

# 'EL NIÑO' INDUCED FLOOD RESPONSE APPEAL FOR SOMALIA



**2.4M**   
People  
affected by heavy  
rain and floods

**1.1M**   
People  
displaced from  
their homes

**41K**   
Hectares  
of land  
inundated

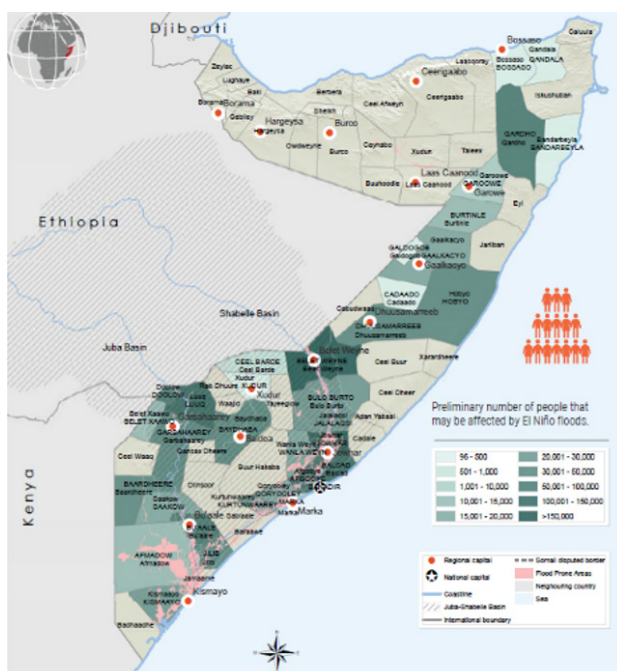
**110**   
Deaths  
reported across  
the country

**36**   
Districts  
affected across  
the country

Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-2023-deyr-season-floods-situation-report-no-3-3-december-2023>

Somalia continues to face a multi-dimensional crisis shaped by conflict, drought, and climate shocks. Since July 2023, climate models predicted a **90 percent certainty** of El Niño in Somalia, likely to influence heavy rains and flooding during the current Deyr (October to December) rainy seasons. The latest data from OCHA reveals that **over 2.4 million people** have been impacted by torrential Deyr seasonal rains and floods across Somalia. The number of displaced individuals has now exceeded one million, and tragically, the death toll stands at 110 in at least **36 districts**.

However, the harsh reality now is that the current rainfalls and flash and riverine flooding has surpassed the projections by far. Anticipated floods have turned into a cruel reality. Since the beginning of October 2023 Somalia especially the southern region has experienced unprecedented levels of rainfall that has quickly morphed into excessive flash and riverine flooding with catastrophic impact on the already vulnerable communities. The numbers of those affected, displaced and dead has quickly risen within one month to over 2 million impacted, 746,000 people displaced, 126,000 relocated and 96 deaths. Only 820,000 people have been reached so far with assistance. Farmland, bridges, roads, airstrips, and WASH infrastructure such as pit latrines have been destroyed. There is therefore urgent need for clean water, food, shelter and basic services to save and sustain lives.



Preliminary number of people that may be affected by El Niño floods.

