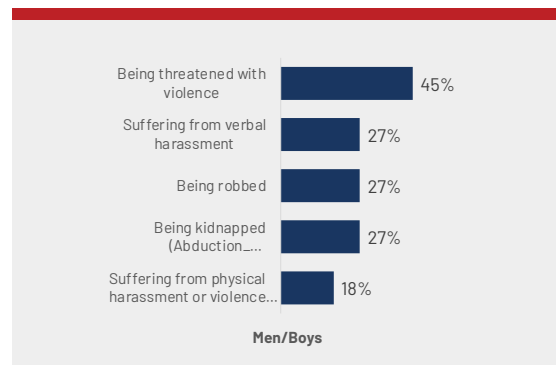- **55%** of the sites reported that children have been separated from their primary caregivers.

Presence of support services across surveyed sites:

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

Top Five Safety and Security Concerns for Flood-Affected Populations – Women and Girls

Concern	%
Being threatened with violence	36%
Being robbed	36%
Suffering from verbal harassment	18%
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	18%
Suffering from physical harassment or...	18%

Women/Girls

Top Five Safety and Security Concerns for Flood-Affected Populations – Men and Boys

Concern	%
Being threatened with violence	45%
Suffering from verbal harassment	27%
Being robbed	27%
Being kidnapped (Abduction_...	27%
Suffering from physical harassment or violence...	18%

Men/Boys

Health

- **27%** 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.

- **82%** of the sites reported an **increased need for health services** in the community since the flooding.

- **64%** 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

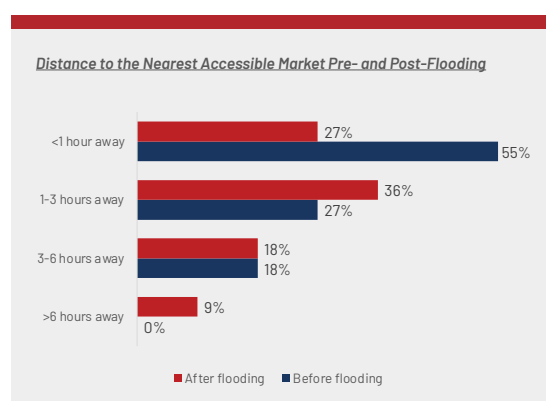| Impact	%
Health facility damaged (structural damaged)	100%
Damage to existing medicines, including vaccines	100%
Population not able to access/arrive to health facility	50%
Health facility equipment damaged	50%

Nutrition

- **64%** of sites indicated that there are **no nutrition services available** either on-site or within a radius of three kilometers or a two-hour walking distance.

- **82%** of sites indicated the **absence of nutritional services either on-site or within a three-kilometer radius** (equivalent to a two-hour walk).

Markets

- **36%** of the respondents reported that the nearest **market was partially destroyed** after the flood and **36%** reported that the market was fully destroyed.

- **73%** of the respondents reported that essential food was **sporadically available** after flooding.

- **55%** of the respondents reported a slight increase in prices of basic food commodities.

Distance to the Nearest Accessible Market Pre- and Post-Flooding

	After flooding	Before flooding
<1 hour away	27%	55%
1-3 hours away	36%	27%
3-6 hours away	18%	18%
>6 hours away	9%	0%

Food Security and Livelihoods

Most prevalent sources of food accessibility post-flood

1. Own stock **(45%)**
2. Borrowing/Debt **(45%)**
3. Work for food **(36%)**

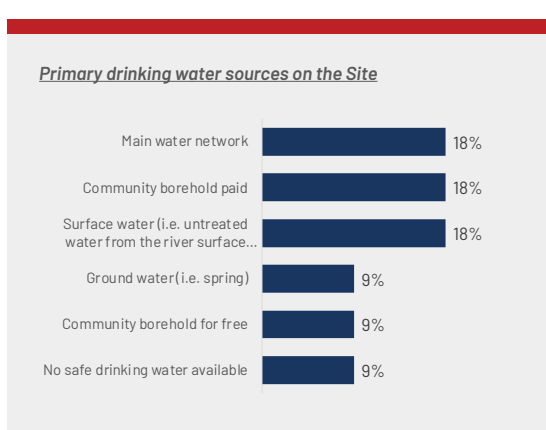- **Average damage** to current farming due to flooding, on a scale from 1–5: **4.4**

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

1. Finishing **(82%)**
2. Own Stocks/Production (crops/Livestock) **(73%)**
3. Local Market **(27%)**
4. Borrowing/Debt **(27%)**
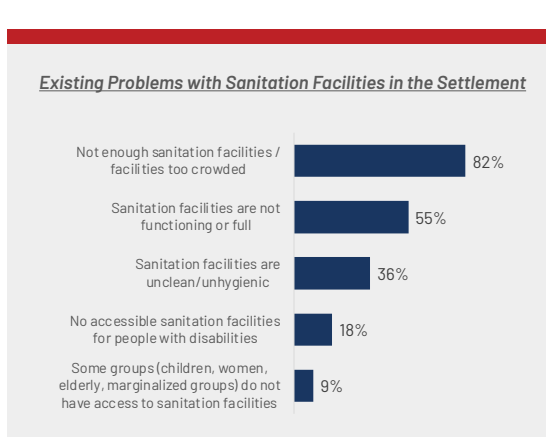
Water Hygiene & Sanitation

38% of the sites reported that only a **limited number** of affected individuals **(25%) have access to adequate quantities of safe drinking water**.

