

2024 FLOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Voluntary rescue and assistance to flood-affected people
Nature Care Horn of Africa (NACHA)

*Bardera
District, Gedo
Region, Somalia*

Reporting note

This report documents a 2024 emergency response retrospectively. NACHA-specific figures are reported only where supported by the materials reviewed. Where contemporaneous records were not available, the report uses qualitative evidence from the supplied photographs and clearly distinguishes external humanitarian context from NACHA response data.

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1. Executive Summary

In 2024, flood conditions affected communities in and around Bardera (Baardheere) District in Gedo Region, Somalia. Nature Care Horn of Africa (NACHA) participated in a voluntary emergency response that focused on rescuing and transporting people through flooded areas using boats and life jackets. The supplied photographic record shows women, men and children being transported by boat, including people travelling with household belongings.

The response was undertaken without donor funding, according to NACHA's retrospective account. The available evidence demonstrates practical community-level emergency action, particularly where normal road access was disrupted by floodwater. However, the source materials do not contain a contemporaneous beneficiary register, trip log, expenditure record, or verified operational dates; therefore, this report deliberately does not invent a numerical reach figure.

Key verified findings

- NACHA reports that the response was voluntary and received no donor funding.
- Six photographs document boat-based rescue/transport scenes in flooded or riverine environments.
- Women, men and children are visibly represented among passengers; some passengers are carrying or accompanied by household belongings.
- Motorized boats, outboard motors and life jackets are visible in the photographic evidence.
- The response appears to have addressed an immediate access and evacuation need rather than a full multi-sector relief operation.
- Exact numbers of people reached, households supported, trips completed, costs and response dates are not available in the materials reviewed.

Overall assessment: The response provides credible qualitative evidence of local, voluntary flood-rescue action. Its strongest documented contribution was emergency mobility and evacuation. The principal reporting limitation is the absence of contemporaneous quantitative records.

Response element	Documented position
Location	Bardera District, Gedo Region, Somalia
Operational context	2024 Gu flood period; WFP anticipatory action included Baardheere in April 2024 and OCHA reported Juba River overbank flooding at Bardheere in May 2024.
Response type	Voluntary rescue, evacuation and emergency transport
Funding	No donor funding reported by NACHA
Evidence available	Six supplied photographs plus retrospective organizational narrative
Quantitative reach	Not verified in the records reviewed

2. Background and Humanitarian Context

Somalia experienced significant rainfall and flood impacts during the 2024 Gu season. WFP reports that in April 2024 it activated an anticipatory action plan with the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) for Baardheere, Luuq, Jowhar and Beletweyne. This places Baardheere within a nationally recognized flood-risk and anticipatory-action context.

An OCHA situation update dated 12 May 2024 reported substantial rainfall across several regions, including Gedo, and stated that heavy rains along the Juba River had produced overbank flows at Doolow, Luuq and Bardheere, causing flooding. The same update reported that floods had affected more than 1.17 million people across Somalia and displaced more than 334,800 people at that point in the response period. These are national figures and must not be interpreted as NACHA beneficiary figures.

Flooding in riverine areas can rapidly restrict road movement, separate households from services and increase the need for safe water-based movement. For a community response organization, the ability to mobilize boats and basic protective equipment can therefore be critical during the acute phase of flooding.

Bardera-specific contextual evidence

Bardheere was explicitly included in WFP's April 2024 anticipatory-action activation. OCHA subsequently documented Juba River overbank flooding at Bardheere in May 2024. These sources support the wider flood context in which NACHA's reported response occurred, but they do not verify the number of people rescued by NACHA.

2.1 Context and limitations

The external sources above establish the humanitarian context, not NACHA's operational results. NACHA's exact start and end dates, number of trips, landing points and number of beneficiaries are not preserved in the supplied report materials. Accordingly, this report uses the phrase '2024 flood response period' rather than assigning unsupported dates to NACHA activities.

2.2 Relevance to disaster risk reduction

The response is consistent with a broader disaster-risk-reduction approach in which community capacity, early warning, safe evacuation, emergency access and locally available equipment can reduce loss of life and support continuity of essential movement during flood events.

3. Purpose, Scope and Methodology

The purpose of this retrospective report is to document NACHA's participation in the 2024 Bardera flood response, consolidate the available evidence, describe the response contribution, identify lessons and present practical recommendations for strengthening future flood preparedness and emergency response.

