



SITUATION UPDATE: FLOODING IN ETHIOPIA¹ – 24 AUGUST 07

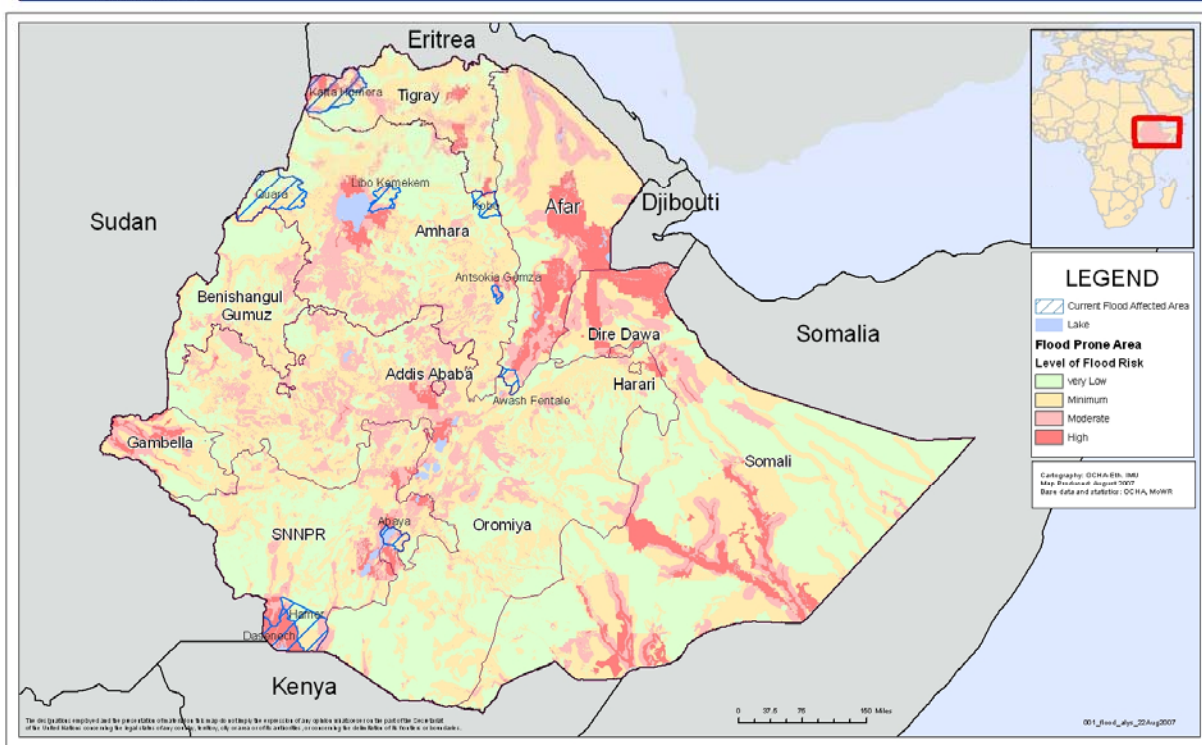
Flooding is not currently a major emergency in the country. Nevertheless, meteorological and dam level data indicate that the situation could shortly evolve into a large scale disaster requiring inter-agency partner response. Most lakes are at their peak levels and flooding has already been reported in Amhara, Afar, Tigray, Gambella and SNNPR. Approximately 43,000 people have been affected of which 17,000 have been displaced. A joint government and humanitarian partners' Flood Contingency Plan launched on 13 August anticipates that an estimated 324,000 people will likely be affected. This scenario² assumes the overall impact of the flooding will be 25 percent less than in the 2006 main rainy season. The anticipated reduced impact is expected mainly due to better preparedness and prevention measures.



UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

Ethiopia Current Flood Affected Areas

August 22, 2007



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

1. In June 2007, the Early Warning Flood Taskforce issued a Flood Risk Alert indicating a serious risk of flooding in the catchment areas of Awash, Abay-Tana, Omo-Gibe, Baro-Akobo and Wabisheble rivers during the current *kiremt* (main rainy) season.

¹

The information in this document is consolidated from reports and field information from a variety of sources including UN agencies, NGOs and government partners

² This conclusion is based on a mid-case scenario.

2. On 13 August, Government and Humanitarian partners jointly launched a Flood Contingency Plan. Under the most likely mid-case scenario, the plan seeks US\$ 21 million in contingency funding to address relief and recovery needs for an estimated 324,000 beneficiaries.
3. In Amhara Region, the Amhara Regional Emergency Coordination Forum with support from OCHA has prepared a regional flood contingency plan to address emergency and expected early recovery requirements.
4. The Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) has provisionally pledged US\$ 2 million in response to be applied to immediate preparedness and response. Other donors including the Norwegian Government have shown interest to respond to the plan through the HRF.
5. Last week, the Early Warning Monitoring Sub-Group deployed several joint verification assessment missions to the affected areas of Amhara and SNNPR.
6. To accommodate the flood displaced beneficiaries, two temporary camps have already been established in Amahra Region. DPPA and the region have provided one month's relief food for 3,107 beneficiaries in North-and-South Gondar zones. Dispatches will begin shortly.
7. In the first week of August, DPPA dispatched 357.2 tonnes of relief food for flood affected beneficiaries in Lare and Itang woredas of Gambella Region.
8. On 15 August, UNICEF dispatched 450,000 sachets of PUR and 4,000 jerry cans for 10,000 people for two months, following heavy rains in Afar Region.

GAPS IN THE RESPONSE

9. The national Flood Contingency Plan has a shortfall in pledges of US\$ 19 million.
10. New implementation modalities including verification missions, regional requests and federal endorsement for assistance under Ethiopia's new humanitarian assistance approach, are creating some delays in allocation of emergency resources.
11. Emergency food has not yet been released for flood affected beneficiaries in Hamer and Dasenech woredas, SNNP and for Kobo, Quara, Libo kemkem, and Antsokia Gemza woredas in Amhara regions.

Fidele Sarassoro Humanitarian Coordinator	fidele.sarassoro@undp.org Tel.251115444483
Paul Hebert OCHA's Head of Office and Deputy to the Humanitarian Coordinator	hebert@un.org Tel.2511-0911216233
Gregory Beals Senior Information Officer	beals@un.org Tel. 2511-911252344