



Office of the Resident Coordinator

Union of Comoros • Flash Floods
Situation Report # 8 – 15 June 2012

This report is produced by the Resident Coordinator's Office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 05 to 15 June 2012. The next report will be issued on or around 30 June 2012.

HIGHLIGHTS / KEY PRIORITIES

- 64,987 people (8% of total population) have been directly affected by the floods.
- 80,000 people in Moroni and 3,900 in Mitsoudje were indirectly affected by broken water pumps.
- The water supply in Moroni and surroundings is being restored, however, some 50% of water is lost due to leaks. Distribution of chlorine tablets is a priority.
- Actions are taken to halt a worrying increase in malaria cases in central Anjouan.
- Activities in the agriculture sector intensified. There is a fear among the population of insufficient food supplies – in particular domestic - during the forthcoming Ramadan.
- Sanitary installations are prioritised for schools (latrines, water to wash hands).
- The early recovery action plan was kick-started with a sectorial workshop on 15 June.

I. Situation Overview

The regions most affected by the torrential rains, floods, landslides and rockslides remain:

- Grande Comore: Bambao, Hambou, Mbadjini Est.
- Anjouan: Sima and Domoni.
- Moheli: Nioumachoua and Hoani.

According to UNDAC, Government and Sectorial Group estimates, 64,987 people (8% of total population) have been directly affected by the floods (Grande Comore 17,232; Anjouan 30,063; Moheli 17,592). An additional 80,000 people in Moroni and 3,900 in Mitsoudje were indirectly affected by the broken water pumps that supply water to these communities.

Water supply is being restored in and around Moroni, producing 10,000 m³/day, however, some 50% of water is lost due to leaks in the pipes. The purchase and distribution of chlorine tablets is a priority.

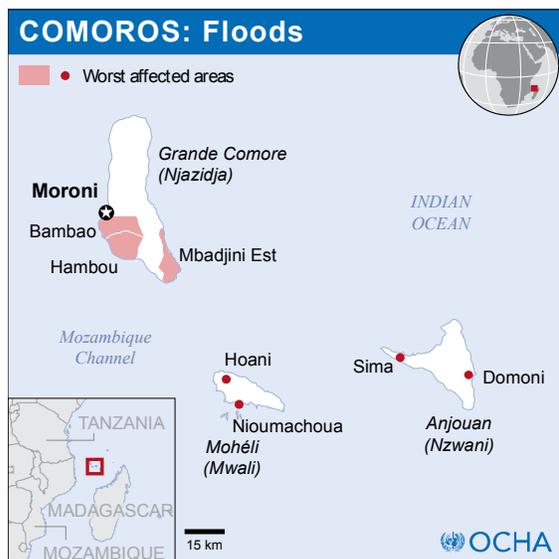
Activities in the agriculture sector intensified, with the verification of the size of destroyed agricultural land, as well as partial and definite losses.

It has been reported that vanilla producers have suffered extensive loss of vanilla plants in the affected agricultural areas on Grande Comore – this will in turn diminish the vanilla available for export later in the season, a main source of income for small scale farmers.

Work on mud clearing and clearing of river beds has started. Cleaning and disinfection of previously identified water tanks is on-going. Prepositioning of medicines in all health centres is a priority.

Maps of the areas affected and response can be found on the following links:

- http://reliefweb.int/country/com/thumb?sl=environment-term_listing%2Ctaxonomy_index_tid_content_format-12
- <http://www.mapaction.org/deployments/depldetail/210.html>



II. Humanitarian Needs and Response



FOOD AND NFI ASSISTANCE

Needs:

Response: The Comoros Red Crescent started distribution on 14 June of food donated by the Comoros-based Qatari Cheik Idi Foundation, to 20 households each in the villages of Vouvouni, Selea, Nyumadzaha, Mitsoudje, Bangoi and Salimani.

Gaps & Constraints: None reported



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD

Needs: Analysis of total and partial losses of agricultural land and related measures to be taken.

Response: Two FAO experts supported the Agriculture, Environment and Civil Security Directorates in the determination of affected agriculture areas on Grande Comore. Training was carried out for similar evaluations on Anjouan and Moheli. It was found that most destruction is due to rock slides. The team worked with GPS put at the disposal by the Directorate General of Civil Security (DGSC) and UNDP to verify the size of totally destroyed lands as well as partial and definite losses. Results are awaited by the end of the month, together with analysis on issues such as compensation to farmers, potential relocations (previously unsuccessful), clearing fields of rocks, re-cultivation, as well as risk analysis / prevention of rock slides with new rainfalls.

Gaps & Constraints: There is a fear of rise in prices and means of purchase. With Ramadan around the corner, there are fears of insufficient food supplies which will add to already poor nutrition and related diseases. With 80-90% of crops reported destroyed, the population has to resort to imported food to which they are not used.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Needs: An increase in the number of malaria cases have been reported on the island of Anjouan, particularly in the region of Pomoni, where cases are multiplied by 5 compared to before the floods. There are also other cases of non-identified fevers. The Health Directorate plans to send a team to central Anjouan to investigate and to reinforce the monitoring system, including sampling on a daily basis and to reinforce the awareness campaign for the use of impregnated mosquito nets.