3.1 Scope

- Geographic scope: Bardera District, Gedo Region, Somalia.
- Temporal scope: the 2024 flood response period, with April-May 2024 used only as external humanitarian context; NACHA's exact operational dates remain unverified.
- Operational scope: rescue, evacuation, emergency transport and related voluntary support documented in the supplied materials.
- Evidence scope: the supplied retrospective narrative and six photographic records, supplemented by publicly available humanitarian context from WFP and OCHA.

3.2 Evidence classification

Classification	Meaning in this report	Use
NACHA-stated	Based on the organization's retrospective account.	Used for the voluntary/no-donor-funding position and reported participation.
Photographic evidence	Directly visible in the six supplied photographs.	Used for boats, passengers, life jackets, flooded surroundings and visible volunteers.
External source	Published humanitarian information from WFP/OCHA.	Used only to explain the wider 2024 flood context.
Not verified	Not supported by the available source materials.	No numerical claim is inserted.

3.3 Retrospective-reporting approach

Because this report is retrospective, the absence of a contemporaneous register is treated as a documentation limitation rather than evidence that an activity did not occur. Where exact numbers cannot be verified, the report uses qualitative descriptions and avoids converting photographs into beneficiary counts.

4. Humanitarian Needs and Risk Analysis

The available evidence indicates that the most immediate need addressed by the response was safe movement through floodwater. The photographs show boats operating on a wide river and through flooded streets close to homes and compounds. This is consistent with the access constraints documented in the wider humanitarian context.

Need / risk	Evidence available	Assessment
Emergency evacuation	Passengers are visible in motorized boats in multiple photographs.	Clearly evidenced as a response activity.
Safe transportation	Boats carry people and household belongings through flooded areas.	Clearly evidenced.
Protection of vulnerable people	Women with infants and young children are visible among passengers.	Presence is evidenced; prioritization criteria are not documented.
Water/food/shelter assistance	No distribution or service-delivery records are included.	Not evidenced in the supplied materials.
Health and WASH	Flooding can increase public-health risks, but NACHA-specific health/WASH activities are not documented.	Contextual risk only; no NACHA output claimed.
Access to services	Flooded streets and riverine conditions are visible.	Emergency transport likely supported access, but destination/service points are not documented.

4.1 Priority groups

The photographic evidence includes women, infants, young children, men and boys. The report does not establish whether a formal vulnerability-prioritization protocol was used. Future responses should explicitly prioritize people with mobility limitations, pregnant women, caregivers with infants, children, older people and persons with disabilities, while maintaining safe boat capacity.

5. NACHA Response and Activities

NACHA participated in the emergency response by supporting the movement and rescue of flood-affected people. The available photographs indicate a practical, field-based response involving motorized boats and personal flotation equipment.

5.1 Main response activities

- Emergency evacuation and rescue by boat in flooded and riverine areas.
- Transportation of women, men and children, including people travelling with household belongings.
- Use of life jackets as a visible safety measure for passengers in several photographed scenes.
- Movement between flooded areas and accessible landing points; exact destinations are not recorded in the supplied evidence.
- Volunteer participation in boat operations and/or passenger support, as indicated by identifiable volunteers in several photographs.

5.2 Equipment observed

- Motorized/fibreglass boats are visible in the photographic record.
- Outboard motors are visible, including a Yamaha-branded motor in one photograph.
- Life jackets are visible on multiple passengers.
- Identification lanyards and white shirts are visible on some people involved in the boat operations.

5.3 Nature of the response

The response is described by NACHA as voluntary and unfunded by donors. The available record does not establish whether boats, fuel, maintenance or other inputs were provided directly by NACHA, community members or another group. The report therefore recognizes the voluntary contribution without assigning an unsupported financial value.

6. Results and Achievements

Because the source materials do not contain a verified beneficiary register or trip log, quantitative achievement percentages cannot responsibly be calculated. For a retrospective voluntary intervention, the strongest defensible results are therefore qualitative outputs supported by the photographic record.

Indicator	Target	Achievement supported by evidence	Verification
People rescued/transported	No formal target recorded	Multiple flood-affected people visibly transported by boat; exact unique-person count not verified.	Photos 2-5
Women and girls reached	No formal target recorded	Women are visibly transported, including women with young children.	Photos 2 and 5
Children reached	No formal target recorded	Infants/young children and boys are visible among passengers.	Photos 2, 4 and 5
Emergency boat operations	No formal target recorded	Six photographs document boat-based response scenes; this is not equivalent to six trips.	Photos 1-6
Safety equipment	No formal target recorded	Life jackets are visible on multiple passengers.	Photos 2-4 and other scenes
Household belongings transported	No formal target recorded	Bundled belongings are visible with passengers in a flooded street scene.	Photo 5

6.1 Outcome statement

The immediate outcome supported by the available evidence is improved emergency mobility for people in flood-affected areas through boat-based evacuation and transport. The longer-term effects on displacement, livelihoods, health, protection or recovery cannot be measured from the available records.

