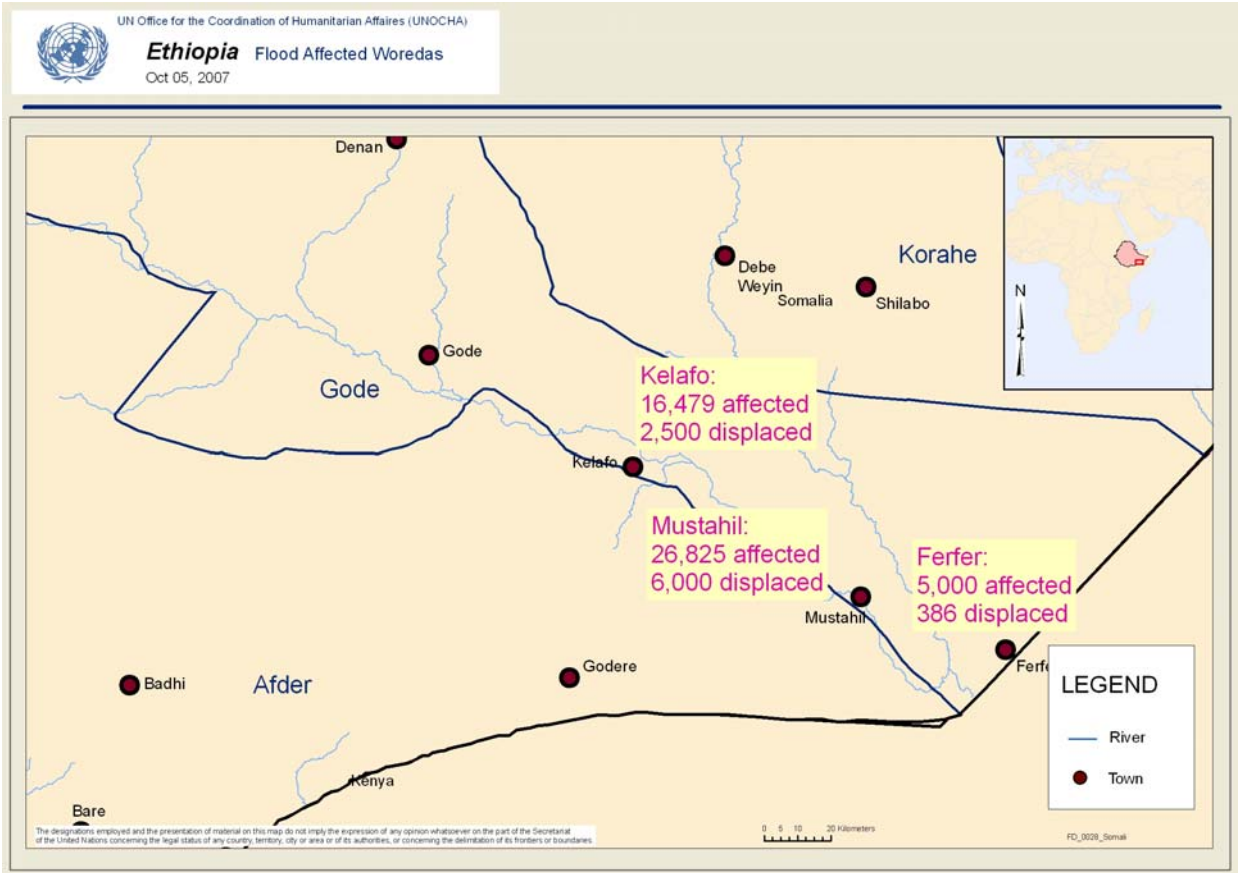




**SITUATION UPDATE: FLOODING IN ETHIOPIA<sup>1</sup> – 5 October 07**

Flooding has severely affected parts of Gambella and Somali Regions and continues to be reported in other flood prone areas of the country. In Gambella Region, the Baro and Gilo Rivers overflowed, flooding eight woredas. The floods also destroyed crop land and restricted access. According to a recent OCHA mission to the region, in Gambella town alone, an estimated 2,270 people have been displaced and are currently residing in five temporary shelters including schools and farmers’ training centers.

