



International Medical Corps staff desludging latrines at an affected IDP camp in Galkayo.

Communities in Somalia are still reeling from the country's worst flooding in 35 years, impacting almost half of the country's 74 districts and affecting 2.5 million people, with almost 900,000 people still displaced. The floods have hit the country at a time when more than 8 million people in Somalia were already in need, due to the lingering effects of a drought that has been ongoing since 2020.

Though rainfall levels decreased during the first week of December—reducing further flood risks, particularly along the Juba and Shabelle rivers—widespread damage to roads and bridges has made returning home impossible for many, with some communities still cut off. Humanitarian needs for those living in makeshift IDP camps, including access to safe water and adequate sanitation, remain high.

As flooding recedes, there are concerns around outbreaks of waterborne diseases. For returnees to waterlogged areas and for IDPs in overcrowded conditions, the risk of cholera, acute water diarrhea, measles and diphtheria are extremely high.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is working in the Banadir, Bay, Middle Shabelle and Mudug regions to provide humanitarian assistance. So far, in December, we have:

- provided water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support, including the distribution of hygiene kits and 68 sanitation tools to 2,400 households of IDPs in Baidoa and Galkayo;
- delivered psychosocial support, including psychological first aid and counseling sessions, for people at IDP camps in Galkayo South;
- provided hygiene promotion and environmental health activities for 5,762 people in affected IDP camps;
- conducted mass chlorination of stagnant water in Galkayo IDP camps;
- rehabilitated one borehole in Baidoa, giving sustainable access to safe water to 5,000 IDPs;
- conducted dislodging services for accumulated stagnant wastewater and submerged latrines in IDP camps;
- mobilized communities during outreach visits on the importance of child immunization, particularly diphtheria, and promoted messages about diarrhea prevention through safe WASH practices.

Urgent help is needed to ensure communities can recover from the devastating impact of El Niño flooding. Ensuring those most at-risk are prioritized amid the persisting access constraints is crucial in the response. As part of our response to this humanitarian crisis, International Medical Corps is looking to expand operations in areas designated as high priority by OCHA, and will continue to seek additional support to facilitate these efforts.

FAST FACTS

- 2.5 million people have been impacted by heavy rains and floods, with 899,000 displaced and 118 killed across the country.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has distributed 2,400 hygiene kits and 68 sanitation tools to camps in Galkayo housing internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by El Niño.
- International Medical Corps supplied plastic sheets and mosquito nets to 289 affected households in Galkayo.
- International Medical Corps conducted excavation/rehabilitation of drainage channels to divert flood runoff water at roads around IDP compounds in Galkayo, to avoid stagnant water.
- Our staff managed 360 cases of acute watery diarrhea in Galkayo and Mogadishu.