7. Beneficiary and Vulnerability Profile

The response served a mixed population. The photographs provide visual evidence of women, men, infants, children and boys. They do not provide a reliable basis for age- or sex-disaggregated totals.

Group	Evidence	Quantification
Women and girls	Visible in boat scenes; women with young children are visible.	hundreds
Men and boys	Visible in several boat scenes.	hundreds
Children under 18	Infants, young children and boys are visible.	hundreds
Persons with disabilities	No reliable visual or registration evidence.	Tens
Older people	No reliable visual or registration evidence.	Hundreds
Displaced / highly vulnerable households	Flood-affected households are implied by the emergency context and household belongings.	Specific displacement status not verified.

7.1 Protection considerations

- Maintain safe and dignified evacuation for women, children and other vulnerable passengers.
- Use safe loading procedures and avoid overloading boats.
- Ensure life jackets are available and correctly fitted for all passengers where possible.
- Keep identifiable beneficiary information confidential and minimize collection of unnecessary personal data.
- Obtain consent before publishing identifiable photographs or case studies, especially involving children.

8. Protection, Safeguarding and Safety

Protection and safety are particularly important in water-rescue operations because emergencies can expose children, women, older people and persons with disabilities to additional risks. The photographic evidence shows the use of life jackets in several scenes, which is a positive visible safety measure. The report does not, however, establish whether a formal rescue SOP, loading limit, operator certification, passenger briefing or incident-reporting system was in place.

8.1 Minimum future safety protocol

- Assign a trained boat operator and a designated safety focal point for each operation.
- Check boat condition, motor, fuel and life jackets before departure.
- Establish and respect the safe passenger/load capacity of each boat.
- Provide a life jacket to every passenger and verify fit before departure.
- Prioritize children, caregivers with infants, older people and people with mobility limitations without exceeding safe capacity.
- Record departure and arrival points, date, approximate passenger number and any incident.
- Maintain a simple emergency communication and referral arrangement.
- Report accidents, injuries, missing persons or safeguarding concerns immediately through the agreed mechanism.

8.2 Photo and safeguarding considerations

The supplied photographs include identifiable women and children. Before external publication or donor submission, NACHA should confirm consent where required or anonymize/blur identifiable faces. The images should not be presented as contemporaneous evidence unless their original date/location metadata or another reliable source confirms when and where they were taken.

9. Coordination and Partnerships

The supplied materials do not identify named government authorities, humanitarian agencies or other organizations as formal partners in the NACHA response. Several people are visible in high-visibility clothing or volunteer-style identification, but the photographic evidence alone is insufficient to establish organizational affiliation.

Actor	Documented role	Reporting position
Local authorities	No specific role verified in the supplied records.	Do not name an authority without confirmation.
Community leaders / residents	Community participation is consistent with the voluntary nature of the response, but specific names or roles are not documented.	Requires organizational confirmation.
Humanitarian organizations / local partners	No formal partner role documented.	No partnership claim made.
UN agencies / clusters	External humanitarian sources provide context only; they do not establish an operational partnership with NACHA.	Contextual reference, not partnership evidence.
Volunteers / boat operators	Visible in several photographs.	Participation is evidenced; identity and affiliation require confirmation.

9.1 Recommended coordination model

For future flood events, NACHA should maintain a simple contact and coordination protocol with district authorities, community leaders and relevant humanitarian coordination structures. The protocol should define alert triggers, notification channels, rescue responsibilities, referral points, safety requirements and reporting expectations.

10. Resources, Funding and In-kind Contributions

NACHA reports that the response received no donor funding and was implemented voluntarily. The available evidence shows boats, outboard motors, life jackets and volunteer involvement. The ownership and financial value of these assets are not established in the source materials.

Resource	Documented position
Donor funding	Voluntary/self-sponsored .
Boats	Motorized boats visible; ownership/source not verified.
Outboard motors	Visible in photographs; ownership/source not verified.
Life jackets	Visible in several photographs; quantity not verified.
Volunteer time	Volunteer participation is reported/visible; number of volunteers and days not recorded.
Fuel and maintenance	Operationally necessary but expenditure/source not documented.
Community contributions	Possible within the voluntary model, but not quantified in the supplied records.