64% of the sites reported that **open defecation is the main practice for latrine usage** among the flood affected people.
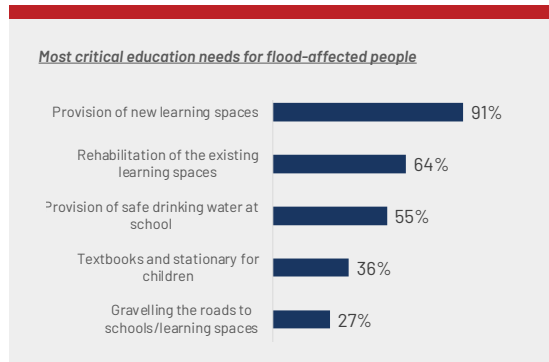

Primary drinking water sources on the Site

Main water network	18%
Community borehold paid	18%
Surface water (i.e. untreated water from the river surface...	18%
Ground water (i.e. spring)	9%
Community borehold for free	9%
No safe drinking water available	9%

Severe Problems with Main Drinking Water Source Since Flooding

- Water tastes/smells/looks bad **(45%)**
- Water volume is not enough **(45%)**
- There were no problems **(27%)**
- People were sick after drinking the water **(27%)**
- Saftey concerns prohibit fetching the water **(9%)**

Existing Problems with Sanitation Facilities in the Settlement

Not enough sanitation facilities / facilities too crowded	82%
Sanitation facilities are not functioning or full	55%
Sanitation facilities are unclean/unhygienic	36%
No accessible sanitation facilities for people with disabilities	18%
Some groups (children, women, elderly, marginalized groups) do not have access to sanitation facilities	9%

Education

91% of the respondents reported that the flooding has effected the **attendance of school children.**

Most critical education needs for flood-affected people

Provision of new learning spaces	91%
Rehabilitation of the existing learning spaces	64%
Provision of safe drinking water at school	55%
Textbooks and stationary for children	36%
Gravelling the roads to schools/learning spaces	27%

Methodology

The assessment was conducted on September 16, 2024, in Xawaadley village. It consisted of 11 quantitative, structured face-to-face key informant (KI) interviews using a survey tool developed and adopted by ICCG and OCHA, deployed through KoBo software. For single-option indicators, the results are displayed as the percentage of responses reported by key informants. For select multiple indicators, all key informant responses are included in the aggregated results.

Ten organizations participated in the assessment including, SOS, KARDO AID, MCAN, EVSO, MARDO, ORDO, SOVA, SCC and SYPD.

The results are presented as the percentage of response by key informants reported on a specific outcome (which is the combined result at the site level as explained earlier). For integer responses, the median value was reported.

Limitations

The results of this assessment are based on key informant perspectives and should be considered indicative only. The analysis did not assign weights to key informant profiles, meaning some informants may have more knowledge on certain subjects than others.

This limitation should be kept in mind when interpreting the aggregated results. Furthermore, due to the key informant approach used, it is not possible to disaggregate the results by gender, .

KIs by Gender

Female, 10%

11

Male, 90%
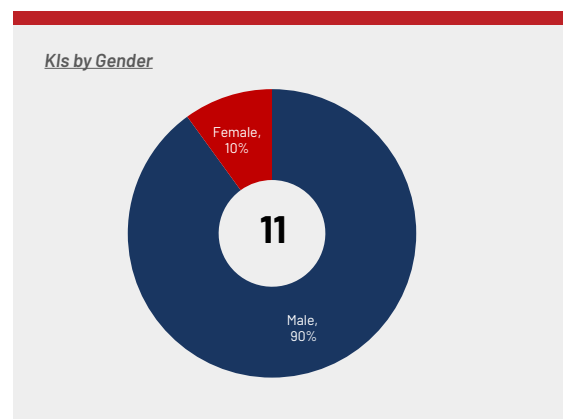
KIs by Profession

Community leader (host community)	2
School Headmaster	2
Healthcare Professional	1
Member of a Civil Society Group	1
Religious Leader	1
Teacher	1
Women's Group Leader	1
Youth Group Leader	1

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.

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Better Data
Better Decisions
Better Outcomes