



BARDHERE FLOODS ASSESSMENT REPORT



29/10/2023

Context Overview

Bardhere is a flood-prone area in the region, primarily due to the presence of the Juba River and flash floods in the upper stream. Recent heavy rains in the area have led to disastrous flooding in the town, villages, and IDP camps located along the perennial River Juba. The floods have caused a significant rise in Juba River levels, reaching 9 meters, surpassing the high flood risk threshold for Bardhere town. Furthermore, the town and its neighboring communities have experienced heavy floods, resulting in injuries, displacements, house destruction, and disruptions in movement due to poor drainage systems. In severely affected areas, people have become stranded in their homes due to mud blocking their paths, and many roads have become impassable.

Description of the Assessment

The assessment was conducted on October 29, 2023, following heavy rainfall that caused crop destruction and the displacement of several people as their houses remained submerged. Consequently, Concern and its implementing partner, Lifeline Gedo, conducted a rapid assessment in the affected community to determine the extent of damage caused by the floods to the lives and livelihoods of the local vulnerable community. The assessment aimed to identify any immediate emergency interventions required for the affected communities in the IDP camps, rural villages, and the town.



Figure 1.1 shows that one of Bandar's farming sites has been completely submerged by the flood water.

Assessment Findings

The heavy rains and river floods have disrupted movement and transportation of goods and services within and outside the town, mainly due to fallen trees and accumulated mud, making access difficult. The town has been effectively isolated, and farms are waterlogged, leading to a disruption in market supply. Localized business disruptions are expected to continue in the coming five days, especially in low-lying areas.

Approximately 45% of businesses in Suuqyare remain closed due to facility damage, and some workers cannot reach their job sites. This is anticipated to result in an increase in the prices of essential food commodities due to the absence of commercial goods supply from Mogadishu and Kismayo.

Approximately 27,000 people have been displaced and are currently staying with relatives in the town, while others have set up makeshift shelters in elevated areas after their houses were inundated. The floodwaters have severely impacted the following villages and IDP sites: Bandar Bulu-Asharaf, Xabaal-Cadey IDP, Bula Cadey, Shimbirole, East Hurena, Kurman, Bula Kulow, Bula-Aygedi IDP, Kulmiye IDP, Garasley, and Mandeq.



Fig 1.2 Smallholder farmer beneficiary removed part of her vegetation crops

An estimated 540 hectares of farmland have been affected by the flood, resulting in the total destruction of crops. Both food crops such as maize, sorghum, and beans, as well as commercial crops like onions, papayas, and various vegetables, have been submerged in water. The floodwaters have also hindered other farming activities within the affected farmlands. About 47 irrigation pumps were reported to have been swept away by the flood, mainly in locations far from the town that couldn't receive pre-El Niño warnings.



Fig 1.3 Efforts to rescue the irrigation surface pump by the Bula Cadey farmers after the top part of the boat was hit by swimming solid material.

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Fig 1.3 Efforts to rescue the irrigation surface pump by the Bula Cadey farmers after the top part of the boat was hit by swimming solid material.

The primary source of water for the majority of the Bardhere community is shallow wells located on the river's edge, with water delivered through pipeline networks indoors by private water vendors. However, the flood has disrupted part of the water supply to Bardhere town and villages, such as Kurman, Kaskey, Bula Kulow, and Kulmiye IDPs. The damage is associated with the floodwater damaging the pipeline system, causing leakages, and rendering the water source extremely turbid. Fortunately, the previously rehabilitated water infrastructure in Xabaal Cadey IDP and Bakal IDP remains intact and safe.

Meanwhile, surface water pumps for the constructed mini water treatment units in Bula-Cadey, Shimbirole West, and Hurena community were removed from the river due to the large amounts of solid waste and fallen trees in the river, which posed a threat to the pumps. Currently, the community is accessing harvested rainwater. In the affected area, there were approximately 270 latrines that were destroyed, with 70 partially damaged and 200 fully destroyed. This has led to a significant increase in open defecation, resulting in health-related hazards. Out of the 10 latrines constructed in Xabal Cadey, three were partially damaged, while Mandeeg IDP reported two partially damaged latrines.

Before the onset of the flood, there were six fixed health and nutrition centers, along with several mobile outreach teams in operation. However, these services are currently disrupted due to access-related issues. The torrential rain in the area has created several stagnant water sites, which serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes and contribute to an increase in mosquito-borne diseases. Additionally, the floods have generated a significant amount of solid waste, including livestock remains, scrap metals, trash, empty drums, plastic sheets, pharmaceutical waste, and old tires, leading to environmental pollution and health risks.

Recommendations

- Provide immediate humanitarian assistance, such as cash aid, to those affected by flash floods.
- Monitor the situation closely and find solutions when heavy rains occur.
- Undertake shelter and non-food items (NFIs) material provision.
- Rehabilitate water assets.
- Rehabilitate sanitation facilities.
- Promote public health.
- Disinfect and treat water sources.
- Deploy mobile and rapid response teams for health, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), nutrition, protection, and other relevant services.

Conclusion

Bardhere recently experienced severe flooding due to heavy rains and the overflow of the Juba River. The floods have caused extensive damage, displacing thousands of people, destroying crops and infrastructure, and disrupting essential services. Immediate humanitarian assistance is needed to address the urgent needs of the affected population, including cash aid and the restoration of water, sanitation, and public health services. Monitoring and preparedness for future floods are crucial. In conclusion, a coordinated response is essential to help Bardhere's community recover from the recent flooding and prepare for potential future disasters.

Latitude: 2.331588
Longitude: 42.299181
Elevation: 114.91 ±3 m
Accuracy: 3.9 m
Time: 10-29-2023 16:01
Note: xawaalcadey



Fig 1.5 Destroyed latrine that was constructed during the CEO project in Xabaal Cadey IDP.