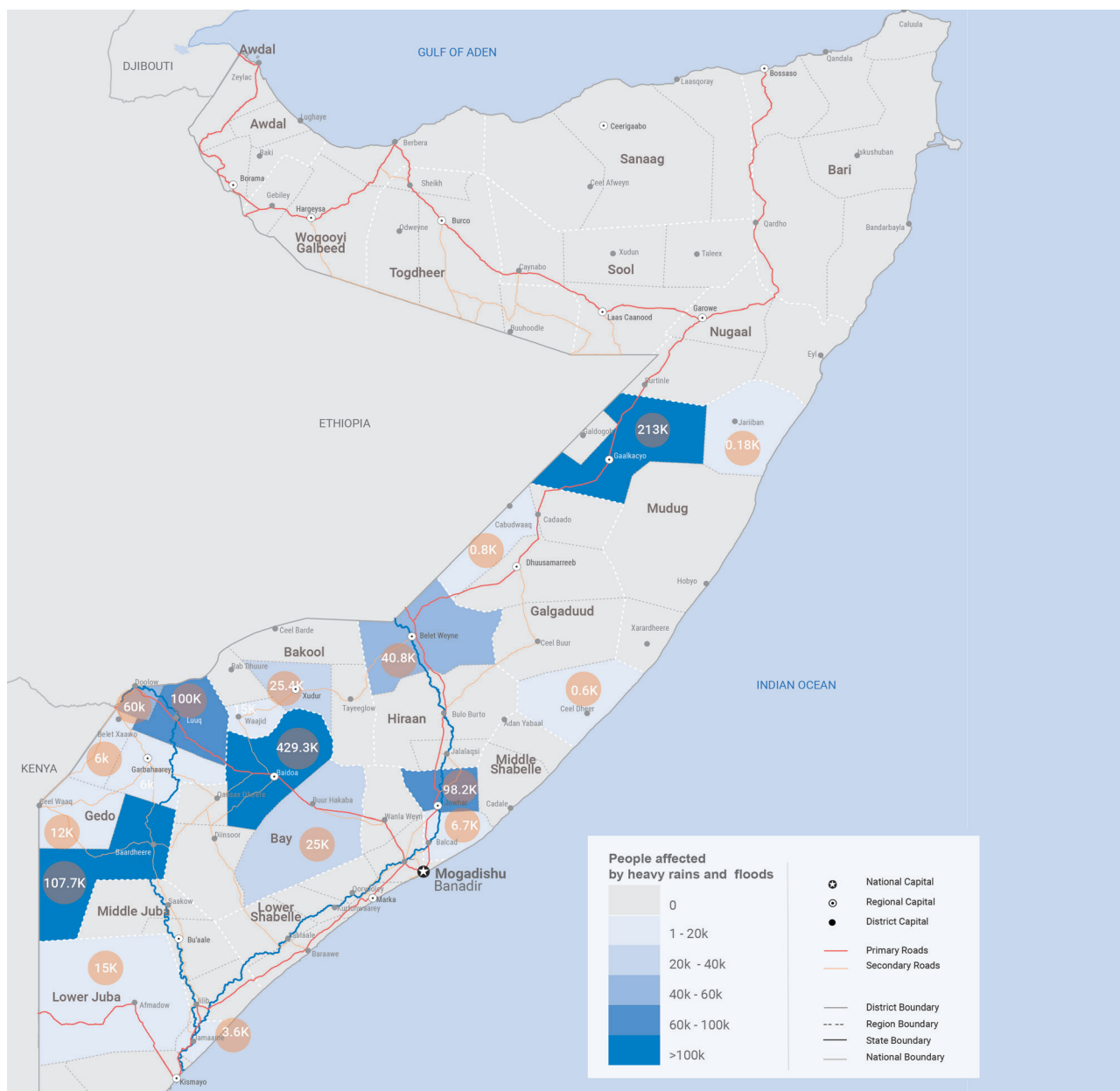


Areas that may be affected by El Niño floods during the 2023 Deyr rainy season.

The region most susceptible to these effects in Somalia are the communities along the riverine areas of Shabelle and Juba basin and other low-lying areas, spanning over **36 districts** across the country. During the El Niño of 2015-16, more than 1.4 million people were affected in the region, while the 2019

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) in the region resulted in widespread flooding with at least 3.4 million people affected.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's Somali Water and Land Information Management projects a **flood event of a magnitude statistically likely only once in 100 years**, with significant anticipated humanitarian impacts. The effect of El Niño is exacerbating existing humanitarian needs and gaps – coupled with funding shortfall: the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, which seeks \$2.6 billion, is only 41 per cent funded. Oxfam's CAT1 hunger crisis response plan is funded **52 per cent** against plan of 23 million USD.



