

Situation overview:

A tropical cyclone made landfall on the Somali coast on 10 November 2013. The Puntland authorities declared a natural disaster emergency on 11 November, citing very heavy rainfall and flash floods leading to an estimate of more than 100 people dead and large scale livestock deaths. Efforts to conduct a rapid inter-agency assessment are hampered by a break in the main road between Garowe and the coast and the inability of flights to land in Garowe or Bossaso airports as of 12 November. The UN and partners are preparing to conduct a rapid inter-agency assessment as soon as the situation allows, verifying needs on the ground. The UN Humanitarian Air Service is expected to be restored by 13 November to both airports.



Estimated impact:

- More than 100 people are feared dead, while hundreds more are currently unaccounted for following the storm.
- Communications lines and road access are currently severed, hampering the collection or verification of information and the delivery of assistance.
- Garowe and Bossaso airports remained closed due to inclement weather as of 12 November, both expected to be operational by 13 November.
- Thousands of livestock are reported dead as a consequence of icy rain.
- Early reports received by the Puntland authorities suggest substantial damage to homes, buildings, and other infrastructure in the area.
- The FAO Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) system estimates rainfall on the coastal areas 11-12 November approximated annual rainfall from 2012 in some places (Garowe and Dangoroyo).

Coordination and response:

- The Puntland authorities have established a task force comprising key ministries, UN agencies, and NGOs, led by the Puntland Ministry of Interior, which has met twice in Garowe (11 and 12 November) and will continue to meet daily.
- Plans for an assessment are underway, conditions permitting.
- Puntland authorities reported that initial efforts to reach affected people with humanitarian supplies failed on 11 November due to heavy rains and impassable roads.
- UN Agencies and NGOs are gathering supplies in Garowe and Bossaso for an immediate response.
- The current planning estimate for the government task force is 30,000 people are in need of food, water, shelter, and medical supplies across a 250 square km affected area. Airdropping supplies to coastal areas cut-off by the storm are being considered in the event that access does not improve.
- ECHO's Emergency Response and Coordination Centre will provide satellite imagery of the affected areas to assist the humanitarian community with assessing the extent of the damage.
- Dangoroyo town is marked as the centre for humanitarian assistance, based on existing information.
- Other coastal areas in Sanaag and Mudug were reported to have been affected, though to a lesser extent. No accurate reports received.

The next Flash Update on the Puntland cyclone will be issued as soon as more information is available. For more information, contact: Rita Maingi, Information Officer, maingir@un.org, Tel. (+254) 734 800 120