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Information bulletin Somalia: Tropical Storm Pawan

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: Anticipated 7 December 2019

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Somalia Country Office

Host National Society: Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current status of Tropical Storm which has yet to make landfall. The information and details available are accurate at this time. Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are not seeking funding or other international donors at this time.

The situation

Tropical Storm Pawan (previously TC06A) currently lies over the southwest Arabian Sea at around 470 km south-southeast of Socotra in Yemen.

As Pawan turns and tracks towards Somalia, it is expected that the strength will intensify. Under the current conditions, Pawan is expected to make landfall within the next 30 hours and based on the current trajectory, the cyclone will make landfall in Puntland and some parts of Somaliland, namely Awdal and Sannag regions. Strong winds, storm surges and heavy rainfall are expected to cause flooding and trigger landslides, resulting in casualties, as well as damages to crops livelihoods, livestock, infrastructure and housing.

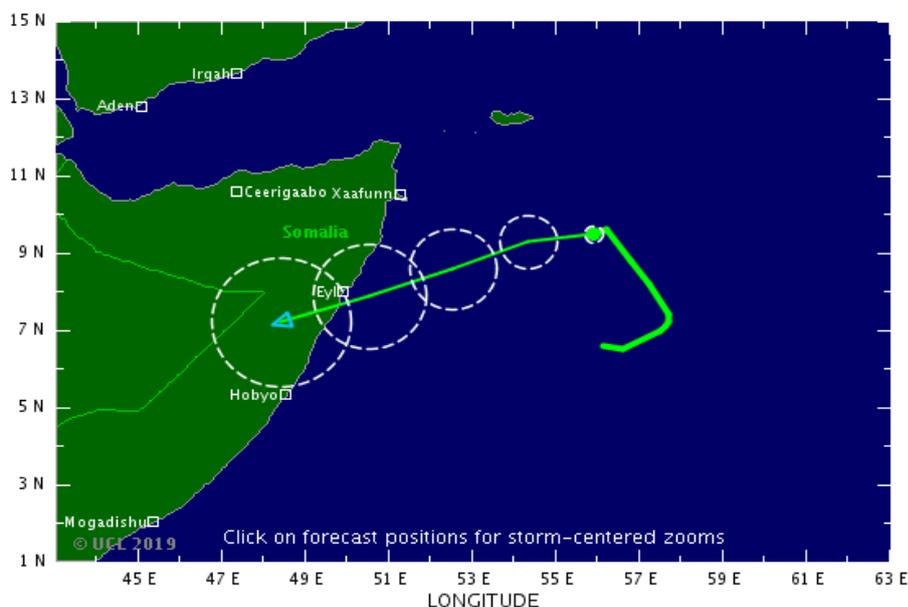


Figure 1 *Trajectory according to the Tropical Storm Risk.*
Source : <https://www.tropicalstormrisk.com/>

Based on the current trajectory, the tropical cyclone could make landfall affecting the Bosaso IDP Camp in Bari Region of Puntland. This camp was recently affected by floods and the families living in the camp are particularly vulnerable should the tropical storm make landfall.

It is not clear how many people will be affected when the Pawan makes landfall, however, based on the trajectory, the total population of the three provinces most likely to be affected is 2.3 million, however it is difficult to estimate the proportion that live on the coast, as some 65% of the population are nomadic.

Cyclone Pawan is the eighth cyclone to form over the north Indian Ocean this year— a record for this decade.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Somali Red Crescent Society's (SRCS) Acting Executive Director, Mogadishu coordination office is in touch with branches in Puntland, specifically Garowe, Bosaso and Galkayo. Branches report disseminating early warning alerts to 'at risk' communities prepare for the tropical cyclone. Branches are also preparing to evacuate 'at risk' communities, particularly from coastal and lowlands and flood prone areas targeting Hobyo, Dhanuda, Gara'ad, Towfiq, as well as the Bari region.

Branches have alerted volunteers, who are on standby. Branches are being asked to review their inventory of prepositioned stock and advise HQ on the status. At this stage it seems that only very limited stocks are available in the potential affected areas. The pre-positioned stocks are not adequate to even kick-start an emergency response. The Bosaso Branch undertook a distribution of household items on 25 – 29 November 2019 to some 850 flood affected households in Bosaso IDP Camp in response to the earlier flooding which has depleted prepositioned stock of household and hygiene items.

Branches are in the process of mapping the presence of other resources including medical equipment, medicines and vehicles. Branches are requested to engage in coordination meeting with government and humanitarian actors in their respective areas and to send daily updates of the situation and the response undertaken at branch level.

The SRCS is liaising with national level government counterparts to coordinate preparedness activities as well as potential response.

In the meantime, with the issuance of a storm alert by SWALIM of FAO that some parts of Somaliland may also be affected by the tropical storm, the SRCS Head of Disaster Management in the Hargeisa coordination office has also reached out to 2 branches in Awdal and Sannag regions and assessing available response capacities (including pre-positioned stock levels etc) at branch level.

The IFRC and ICRC continue to support the National Society through their respective delegations and are monitoring the tropical cyclone and are standing by to provide technical and financial support as required. At this stage, the SRCS may consider requesting DREF support.

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The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