## HEAVY RAINS, FLASH, AND RIVERINE FLOODING SITUATION<sup>1</sup>

**Government declared floods state of emergency on 6 November.** According to FAO/SWALIM<sup>2</sup>, the amount and intensity of rain has been exceptional in Hiraan, Bakool, Bay, Gedo and Saakow districts in Middle Juba region, with several areas receiving up to **300 mm over the last seven days**. This is far more than they would record over the whole deyr (October to December) season. Along the Juba River, moderate

<sup>1</sup> Various sources including UN OCHA, WASH, Protection and FSL Cluster updates, Assessments and updates shared by Oxfam's local NGO partners – GREDO, SADO, Zamzam Foundation and KAALO, Government updates and updates shared in the various meetings attended by Oxfam.

<sup>2</sup> <https://faoswalim.org/>

to heavy rains have led to overbank flows at Doolow, Luuq and Bardheere, causing floods. Along the Shabelle river, the water level at Belet Weyne is high, and is approaching the high flood risk level at Bulo Burte and Jowhar.

The heavy rains and floods have also led to an increase in malaria cases in the past two months, adding to the health care challenges faced by flood-affected populations. Additionally, 15 healthcare facilities have been relocated to new settlements, while efforts are underway to address the impact of flooding on healthcare facilities, such as pumping out water and constructing elevated latrines.

The floods have expanded, now impacting 33 out of Somalia's 74 districts compared to 21 districts previously. The death toll has risen to 94. The floods have affected at least 2 million people, with 746,000 individuals displaced. Agricultural lands are submerged, properties are destroyed, and infrastructure is damaged. Cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera have increased by 43.5%, with 383 cases recorded across 21 districts. Healthcare facilities are severely impacted, with 48 facilities closed or submerged, leaving 1.17 million people without access to

healthcare services. The risk of waterborne diseases is heightened due to challenges in accessing safe water and sanitation.

The flooding is particularly severe along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers, with areas like Luuq, Bardheere, Belet Weyne, and Bulo Burte experiencing high water levels and overbank flows. Several bridges, including the Buurdhubo bridge in Baardhere, have been destroyed or face the risk of being washed away.



## JUBALAND<sup>3</sup>

- Heavy rains on 5 November led to increased river levels in Baardheere, Luuq and in Middle Juba.
- On the 7 November, Juba River in Bardheere district recorded a significant increased water level of 10.30 meter against high risk level of 8.20 meters.
- Over 310,000 people are affected and 99,000 displaced and 6 reported dead in Jubaland. Local authorities in Bardheere district reported 14,000 families that have been cut off from the main town.
- Estimated 1,600 latrines, 57 shallow wells have been flooded and 2,064 water pumps are washed away by floods.
- Prices of food and fuel have started to increase and there is a shortage of electricity supply. Jubaland Ministry of Agriculture projects floods have inundated roughly 2,500 farms in Bardheere. Approximately 6,000 hectares of cultivated arable farms that were prepared, and plowed for the 2023 Gu season, cropping season have been impacted by floods. Similarly, all the seasonal cash crops that were harvested and left at the field for transportation have been submerged and swept by inundations that occurred.
- A major bridge connecting villages and both sides of town has collapsed on 9 November adding challenges to movement of people and aid – including to access vital services like hospital, market, government offices etc.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.icpac.net/weekly-forecast/?utm\\_source=ICPAC\\_NEWSLETTER&utm\\_campaign=daed0447f8-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_06\\_18\\_12\\_40\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0ea0a0abaf-daed0447f8-377784022](https://www.icpac.net/weekly-forecast/?utm_source=ICPAC_NEWSLETTER&utm_campaign=daed0447f8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_06_18_12_40_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0ea0a0abaf-daed0447f8-377784022)

## SOUTH WEST STATE

- Overnight rains on 4 November swamped Baidoa town, inundating 384 IDP sites.
- About 494,000 people are estimated to be affected. Of these, over 429,000 people are in Baidoa district alone – mostly IDPs, followed by 27,000 affected people in Berdale district.
- At least 1,077 latrines have been damaged in Baidoa town, and 300 latrines in Burhakaba district. 150 water sources have been damaged in Wajid district.
- IDP sites Salamey Idale, Tawakal 2 Dinsoor, Garasgoof, Hanano 2, Gaslo, Galgalweyne, Bodan, Borodi and Barwaqo are among the worst affected.
- In Xudur district, heavy rainfall on 2 and 3 November displaced 25,410 people.



