

This report was issued by UNOCHA Benin. It covers the period from 5 to 12 November. The next report will be issued on or around 18 November.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) was launched in Cotonou on 9 November 2010.
- Rapid Needs Assessment missions are being carried out by Education Cluster partners in 20% of all affected primary and secondary schools.
- An MoU was signed between the Government, UN System and Caritas.

II. Situation Overview

According to government figures, the number of people affected by floods remains at 680,000.

Although it is still raining in some parts of the country, the dry season is expected in the coming weeks.

The humanitarian response is underway. In several affected departments, humanitarian organizations are providing relief assistance to floods' victims.

On 9 November, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Jacques Diouf, visited Benin to assess the food security situation for eventual FAO support. Mr. Diouf appreciated the work done by United Nations agencies and he seized the opportunity to attend the launching ceremony of the EHAP.

High humanitarian concerns remain about the risk of waterborne diseases when the water recedes.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Early Recovery

- The terms of reference defining the scope and objectives of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) are being finalized. The Government will lead the PDNA in close collaboration with the European Union, the World Bank and United Nations agencies. The PDNA will focus on a number of priority areas including agriculture, food security, urbanism, spatial planning and climate change. Two cross-cutting issues will also be addressed, namely institutional capacity building for early warning and disaster risk reduction.

Education

- Since 7 November, joint rapid needs assessment missions, comprising of several teams led by the Ministries of Primary and Secondary Education, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have been carried out in the Departments of Atlantique/Littoral, Borgou/Alibori, Collines/Atacora, Mono/Coffou and Ouémé-Plateau/Zou to assess the status of 20% of all the schools affected by the flooding. The last team is expected to return to Cotonou on 12 November.
- A total of 72,000 educational kits to cover the needs of 70,000 pupils and 2,000 teachers and 50 childhood development kits, have been ordered. UNICEF has already purchased 40,232 kits to be distributed in line with the outcome of the assessments. In addition, Plan Benin has already made available 3,000 school kits for affected children in their areas of intervention (Atacora, Mono and Zou).

Food Security

- The cluster reports that this week food distributions will target almost 29,000 people with 373.6 tons of food in the Departments of Atacora, Atlantique, Couffo, Ouémé, Mono and Zou.
- Since the start of the operation on 25 October, a total of 41,724 people have received more than 501 tons of food thanks to distributions carried out by the World Food Programme (WFP), Caritas and Plan International.
- According to the assessment missions carried out last week by FAO out of 55 municipalities affected, 13 have experienced the major loss in terms of agricultural production. As a result, FAO, in collaboration with the sub-regional office for emergency operations, has prepared an emergency programme to provide agricultural material in order to boost agricultural production.

Health

- Malaria is of high concern in the affected areas. Field reports recorded new cases of malaria in the Departments of Alibori, Atlantique, Littoral, Mono and Zou, which is to be expected as waters recede. The cluster is planning an assessment mission next week in these areas to ascertain the situation.
- Monitoring activities of the cholera outbreak are continuing in Cotonou, the area with the highest number of cases. 24 new cases were reported last week, bringing the total number of cholera cases to 911.
- Medicines are being ordered at the Central Purchasing Center of Cotonou. The medicines that are already available at the center will be dispatched in the coming days to the Departments of Alibori, Cotonou, Kufo, Mono and Zou. More malaria treatments are needed, as only 3,000 of them are currently available, against 20,000 ordered by the cluster.

Nutrition

- From 10 to 12 November UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) are undertaking an assessment mission in the Departments of Ouémé and Plateau to identify the needs and ensure appropriate responses.
- The cluster, with the United Nations communication group support, is preparing communication materials for community health workers who are expected to support nutritional activities. The cluster is working in collaboration with the WASH cluster in the preparation of training sessions for community health workers on nutritional issues.