In Somali Region, the Wabishebelle River flooded Mustahil, Kelafo and Ferfer woredas, affecting approximately 48,300 people, of whom 8,880 are displaced. The floods have also damaged farm lands and grazing areas. A joint government and humanitarian partners’ mission reported that although the current level of the river is below than observed at the same time last year, an unusual change in the volume of the flow has been observed this year. The overflow also devastated kebeles that were not affected in the worst flooding of 2006. Access has also been restricted to some villages and this could be further aggravated by the forth coming *deyr* season (rainy season). Furthermore, WHO reported that incidences of water borne diseases particularly Bilharzia has increased. The situation could further deteriorate due to the poor health and water and sanitation services in the region.



<sup>1</sup> The information in this document is consolidated from reports and field information from a variety of sources including UN agencies, NGOs and government partners.

While flood waters are receding in Afar Region, access in the flooded kebeles of Gewane and Bure Mudaytu remains challenging. Despite AWD's prevalence in the region, to date the disease has not been reported in flood affected woredas. In addition, a recent joint Government and humanitarian partners' verification assessment in nine woredas of SNNPR confirmed that flooding affected approximately 40,500 in five woredas - Humbo, Mirab Abaya, Dasenech, Hamer and Loka Abaya. Moreover, there are reports of landslides from Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya and SNNP regions. Landslides have caused displacements and damaged crops, grazing areas, residential houses and soil conservation structures.

To date, an estimated 239,586<sup>2</sup> people have been affected<sup>3</sup> by flooding, of whom 73,746 are displaced in six regions including Amhara, Gambella, Afar, SNNP, Tigray and Somali since the rainy season started.

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

1. To date, DPPA and WFP have dispatched a total of 1,794 MT of emergency food to flood affected populations in SNNP, Gambella, Afar, and Amhara regions.
2. A joint Government and humanitarian partners' mission conducted a rapid assessment in the flood affected woredas of Somali Region from 24-30 September to assess the situation and identify needs.
3. Emergency food aid has been pre-positioned in Somali Region. WFP erected rub-hall in Mustahil woreda, Somali Region to store pre-positioned emergency food; in Kelafo a government owned warehouses will be used.
4. The DPPFS redirected a regular allocation of emergency food to flood affected people in Gambella town.
5. Federal DPPA has deployed two staff to Gambella Region to assess the situation and assist in response.
6. A team comprised of the Afar Regional DPPB, the Regional Water Bureau, UNICEF, CARE and OXFAM Great Britain visited the flood affected woredas of Gewane and Bure Mudaytu to identify needs.
7. FDPPA provided food and non-food assistance including 90 tonnes of wheat, 10.7 tonnes of CSB, 2.7 tonnes oil, 200 plastic sheet, 2,000 plastic cup and plates for Gewane woreda. Similarly, 67 tonnes of wheat, 5 tonnes of CSB, 5.6 tonnes oil, 2,000 plastic cups and 2000 plastic plates were provided to Bure Mudaytu.
8. UNICEF has provided CARE with two EMWAT kits for the flooded woredas of Afar.
9. The Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) granted US\$ 1.6 million for flood response including AWD, livestock and agriculture such as seed to FAO, World Vision, CARE and FHI. It is also finalizing an agreement with OXFAM GB for flood response in South Omo zone - SNNPR.

## GAPS IN THE RESPONSE

1. Emergency food aid, NFIs including ITNs and essential drugs as well as other medical supplies are among the urgent requirements for the displaced population in Somali Region. In addition, water treatment chemicals, livestock treatment supplies and agricultural inputs including seeds, farm tools are also needed.

<sup>2</sup> Affected population figure is compiled from various sources including regional and woreda reports and need further verification.

<sup>3</sup> There is no agreed definition of 'affected' population but for ease of understanding, people who have been directly (displaced) and indirectly (denied normal access to their livelihood, market and movement) influenced by floods are classified as 'affected' population.

2. Coordination is a gap among humanitarian partners in the flood affected woredas of Gambella Region. In addition, the regional DPPFSC has requested the federal DPPA for additional food aid, oil and NFIs for the flood affected population.
3. In Afar, boats, medical supplies and drugs including Coartem, ITNs, food aid, health education and the provision of potable water are among the requirements. In addition, there is a need to strengthen the woredas' AWD and Flood control Committees.

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