



## Office of the Resident Coordinator

Union of Comoros • Flash Floods  
Situation Report # 6 – 25 May 2012

*This report is produced by the Resident Coordinator's Office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 20 to 25 May 2012. The next report will be issued on or around 1 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 slowly improving. There is a high risk of cholera outbreaks due to the lack of potable water and sewage services.
- Sectorial in-depth assessments for longer-term recovery and rehabilitation continue.
- Some 204 km of roads are in need of reconstruction and/or repair.
- There is a lack of data collection and information in the agricultural sector.

**I. Situation Overview**

On 8 May 2012, the whole territory of the Union of Comoros again experienced continuous torrential rains, causing heavy floods as well as landslides and rockslides in the regions already affected:

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

According to latest 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.

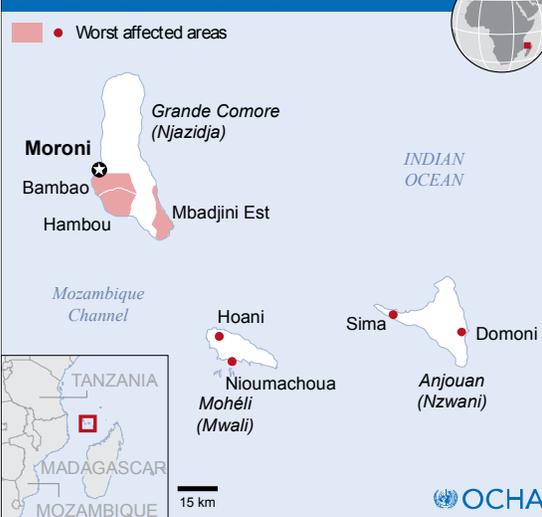
According to the Department of Infrastructure, some 204 km of roads are in need of reconstruction and/or repair (Grande Comore 94 km; Moheli 40 km; Anjouan 70 km).

Water supply has started to an estimated 40% of households in around Moroni (unconfirmed percentage), however, the water is not fit for drinking.

The Mitsoudje water pump station is still non-functional. The electrical power station of Moroni is rapidly deteriorating, estimated to currently turn around 3 mw out of the normal 20 mw.

There is a serious risk of a cholera outbreak, which has been previously endemic in Comoros, due to water shortages and poor sanitation, particularly on Grande Comore. Food security remains a high priority for immediate attention in order to ensure that affected farmers are supported in areas where up to 80% of crops have been lost due to the flooding. It has also 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.

Sectorial in-depth assessments continue across the islands, with others completed and analysis of results on-going.

**COMOROS: Floods**

Map Sources: UNCS, Europa Technologies, DGPC.  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 1 May 2012.

A World Bank 15-member team arrived for dialogue with the Government, as well as damage and disaster risk management evaluations across the islands. The team conducted a one-day methodology training for COSEP and Sectorial Groups in Moroni on 23 May.

Maps of the areas affected and response can be found on the following link:  
<http://www.mapaction.org/deployments/depldetail/210.html>

## II. Humanitarian Needs and Response



### FOOD AND NFI ASSISTANCE

**Needs:** As most displaced persons have returned or are returning to their homes, there is a pressing need to start cleaning and disinfection of affected areas, as well as wide distribution of food and non-food items.

**Response:** Distribution of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) in Anjouan, and Moheli started on 24 May.

**Gaps & Constraints:** New rains during the week have hampered distribution. Coordination constraints reported between distributing actors and COSEP. Lack of financial resources for distribution were reported by concerned Sector Groups.



### FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD

**Needs:** The Ministry of Agriculture conducted a rapid assessment of the impact of the floods on cultivated lands. The assessment aimed mostly at mapping the flood-affected agricultural areas. The results of the assessment revealed that, in all flooded villages combined, about 23% of farming households have been severely affected and about 36% of cultivated lands were flooded.

**Response:** WFP, in collaboration with the Red Crescent, has distributed 10 mt of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to about 2,500 households in Grande Comore. The HEB and NFI destined for Moheli and Anjouan were transferred on 24 May, for simultaneous distribution on both islands. Some 9 mt and 6 mt of HEB will be distributed respectively in Ajounan and Moheli.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Precise data on actual damages in the agriculture sector remain unavailable. The information so far gathered on agriculture damages and losses is mostly qualitative and anecdotal. The scarcity of data is complicating the process of estimating actual needs to assist farmers in the resumption of their work.



### HEALTH AND NUTRITION

**Needs:** In-depth evaluations were carried out by the Health Sector Group on Anjouan and Moheli from 18 to 23 May. Preliminary results show that 8 out of 10 health structures still function.

**Response:** Compilation and analysis of the in-depth evaluations are on-going.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Preliminary results of the in-depth evaluations show inadequate personnel in all health structures; insufficient vaccination points and lack of a vaccination strategy, which has led to weak vaccination coverage; inexistence of essential free of charge emergency medication; inexistence of pre-positioned medication for potential epidemics; and that none of the health structures has received instructions to monitor potential epidemics and that many of the structures do not dispose of the necessary tools to do so.



### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

**Needs:** Water supply has started to an estimated 40% of households in around Moroni (unconfirmed percentage), however, the water is not fit for drinking. The Mitsoudje water pump station is still non-

functional. The high risk of cholera outbreaks due to the lack of potable water and sewage services makes WASH a critical priority sector.

**Response:** Red Crescent (RCCo) teams are conducting in-depth WATSAN evaluations on Anjouan and Moheli in accordance with a pre-established plan. These efforts will be coordinated with other actors to ensure a balanced distribution.

