

Key mission findings:

- An estimated 85 - 90 per cent of the flood displaced people from Belet Weyne town including the IDPs and the riverine villages have returned to their homes as of 19 June 2016.
- Commercial activities, flow of goods to and from Belet Weyne and markets are fully operational after almost two months of disruption due to the floods.
- All health facilities and nutrition centers have resumed normal operations.
- All schools are closed due to the June / July holiday but some sections of 36 damaged schools need rehabilitation before they open in August 2016.
- Increased suspected cases of AWD/cholera and high number of people affected by suspected cases of Chikungunya (also known as Kadudiye) were observed and reported.
- Humanitarians are doubling their efforts to assist those affected by the floods and most of the affected people received food sufficient for one month except some villages in the west and east due to insecurity and remoteness.
- Food assistance is needed for the next two months to the affected people until the start of the next off - season harvest expected in September.
- Rehabilitation of the contaminated water points and other shallow wells is needed as a priority to minimize spread of water borne diseases such as AWD/cholera.
- Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure such as bridges, schools, latrines, irrigation system as well as repair of broken river embankments were seen as a prerequisite for early recovery to the affected people.
- For the long term there is need to drill boreholes given that one of the causes of AWD/Cholera outbreak are the shallow wells which easily get contaminated.
- Monitor the malnutrition trends among the IDPs and vulnerable communities in urban and rural villages to ensure early interventions to vulnerable populations.
- Food security & livelihoods and health concerns (AWD/cholera) stand out as the major concerns in post floods situation in Belet Weyne.

Findings and recommendations

Protection

- An estimated 18,000 people lost livelihood opportunities following the flooding, making them more vulnerable.
- Displaced women, girls and children became more vulnerable due to exposure to risks as they struggle looking for water and firewood. The lack of sanitation facilities and the open defecation exposed women and girls to high risks of protection concerns.
- Over 50 per cent of the displaced following the floods were experiencing secondary displacement as they were already IDPs in their settlements.
- During the flooding, a total of 52 children of whom 19 of them were girls were reportedly separated from their families. Majority of these have been re-united with their families.
- The conflict in Howlwadaag section of Belet Weyne affected the initial response to the flood affected in the area.
- Increased police patrols and community policing resulted in reduced cases of GBV during the displacement
- A case was reported in Ceel Jaale area where a police officer hit a woman with the butt of a gun during efforts to keep order at a food distribution point.
- Women, girls and children returning to damaged houses and shelters are exposed to vulnerable living conditions.
- Majority of the affected people were women headed households with limited livelihood opportunities.
- Children are playing and swimming in the remaining stagnant waters thus exposing them to further risks including drowning.
- Destroyed and damaged shelters of especially the IDPs exposes further risks to both adults and children and elderly especially during this cold season. A father and son reportedly fell and died in a collapsed latrine. The

man was trying to rescue his son who had fallen in the collapsed latrine in Howlwadaag area.

Recommendations:

- Ensure integration of protection responses to the other humanitarian interventions to the returning and affected people by the floods.
- Rehabilitation of damaged shelters, schools, roads as well as schools and camp latrines with adequate safe equipment.
- Awareness campaigns to promote understanding of women and girls on various issues such as sanitation, hygiene, domestic violence, literacy, among others.
- Conduct surveys focusing on areas suspected to contain possible washed out unexploded ordinance that may be a risk to children and the community at large.
- Protection outreach messages on prevention of GVB and other protection related incidents during floods and other emergencies

WASH

- A total of 6700 latrines were damaged in the town and riverine villages including IDP settlements and host community areas. Of this total 2,500 latrines need rehabilitation while 4,200 latrines need re-construction
- An estimated 33 per cent of the floods displaced people received hygiene kits.
- Poor hygiene practices were observed and reported in the IDP settlements and the poor host community residential areas.
- An increase in cases of watery diarrhoea and suspected AWD was reported in health facilities and residential areas. Many water sources especially shallow wells were flooded and contaminated with flood waters and probably the root cause of the reported increase of water borne diseases.
- Dirty stagnant waters and uncollected garbage were observed in many parts of the town leading to water contamination especially the shallow wells. An estimated 70 per cent of the residents in Belet Weyne use shallow wells as the source of water for domestic use.
- 80 per cent of the schools have no access to safe drinking water.

