**UNDP Djibouti**

**REQUEST FOR TRAC 1.1.3 (CATEGORY II) RESOURCES**

**UNDP RESPONSE TO RESPOND TO THE IMPACT OF FLASH FLOOD IN DJIBOUTI**

1. **Situation Analysis**

Three days of torrential rain has created unprecedented inundation in the city of Djibouti and across the country. According to the data from Meteorological Institute of Djibouti, between Nov 21-24, almost 300 mm of rainfall was recorded in the Djibouti city alone, which is more than thrice the annual average.

The flash flood triggered by unusually heavy rainfall has caused loss of lives and property in Djibouti. As per the Flash Update released by the UNCT on November 25, in Djibouti city alone, initial estimates indicate that over 30,000-40,000 families (150,000-250,000 people) have been somewhat affected by the floods, and 9 people (7 children) have reportedly been killed. Dwellings, shops, schools and infrastructure have been damaged. Some neighborhoods which had lost access to electricity as a result of flash flood don’t yet have electricity supply restored. Public services including the schools have remained closed due to obstructed mobility, interrupted electricity supply and deteriorated hygiene conditions in the city.

The northern regions which have received the torrential rain have also reported damages to roads and flash floods have affected access to several communities. As per the UNCT data at least 300 families are now in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in Tadjourah region alone. The recently inaugurated Tadjourah-Balho road, and road between Djibouti and Tadjourah suffered severe damages. A bridge in Arta area (PK53) is in danger of collapsing.

Table 1 – rainfall 21-24 November (source: meteorological institute of Djibouti)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Locality | 21/11 | 22/11 | 23/11 |
| Djibouti | 49mm | 91mm | 155mm |
| Arta | 10mm | 60mm | 20mm |
| Damerjog | 91mm | 45mm | 54mm |
| Goubeto | 8mm | 27mm | 38mm |
| Tadjourah |  |  | 100mm |
| Day |  |  | 100mm |

Weather forecasts show that additional rains can be expected in the coming days. For the country which is still coping with the current impacts of flash flooding and in the absence of systematic information system and evidence-based resilience and recovery framework, the additional damage will push the existing stretched resources further. The impact of the flood has been extended to the marine biodiversity as well with the evidences of dying fish seen in the beaches in the vicinity of the Djibouti city. The losses have been at the individual level and at the communal level. The environmental degradation and increasing issues of the environmental pollution emanating from the standing adulterated water in the neighborhoods are threating the health hazard to the inhabitants.

Based on the preliminary assessment of the current situation, government has announced the emergency situation and reached out to the development partners to support the government in responding to the pressing needs on the ground. The government activated the emergency plan (ORSEC) and has requested support to international partners as the local capacities to respond to the crisis are insufficient. As a result, government and the UNCT activated the cluster system and launched the emergency plan. The Government has initiated a solid coordination system, with partners’ participation. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior called a meeting to seek partners’ support. The Government has deployed internal resources and opened 15 support centers for the victims (schools and Community Development Centers) which are now hosting the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and elderly. The civil protection, Water and Sanitation Department (ONEAD), Djibouti Mayor Office, Djibouti Prefecture and the armed forces have immediately deployed to pump the water out of the flooded areas. However, as the rains continue, more such efforts are required to allow the people to go back home. The Ministry of Social Affaires distributed some 3,500 meals a day to the evacuees, with the Djibouti Mayor’s Office. The Government has also activated a toll-free number (1516) for the victims to report problems and seek assistance.

Humanitarian agencies, development partners and the foreign armed forces have joined their efforts to the national emergency response system. Immediate humanitarian and relief responses have already been activated and support has already been channeled to the flood victims through a joint coordination system led by the RCO. WFP has delivered food for 2,000 children to cover needs for one week, as well as household kitchen sets for meal preparation. WFP is ready to carry out cash distribution should the assessment indicate the need for this activity. WHO has provided 50 emergency kits for 50,000 people to cover a period of 3 months, ten pumps and drinking water for 10,000 people. UNICEF has delivered 1,000 hygiene kits and is procuring 25 pumps and 900 additional hygiene kits which will be delivered on 24 November. It also has initiated the process of purchasing additional pumps. UNHCR provided 200 fire-resistant tents (5 people per tents); 1,500 individual mats; 500 jerry cans. UNDP delivered 3,000 blankets. IOM deployed a technician to repair the six motor pumps declared broken by the Civil Protection. To date, 5 motor pumps have been repaired and the technician is still at the disposal of the Civil Protection. IOM will provide 500 blankets, cooking utensils for 100 families.