**Gaps & Constraints:** None reported.



## EDUCATION

**Needs:** Following in-depth evaluations carried out by the Education Sector Group, it is estimated that 58 schools are non-operational, including the university, affecting some 20,038 school children (16,757 primary school; 3,281 secondary school) as well as some 3,000 university students. There is an urgent need to evaluate the extent of damaged infrastructure to lower the risk of further collapses, as well as starting repair and cleaning of those damaged schools deemed fit for return.

**Response:** Priority needs have been distributed and a plan has been validated for distribution of school kits across all islands. Temporary arrangements have been made for school children allowing for their continued education in the meantime.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Access to the damaged areas for early distribution of education kits. Identification of whereabouts of school children that have moved around from one place to another.



## LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION

**Needs:** The Logistics Sectorial Group is planning for support to cleaning and rehabilitation of affected areas.

**Response:** The Red Crescent (RCCo), 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:** Logistics and transportation reported to be hampered by a lack of release of funds.



## 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:** A study is on-going on identification and prioritisation of the most urgent road works in terms of security, reinforcement, and repair.

**Gaps & Constraints:** COSEP reports that out of the KMF 30 million requested to be released through the Government, only KMF 2 million have been received, an amount equivalent to two days' worth of road work which has been used for the most urgent repairs.

## III. Coordination

The COSEP Director has promulgated a fixed meeting schedule (Tue and Thu 1600-1700) for coordination meetings bringing together national and international humanitarian organisations and sectorial groups, together with a fix agenda, including conclusions with action points. He has also asked for a recap from all active players on who does what where and how they interact.

The Red Crescent (RCCo) and UNDP will meet to synchronise the work of cleaning and disinfection with immediate effect.

A BCPR early recovery expert is expected to arrive shortly for a period of 3 months. A number of related activities are already taking place and are multiplying in this regard.

Recruitment is on-going for an international expert for 2 months and a national expert for 6 months, attached to WHO, to support the Ministry of Health.

#### 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.

New contributions announced or received since last sitrep:

- The Embassy of China has pledged US\$ 200,000 to the Government.
- The African Development Bank has submitted a proposal to the Government for the purchase of food rations for 7,100 families, 10,796 impregnated mosquito nets, 20,480 school kits and 560 educational kits, for distribution through the CRCo, for a total amount of US\$ 1 million.
- The African Union has pledged US\$ 300,000 to the Government for food and early recovery.

***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](mailto:fts@un.org).***

#### V. Contacts

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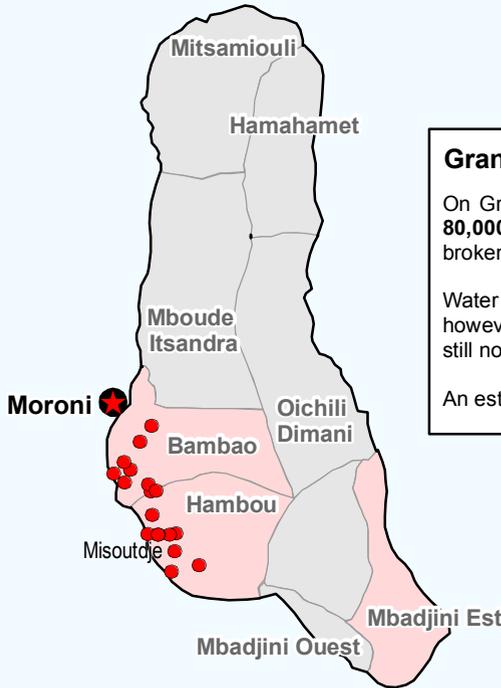
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CERF funds amounting to **US\$ 2,522,639** have been approved to cover the immediate needs of the affected population.



**Grande Comores Island:**  
 On Grande Comores Island **17,232 people** have been affected. An additional **80,000 people** in Moroni and **3,900** in Misoutdje were indirectly affected by broken water pumps.  
 Water supply has started to an estimated **40%** of households around Moroni, however the water is not fit for drinking. The Mitsoudje water pump station is still not functional, leading to a serious risk of cholera outbreaks.  
 An estimated **94 km** of road is in need of repair.

INDIAN OCEAN

**Legend**

- Capital
- Affected Villages
- Administrative Boundaries
- Comoros Island Boundaries

**Affected Population by Island**

- 17,232
- 17,592
- 30,063

**GRAND COMORE (NJAZIDJA)**

**Anjouan Island:**  
 On Anjouan Island **30,063 people** are reported to have been affected by the floods.  
 An estimated **70 km** of road is in need of repair.

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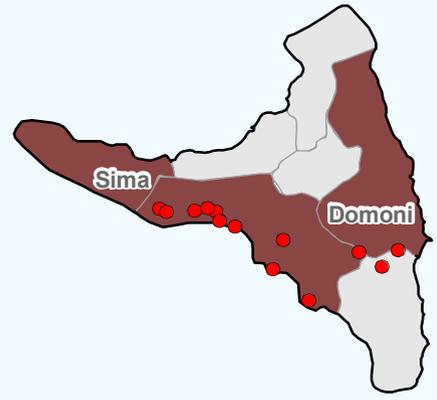
**Data Sources:** Joint Rapid Assessment in April-May 2012 Draft Data (UNDAC and Government of Comoros)  
**Map Data:** COSEP, MapAction, OCHA, WFP and Government of Comoros

**Disclaimers:**  
 The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or

**Moheli Island:**  
 On Moheli Island **17,592 people** are reported to have been affected by the floods.  
 An estimated **40 km** of road is in need of repair.



**MOHELI (MWALI)**



**ANJOUAN (NZWANI)**

Mozambique Channel