Recommendations

- Develop strategies to reduce the practices of open defecation among the population.
- Look for sustainable ways to deal with the challenge of pit latrines in Belet Weyne as much of the settled land is low lying and prone to flooding.
- Hygiene promotion and continuous sensitization on hand washing with soap and treatment of water for domestic use.
- Distribution of Hygiene kits to increase the hygiene and sanitation practices at household level
- Improve the drainage system in the town to minimize the stagnant water that leads to vector borne diseases
- Provision of mosquito nets in order to reduce and prevent malaria cases and promote the importance of mosquito nets.
- Explore alternatives to source of water for domestic use as opposed to the use of open shallow wells which are easily contaminated. Borehole or river water which is treated and portable should be considered.
- Investigate the reported cases of watery diarrhoea in the IDP settlements and host community areas and put

measures in place to contain the situation.

- Construct and rehabilitate latrines both in host communities and IDP settlements as well as rehabilitate water sources, structures in the IDP settlements, host communities and the rural villages affected by the floods.
- Intensify and ensure safety of drinking water through hygiene promotion and water treatment at household level,
- Put in place an effective solid waste disposal system to reduce health related problems emanating from the solid waste disposal in the town.
- Disinfect all shallow wells and support IDP communities and poor host community households to access clean and safe water for domestic use.
- Construct boreholes as alternative sources of water for domestic use so as to minimize water consumption from the shallow wells which is easily contaminated.
- Provide capacity training support to WASH partners and local authority on emergency management and disaster risk reduction.

Food Security and Livelihoods

- The flood affected urban livelihood income sources of the poor and middle groups and IDPs who depend on casual labour and small scale trade comprise about 70 per cent of the urban livelihood economy of Belet Weyne.
- The cluster estimates that the average debt accumulation rose to US\$ 300-500 in most households due to lack of labor activities in the past two months following the floods and inter-clan fighting in the town.
- The disruption of the markets and flow of commercial goods and services affected vulnerable households especially among the IDPs and vulnerable host community whose livelihoods mainly depend on the functionality of the markets and flow of commercial goods and services particularly the livestock and vegetables. Belet Weyne is the main supplier of vegetables to most parts of Puntlands and Somaliland. .
- Damage to river embankments led to flooding of farms and damage to crops that are the main lifeline for most farmers and traders. Cultivation of off season crops is ongoing; the earliest harvest is expected in September 2016.
- Humanitarian partners and government distributed food and non-food items to almost 100,000 people in Belet Weyne. The rural riverine livelihood that depended on income from crops, livestock, casual agricultural labor and self- employment and crop sales collapsed due to flooding resulting in debt between \$200 – 500 per household.
- Most affected households will resort to purchase of food on credit once they exhaust the one month food ration distributed by humanitarian partners and government.
- Most farmers managed to save their water pumps and pipes but majority reportedly lost their hand tools especially the rural village farmers.
- There is an upsurge of crop pests that is likely to affect the off season crop yields in the farms.
- There is a lot of deluge and siltation in most of the irrigation canals and some culverts and bridges are damaged affecting the access roads within the town.
- The assessment teams noted that bulk of the humanitarian assistance focused on the urban areas while the rural riverine villages were less considered due to remoteness and road inaccessibility and security related issues.

Recommendations

- An estimated 24,000 people in rural riverine villages need food assistance as they were not included in the last

intervention due to access.