Similarly, the Intergovernmental Authority on development (IGAD) has pledged 50,000 US dollars towards the relief efforts. The European Union has triggered a request for satellite imagery which is being acquired.

**UNDP’s Service Offering:**

Resilience building, enhancing institutional capacity to prevent and respond to climate induced

disasters and climate proofing investments in the infrastructure has been integral part of UNDP’s climate change adaptation portfolio in the country. In this regard, UNDP service offerings are packaged into three categories: a) immediate response leading to longer term sustainable environmental protection; b) comprehensive needs and capacity development assessment; and c) development of gender responsive resilience and livelihood-based recovery framework based on “UNDP Guide on Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in crisis and post crisis contexts”. These interventions respond to the immediate needs of the flood victims and support the country in resilient approach of building back better.

Aligned with the government’s priority to launch a city wide clean up and restore environmental sanitation and uninterrupted mobility, UNDP has initiated a youth led a 10-days-long clean-up campaign in the most affected and densely populated pockets of the city and the key beach areas. The post flood clean up campaign conducted in conjunction with youth led civil society organizations and in close collaboration with Ministries of Environment and Interior is expected to clean the debris, drainage clutter and the beaches to facilitate the drainage of the flood water, remove the plastic and other pollutants, restore the cleanliness in the major trunk roads of the capital, prevent marine pollution thereby avoiding the deaths of fishes and other marine biodiversity.

Though most of the humanitarian organizations and the government has had their boots on the ground, most of these initiatives have been sporadic and localized and limited to the highly affected pockets of the city. A multi-sector interagency emergency assessment is being launched, under Government leadership (Ministry of Interior and Executive Secretariat for Disaster Management – SEGRC). OCHA is deploying expertise to support the assessment.

The multi-sector interagency emergency assessment, however needs to be complemented by a comprehensive assessment covering most of the indicators related to livelihood, development, public services, overall security, social cohesion, governance and market dynamics and availability of commodities, it is difficult to assess the overall impact and estimate the magnitude of the impact in terms of geography, sector and target group to design an effective and efficient response mechanisms. More concretely[[1]](#footnote-1), government is seeking support from the development partners and HCT to provide more detailed information such as “where”, “who” and “what” to add efficiency and effectiveness to the planned relief and response mechanisms. The current level of information at hand does not provide enough guidance to the government to ensure that the livelihood-based gender sensitive recovery approach is integrated into the resilience and recovery framework. In addition to that a comprehensive needs assessment will be needed to complement the information gap on the infrastructural improvements and identification of the appropriate early warning systems to build back better.

1. **TRAC 3 Support**

**Project Objective**: TRAC 1.1.3 resources in the amount of US$ 100,000.00 is being requested to support the capacities of the UNDP to contribute significantly to the government’s plan and actions to respond effectively and efficiently to manage the impacts of flash floods in Djibouti.

Specific project outputs are:

**Output 1: Rapid[[2]](#footnote-2) impact and needs assessment to address existing data gaps:** Preliminary assessment launched by the government will inform the process of immediate humanitarian response and relief planning and distribution. However, this assessment is not expected to provide a deep dive into the root cause analysis and guide the development process of the city and country to reduce the losses or prevent similar disasters in the future.

Some of the existing gaps include a) lack of comprehensive mapping of the flood prone and vulnerable areas of the country; b) hydrological modeling and multi day precise forecast mechanisms; c) early warning systems; d) business continuity plan of the public service centers and e) resilience and recovery plan.

A rapid assessment conducted aligned with the indicators being discussed at the UNCT level and with the government to identify the most affected members of the communities in the most affected municipalities. The rapid assessment of the existing data gaps will guide development of an effective, targeted and efficient response and recovery plan.

