

BAARDHEERE FLASH FLOODS REPORT – MARCH 2023

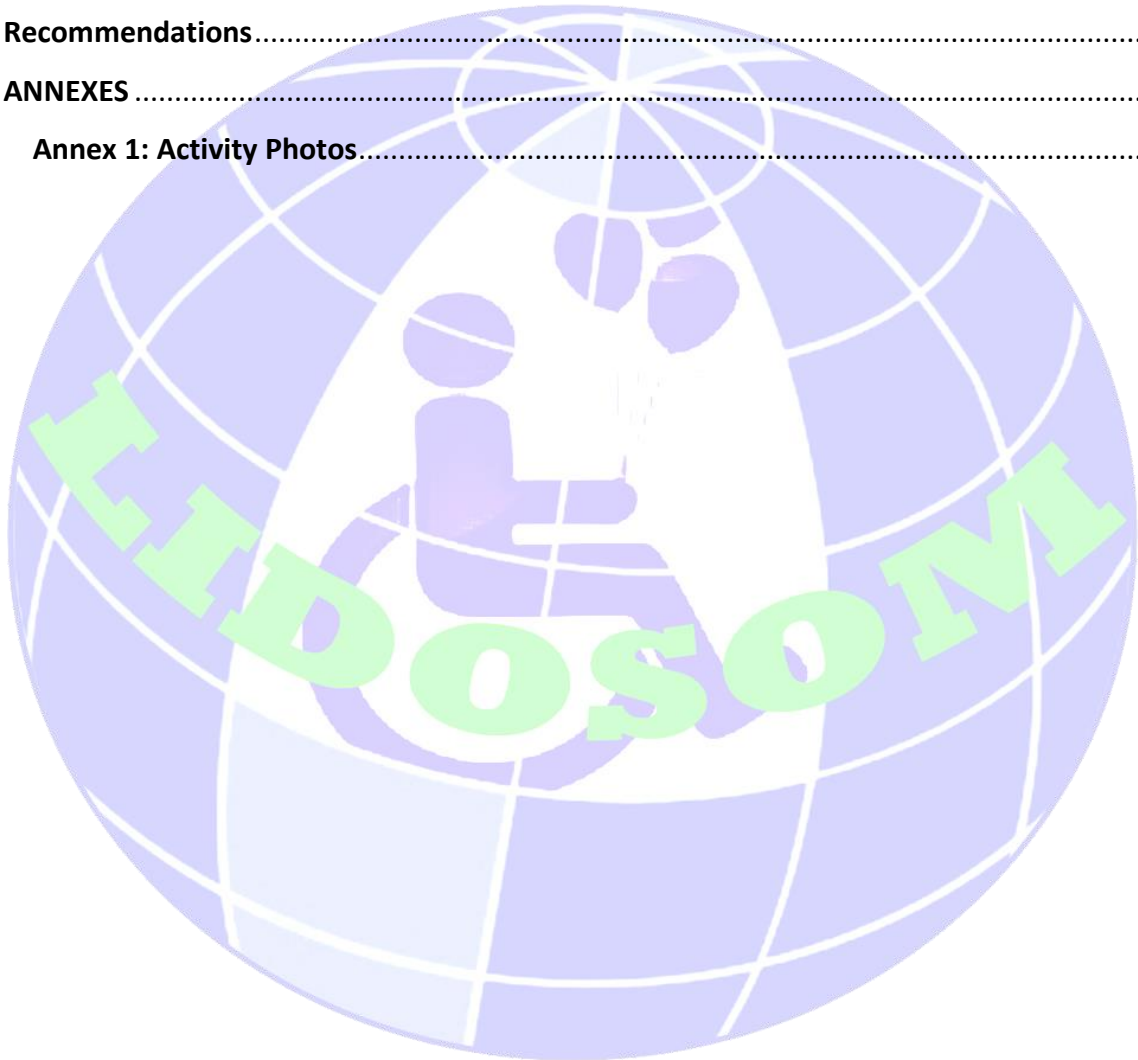




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Introduction

Since the onset of Somalia’s Gu’ rainy season, flash floods have caused widespread devastation in various parts of the country, with Bardheere District being one of the worst hit areas. Bardheere is situated in the Gedo Region of Jubbaland State in Somalia. Its name translates to “tall palm trees”, a reference to the abundant palm trees that have grown expansively in the area.