- Rehabilitation of 55 irrigation canals of approximately 1.5 km each to enable farmers resume irrigation and farming to improve food security and livelihoods in the area. This can be done through food for work or cash for work.
- Rehabilitation/re-construction of 55 still basins for the main canals that have been affected by river floods.
- Rehabilitation/reconstruction of a total of 25 culverts damaged during the floods so as to easy access within the town through the available access roads.
- Rehabilitation of feeder roads especially to rural riverine villages preferably through food for work or cash for work. Approximately feeder roads to accessible villages is 120 Km. The access roads are to the villages of Bacaad, Qoqane, Ceel Jaal, Shinnile, Garash, Dhareynta, Harcadet, Qoydo, Macruuf, Shabellow and Gambarlaawe.
- Subsidised fuel for supplementary irrigation is highly required since farmers cannot afford to buy fuel at this critical situation. An estimated 2000 farmers each requires 45 litres of fuel.
- Distribution of hand tool kits to 4,000 farmers is required. Each kit contains a shovel, two forks, a panga, an axe and two hoes. Collective farm tools are also required such as spry machines, wheel-barrows and big axes
- River embankment rehabilitation is needed on the damaged sections. The total length of damaged sections that needs rehabilitation is approximately 150-200 metres.
- Livestock vaccination/treatment in the flooded grazing areas to avoid livestock diseases.
- Support stocking of small animals as part of income diversification options for riverine communities.

Shelter and NFIs

- Most of the affected households are those living or accommodating in traditional huts, CGIs and make-shift houses both IDP settlements and host community
- The average duration period that people were displaced from their houses and settlements was 30 days.
- The most affected areas and settlements affected by the floods were witnessed in Kooshin, Hawo-tako, Buundowayn, Howlwadaag, Buulada and Bacaadaha.
- Majority of the people living in Hawo-tako and Kooshin which accounts for about 55 per cent of the displaced lost their NFIs during the flooding.
- Majority of the estimated 10-15 per cent of flood displaced people who have not returned to their homes are from Hawo-tako and Kooshin.

Recommendations:

- Emergency shelter assistance to IDPs and vulnerable poor households whose houses and shelters were damaged or destroyed by the floods.
- Distribution of NFIs to the flood affected people who lost their NFIs during the flooding
- Support with repair and rehabilitation cost to the flood affected households to facilitate them return to their houses
- Improve on the early warning early action on delivery of emergency shelter and NFIs at the peak of an emergency. Most emergency shelter and NFIs were distributed when people were about to return to their settlements.

Health

- The four sections of Belet Weyne town (Bundoweyn, Xawotakp, Hawlwadaag and Kooshin) have MCH/OPD facilities and there is MCH/N in the two sections of the town (Hawlwadaag and Kooshin). The general hospital of Belet Weyne is partially functioning for referral of complicated cases related to MCH/OPDs.
- There is no MCH/OPD operational in the 10 assessed riverine villages. However, the villages of Garash, Qoydo, Bacaad, Gambarlaawe, Shabeelow and Balad Amiin have integrated community case management and preventive and promotive (ICCM/PP) health facilities run by WARDI. The other villages have private pharmacies that serve with basic health needs of the villages. Most health cases are referred to the Belet Weyne hospital.
- No health facility and supplies damaged by the floods both in the town and rural villages except the general hospital which was partially flooded for few days.
- There were many cases of increased watery diarrhoea and Chikungunya (Kadudiye) in the town compared to the rural villages. The Kadudiye and the watery diarrhoea affected all ages. Cases of deaths as a result of AWD were reported in some area.
- During the assessment no increased cases of skin infection, respiratory infections, measles and fever of unknown origin were reported among the IDPs and host community areas as well as in the rural villages as compared to previous similar floods.
- The flood has had a major impact on children's safety in regard to health and hygiene.