Logistics

- The cluster is providing coordination as well as logistical expertise to humanitarian partners.
- The cluster has completed a water transport assessment in the Grand-Popo area. The area covered by the assessment stretches from Grand-Popo about 18 km in direct line to the East and covers the coastal part of the River Mono and the lagoon around the Bouche du Roy up to River Aho, which is the connection to Lake Ahémé further to the North. The assessment found out that there are sufficient transport capacities to undertake relief operations in the area. Approximately 12 boats are available for rent through local boat owners. The boats are motorized and can safely transport 2 to 2.5 tons of life-saving relief items to isolated villages such as Avloh, Hilhoué, Houdanou, Kouéta and Loti. In addition, the mission found that there is no shortage of fuel in the area. A full report including maps and pictures will soon be available on <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ben10a>.
- The cluster has initiated the collation of the information regarding incoming bilateral assistance and shared the current stock of non food items with all the partners.
- Information on incoming donations could also be sent, in addition to the Secretariat, to Logistics Cluster Team (tobias.stoehr@wfp.org, lucien.jaggi@wfp.org) for planning of the logistics aspects of the humanitarian response, such as storage and transport.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

- On 6 November the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) visited the site in Kpokissa where currently 737 displaced persons are being sheltered in 120 tents. UNHCR also visited the site in Ouinhi where 1,212 people are living in 160 tents installed last week. During the current week, 30 additional tents have been installed in Ouinhi to shelter some additional 150 displaced persons, bringing the total number of persons sheltered on this site to 1,362.
- In Zagnanado (Department of Zou) 150 tents are being installed by UNHCR and its implementing partners.
- On 11 November a mission visited Athiéme to confirm the needs in terms of shelters and to install 150 tents, once the sites have been cleared. The Mayor informed that at least 400 tents are needed in his municipality. Non-food items will also be distributed to the affected population.
- According to an assessment mission carried out last week in the North of the country, 977 tents are needed in the Malanville and Karimama areas along the river bank to cover the needs of 4,885 people currently displaced by floods. Furthermore, some 400 tents are needed in and around Tchaourou. A first convoy delivering at least 400 tents will depart at the end of this week.
- On 11 November Caritas started distributing mats, jerry cans, blankets in Grand Popo, Kpokissa, Ouinhi and Zagnanado, targeting the residents of the respective sites.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- Monitoring evaluation visits are ongoing in the East and Centre of the country, in the municipalities of Adjohoun, Bonou, Dangbo, Ounhi and Zagnanado.
- The cluster is also looking into water and sanitation facilities in the camps of the Department of Zou, where

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the displaced are being hosted after receiving tents from UNHCR.

- Water distribution activities are taking place in Cotonou and Zagnanando in collaboration with firemen. In addition, 144,000 aquatabs are being distributed this week in the North of Benin, in Karimama, Malanville and Tchaourou.
- The campaign to disinfect wells will continue in Cotonou. As of today, 837 wells have been treated benefitting 1,797 households.

IV. Coordination

- Cluster and Inter-clusters meetings are being held regularly with the support of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Information Management is being strengthened by the creation of a 3W database and of a webpage to facilitate information sharing.
- On 8 November a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government, the UN System and Caritas. Caritas was appointed as the representative of humanitarian NGOs and the national Red Cross for response to the emergency.

V. Funding

On 9 November, the Emergency Humanitarian Action Plan (EHAP) was launched in Cotonou during a ceremony chaired by the Minister of Interior and Public Security (who is also the President of the National Committee for Crisis Management) in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Decentralized Governance, the Minister of Family Affairs and the High Commissioner of National Security. The Director General of FAO, Jacques Diouf attended the launch, during which the UN Resident Coordinator in Benin, Nardos Békélé-Thomas, presented the EHAP.

On 4 November relief items donated by the Government of Japan arrived in Cotonou. Relief goods include tents, mats, blankets, tarpaulins and plastic sheets. The Government of France also recently donated US\$ 130,000 to assist floods' victims.

On 8 November the Libyan Government also donated some relief items, including flour, mats, tents and hygiene kits.

For all financial contributions received so far, please refer to:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fts.nsf/doc105?OpenForm&rc=1&cc=ben>

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

VI. Contact

Cotonou: Nardos Békélé-Thomas, UN Resident Coordinator in Benin

nardos.bekele_thomas@one.un.org, +229 21 31 3045/46 /79

OCHA Cotonou: Lily Adhiambo, Humanitarian Affairs Officer

adhiambo@un.org, +229 66 55 6291

OCHA Cotonou: Stefania Trassari, Public Information Officer

trassari@un.org, +229 66 55 6281

OCHA Dakar: Noel Tsekouras, Deputy Head of West Africa Regional Office

tsekouras@un.org, +221 33 869 8535 ; +221 77 450 2132

OCHA New York: Anne-France White, Humanitarian Affairs Officer

white5@un.org +1 212 963 1172

For more information on Benin emergency, please visit www.reliefweb.int

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