



WHO Somalia

Floods in Burhakaba

1 November 2007

Situation analysis

Heavy rains causing severe flooding in Burhakaba town have announced the beginning of the Deyr rainy season in Central South Somalia. As of 31 October 2007 Burhakaba town (about 64 KM from Baidoa) reported serious floods affecting Wadajir, Howlwadaaga, and Waberi sections.

Burhakaba town -with an estimated population of 25,000- is one of 6 districts of Bay region. Its inhabitants are mostly agro-pastoral.

Burhakaba is strategically located between Baidoa and Mogadishu.

An emergency meeting was conducted between humanitarian agencies chaired by the Governor of Bay region to coordinate all ongoing response activities, starting with a rapid assessment of the damage and needs. The joint assessment visit between the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and WFP was conducted on 1 November 2007.

Assessment results

The floods damaged about 350-400 houses and a similar number of latrines. An initial prediction of the total number of affected families is between 700 and 800 families. Increased use of unsafe water catchments is a major concern.

A canal dug by the local authorities in the Wadir section, with support from International Labour Organization (ILO), has been damaged. A more in-depth technical visit needs to be conducted to see how flooding of the canal can be prevented in future.

The Mother and Child Health Care (MCH) centre run by Word Vision in Burhakaba reported a lack of essential drugs, in spite of continuing health concerns regarding Acute Watery Diarrhea, Malaria, and Acute Respiratory Infections.

Response

WHO will provide the World Vision MCH with essential drugs for treatment of key diseases as well as sufficient amounts of household chlorination tablets to provide the affected population with safe drinking water for at least 1 month.

Recommendations

- Provide non foods items including jerry cans and Insecticide Treated Bed nets (ITN) to affected families
- Provide latrines and slaps to the 250-300 affected households
- Urgent household chlorination in Burhakaba district
- Review the main Burhakaba water catchment, provide a generator, and rehabilitate the water tank to reduce the contamination of drinking water and wastage.



The Wadir canal, dug by ILO last September



Floods in Howlwadag section



Damaged latrines in Burhakaba