



Office of the Resident Coordinator

Union of Comoros • Flash Floods
Situation Report # 7 – 04 June 212

This report is produced by the Resident Coordinator's Office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 26 May to 03 June 2012. The next report will be issued on or around 15 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 need for information on the drinkability of water as well as reinforced sensitisation on the use of water by the population.
- Analysis of sectorial in-depth assessments for longer-term recovery and rehabilitation throughout the islands are on-going.
- Some 204 km of roads are in need of reconstruction and/or repair.
- Data collection in the agricultural sector is expected to begin with immediate effect.

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 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).

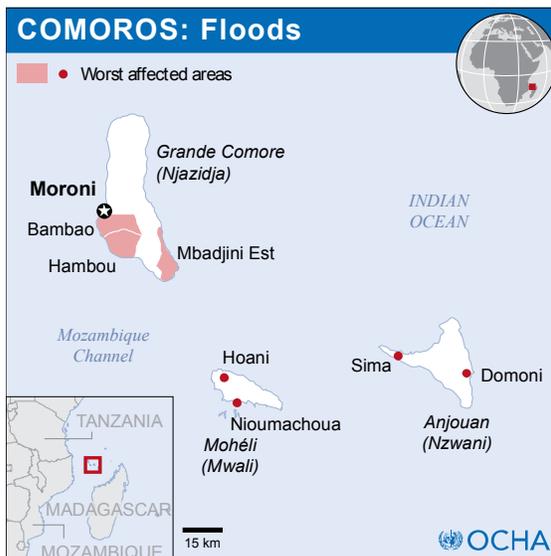
Water supply has started to households in around Moroni, however, there is a lack of information on its drinkability. There is a need for reinforced sensitisation on the use of water by the population.

The Mitsoudje water pump station is still non-functional. The electrical power station of Moroni continues to deteriorate.

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.

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: The food and NFI situation is considered overall stable, with the emergency phase completed. 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: The distribution of High Energy Biscuits by WFP in partnership with the Red Crescent was completed. The distribution aimed at providing essential nutritional support to those most adversely affected by the floods. The Red Crescent continues to distribute NFI items across the islands.

Gaps & Constraints: None reported



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD

Needs: WFP monitoring of basic food commodity prices in the major markets show that prices in Grande Comore and Anjouan have remained quite stable over the last four weeks. On the contrary, in Moheli, the overall price of basic food commodities has increased by about 15% since the floods, attributed rather to the increase of transport costs due to the deterioration of the road conditions than to any shortage.

Response: WFP, in collaboration with the Red Crescent, completed the distribution of 25.12 mt of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to 4,000 households across the three islands. An AfDB proposal for the provision of one-month food rations for 7,100 families (as well as mosquito nets and school kits) is under consideration, and would be executed through a partnership between the Red Crescent and the AfDB.

WFP completed a Post-Distribution Monitoring survey, in partnership with the Statistical Department Office of the General Planning Commissariat, at three final distribution points. The PDM data will be analysed and shared when available.

Gaps & Constraints: The start of the AfDB/Red Crescent food and NFI project is not known yet. Although there is still a lack of precise data on damages in the agriculture sector, qualitative information indicate that food based interventions might be necessary as part of the early recovery phase in the most affected areas.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Needs: Preliminary results of in-depth assessments show that 8 out of 10 health structures still function.

Response: Compilation and analysis are on-going of in-depth evaluations carried out by the Government, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA.

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 households in around Moroni, however, there is a lack of information on its drinkability. There is a need for reinforced sensitisation on the use of water by the population.

Response: In-depth WATSAN evaluations were carried out on the three islands. Strong requests were made for the restoration of water installations, with priority on the TP5 pumping station in Vouvouni, as well as restoration of water supply in the rural areas of the three islands.

The Red Crescent has identified 458 water tanks that need cleaning. It will proceed with the cleaning, disinfection and filling with potable water of 300 water tanks, with UNDP looking into coverage of the remaining 158, in cooperation with COSEP.

Gaps & Constraints: The Mitsoudje water pump station is still non-functional. The electrical power station of Moroni continues to deteriorate. On Anjouan, the Ngandzale village does not have potable water.



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: On 28 May, the Ministry of National Education officially launched a plan of distribution of school kits on the three islands. Individual school kits will be directly handed to school children and teachers, with the presence of school pedagogues and community leaders.

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 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 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 Government has reportedly agreed to release KMF 30 million for the cleaning of river beds in the flooded areas. A study is on-going on identification and prioritisation of the most urgent road works in terms of security, reinforcement, and repair.

A team from the Geographical Analysis and Information Centre of the Civil Security General Directorate, which accompanied experts from the General Council of Seine St Denis to Karthala, produced a map showing the origins of the water that inundated the affected areas of Grande Comore.

Gaps & Constraints: None reported.

III. Coordination

Regular inter-sectorial coordination meetings take place under the leadership of COSEP. Sectorial meetings take place as needed.

A water engineer expert from VEOLIA France arrived and works in cooperation with UNICEF to, *inter alia*, explore ways to restore usage of the TP5 pumping station in Vouvouni.

An FAO expert arrived on 31 May, to be joined by a second one over the weekend, to support the Directorate of Agriculture and all other concerned actors in the on-going in-depth agriculture assessments and development of an early recovery and food security disaster risk management plan.

A BCPR early recovery expert is expected to arrive shortly. 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.

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.

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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