

**OCHA Situation Report No. 5
Flooding in Ethiopia's Somali region**

This report is based on information received from OCHA Ethiopia¹.

Situation

1. For the coming three days, light rains are predicted in the area, threatening to further exacerbate existing accessibility conditions to such flood affected areas as Mustahil and Kelafo. Conditions have not improved for the flood affected as emergency assistance still has not adequately reached the flood affected areas. Conditions on the main roads, nevertheless, are improving. UN agencies have managed with great difficulty to reach Mustahil and distributions are expected in the coming days if the rains do not halt transportation.
2. The Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners Flash Flood Appeal for Gode will be launched on Thursday, 23 November 2006.
3. The forthcoming Pastoral Assessment of the region, which examines the impact of the Deyr rains on the livelihoods and food security of pastoralists, originally scheduled for 25 November may be postponed as all resources are overstretched by the humanitarian response.

National and International Response

4. UN helicopters based outside of Ethiopia in the region will be used to deliver relief supplies to stranded towns and villages. The helicopters are expected to arrive in Gode by the end of this week. The distribution of prepositioned non-food items in Gode to inaccessible areas will be greatly assisted as soon as the helicopters have arrived. The Deputy Prime Minister has intervened and has cleared the way for the use of Ethiopian Airlines for the delivery of fuel.
5. Various UN Agencies have submitted proposals for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) on 20 November to enable critical life-saving interventions in the areas of logistics, health, emergency seed assistance, non-food items and shelter.
6. Three personnel from the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team are being deployed to Ethiopia to assist with coordination, communications and logistics. They will arrive on Thursday, 23 November and will be deployed in Gode and Jijiga thereafter.
7. A UNICEF mobile health and nutrition team managed to access Mustahil with considerable difficulty by vehicle and by foot to assess the situation on the ground. The population of the town has been entirely displaced and is now sheltering in two camps. UNICEF plans to assess the health and nutrition situation in the two camps while providing medical assistance.

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.

Logistics cluster lead, WFP continues to explore alternative means of transport including use of pack animals to distribute food.

8. UNICEF has provided the Regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (DPPB) with two boats to Mustahil and Kelafo woredas to help in rescue efforts.
9. Despite difficult road conditions, the first trucks carrying food aid from WFP/DPPA have reached Kelafo over the weekend and distributions are expected to take place immediately.
10. ICRC has made available two boats to DPPB for distributions of relief items in the areas that are currently inaccessible by road. The boats will be transported to Kelafo in the coming days.
11. Twenty one trucks carrying emergency food have left from Shilabo to Mustahil this morning, 21 November. It is expected that these trucks will reach Mustahil later today or early tomorrow 22 November. Road conditions are hampering the delivery of emergency relief.
12. In Kelafo, local authorities have identified twelve food distribution points. Access to an additional eight food distribution points is only possible by using pack animals. WFP has registered three hundred donkeys in Gode yesterday, 20 November and negotiations are underway as to their use. It is anticipated that these will deliver approximately seven to eight tonnes of food every two to three days. UNICEF is also planning to use pack animals to deliver non-food items to areas inaccessible by road.
13. The distribution of non-food items is ongoing, 450 non-food item kits were delivered in West Gode by IRC and ADRA yesterday, 20 November. UNICEF are planning to distribute a further 2,000 non-food item kits in the coming days.
14. UNICEF airlifted the following non-food items and medical supplies to Gode yesterday, 20 November: 1000 (4 x 5) plastic sheets, 1000 300 ml. plastic cups, 1000 7 lt. cooking pots with handles and covers, 45 125ml aluminium ladles, 2000 collapsible 10 lt. jerrycans, 6 bags of 50 kg aluminium sulphate, 4 16lt. sprayer knap sacks, 75 cartons of 1lt. oral rehydration salts, 10 essential drug kits, 5 new emergency health kits, 20 CTC beds, 2 (725 sq. m.) tents and 4 (24 sq. m.) tents.
15. Catholic Relief Services Ethiopia have donated US\$ 25,000 to the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency in support of their Gode relief effort.

Gaps in the response

- The conditions of many of the roads and inaccessible communities are still unclear.
- Security continues to hinder humanitarian efforts throughout the region.
- NGO interventions continue to be limited due to the ongoing challenges of operating in the region.

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