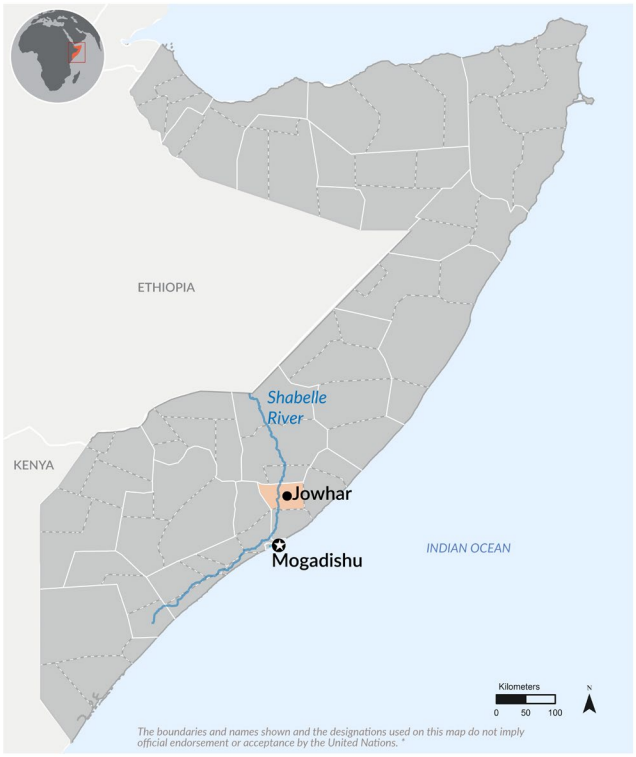
Torrential Rains and Flooding Cause Shabelle River Overflow, Displacing over 16,000 individuals in Jowhar District

Displaced Families	2,700
Displaced Individuals	16,200
Deaths	0
Injuries	0
Coordinates	2.7803° N, 45.5015° E
Incident Date	May 12, 2025



Background

Jowhar district in the Middle Shabelle region is currently experiencing severe flooding due to the torrential rainfall, resulting in the overflow of the Shabelle River. The floodwaters have severely affected several areas including IDP settlements i.e. Hantiwadaag Sections 3 and 4, Badacas IDP site, Kulmis Section Burey, and Cigalle IDP Camps. Host communities have also been impacted.

Previous Location	Arrival locations	Households
Hantiwadaag section IDP site 3	Hantiwadag 1	1,140
Hantiwadaag IDP site 4	Hantiwadag 2	900
Kulmis	Kulmis bagashka	180
Cigaale IDP site	Hantiwadag 1&2	230
Badacas IDP site	Bagashka	250
(Total 16,200 individuals)		**2,700 households**

The Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN), through its local partner, documented that 2,700 households with approximately 16,200 individuals have been affected. The floods have caused significant damage to infrastructure, especially within IDP settlements, where over 1,000 makeshift shelters and 90 sanitation facilities, including community latrines, have been destroyed. This has left hundreds of families in urgent need of emergency shelter and basic services.

At the time of issuing this flash alert, no humanitarian assistance has reached the affected populations, and relevant stakeholders are urged to mobilize support to address immediate needs.

Protection Risks

Loss of Shelter and Personal Property:

The destruction of shelters has exposed many IDPs to heightened risks of theft, extortion, forced eviction, and further destruction of personal property.

Psychological And Emotional Distress:

The scale of the destruction, including the loss of homes, livestock, sanitation facilities, and the recurring nature of floods has significantly increased psychological and emotional distress among affected individuals and families.

Urgent Needs

Emergency Shelter:

An estimated 2,700 households are currently without shelter exposing families to adverse weather conditions and protection risks. There is an urgent need for emergency shelter support, including tents and plastic sheets, as well as essential non-food items.

Basic Food Assistance:

The floods have destroyed local farming systems and killed livestock, while also severely damaging small open-air markets. These disruptions have significantly increased food insecurity and affected livelihoods, creating an urgent need for basic food supplies.

WASH:

Floodwater has damaged most community latrines and contaminated clean water sources, resulting in an immediate need for emergency WASH support, including latrines, safe drinking water, and hygiene kits to prevent waterborne diseases and uphold basic sanitation standards.

Health:

Deployment of mobile health teams and provision of first aid and psychosocial support services are urgently required.

Figure 1. *Floodwaters damage structures in Hantiwadaag IDP settlement in Jowhar. ©NRC/ Abdikadir Mahad*

Disclaimer: This alert serves as a call for urgent and coordinated humanitarian response. For that purpose, preliminary information is reported outlining immediate priority needs. Assessments of the situation are ongoing and updates will be shared as further information becomes available.

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL | United Nations CERF Central Emergency Response Fund | Internal Displacemen Solutions Fund | From the People of Japan

The Protection and Solutions Monitoring Network (PSMN) is a UNHCR-led project that identifies and reports on displacements, as well as the protection risks and incidents driving such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 10 local partners across Somalia conduct data gathering—primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants—and monitor displacement trends at strategic locations.

To request further details on displacement, please contact **SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG**