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**Hope Enterprise University College**

**English individual assignment**

* Name:- Haymanot Shumet
* ID:- RMA 794/25

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Summited to: Mr Eshetu Deribe

## **News Report: Flash Floods in Afar Region Cause Displacement and Damage**

**(Semera, Afar Region, Ethiopia – April 8, 2025)**

Heavy and unseasonal rainfall over the past few days has resulted in significant flash flooding in several areas of the Afar region in northeastern Ethiopia. The Awash River, already swollen from upstream rains, overflowed its banks, leading to the inundation of villages and agricultural land. Thousands of people have been displaced, and significant damage to infrastructure and livelihoods is being reported.

The most affected zones include parts of the Awash Fentale, Dubti, and Asayita woredas. Homes have been destroyed or severely damaged by the floodwaters, and families have been forced to seek shelter in higher ground or temporary camps. Livestock, a crucial asset for the pastoralist communities in the Afar region, has been lost in the floods. Farmland along the riverbanks, ready for the planting season, has been submerged, raising concerns about future food security in the region.

Roads in several areas have been rendered impassable due to the floodwaters and associated damage, hindering transportation and the delivery of aid. Communication networks have also been disrupted in some locations, making it challenging to get a clear picture of the full extent of the disaster.

Local authorities, supported by regional and federal government agencies, are currently undertaking rescue and relief efforts. Emergency teams are working to reach stranded populations, and initial assessments of the damage are being conducted. Makeshift shelters are being established to accommodate the displaced, and efforts are underway to provide essential supplies such as food, clean water, and medical assistance.

The Ethiopian Meteorological Institute had issued warnings about the possibility of heavy rainfall in the highlands, which could lead to riverine flooding in downstream areas like Afar. However, the intensity and widespread impact of the current floods have been greater than initially anticipated.

The government has announced that resources are being mobilized to support the affected communities in the Afar region. Humanitarian organizations and aid agencies are also coordinating their efforts to provide assistance. The immediate priorities are to ensure the safety and well-being of those who have been displaced and to provide them with the necessary humanitarian aid. A comprehensive assessment of the long-term recovery needs will be conducted once the floodwaters recede.

The frequency and intensity of such extreme weather events are raising concerns about the impact of climate change on vulnerable regions like Afar, where communities are already facing numerous challenges.