## PUNTLAND

- Over 201,000 people are affected. Highest displaced population among the state with 101,000 people displaced.
- 40 per cent of Gaalkacyo town is inundated by water – including the main hospital in the region.
- Approx. 1,000 livestock washed away by floods in Balibusle village, Jariban district.
- An estimated 16,667 families (100,000 people) in north Gaalkayo are reportedly vulnerable to the anticipated impact of heavy rains.
- In north Galkayo preliminary information indicates that 239 shelters have been destroyed and 222 latrines damaged in 14 sites.



## **GALMUDUG**

- About 145,800 people are estimated to be affected.
- In south Gaalkacyo, 453 houses have been destroyed and 7,000 latrines damaged or flooded.
- Electricity supply to the Gaalkacyo town, including the hospital, is cut off.
- In Dhuusamareeb, local authorities are rehabilitating a 5.2 km canal ahead of potential flash flooding.

## **HIRSHABELLE STATE**

- In Belet Weyne, Hirshabelle State, cluster focal points and the authorities report that over 70 per cent of the town population – estimated at about 70,000 people – have moved to higher grounds.
- As on 5 November about 6,714 families – approx. 38,359 people have been displaced to five evacuation sites, including 2,858 from IDP sites and 3,856 from non-IDP locations.
- As flood and river water moves downstream to Bulo Burte district, thus riverine and low-lying locations are at risk of flooding in coming days.

# OXFAM AND PARTNER'S ONGOING ANTICIPATORY AND EARLY ACTION

Under the anticipatory action plan, Oxfam and partners had redirected funds and used existing crisis modifiers to prepare for the below major actions in Bardheere (Gedo region, Jubaland) and Belet Weyne (Hiran region, Hirshabelle):

Emergency water treatment units have been procured and under process to be installed in Bardheere and Belet Weyne, to reach 25,000 people a day.

1

2

Hygiene kits for 1,216 households to reach 7,296 people.

Material and labour cost for disinfection of 100 contaminated water sources.

3

4

Multipurpose solar lights for 1,646 households to reach 9,876 people.

Prepositioning and distribution of sandbags for 5,000 households for flood water damage mitigation.

5

6

Protection service providers mapping in both districts and funds readily available to provide individual protection assistance (e.g., GBV survivors) to 157 people.

Support Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA) with USD 39,700 to contribute to early warning dissemination, flood preparedness and response related information, education and communication activities, rapid assessments, and monitoring.

7

8

Human resource and other associated costs like travel etc. for partners to implement the above activities.

To respond to floods in Baidoa, Oxfam and partners have activated crisis modifier under Dutch Relief Alliance funded Somali Joint Response led by Oxfam. The **response is reaching 6,200 flood affected people in Galkayo** (Puntland) and **10,248 in Baidoa** (South West State).

To advance on our anticipatory action and to ensure coordination and harmonization among the actors we are closely working with peer organizations, Start Network, Somali Humanitarian Hub and SODMA. We are actively engaged and contributing to '*Framework for Flood-Specific Anticipatory Action in Somalia*' led by SODMA.

El Niño Anticipatory Action Plan of **1.79 million USD** to reach **24,000 people** at risk has secured only **21 per cent** funds.



## OXFAM AND PARTNER'S FLOOD RESPONSE PLAN

The flood response plan is built on our ongoing programming in the affected areas and the anticipatory action plans Oxfam and partners prepared in response to alarming threat of El Nino and related flooding.

Oxfam and partners are targeting to reach worst affected areas where we have ongoing programs. This is to enable us to leverage on complementarity, build on existing programmatic, business support and program quality – including Accountability and Feedback Mechanism capacities. Ongoing programs and rapid assessments are providing detailed

understanding of context, needs and gaps and enabling to ensure access and risk management. Being active part of existing coordination system and established working relationship with key stakeholders in the target area and at national level, we are able to ensure proper coordination with other actors and Governments and to contribute to maximizing reach – particularly hard-to-reach and underserved areas and population groups while mitigating duplication.

