

SKBNCU FLASH UPDATE #2/2019

Floods in August and October affect livelihoods and put already vulnerable communities at high risk in Blue Nile and South Kordofan

Rains in the Ethiopian highlands in the week of 14 October is affecting over thousands of people in Blue Nile and all the refugee camps in Maban in neighbouring South Sudan. As reported in the SKBN Humanitarian Update of August 2019, "Like in the rest of Sudan, flooding was especially widespread in Blue Nile. In the week of 11-25 August, heavy rain (also in the Ethiopian highlands) brought flooding throughout Blue Nile, destroying crops in Chali and Yabus payams. Many donkeys of Ethiopian merchants drowned, disrupting supplies to markets. With the main harvest still months away, the flooding will most certainly impact crop performance".

In the third week of October, more heavy rains in the Ethiopian highlands and in Blue Nile affected thousands of people, destroying crops planted next to rivers and continued to make humanitarian access impossible. Local authorities and SRRA reports state that as of 19 October, the area between Jaffer Dido and Soda, approximately 20 kilometers apart, was covered by standing water.

With a cholera outbreak ongoing in government-controlled areas of Blue Nile, the risk increases exponentially for the vulnerable communities in the SPLM-N controlled areas of Blue Nile.



Abangaro river, one of the tributaries of the Yabus river, in Blue Nile, in flood.

UNHCR's briefing paper noted that the "most recent precipitation data for west Ethiopia shows above average rainfall over the past 90 days, increasing markedly since late September. The data indicates that over the last 30 days, over 230 per cent of the normal amount of rainfall has fallen there, with an estimated 425 mm falling compared with the average just less than 200 mm. This is more than double the average rainfall in the past four weeks."



Water in Doro, Maban 70cms deep



Schools in Batil camp out of session to accommodate people

According to a [FAO report 18 October](#), “the cumulative rainfall forecast for the coming week is calling for moderate to heavy rains across the country as well as the Ethiopian highlands”.

From the photos above it's clear that all refugee camps in Maban are affected and school buildings are used to shelter people in the short term.

In SPLM-N controlled areas of South Kordofan, SRRA reported in August already that over 800 houses were destroyed by floods in Heiban, Delami and Thobo (Boram) localities. Rivers have remained full and at times impossible to pass, therefore cutting off humanitarian access for weeks at a time.

Big areas of sim-sim and sorghum crops reportedly have been affected in August, September and October with heavy rains and floods in Umdorein and Thobo County, South Kordofan and warrants further verification.

The ongoing data collection will provide useful analysis on the effect on the food security situation in November with the next FSMU Report for both Areas.



A camel cross the Khor Galaba River Umdorein County 19.10

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