Situational Analysis

In March, heavy rains were reported in the Ethiopian Highlands, leading to a rise in water levels in Somalia’s seasonal streams, and the Juba River. An inter-agency team led by the Area Humanitarian Coordination Group (AHCG), collected data from 26th March 2023. The data indicates that more than 13,000 families (approximately 80,000 individuals) were affected directly by the floods, causing 8,945 households to be displaced.

Bardheere stream valley located between Kurman and Bulakulow burst its banks destroying the town’s main market. According to the Bardheere District Committee on Disaster Management and the Jubbaland Agency for IDPs and Refugees, two out of the 29 IDP sites were directly affected by the floods. Following a 10-hour-long heavy downpour on the nights of 20th and 23rd March 2023, 4500 households were displaced, directly impacting the livelihoods of 8118 families. The households consisted of both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities. With the Juba River breaking its banks on the night of 23rd March, the main market in Bardheere was flooded, destroying all the food and essential commodities in the shops. Twelve youth lost their lives on one of the nights when rainwater tipped over a community-constructed bridge they were crossing.

Furthermore, significant damage to health and nutrition centers, primary schools, secondary schools, and latrines among others, with a total of 272 social infrastructure facilities destroyed or damaged. With a lack of adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities and constant displacement, there is a surge in disease outbreaks such as cholera and acute diarrhea. Eight sections of Bardheere District were severely impacted as indicated in the table below:

Table 1: Number of affected households in the Bardheere town

Area	Number of Affected Households
Kurman	3655
Bula-Kulow	2870
Habal-Caday	3456
Iftin	4567



Bula-Garas	3298
Bula-Kaskey	3450
Horseed	1786
Total	23082

Direct Impact of the Floods

Accessibility – The floods caused temporary access into Bardheere Town and its surrounding villages, making it difficult for humanitarian actors to respond to emergencies efficiently

Shelter – More than 23000 households lost their shelter and basic household commodities such as cooking utensils

Health – The inter-agency assessment indicated that three hospitals, two MCHs and one nutrition center were completely destroyed. Waterborne and airborne diseases continue to spread through the population

Food security and Livelihoods – Thousands of families have had their trade cut short due to floods destroying markets and homes and killing livestock.

Protection – With widespread displacement, humanitarian emergency, and severed livelihoods, cases of child abuse, sexual exploitation, and abuse and GBV skyrocket. The most vulnerable groups are children, women and the elderly.

LIDOSOM's Response to the Floods

As an active member of the Protection, Food Security and Health Clusters in the region, LIDOSOM took part in an intervention to help secure the livelihoods of 100 households. Throughout the months of March and April since the onset of the floods, LIDOSOM registered 100 households and distributed plastic sheets to 100 of the most vulnerable households including people with Disability. In the coming weeks, and with guidance from UN-OCHA, LIDOSOM plans to conduct an assessment in Bardheere in order to respond at a larger scale in the sectors of WASH, Food Security, Livelihoods, Shelter, and Protection.

Recommendations

UNOCHA continues to guide humanitarian actors in the region on how to respond to the ongoing flooding crisis. Gaps across sectors in the shelter, food security and livelihoods, education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Health and Nutrition exist.



ANNEXES

Annex 1: Activity Photos

Photo 1: A LIDOSOM team member inspects shelter ruins in Bardheere after the floods



Photo 2: Registration of beneficiaries

Photo 3: Bardheere Distribution of plastic sheets by LIDOSOM on 20th April 2023.





