LOCATION
Mogadishu, WFP Country Office

DATE
19 March 2024

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action against Hunger (AAH), ADRA, COOPI, Concern Worldwide (CWW), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Islamic Relief Somalia, Medair, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), NGO Consortium, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Save the Children (SCI), Secours Islamique France (SIF), Shelter Box, Somaus Help Inclusion, Secours Islamique France (SIF), Trocaire, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nation Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Vision.

ACTION POINTS
• The Logistics Cluster team to coordinate with the Health Cluster to facilitate a presentation on the current Cholera situation in Somalia.
• The Logistics Cluster team to provide an update on the way forward regarding the Certificate of Conformity (CoC).
• The Logistics Cluster team to send an email to partners listing key locations still requiring boat capacity.
• The Logistics Cluster team to finalize the cost of transporting vehicles to various locations in Somalia for each partner.

AGENDA
1. Action Points Review
2. Situation Update
3. Forecast for 2024 Gu Long Rains Season – Logistics Implications
4. AOB

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 5 March were reviewed:

• The Logistics Cluster to share the two-pager on the newly implemented Certificate of Conformity (CoC) and its impact on humanitarian operations with OCHA. [completed]
• The Logistics Cluster team to schedule a training session for partners on RITA, the new cargo tracking system. [completed]
• The Logistics Cluster team to schedule a meeting with partners on the transportation of vehicles from Mogadishu to other locations in Somalia. [ongoing]
The Logistics Cluster team to share the rain forecast analysis with partners. [completed]

The Logistics Cluster team, in collaboration with WFP, to conduct an assessment of the Garad seaport. [ongoing]

2. Situation Update

Physical Transport Network Updates:

- Most major overland supply routes in Jubaland, South-West, and Hirshabelle are not accessible.
- Due to insecurity, standard trucking routes from Burco to Laascanood town are still disrupted.

Bridges

- The bridges in Bardheere, Baidoa, Bulo Burte, Buurduhubo, Kamsuma, Araara, and Wirkooy are currently not accessible.
- The bridge in Luuq and Bu’alle is only passable with light vehicles.

Air Transport Updates:

- Currently, access to Yeed, Rabdheere, Afmadow, Buurduhubo, El-Berde, Elwaak, Qansaxdhere and Garbahreyy is restricted to helicopter transportation only.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently utilizing one helicopter and one fixed-wing aircraft for cargo transport via air.
- Certain airstrips require urgent rehabilitation due to lack of maintenance and last year’s floods.

Sea Transport Updates:

- All seaports remain operational: Mogadishu, Berbera, Bosasso, Kismayo, and Garacad.
- The time-chartered vessel contracted by WFP is currently at sea to Bossaso.
- Following the vessel’s departure from Bosasso on 24 March, the vessel is scheduled to arrive in Berbera on 26 March.
- The updated sea transport schedule has been shared on the Logistics Cluster website.
- Partners with cargo for transport from Mogadishu to the north of Somalia are kindly requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster at somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
3. Forecast for 2024 Gu Long Rains Season – Logistics Implications

Below, we provide an overview of the Food and Agriculture Organization’s Somalia Water and Land Information Management (FAO SWALIM) Project’s climate outlook for the 2024 Gu Long Rains Season and its expected implications on humanitarian logistics:

Somalia’s Gu (April-May-June) is the main wet season in the country. The Gu rains intensify in April with the onset progressing northwards and eastwards.

- According to the seasonal climate forecast released by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), predictions indicate a 55% probability of above-normal rainfall (wetter than usual conditions) across most areas of Somalia.
- In the south these above-normal rains are likely over Gedo, Bay, and most parts of Bakool regions.
- In the north, chances of above-normal Gu rains are particularly high over Bari, Nugaal, Sool, Sanaag and Awdal regions, Hargeisa district in Woqooyi Galbeed region, and the southern parts of Togdheer region.
- Above-normal rains are also likely over Mudug and Galgduud regions in the central parts of the country.