Below table is summary of affected population (based on initial findings) Oxfam and partner's target under the flood response plan.

| Federal Member State                                             | Affected Population (initial numbers) | Oxfam and Partner Target to Reach |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jubaland                                                         | 310,000                               | 31,000                            |
| South West State                                                 | 494,000                               | 49,400                            |
| Puntland                                                         | 201,000                               | 20,100                            |
| Hirshabelle State                                                | 70,000                                | 7,000                             |
| <b>Total - Individual</b>                                        | <b>1,075,000</b>                      | <b>107,500</b>                    |
| <b>Total - Households (based on average 6 members/household)</b> | <b>179,167</b>                        | <b>17,917</b>                     |

Based on the needs, gaps and operational presence, Oxfam and partners are mobilising and responding to floods in Bardheere (Gedo region, Jubaland), Baidoa (Bay region, South West State), Belet Weyne (Hiran region, Hirshabelle) and Galkayo (Mudug region, Puntland), while we continue with efforts to mobilise additional resources to respond to other flood affected parts of Jubaland, South West State, Puntland, Hirshabelle.

Oxfam and Partners are further assessing the risk and potential impact of El Niño and flooding in our operational areas of Banadir Regional Administration and Somaliland and the response

plan will be updated accordingly as the situation evolves.

Our multi-sectoral integrated response plan aims to reach approx. 107,500 people (17,917 households). Lifesaving, life sustaining and dignity upholding assistance under Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH), provision of non-food items (NFI), gender and protection and emergency food security sectors is planned while ensuring mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction, social inclusion, community engagement and safe programming. Based on identified needs, below is a summary of major activities planned in each sector:



## WASH AND NFI



- Emergency water supply through local context appropriate modalities including cash/voucher, water trucking, deployment of water treatment units and distribution system etc.
- Disinfection of water sources contaminated due to floods.
- Repair and rehabilitation of water sources and water supply systems.
- Operation and maintenance support to strategic water sources/water supply systems and capacity strengthening support to water management committees and departments.
- Repairing of damaged latrines and construction of new flood resistant latrines.
- Support local authorities/camp management committees in desludging.
- Support local authorities/camp management committees in conducting post flood environment cleaning to reduce public health risks.
- Distribution of hygiene items – including menstrual hygiene kits. Based on local context either in kind or market-based approach.
- Distribution of non-food item kits (mosquito nets, tarpaulins etc.) in coordination with Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters.
- Hygiene promotion – coordinated with Ministry of Health and WASH and Health Cluster Actors to ensure harmonized key messaging and approaches in post floods scenario.

## GENDER AND PROTECTION



- Monitoring of protection risks in targeted 4 districts – targeting communities affected by floods and advocacy.
- Provision of information on services, support to navigate complex procedures and utilize existing remedies in areas of displacement to enhance their own protection.
- Individual protection assistance to persons with heightened vulnerabilities, and specifically women and girls and people with disabilities at GBV risk and GBV Survivors.
- Provision of dignity kits and material items such as solar lanterns and mats.
- Establish/support/strengthen temporary Women and Girls Friendly Spaces, Establish gender balanced community support groups in affected communities.
- Support and strengthen community protection volunteers/committees to work on protection risk identification, prevention, mitigation, and response.

## FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE



- Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) using mobile money transfer modality and following Cash Working Group (CWG) recommendations – including of transfer values and in coordination with CWG members.
- Food Assistance (mainly using cash/voucher modality) in coordination with CWG and Food Security Cluster.
- Cash for work or in-kind support (e.g., sandbags) to mitigate the potential damage of floods on households and communities at risk.
- Support Government efforts in dissemination of early warning messaging using various appropriate mediums – including phone calls, short messages, radio etc.