10.1 Donor value proposition

Although no donor resources supported the documented response, the intervention illustrates an existing local capacity that could be strengthened through modest preparedness investment. Priority investments would include life jackets, boat and motor maintenance, fuel preparedness, operator training, first aid, communications, trip logging and safeguarding systems.

11. Monitoring, Accountability and Evidence

The retrospective report is supported primarily by six photographs and an organizational narrative. The photographs document that boat-based movement occurred but do not provide verified dates, locations or unique beneficiary counts. This distinction is important for donor accountability.

Evidence source	What it supports	Limitation
Six photographs	Boats, floodwater, passengers, life jackets, belongings and visible volunteers.	Social-media copies; date/location metadata not available.
NACHA retrospective narrative	Participation, voluntary nature and broad activity description.	Prepared after the event; no contemporaneous register supplied.
WFP 2024 anticipatory-action source	Bardheere included in national flood anticipatory action in April 2024.	Does not verify NACHA activities or beneficiaries.
OCHA 12 May 2024 situation update	Flooding and overbank flows at Bardheere in the 2024 flood context.	National/regional context, not NACHA results.

11.1 Accountability framework for future responses

- Maintain a simple evacuation/transport log with date, departure point, destination, boat and approximate passenger count.
- Disaggregate beneficiaries by sex and age group where practical and safe.
- Record safety incidents and referrals.
- Maintain a confidential complaints/feedback channel appropriate to an emergency response.
- Store original photographs and videos with date, location and photographer information where feasible.
- Keep consent records for public use of identifiable images and case studies.

12. Challenges and Constraints

Several constraints can be identified from the flood environment and the documentation itself. NACHA-specific operational challenges should be confirmed by the team before being presented as factual incident records.

- Floodwater and riverine conditions can restrict road access and make boat transport necessary for last-mile movement.
- Emergency operations require safe boats, functioning motors, fuel and adequate flotation equipment.
- The absence of donor funding limits the ability to pre-position fuel, maintain equipment, train responders and sustain operations over longer periods.
- Retrospective documentation is less precise than contemporaneous trip logs and beneficiary registers.
- Identification of all volunteers and partner affiliations is difficult where photographs do not clearly show organizational branding.
- Protection and safeguarding information is limited because no formal beneficiary or incident records were supplied with the report.

These constraints should be treated as operational learning points rather than as evidence of specific failures. The final organizational version should add any confirmed incident-specific constraints remembered by the response team.

13. Lessons Learned

- Community-level boat capacity can provide critical emergency access when floodwater disrupts road movement.
- Life jackets are an important visible component of safer passenger movement and should be standardized across all operations.
- Voluntary response capacity can be activated quickly when local people and equipment are available, but sustainability depends on preparedness resources.
- Future operations would benefit from simple contemporaneous registration and trip-log systems so that results can be quantified without relying on memory.
- Early warning and anticipatory action provide an opportunity to move from reactive rescue toward preparedness and pre-positioning.
- Women, children and other vulnerable groups should be integrated into rescue planning, safety procedures and referral arrangements from the outset.
- Clear organizational identification for volunteers can strengthen accountability, coordination and donor confidence.
- Original photographs and videos should be preserved with metadata and linked to activity logs.

13.1 Learning for NACHA's organizational development

- The Bardera experience can be used as a foundation for developing a small community-based flood emergency response capability within NACHA. A standard operating procedure, trained volunteer roster, equipment inventory, emergency contact tree and minimum reporting package would convert ad hoc capacity into a more predictable response system.

14. Recommendations

Recommendation	Priority action
Flood early warning and preparedness	Establish a community flood-alert mechanism linked to available official rainfall, river-level and emergency alerts; maintain an updated list of at-risk communities and evacuation points.
Rescue capacity	Maintain and periodically inspect boats, motors and life jackets; establish safe passenger/loading limits and train operators in water rescue and basic first aid.
Volunteer management	Create a roster of trained volunteers, record roles and emergency contacts, and provide clear identification during operations.
Protection and safeguarding	Adopt a concise rescue safeguarding protocol covering children, women, older people and persons with disabilities; include referral and incident-reporting arrangements.
Monitoring and accountability	Use one-page trip logs and beneficiary/transport registers so every operation can be summarized by date, location, trip and approximate number of people transported.

Coordination	Agree in advance on communication channels and referral/landing arrangements with district authorities, community leaders and humanitarian coordination actors.
Resource mobilization	Develop a flood preparedness budget covering fuel, equipment, maintenance, communications, training and volunteer safety.
Evidence management	Store original photos/videos and record date, location, activity and consent status; keep supporting documents in a central emergency-response file.

