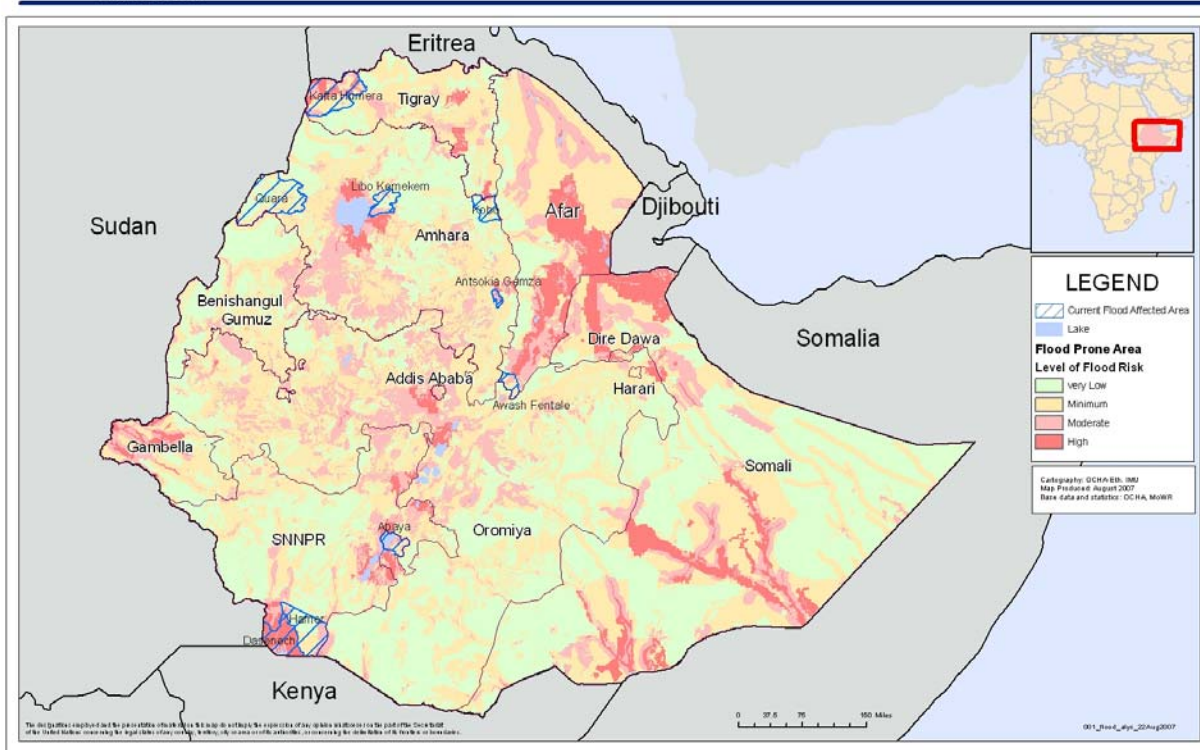




SITUATION UPDATE: FLOODING IN ETHIOPIA¹ – 31 AUGUST 07

Flooding continues to be of great concern with reports of alarming increases in dam and river water levels. The threat is further exacerbated by heavy rains in the western half of the country. Preliminary figures indicate that approximately 136,000 people in five regions of Amhara, Afar, Gambella, SNNP and Tigray have been affected, of whom an estimated 36,000 are displaced. The majority of the affected population are in SNNPR, followed by Amhara. Flooding has affected 38,742 people in eight woredas of SNNPR. The displaced population in the region is limited due to better preparedness. Approximately 3,100 households from 13 villages have settled in an elevated area. Nevertheless, fears of further flooding continue with reports of heavy rains in the highlands of west and central parts of the region increasing the water level of Omo River.

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
Ethiopia Current Flood Affected Areas
August 22, 2007



In Amhara, of the 31,000 people affected an estimated 8,000 are reportedly displaced. Reports indicate that the displaced population is rising by the day, particularly from Libo Kemkem and Dera woredas of South Gondar zone. Estimates put the displacement rate at 100-200 people per day. This is overcrowding temporary resettlement sites with reports that up to 300 people are residing in a shelter. The high congestion in some of the shelters poses a serious threat of communicable diseases, including Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), with cases already being reported in some flooded areas. Moreover, the water level of Lake Tana continues to rise increasing concerns that more people from the surrounding woredas could be displaced. The size of the areas under flood water coverage has increased this year as flooding has occurred in previously considered non-flood prone areas. Meanwhile, in Gambella, approximately 3,000 people have returned after flood waters receded.

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

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

1. DPPA has dispatched a total of 1,121 tonnes of relief food for approximately 60,600 flood affected people in the country.
2. USAID/OFDA and Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) have provided 26 boats, which will replenish DPPA and UNICEF stocks and will be deployed to flood prone areas.
3. On 30 August, the HRF met with partners to identify priority areas for emergency response in Amhara.
4. In Amhara, flood early warning messages have already been communicated and precautionary measures have been taken including evacuation of at risk communities and relocation of livestock to higher grounds.
5. UNICEF based four experts in Bahir Dar, capital of Amhara Region, to provide technical support to the region.
6. UNICEF with funding from USAID/OFDA and HRF pre-positioned four boats to Amhara Region in preparation of rescue operations. It also provided 371,305 water purification sachets and 4,575 bottles of water guard for more than 5,500 people for two months. Moreover, two EMWAT kits and 4,109 jerry cans have been sent to the region.
7. Three temporary shelters - Delegmore, Dibba and Selegn- are erected in SNNPR.
8. In SNNPR, have been used to resettle displaced people to safest place and provisional shelters.
8. Safety net food has been redirected to address emergency relief food requirement in Dasench woreda in SNNPR.
9. Emergency health assistance is being provided for the displaced population and one shallow well is constructed in Dasenech woreda in SNNPR.
10. Ethiopian Red Cross has provided food and non-food assistance to flood victims in three woredas of Amhara, Awassa (SNNP), Gambella and Addis Ababa.
11. DPPA-led joint verification assessment missions are being conducted in the flooded areas of Amhara, SNNP and Afar regions.

GAPS IN THE RESPONSE

12. The national Flood Contingency Plan has a shortfall in pledges.
13. There is shortage of supplementary food in the erected temporary shelters in Amhara.
14. Additional food assistance is required for flood victims in SNNPR.
15. Water and Sanitation and seed interventions are among the most pressing needs in Amhara.

Fidele Sarassoro Humanitarian Coordinator	fidele.sarassoro@undp.org Tel.251-11-5444483
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Paul Hebert OCHA's Head of Office and Deputy to the Humanitarian Coordinator	hebert@un.org Tel.251-911-216233
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Vincent Lelei Deputy Head of Office	Lelei@un.org Tel. 251-911-201784
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