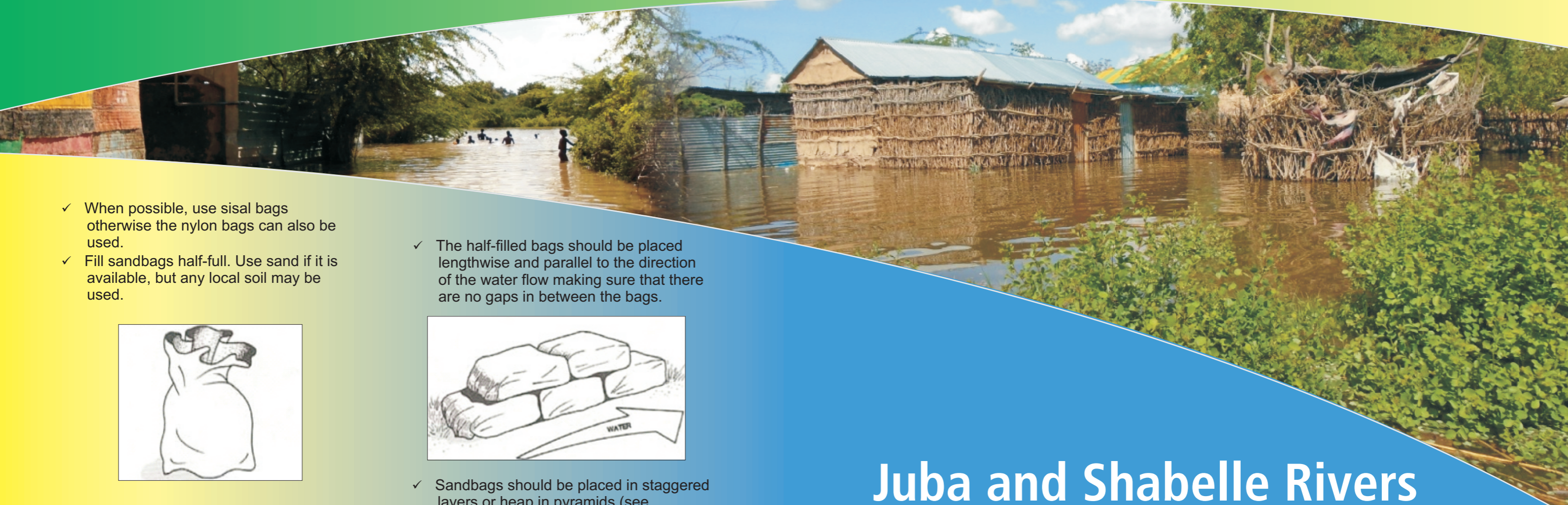


River bank Protection

Properly placed sand bags will redirect water, mud and debris but they will not completely seal out water. Sandbags are used as temporarily measures to either close open river banks or raise the level of river bank to avoid overflow from the river.



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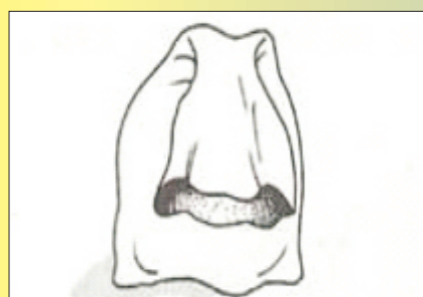
- ✓ When possible, use sisal bags otherwise the nylon bags can also be used.
- ✓ Fill sandbags half-full. Use sand if it is available, but any local soil may be used.



- ✓ The half-filled bags should be placed lengthwise and parallel to the direction of the water flow making sure that there are no gaps in between the bags.



- ✓ Remove debris and obstructions from the area where the sandbags will be placed.
- ✓ When placing sandbags, fold the top of the sandbag down and rest the bag on its folded top.



- ✓ Sandbags should be placed in staggered layers or heap in pyramids (see diagrams).



- ✓ It takes time to construct a wall of sandbags. Plan ahead! It is much easier to place sandbags before the river levels start rising.

Juba and Shabelle Rivers Flood Preparedness & Safety

Be Ready!!

Floods can happen anytime and anywhere. And they can happen fast. So whether you live near the water or not, you should always be ready. Here are some important things you can do to prepare.

Historically, flooding along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers is a dominant natural disaster. In recent years, there has been an increase in the severity and frequency of the floods in the low-lying areas along the two rivers. Although floods occur in both seasons, they are frequent in the Dery season.

