



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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AADSOM Calls for Immediate Preventive and Life-Saving Action as Flood Risk Intensifies Along Shabelle River

Mogadishu, Somalia – Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM) expresses deep concern over the rapidly worsening flood threat along the Shabelle River corridor affecting communities in Hiraan and downstream areas toward Jowhar in Hirshabelle State. Recent hydrological monitoring, humanitarian reports, and field assessments indicate that communities in Belet Weyne, Bulo Burte, Jowhar, Balcad, Afgooye, and surrounding riverine settlements remain at high risk as ongoing Gu’ rains continue to trigger flash floods, rising river levels, displacement, and disruption of essential services.

According to the latest assessments, the Shabelle River level in Belet Weyne rose from 6.75 meters to 7.10 meters following approximately 59.7 mm of rainfall, surpassing the moderate flood-risk threshold by 0.25 meters and significantly increasing the likelihood of river overflow and further flooding in surrounding communities. In Jowhar, the river level reached 4.88 meters, only 0.12 meters below the moderate flood threshold, heightening concerns over downstream flooding.

While the Gu’ rains initially brought relief after prolonged drought conditions, the situation has rapidly evolved into a serious flood emergency across parts of Hirshabelle State. In Belet Weyne, heavy rainfall has already caused flash floods, rapid river swelling, and displacement in several neighborhoods, while low-lying settlements have become increasingly isolated due to flooded roads and damaged access routes. AADSOM field teams warn that continued rainfall and upstream inflows could further disrupt markets, agriculture, transportation networks, shelters, water sources, and public services across the Shabelle basin.

The Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) previously issued a national flood warning and Gu’ rainfall advisory forecasting between 80–120 mm of rainfall across parts of Middle Shabelle, with particular concern for Belet Weyne and Jowhar. Subsequent reports confirmed flooding in Jowhar that displaced approximately 400 households and inundated several villages.

AADSOM warns that the current situation represents more than a seasonal flood event. It is a rapidly escalating humanitarian crisis unfolding amid severe food insecurity, disease outbreaks, weak infrastructure, climate shocks, restricted humanitarian access, and critical funding shortages. Somalia’s 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan seeks US\$852 million to support 2.4 million people out of 4.8 million people in need, yet humanitarian funding remains critically insufficient. At the same time, an estimated 6.5 million people across Somalia are facing crisis levels of hunger or worse, including more than 2 million people experiencing emergency food insecurity conditions.

AADSOM is particularly concerned about the growing pressure on health, education, nutrition, and protection services in flood-affected areas. Field reports indicate that several Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers and primary schools have become inaccessible due to floodwaters and damaged roads, raising fears of prolonged disruption to learning and essential child protection services.

“The current situation requires urgent preventive and humanitarian action,” said Guled Osman, Executive Director of Action Against Disasters Somalia (AADSOM). “Without rapid support, even moderate flooding under the current conditions could quickly escalate into a major humanitarian emergency.”

AADSOM calls for urgent and coordinated humanitarian action, including:

- Pre-positioning of emergency shelter, WASH, health, and nutrition supplies.
- Emergency safe drinking water and sanitation interventions.
- Strengthened AWD/cholera preparedness and emergency health response.
- Protection assistance for displaced families, especially women, children, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities.
- Rapid district-level multi-sector assessments to identify displacement, infrastructure damage, and service disruptions.
- Increased humanitarian funding to prevent further deterioration of life-saving services and response capacity.

AADSOM also urges authorities, humanitarian partners, donors, and local communities to strengthen early warning dissemination, riverbank monitoring, drainage clearance, and community contingency planning before conditions deteriorate further downstream along the Shabelle River corridor.

AADSOM reiterates that anticipatory action, community preparedness, and rapid humanitarian response remain essential to preventing avoidable loss of life, large-scale displacement, disease outbreaks, and worsening humanitarian suffering across Hirshabelle State.

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