## LOCAL NGO PARTNERS

Following the principle of building response on existing programming and capacities, Oxfam plans to work with existing partners. Partners already working in the target areas are preferred based on operational presence, capacities, and ongoing programming – including sectors relevant to this flood response. Below is the summary table of partners engaged in the response plan, geographical areas of joint programming and sectors. The detailed locations and sectors among the partners will be mutually agreed upon as we advance on our response and for each project.

| Sl. No. | Name of Partner NGO                                          | Geographical Area       | Sectors                                                               |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1       | Centre for Peace and Democracy – (CPD)                       | Hirshabelle             | Gender and Protection<br>WASH and NFI                                 |
| 2       | Gargaar Relief Development Organization (GREDO)              | South West State        | Food security and resilience<br>Gender and Protection<br>WASH and NFI |
| 3       | KAALO – Aid and Development Organization (KAALO)             | Puntland<br>Hirshabelle | Food security and resilience<br>Gender and Protection<br>WASH and NFI |
| 4       | Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC)                        | South West State        | Food security and resilience<br>Gender and Protection<br>WASH and NFI |
| 5       | Social-life and Agricultural Development Organization (SADO) | Jubaland                | Food security and resilience<br>WASH and NFI                          |
| 6       | Wajir South Development Association (WASDA)                  | Jubaland                | Food security and resilience<br>Gender and Protection<br>WASH and NFI |
| 7       | ZamZam Foundation                                            | Jubaland<br>Hirshabelle | Gender and Protection<br>Food security and resilience                 |

## BUDGET

| Sl. No.                     | Item/Description                               | Amount - USD     |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1                           | WASH and NFI                                   | 2,952,188        |
| 2                           | Gender and Protection                          | 892,708          |
| 3                           | Food security and flood risk reduction         | 1,413,125        |
| 4                           | MEAL                                           | 157,741          |
| 5                           | Advocacy and influencing                       | 50,000           |
| 6                           | Program implementation direct and support cost | 1,639,728        |
| <b>Total</b>                |                                                | <b>7,105,490</b> |
| <b>Cost per beneficiary</b> |                                                | <b>66</b>        |

# OXFAM RESPONSE

## Baardhere: Partner SADO

1. Oxfam in partnership with SADO started community engagement and completed registration of project participants (416 HH) for Solar lights and Hygiene kits; this is to enhance community's resilience in the face of potential flooding.
2. Selection of sites for the Hydrant kits made and installation underway, this will benefit approximately 2500 HH to access clean water in the face of potential flooding.

## Beletweyne: Partner KAALO

1. Oxfam in partnership with KAALO concluded community consultation meetings and planning for distribution of hygiene kits to 800 households, provide water trucking to 1,600 households, disinfect water sources, provide 10 water bladders, rehabilitate strategic water sources, and install sky hydrants to mitigate the impact of Elnino floods.
2. KAALO is also planning to procure multipurpose solar lights for 1,230 households, Protection Service Providers Mapping exercises under way and awareness-raising sessions will be conducted, and individual protection assistance will be provided to 103 individuals through Cash Assistance.

## Other grants secured for the flood response.

1. OXFAM and WVI secured \$400k grant from Start Network to support AA activities in 4 districts severely affected by the floods (Beletweyne, Jowhar, Luuq and Baardhere districts). The grants is to avert anticipated AWDs, diseases caused by malaria through provision of Water Filter kits, Mosquito Nets, Mass disinfection, desludging, AWD/Cholera prevention messaging and WASH NFIs (Jericans, aquatab)
2. OXFAM in partnership with SADO will support 2000 households with emergency water and hygiene kits distribution under the CAT funds of about 110k. This is to alleviate the immediate water needs for the flood affected people in Baardhere town.
3. CHAF approved CN of 411,765 CAD to support flood affected households (1000) in Beletweyne and Baradhere with MPCA for two months. Proposal submitted to CHAF and under review.
4. 200,000 USD from Start Network
5. 370,588 CAD from CHAF and Oxfam Canada
6. 200,000 GBP (**100,000 - Grant** and **100,000 - Loan**).
7. **The overall secured for now is 728,498 USD. Of which 126,989 USD is a loan.**