Flood events lead to huge economic losses through destruction of infrastructure, inundation of cropped areas, loss of livestock and even human lives.



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What is a flood?

A river flood is the inundation of a normally dry area caused by an increase in water level in an established river. A flash flood is a rapid rise of water along a dry riverbed or low lying ground. Floods along the Juba and Shabelle rivers in Somalia are caused by: Excessive rainfall within a short time, prolonged heavy rainfall event or open river banks.

- ✓ Floods are unpredictable and destructive, and they can happen in regions that have never seen rain.
- ✓ They can cause death and injuries, isolate communities, damage major infrastructure, cut essential services, destroy property and livelihoods.
- ✓ Historically, along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers floods have been the most dominant form of natural disaster. Lately, there has been apparent increase in the severity and frequency of the floods in the low-lying areas along the two rivers. The most recent severe flood events were the floods of the Deyr in 1961, 1977, 1997, 2006, 2008, 2013 and 2014; while floods of the Gu were in 1981, 2005 and 2013. Some of these flood events led to huge economic losses through destruction of infrastructure, inundation of cropped areas, loss of livestock and even human lives.

Preparing before a flood

Many devastating floods have occurred in Somalia. If your home is near the river or in low lying land it could be flooded, even if you have never seen floodwaters there. It does not have to be raining in your area for flooding to occur. You may become stranded for many days until the water subsides and some remote areas can be isolated for months by floods

If flooding is imminent in your area, you can be proactive to reduce damage to your property. The following is recommended before a flood to reduce the magnitude of the damage if any;

- ✓ Monitor thorough radio, television and internet for flood warnings.
- ✓ Clear drains and gutters.
- ✓ Prepare an evacuation kit with your important documents, medications and other items you may need if you are forced to be away from your home or business for several days.
- ✓ Disconnect all electrical appliances.
- ✓ Raise furniture, clothing and valuables on to beds, tables and into roof space.
- ✓ Secure dangerous objects and relocate vehicles, outdoor equipment, waste containers, chemicals and poisons safely.
- ✓ Open river banks or weak embankments may be a threat if the water level rises. They should be closed before the season.

Dos and Don'ts during a flood

If flooding occurs, you are safest staying in your home if it is not being affected by floodwaters, mud or debris. If asked to evacuate, do so immediately and proceed to higher ground. If the water rises suddenly and you cannot evacuate, move to the roof.

- ✓ Remember to take your emergency supplies and valuables when asked to leave or evacuate to higher ground.
- ✓ Stay out of flood waters and avoid moving water. Do not try to walk, swim or drive through moving water. As little as 15cm of moving water can knock you off your feet. 60cm of water is enough to carry away a passenger vehicle.
- ✓ Constantly monitor the news media and other information outlets for weather and emergency updates.
- ✓ When evacuating, be aware of stream channels, drain channels, other areas known to flood suddenly.
- ✓ Flash floods in these areas can occur without warning. Avoid parking or camping near streams. The water may rise very quickly.
- ✓ Use a secondary evacuation route if your primary route is blocked by water.

After the flood

After evacuating, do not return until the flooding has subsided and authorities have reopened the area to residents. Previously flooded areas should be approached with great caution. Stay away from flood waters which may be infectious

- ✓ Stay away from areas damaged by floodwaters, mud or debris flows.
- ✓ Continue to monitor the media and other sources of information, additional flooding could occur.
- ✓ Do not drive around barriers. Roadways may have been washed out, undermined or otherwise damaged by floodwaters.
- ✓ Stay on firm ground. If forced to walk through mud-covered areas, use a stick to gauge the depth of the mud in front of you.
- ✓ Avoid standing water. It may be contaminated by oil, sewage, or electrically charged by underground or downed power lines.
- ✓ Flooding may have caused familiar places to change. Floodwaters can erode roads and paths. The area may be very slippery and make walking difficult. Flood debris may hide animals, broken glass or other dangerous items.
- ✓ Use extreme caution when entering any buildings that were subjected to floodwaters, mud or debris. Floodwaters may have caused hidden damage, affected electrical systems or undermined the foundation.

Where can I get flood early warning information?

Keep tuned to the local radio and television stations for early warning information in your area.

FAO - SWALIM produces flood early warning information before and during the rainy seasons. SWALIM gives daily rainfall forecast and the river levels along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers. The information is shared through emails.

If you have access to email you may subscribe for this information by sending an email to swalim@fao.org.

You may also report a flood using the same email.

