



COMOROS

Humanitarian
Situation Report
24 April 2019

unicef 

SIT REP NO # 1: CYCLONE KENNETH

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- As of 24 April, Tropical Cyclone Kenneth, a category 1 storm (speeds of up to 110 kph) is expected to impact on the Union of Comoros.
- An estimated 150,000 people mainly north and east of the island of Grande Comore are under threat. There is a high risk of flooding over the whole territory and particularly on the island of Anjouan.
- Of those in need, 67,800 are children and 41,800 women.
- UNICEF Comoros has launched its contingency and immediate response plan as part of the national emergency plan and has prepared emergency relief materials to provide an immediate response to the humanitarian situation.
- An estimated **150,000 people** are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- This includes an estimated **67,800 children**.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

On 23 April, a tropical storm north of Madagascar began to strengthen and was named Tropical Cyclone Kenneth, a category 1 storm with speeds of up to 110kph). In the Comoros, the Direction Générale de la Sécurité Civile (DGSC) triggered a yellow cyclone alert on 23 with the expectation that northern Comoros will be hit by a cyclone, as of 24 April. Based on the sectoral preparedness plans, it is estimated that at least 150,000 people located mostly on the northern and eastern part of Ngazidja island and part of the Anjouan island are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of those in need, 67,800 are children and 41,800 women. Flood risk is high on the entire archipelago. The situation is likely to deteriorate further, and the number of people affected is likely to increase. The priority focus of the response remains on health, wash and shelter.

The Comorian Government has taken the lead to respond to the crisis supported by UN agencies and the Red Crescent. However, Government capacities to respond remain a key issue, particularly significant weakness in sectoral response. Partners on the ground have limited capacity and there is no cluster approach in Comoros. Limited access due to damaged roads is another important predicted constraint. With all national transport suspended, limited power supply and phone connectivity, logistic is a real challenge. Flooding due to heavy rains is expected to increase in the coming days, as response operations will be affected by the extent of the floods.

Among the affected population, it is estimated that 65 per cent use rainwater harvesting as their main source of water, while 35 per cent are connected to a water supply system. While rainwater will be available, some cisterns may be damaged, and most should be considered as contaminated. The water supply system (Mbeni and Mitsamiouli) will primarily be affected by power cuts, preventing pumping and hampering water supply. People will revert to rainwater, which will be available.

From 24 April, Government facilities including schools are closed, and UN staff work from home. Inter-agency appeal will be decided upon the rapid assessment.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The UNCT deployed the members of the inter-agency DRR/DRM Task Force to assist the Government in the preparedness activities, including intersectoral coordination with the national authorities and humanitarian actors. National actors are led by the Government with support from civil society organizations and UN partners. Several clusters were already activated: food security, health and nutrition, WASH, shelter and NFIs, education and protection, and logistics (including communication and security).

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF strategy consists of interventions in health, nutrition, wash, education, child protection and communication for development (C4D) all of which were designed and prioritized to address the needs of people currently facing humanitarian situation at national level. Interventions are currently being coordinated with government at central levels, and have been guided by numerous assessments, including the Government and UN under the leadership of the COSEP. UNICEF humanitarian interventions are complementary to government. UNICEF strategy aims at providing timely immediate humanitarian assistance to children and women while addressing long-term development needs by focusing on:

- **Nutrition:** address nutritional status of under-5s.
- **Health:** support the Government to re-establish health services for affected communities and to ensure critical health supplies are available for outreach services.
- **WASH:** support sector coordination and evaluate reconstruction needs, reestablish access to drinking water, water purification, Access to appropriate sanitation and hygiene facilities and NFIs (soup and water containers) for the most vulnerable with property/house damage;
- **Education:** support out of school children to access quality learning opportunities and recreational activities.
- **Protection:** gender-based violence prevention and response services for women and children, and support to the most vulnerable families with unconditional monetary transfers to meet their basic needs, with a view to boosting recovery efforts;
- **C4D:** people will be reached with key life-saving and behavior change messages on health, WASH nutrition, education and protection.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF Comoros has launched its contingency and immediate response plan as part of the national emergency plan and has prepared emergency relief materials to provide an immediate response to the humanitarian situation as it unfolds. The UNICEF Comoros team is closely monitoring the situation, along with partners, and will respond accordingly. The following resources and supplies are available for immediate response:

- Some emergency contingency stocks are in place in Grande Comore for the initial response, including WASH materials (seals, flexible jerrycans, bladder, water tank and emergency toilets), health (midwifery kits, oxygen extractor and LLINs), nutrition (RUTF, F75 and F100) and Education (recreation kits and school-in-a-box).
- Re-programmed US\$100,000 of Regular Resources for immediate response to the emergency. Additional funding will be required if impact fallouts are substantial.
- Staff are deployed to the field to determine the impact and assess the situation with Government and partners.

UNICEF has no stocks available on Anjouan and Mohali, this could present a major challenge if there is flooding on the two other islands. Potential communication and transport challenges between islands are likely.