Activities:

* Take a stock of ongoing and planned flood recovery related activities and interventions at the national and sub-national level and map the activities and resources channeled
* Design Rapid Impact and Needs Assessment methodology aligned with the “monitoring indicators”
* Mapping of the flood risk zones and the associated evacuation plan
* Conduct the Rapid Impact and Needs assessment complementing existing or ongoing assessments undertaken by the UNCT members and the government
* Develop database management mechanisms and data collection protocols
* Assess the multi-dimensional impact of the current flooding on different aspects of development using the currently available database from the recent assessments– mobility, food security, nutritional dividends, status of health of the vulnerable; access to and functions of public services (health facilities, water supply, schools, etc.) , market dynamics, livestock health, school attendance among others to establish a comprehensive baseline and magnitude of impact on major development derivatives
* Based on the magnitude of impact and nationwide multi-dimensional baseline of the impact, identify priority areas, target population and develop a prioritized schedule of actions / targeted response and recovery plan across the sectors disaggregated as immediate, mid-term and long term action plans
* The action plans are expected to guide potential resource mobilization in the near future.

**Output 2: Evacuation, Response and Livelihood Recovery Plan:** Within the existing perimeters of disaster risk management and response mechanisms put in place by the government and the UNCT specifically for flood risk management, an effective and targeted response mechanisms and delivery plans need to be developed. Existing massive post flood clean-up campaign endorsed and launched by the Prime Minister will serve as a basis for development of evidence based, youth led and need based evacuation, response and livelihood recovery plan. The Livelihood Recovery Plan will be prepared based on the three-track approach of the “UNDP Guide on Livelihoods and Economic Recovery in crisis and post crisis contexts:. This impact of this output will be that the government has key elements to establish disaster preparedness and coordination mechanisms to reduce the losses and damages due to similar natural disaster in the future.

Activities:

* Develop a comprehensive response mechanism and livelihood recovery plans
* Assess the existing road and drainage systems and capacities to support hydrodynamic modelling and drainage simulation planning .
* Develop contingency plan to support the government on livelihood and response aspects
* Develop climate models to trigger emergency alerts and early warning systems to support disaster preparedness mechanisms
* Develop flood responsive and flood resilient engineering models / designs for urban flood and stormwater drainage systems

**Output 3: Develop UNDP CO Capacity to lead the Coordination Efforts:** Enhance the capacity of the UNDP CO to lead and manage the early recovery cluster for better coordination and collaboration aiming to provide targeted support to the government in enhancing effectiveness of the aid and relief options delivered to the communities.

Activities:

* Strengthen capacities of the UNDP Country Office to lead and coordinate Early Recovery Cluster activities and support coordinated UN support to the national flood recovery efforts spearheaded by the Ministry of Interior ensured
* Facilitate the implementation of the Response and Relief Plan
* Support the government in preparing tracking and monitoring tools to keep track of the flood relief and recovery support.
* Conduct workshops and customized trainings to further strengthen the capacity of Ministry of Interior and Institute of Meteorology of Djibouti for early warning and recovery.
1. **Implementation Arrangements**

The project will be implemented by UNDP Djibouti under the Direct Implementation Modality procedures in close collaboration Ministry of Interior. An Adhoc steering committee comprising of UNDP, Ministry of Interior, Water and Sanitation Department and Ministry of Urbanism, Environment and Tourism will be established to facilitate the planning and decision-making processes.

Funding for all outputs will be directly managed by UNDP and transferred to the above-mentioned institutions through established fund transfer mechanisms.

Quality assurance and monitoring of the all outputs will be the responsibility of UNDP Environment and Climate team led by the Resident Representative.

The UNCT members and humanitarian agencies will be invited to the Steering Committee as Observers to ensure effective coordination and efficient delivery.

1. Remarks of the Minister of Interior during the HCT meeting held on February 24, 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. There are several assessments currently being undertaken and are at different stages of completion. However, the government has indicated that the information gap on the affected communities is not adequate to direct the relief responses. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)