Recommendations:

- Drain stagnant water and disinfect affected areas to stop mosquito breeding that may spread malaria.
- Urgent need for mass distribution of mosquito nets to the flood affected area to protect malaria outbreaks.
- Strengthen the response capacity of the existing health facilities and Cholera Treatment Centres in the town to effectively deal with rise in AWD/ cholera cases. This includes supplies, equipment and staffing.
- Strengthen health education, general hygiene, sanitation promotion and awareness to contain watery diarrhoea cases.
- Information sharing and awareness on the existing health facilities and their locations to the community.
- There is need for increased number of health facilities in the rural villages according to the health protocols as well as improved standards of the existing healthy facilities.
- Need for increased health mobilization and sensitization on AWD, Measles and Pneumonia,

Nutrition

- The operational nutrition centers have reportedly sufficient stocks of nutrition supplies to serve the needs of the local population.
- Temporary nutrition centers were installed in evacuation sites during the floods to provide services to severely and moderately malnourished children under five and PLWs.
- No nutrition centers and supplies were affected by the floods both in the town and rural villages.
- Cases of increased malnutrition due to poor sanitation and hygiene, diseases, unclean water and shortages of food were beginning to emerge particularly in the IDPs centers and the rural villages especially in the post flood period.
- High Nutrient Biscuits were distributed to an estimated 10, 000 people to improve nutrition status of the flood affected people in the town.

Recommendations:

- Nutrition cluster to conduct a further detailed investigation on the nutrition status of the people in the post flood period to establish the correct picture of the malnutrition trends.
- Strengthen the response capacity of the existing nutrition centers in the town and rural areas in line to the

nutrition protocols.

- Need for integration of Nutrition, Health, WASH and food security projects for sustained nutrition improvement.
- Renewal of PCAs with partners so as to increase areas of coverage especially in the post floods period coupled with the reported poor performance of the past Gu rain season.

Education

- The assessment teams established that 36 schools were affected by the floods in the town and rural villages of Belet Weyne district. The affected schools lost about 70 per cent of the teaching and learning materials to the floods.
- A total of 13, 264 learners, of whom 6, 199 are female will be affected when the schools open in August in the damaged schools.
- An estimated 80 per cent of the affected schools have no access to safe drinking water.
- School WASH facilities mainly latrines were damaged as result of the flooding,
- Accommodations for an estimated 70 per cent of teachers were affected due to the floods.
- An estimated 65 per cent of the school furniture were destroyed and damaged as result of flood in the affected schools.
- Because of destruction and damage of school WASH facilities, girls are likely to have school dropout caused by inaccessibility to WASH facilities including latrines and water.

Recommendations:

- The overall functionality of the affected schools is poor and therefore requires rehabilitation and construction of learning spaces (classrooms), offices and stores before schools open in August 2016.
- Provision of school WASH facilities including construction, rehabilitation and promotion of school hygiene and sanitation programs.
- Capacity support on emergency / disaster preparedness to schools at risk of flooding. This should include the CEC members.
- Establishment of school feeding programs in the opening term so as to increase enrolment and maintain retention following the flooding.
- Provide school furniture or repairs as appropriate to affected schools.

Purpose of the assessment:

The main objectives of the post flood assessment were:

- ✓ Assess the general impact of the floods to the affected communities in Belet Weyne.
- ✓ Assess and identify the ongoing interventions and major gaps and challenges per cluster.
- ✓ Identify and recommend the most appropriate assistance needed to facilitate early recovery to affected populations.
- ✓ Provide an update to partners on the humanitarian situation for further action and investigation.

Mission participants:

A total of 30 organizations participated in the assessment mission representing the following clusters.

Food Security: WFP, DRC, SYPD, INTERSOM, HAPO_CHILD, HIHADO, Mercy USA, HICDO, ADRA, SAMRADO, CERELPA, HIDIG, GEELO, WARDI and DOYALE

WASH: SCI, CESVI, SYPD, RRP, Mercy USA, HAPO_CHILD, ADRA, Great Hope and UNICEF

Protection: DRC, WARDI, HAPO_CHILD, UNICEF and HIWA

Shelter & NFIs:	DRC, SYPD, SCI, CCO, HAPO_CHILD and UNICEF
Health:	WARDI, RI, CESVI, Technoplan, UNICEF and GELO
Education:	SCI, HREC, DAN, UNICEF and HIWA
Nutrition:	HIDIG, SAMRADO, WARDI, HICDO, SCI, SOMPLAN, Mercy USA and DOYALE
Coordination:	OCHA and Local authority