Most health centres are functional, although some only partially. In order to render all centres fully functional, it is foreseen to supply them with complementary chlorine tablets and mosquito nets. Two centres remain non-functional, one due to destruction, and one due to lack of personnel.

There is an urgent need for prepositioning of medicines in all health centres. All stocks of the national pharmacy (PNAC) were also depleted with the emergency. Rehydration stations are also not sufficient in the health centres.

Response: UNICEF is ensuring transportation of 3,663 insecticide treated mosquito nets to Anjouan to fight a potential malaria epidemic; 4,171 to Ngazidja for distribution to Nimazaha and Vouvouni; and 1,170 to Moheli, for a total of 9,000 mosquito nets. The distribution will be carried out by the Comoros Red Crescent.

UNICEF and the Comoros Red Crescent are coordinating efforts to promote hygiene and water security, prevention, vaccination campaigns and awareness-raising campaigns with regard to safe use of water.

Gaps & Constraints: None reported.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Needs: Water supply is being restored in and around Moroni, producing 10,000 m³/day, however, some 50% of water is lost due to leaks in the pipes. There is a need to carry out sustainable work on the pipes to replace current temporary fixes. In view of the poor quality of the water, a priority has been identified for the purchase and distribution of chlorine tablets.

There was already a problem before the floods, when an estimated 22% of the population had access to water and some 36% to sanitary installations. There is an overall need for promotion of water treatment with chlorine as well as distribution of free chlorine tablets. The priority is for sanitary installations in schools (latrines, water to wash hands).

The water / electricity situation in Moheli is reported to be almost back to normal.

Response: An expert from Veolia France supported UNICEF during two weeks in the inspection of the Vouvouni water pump. Results and recommendations for sustainable restoration of the water station are expected shortly.

99 out of the 300 water tanks identified have been cleaned by the Comoros Red Crescent. UNDP is looking into coverage of the remaining 158, in cooperation with DGSC, to complete the cleaning of 458 identified tanks.

Gaps & Constraints: The Mitsoudje water pump station is still non-functional. The electrical power station of Moroni continues to deteriorate and functions with only 3 mw, with a gap of 17 mw. On Anjouan, the Ngandzale village does not have potable water. The Mitsoudje district health centre in Grande Comore is still without water.



EDUCATION

Needs: Most school activities have resumed, with the exception of a few schools in Anjouan where school children still attend school every three days on a rotational basis, for lack of classrooms.

Response: Almost all schools in the affected areas across the islands have now received school kits. The remaining kits will be distributed among all other schools.

Gaps & Constraints: None reported.



LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION

Needs: The Logistics Sectorial Group has put priority on the cleaning and disinfection of affected areas and access for distribution of food and NFIs. KMF 30 million have been requested for urgent cleaning activities.

Response: Results of Red Crescent assessments are expected, in order to organise cleaning and disinfection of flooded houses, in close collaboration with UNDP.

The Comoros Red Crescent, UNICEF and WFP are harmonising identification of families in most urgent need and synchronising distribution of mosquito nets and water purification tablets, as well as other NFIs, in order to avoid duplication and/or gaps.

Gaps & Constraints: None reported.



COMMUNICATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Needs: According to the Department of Infrastructure, some 204 km of roads are in need of reconstruction and/or repair. A total of KMF 32 billion is estimated for a complete overhaul of the Comoros damaged road network. Immediate urgent road works is estimated at some KMF 30 million.

Response: The UNDP-funded project of mud clearing of the villages of Vouvouni and Boeni started on 9 June, for a period of two weeks.

Clearing of river beds is on-going in Kafouni, Selea, Nyumadzahe, Boeni, Mitsoudje, Bangoi, Salimani and Djoumoichongo. Cleaning and disinfection activities are also on-going in Vouvouni, Boeni, Nyumadzahe and Kafouni.

Gaps & Constraints: Financial and local capacities reported in relation to the clearing of river beds. Recommendations to clear upstream instead of downstream to limit risks of exposure to new rainfalls. Use of appropriate equipment.

III. Coordination

A UNDP/BCPR-funded consultant has arrived to take the lead in the early recovery action plan.

A half day workshop with all sectors and other key actors took place on 15 June to kick-start the early recovery action plan. Participants worked according to a pre-formatted matrix on needs identified through in-depth evaluations, actions already carried out and gaps.

A Turkish delegation, composed of health, water and infrastructure experts, visited Comoros to identify possible support to on-going activities related to the flood response as well as longer term activities. In meetings with the UNCT, discussions were particularly held around early recovery needs.

A World Bank delegation, headed by the Country Director visited Comoros. Discussions are on-going on possible coordination and synchronisation of early recovery activities.

IV. Funding & Contributions

The approved CERF funds to cover the immediate needs of the affected population on the three islands amount to US\$ 2,522,639.

A cumulative table of received or announced contributions, additional to the CERF, can be found in annex to this situation report. Contributing partners are kindly requested to announce any discrepancies.

On 1 June, the President of the Union of Comoros addressed a letter to the UN Secretary-General thanking the UN system for its rapid financial and material intervention response to the flash floods and soliciting continued support for preparedness activities the rehabilitation and reconstruction. A similar letter of thanks was addressed to the UN SG on 5 June by the Permanent Representative of Comoros in NY, in particular thanking OCHA for its coordinating role and rapid response to the disaster.

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to: fts@un.org.

V. Contacts

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