

Ethiopia – Flooding Flash Update 4

5 September 2018



Overview

On 7 July 2018, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC)-led Flood Task Force issued a joint Government and Humanitarian Partners National Flood Contingency Plan¹ based on the National Meteorology Agency (NMA) weather forecast for the 2018 summer kiremt (June-September) rainy season. According to the forecast, heavy rains are expected to cause river or flash flooding in parts of northern, north-eastern, central, western, south-western and eastern Ethiopia, as well as in areas along the Rift Valley. Some 2.5 million people are expected to be affected, of whom 637,628 are likely to be displaced.

There is a high risk of water-borne disease outbreaks such as acute watery diarrhea (AWD) following flood incidents due to deteriorated sanitary conditions as well as the use of contaminated water sources. Animal disease outbreaks are also likely due to the contamination of pasture by flood water across the low-lying pastoralist areas. The Contingency Plan lays out possible mitigation activities in flood-prone areas, as well as anticipated sector-specific humanitarian needs to inform preparedness and response planning.

Subsequently, in early August 2018, the National Meteorology Agency issued a mid-season weather forecast for the remainder of the 2018 summer kiremt rainy season (August and September). Accordingly, the National Flood Task Force released a revised Flood Alert² on 30 August, based on the mid-season forecast. The Alert outlines areas expected to receive heavy rainfall and potential risks of flooding, including overflows of rivers and dams. The updated Alert will inform Government and partners' flood mitigation, preparedness and response measures.

The National Flood Task Force, which was reactivated on 19 April 2018 to coordinate flood mitigation, preparedness and response efforts, has been issuing Flood Alerts since April.

NMA Weather outlook for the remainder (August – September) kiremt season

The National Meteorology Agency's mid-season kiremt weather forecast outlined expected rainfall performance for the remainder of the rainy season (August – September). Overall, the rainfall peaked in August, and is expected to gradually decline during September in almost all kiremt rain-receiving areas of the country (see figure 2).

More specifically, normal to above normal rainfall is expected in Benishangul Gumuz, western and central Amhara, Oromia and Tigray and western SNNP regions. Meanwhile, near normal rainfall is expected in eastern Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, Tigray, as well as Dire Dawa, Harari and northern Somali regions. The season is projected to cease on time. Meanwhile, the bega (autumn) rainy season is expected to start in mid-September in the southern parts of Ethiopia, with a projected normal performance.

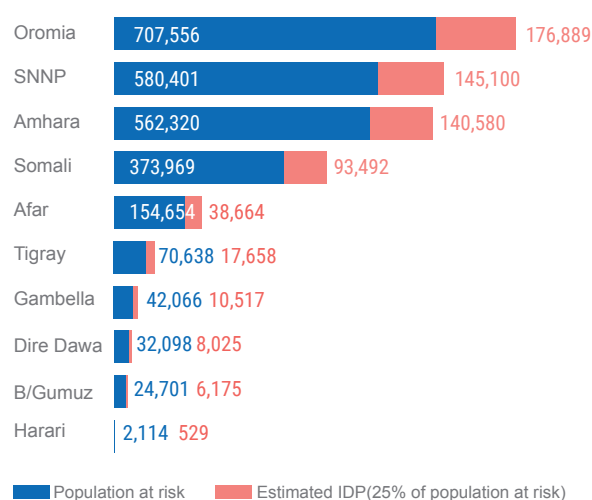


Figure 1 Regional breakdown of people at risk of flooding and displacement during the kiremt season. Source: National Flood taskforce

¹See full document on <https://bit.ly/2NNE5K1>

²Revised Flood Alert, 30 August 2018, <https://bit.ly/2wCLncg>

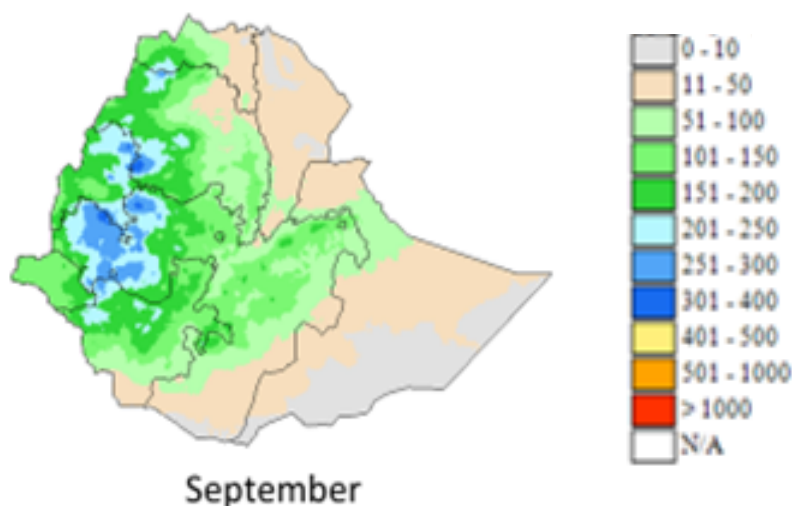


Figure 2 Rainfall forecast for September. Source: NMA

Flood Update

The revised Flood Alert warned of possible new flooding due to heavy rains in August and September, mainly in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, SNNP regions, as well as the cities of Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa and Harar. Communities along river basins and dams also risk flooding, including around Kesem Dam, Tendaho Dam, Koka Dam, Tekeze Dam, Kuraz Dam, Tana sub-basin, Brao sub-basin and upper Awash basin. Landslide risk areas were also identified in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions and Dire Dawa city (see detail in the full document). Zonal and woreda administrations, together with partners in identified flood-risk areas have put in place preparedness and response measures.

Several woredas in kiremt rain-receiving parts of the country, mainly in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions, were already affected by flooding and landslide incidents in June and July 2018. Latest loss and damage reports indicate that at least 17,652 households were affected by flooding across 111 woredas in Afar, Amhara, Harari, Oromia, Tigray and SNNP regions. Some 663 houses were also destroyed and 15,500 hectares of farmland damaged. Landslide incidents in 13 woredas of Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regions also affected 298 households and damaged 139,025 hectares of land.

Humanitarian response is ongoing, parallel to mitigation and preparedness measures. According to NDRMC, the Commission has so far distributed 182 quintals of food baskets in affected woredas. NDRMC has also distributed 14 cartons of milk and 63 cartons of biscuits for people affected by flooding following the overflow of the Kality River. In addition, 502 non-food items (NFI) items, including plastic sheets, kettles, plastic jugs have been distributed. Meanwhile, NDRMC is ready to dispatch assistance for 12,017 flood-affected people in Amhara, upon the request of the regional government. Separately, Alemata woreda administration in Tigray region requested federal and regional support in preparation to respond to projected flooding in the area.

At least half a million people were displaced by climate-induced causes across the country between January and June. The 11th Displacement Tracking Matrix³ (DTM 11) covering May-June 2018 revealed 536,321 people/86,529 households displaced by climate-induced causes across 325 sites, up from 488,090 people/79,485 households in 311 sites identified by DTM 10 (March-April). The new displacements occurred in Oromia and Somali regions. Displacements since July will be captured in the next round of DTM.

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³A joint data collection exercise led by IOM in collaboration with NDRMC