Methodology

The cluster members used participatory focus discussions (PFD), interviews with key informants, transect walks, observations and use of background secondary data. The areas visited include settlements of the most affected areas including IDP settlement areas, markets, public infrastructure including schools, health facilities, nutrition centers, farm lands, irrigation canals, water basins, culverts and visits to the riverine villages. The participants involved include members of the heads of village committees, elders, women groups, religious leaders, youths, teachers and IDP settlement committees and members. The tool used to collect qualitative and quantitative data was a multi-checklist that was modified and agreed upon the regional inter-cluster members based on the realities on the ground.

Drivers of the problem:

The flooding experienced along the Shabelle River in the month of May / June 2016 has been described by locals as the worst since 1981 and the El Nino of 1997. Each year, the month of May rainfall does not usually bring flooding that displaces people and destroy properties and farms along the upstream of Shabelle River. The May / June 2016 flooding was as a result of excessive rains in the Ethiopian highlands as a result of the El Nino rains. Despite the early warning of possible flooding from SWALIM and other weather forecast bodies, the flooding was exacerbated by other factors including the encroachment of river drainage areas with human settlements and farms. Human settlements and farms which are poorly planned often become the first casualty whenever the flooding occurs as nature tries to claim its course. Belet Weyne town was among the worst affected following the May / June flooding due to its topography and human population. The flooding in the area is often accompanied by destruction of properties, settlements, farms, displacements and disruption of livelihoods.

Scope and the impact of floods and the number of people affected

- The increasing water levels in the Shabelle River caused flooding in Belet Weyne leading to an estimated 70,000 people displaced and thousands more affected during May – June 2016.
- The water levels had dramatically increased few weeks after the river had completely dried leading to a water crisis in the town. The water levels reached record levels (above 8.00 meters) and locals described the flooding as the worst ever witnessed since 1981 and the 1997 El Nino.
- The floods damaged farms, disrupted commercial and business activities and people's livelihoods leading to interventions from humanitarian partners and government.
- The damage caused by the floods and the poor performance of the *G#* rains has necessitated the rapid assessment so as to inform which areas need further focus and intervention in the post flood situation in Belet Weyne.

Responses

The local community, authorities, civil society organizations and humanitarian partners responded to the flood-affected people in Belet Weyne and continue to respond to the post flood situation based on mandate and availability of resources.

WASH: The WASH cluster partners have now shifted their focus and response to the post flood situation through rehabilitation of contaminated water points and hygiene promotion so as to curb spread of water borne diseases such as AWD/cholera. The cluster is sending additional hygiene kits through partners while engaging

community mobilization in hygiene promotion.

Health: The cluster members in collaboration with the MoH are doing case management of those affected by suspected AWD. Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) are being established as part to the response to the increasing cases of AWD in the town.

Food Security and Nutrition: The food security and nutrition partners distributed a one month food ration that reached an estimated 100,000 people. The partners are monitoring the recovery situation so as to intervene appropriately.

Shelter: Shelter cluster partners responded with NFI kits that reached an estimated 33,000 people with an additional 400 families (2400 people) receiving unconditional cash grants for NFI kits.

Response capacity:

- The Regional Inter-Cluster Coordination Group meetings are held monthly and on ad hoc when there is need. Food Security, WASH, Education, Health, Nutrition, Shelter/NFIs and Protection clusters are active in Belet Weyne. The Flood Task Force that comprises of the local authorities and humanitarian partners meets regularly to plan and respond to the flood situation and compliment the coordination efforts of the clusters. With the increasing cases of suspected AWD in the town, an AWD task force has been formed to compliment the work of the clusters in response to the situation.

Humanitarian access:

- Much of the affected areas following the flooding are now accessible after the access roads dried up. The flooding was mainly within Belet Weyne town which is relatively accessible to humanitarians. Inter clan fighting within the town has often disrupted humanitarian activity and restrained access to humanitarians.
-