The following sector response activities are being planned, depending on the scale of the emergency:

Health: Organize outreach and fixed-point health services to displaced communities, organize outpatient sessions for children, providing basic curative and preventatives services aligned to national protocols (IMNCI), procurement and distribution of vitamin A, 4 interagency kits, 19,000 ITNs, and support community health workers to deliver key preventive messages

Nutrition: Training and logistic support for active acute case screening through MUAC, and referral and treatment of SAM children. Procurement and distribution of RUTF and other nutritional commodities used for treatment of SAM cases.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene - WASH: Provision of sector coordination, provision of access to safe water, provision of access to appropriate sanitation and hygiene facilities, Procurement of essential NFI soap, water containers) and dissemination of information on Safe water, sanitation and hygiene

Figure 1: Map showing different water sources in Ngazidja (from SIEC) (estimation)

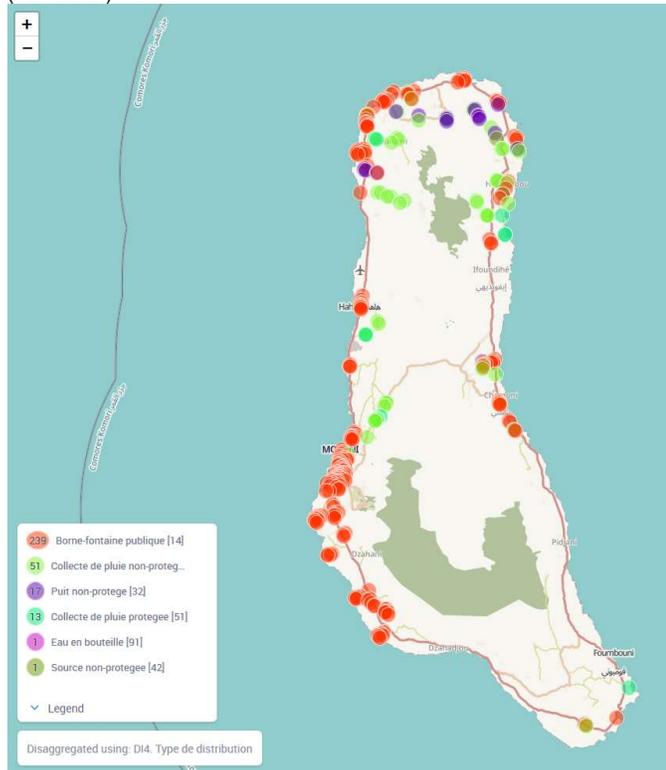
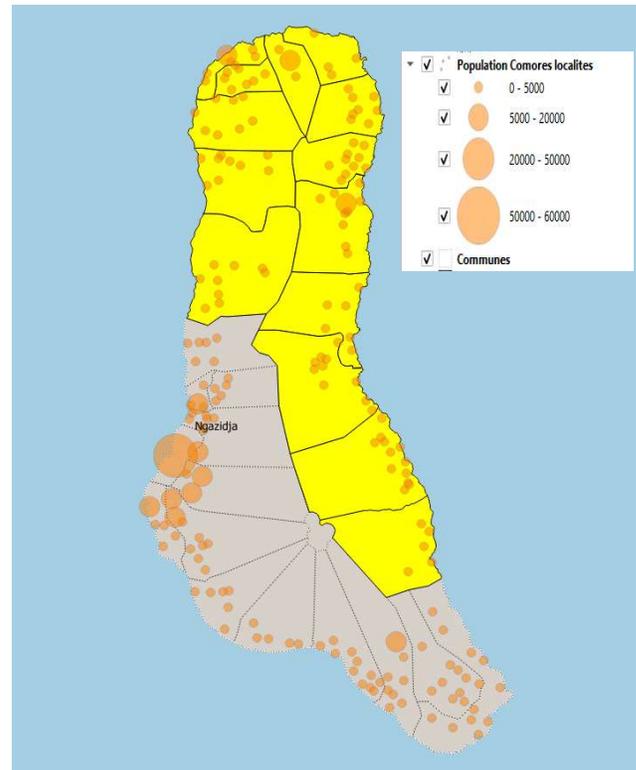


Figure 2: Population spots and most affected communes



Education: Procurement of materials for construction of temporary school facilities (tents), school-in-a box learning materials, and learner kits, provision of technical support and build capacity for construction and setting up of tarp tents. Provision of technical support on the use of ECD kits for preschoolers in safe learning spaces.

Social Protection: Support to the most vulnerable families with unconditional monetary transfers.

Communication for Development (C4D): ensure delivery of effective communications the number of people reached with key life-saving and behavior change messages on WASH, health, nutrition and child protection through face-to-face approaches. Through the Nutrition and WASH programmes implementation

Funding

The overall financial needs of the humanitarian response will be determined following the finalization of response plans. However, based on initial estimates, US\$530,000 will be needed to cover the immediate humanitarian needs of the affected population. UNICEF is allocating funding through an internal loan (EPF) to ensure capacity is available to respond. Detailed funding requirement will be outlined in the next Situation Report.

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