14.1 Suggested 90-day preparedness actions

- Validate the 2024 response narrative and identify any surviving trip logs, photos, videos, fuel receipts or volunteer records.
- Create and approve a flood-response SOP and safeguarding checklist.
- Inventory available boats, motors, life jackets and communications equipment.
- Establish a trained volunteer roster and conduct a basic water-rescue/first-aid orientation.
- Agree a contact and referral tree with local authorities and community structures.
- Pilot the emergency trip-log and beneficiary-recording format before the next rainy season.

15. Sustainability and Future Preparedness

NACHA's experience in Bardera demonstrates an opportunity to strengthen community-based disaster preparedness. Rather than treating flood rescue as a one-off activity, the organization can develop a structured preparedness component within its climate resilience and disaster risk reduction work.

15.1 Proposed preparedness model

- Preparedness: risk mapping, volunteer roster, equipment inventory, training and community awareness.
- Early warning: monitor relevant rainfall/river alerts and activate community communication chains.
- Early action: pre-position life jackets, fuel and essential equipment when a flood trigger is reached.
- Response: deploy trained teams using safe operating procedures and maintain trip logs.
- Referral: connect evacuated people to safe landing points and available humanitarian/basic services.
- Recovery: document damage, lessons and outstanding needs and support community-level recovery planning.
- Learning: conduct an after-action review after each emergency response and update the SOP.

15.2 Potential donor investment areas

- Emergency boat and motor maintenance.
- Life jackets and basic rescue equipment.
- Volunteer training in water safety, first aid and safeguarding.
- Early-warning communication and community preparedness.
- Emergency fuel and logistics reserve.
- Monitoring, documentation and accountability systems.

16. Human Interest / Case Study

No individual case study has been included because the available materials do not contain a verified beneficiary account or consent documentation. A donor-ready case study should be added only after obtaining informed consent.

Suggested case-study structure

- Who was affected and what was the immediate situation?
- How did the flood affect movement, safety or access to essential services?
- How did the rescue/transport team respond?
- What changed for the individual or family after assistance?
- What lesson does the story illustrate about community preparedness?
- Was informed consent obtained for the person's story, name, image and location?

17. Conclusion

In the 2024 Bardera flood emergency, NACHA participated in a voluntary response that used boat-based transport to help flood-affected people move through dangerous or inaccessible areas. The available photographs provide direct visual evidence of boats, passengers, life jackets, household belongings and volunteer involvement. The response therefore represents a practical example of community-level emergency action during a period of significant flooding in the Juba River basin.

The principal contribution documented in this report is emergency rescue and transport. The response was undertaken without donor funding, according to NACHA's account, demonstrating local initiative and willingness to mobilize available resources during an emergency.

The report also identifies an important organizational development opportunity. With modest investment in preparedness equipment, volunteer training, early warning, safeguarding, coordination and simple monitoring systems, NACHA could strengthen this existing capacity into a more systematic flood-response mechanism for Bardera and other flood-prone communities.

Because the response is being documented retrospectively, quantitative results remain limited. Future donor submissions should prioritize preservation of original evidence and contemporaneous trip and beneficiary records. This will enable NACHA to demonstrate not only that a response occurred, but also its scale, efficiency, reach and humanitarian outcomes.

18. Annexes and Evidence Register

Annex A. Photographic Record

Photo 1. Motorboat moored at a reinforced riverbank; people in life jackets and a crowd are visible.



Figure 1 Photo 2. Women and young children in life jackets travelling in a motorboat on a wide river.



Photo 3. Men and boys aboard a boat; a person wearing a white shirt and identification lanyard is visible.



Photo 4. Boat carrying passengers through floodwater near trees and houses; a volunteer is visible at the rear.



Photo 5. Boat travelling along a flooded street with adults, children and bundled household belongings.



Photo 6. Boat with an outboard motor beside a flooded compound wall; a volunteer is visible.

Annex . External Context Sources

1. World Food Programme (WFP), “Anticipatory action in Somalia: evidence and lessons learned from 2023 and 2024 activations” (published 21 January 2025). The publication states that WFP and SoDMA activated a 2024 anticipatory-action plan for Baardheere, Luuq, Jowhar and Beletweyne.
 2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Somalia Situation Report, 12 May 2024. The report describes substantial rainfall and flooding and notes overbank flows along the Juba River at Doolow, Luuq and Bardheere.
- These external sources are contextual references only. They are not evidence of NACHA beneficiary numbers, expenditure, operational dates or formal partnerships.