

SOMALIA

As at 13 May 2020



With the *Gu* seasonal rains causing flash and riverine flooding affecting over **700,000** Somalis, among whom **over 283,000** have been internally displaced as at 13 May, UNHCR has sent emergency assistance to regions across South West, Hiirshabelle, Jubbaland and Puntland states. As in the Deyr floods of 2019, the Belet Weyne district in Hiirshabelle state has been hit particularly hard, accounting for approximately **64 per cent (180,000 individuals)** of this displacement. The *Gu* emergency results in movement and displacement that exacerbates exposure to COVID-19 and places individuals at heightened risk of contracting water borne diseases. The ongoing rains and flooding are indicative of devastation at similar levels to the 2019 *Deyr* which displaced more than 400,000 individuals.

RESPONSE TO DATE: In anticipation of the rains and floods rendering the airport runway in Belet Weyne unusable for aircraft landing, UNHCR rushed **2,000 Non-Food Item (NFI) kits** by airlift to the district this past week, completing the flight rotations by Sunday 10 May. This emergency assistance in the form of blankets, soap, jerry cans, kitchen sets, sleeping mats and plastic sheets is now in place and will be distributed to **12,000** internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable members of the hosting community. Transportations and airlift to South West, Jubbaland and Puntland began in late April and were completed by the 10th of May. The Federal Government of Somalia provided the initial cargo planes to deliver NFI kits from the UNHCR warehouse in Mogadishu to Garowe (destined for Qardho) and Bardheere, while UNHCR airlifted the supplies to Baidoa and again to Bardheere, with plans for more airlifts. With UNHCR's NFI stock already in place in Kismayo and Mogadishu and therefore not requiring

airlift, **UNHCR's 5,174 NFI kits** are now prepositioned in the specified field locations and will reach more than **31,000** individuals facing the highest needs. Distribution has already begun in Baidoa and Qardho.



ARRIVAL OF NEW NFI'S AND EMERGENCY SHELTER COMPONENTS TO MOGADISHU ON 13 MAY: Amidst the COVID-19 emergency and to respond to the ongoing *Gu*-flood emergency, UNHCR worked with the Somalia Civil Aviation Authority to arrange the landing of additional humanitarian aid from the Agency's Dubai global warehouse to land in Mogadishu on 13 May. The air transport was donated by Dubai-based International Humanitarian City. With the arrival of this shipment of plastic sheets, blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats and more, there is now an additional **22.5 metric tonnes of UNHCR NFI stock and emergency shelter components** in Somalia. Once distributed, these emergency supplies will benefit **11,400** vulnerable individuals in Middle Shabelle, Mudug and Lower Juba regions.

EMERGENCY NFI'S AND SHELTER ITEMS IN THE PIPELINE: UNHCR has procured and awaits the shipment by sea of an additional **4,300 NFI kits** and thousands of **tarpaulin plastic sheets for emergency shelter**. The plastic sheets will be used as roofing for **more than 4,000** emergency shelters, with the additional required shelter items, such as wooden poles and plastic sheets for walls and doors, to be procured locally by UNHCR or persons of concern using cash assistance. It is expected that these emergency items will arrive to Mogadishu within the next two weeks. Once distributed, an additional approximate **52,000** persons will be reached, bringing UNHCR's combined flood response to benefit nearly **100,000** of Somalia's most vulnerable women, men and children.

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