River Level Analysis

- Currently, water levels along the Juba River (Dollow, Luuq, Buurdhubo, Baardhere, etc.) are higher than the long-term average.
- There has been a significant increase in water levels in Luuq and at Bualle, levels are above both the long-term average and the 2023 level.
- Along the Shabelle River, levels are much lower than the long-term averages. However, it is worth noting that last year, despite low river levels at Belet Weyne in March 2023, heavy rains in the Ethiopian Highlands led to devastating floods a month later. This highlights how quickly the situation can change with the onset of rains.
- The levels along both the Juba and Shabelle Rivers are expected to remain low until the start of the Gu rains. There is typically a lag between storm events and runoff, so a noticeable peak in river levels will be observed days after the start of the rains.
- The Shabelle River is particularly known for a longer lag of between 10 to 15 days between heavy rainfall over the Ethiopian Highlands and peak flows, posing flooding risks at Belet Weyne. A similar lag is observed between Belet Weyne and Bulo Burte.
- In contrast, the Juba River typically responds relatively instantaneously to storm events within its catchments.

Drought Analysis:

- ICPAC’s analysis of drought using the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), based on observed and predicted precipitation, suggests the likelihood of normal conditions between March and May 2024 across most regions of the country.
- Over the long term (March 2023 – March 2024), the SPI analysis indicates severely wet conditions in the Gedo region and surrounding areas in the southwest, as well as moderately wet conditions in certain parts of Hirshabelle, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Togdheer regions, and the Sool-Sanaag border areas.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som2024
Expected Impacts and Anticipatory Action

- The prediction of higher-than-average Gu rainfall in both Somalia and the Ethiopian Highlands might result in intermittent heavy rainfall, potentially leading to moderate to high risks of flooding, depending on the duration of these wet periods. Forecasts suggest the possibility of 4 to 6 consecutive days of rain over the Juba and Shabelle basins.
- Depending on the extent of flooding and subsequent population displacement, various social challenges may arise, such as a shortage of shelter, food, and clean water, an increase in waterborne diseases, and family separation, among other issues.

Preparedness for 2024 Gu Long Rains Season – boat prepositioning:

- The Logistics Cluster is coordinating closely with OCHA, other Clusters, and partners to make preparations for the approaching Gu rainy season.
- Based on the analysis from SWALIM, the Somalia Logistics Cluster team has conducted an assessment of boat prepositioning and identified locations in need of additional capacity, as outlined below:
  - Currently, there are 51 boats strategically positioned at various locations along the Juba and Shabelle rivers
  - Along the Juba river, boats are prepositioned in the following areas:
    - 5 boats in Dollow
    - 4 boats in Luuq
    - 2 boats in Buurdhubo
    - 6 boats in Baardheere
    - 2 boats in Afmadow
    - 4 boats in Kismayo
  - Along the Shabelle river, boats are prepositioned in the following areas:
    - 9 boats in Beletweyne
    - 2 boats in Bulo Burte
    - 3 boats in Jalalaqsi
    - 11 boats in Jowhar

Locations at risk for riverine flooding

- SWALIM conducted an analysis on areas potentially impacted by riverine floods. Prioritized locations were determined based on river breakages measuring 10 meters and above, considering their proximity to major towns and significant settlements.
- The following regions are identified as potentially at risk of riverine flooding along the Juba River:
  - Locations identified as being at the highest risk for riverine flooding (priority 1):
    - Dollow
    - Luuq
  - Locations identified as being at the second highest risk for riverine flooding (priority 2):
    - Bu’alle
    - Jamame
  - Locations identified as being at the third highest risk for riverine flooding (priority 3):
    - Jilip

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The following regions are identified as potentially at risk of riverine flooding along the Shabelle river:

- Locations identified as being at the highest risk for riverine flooding (priority 1):
  - Beletweyne
- Locations identified as being at the second highest risk for riverine flooding (priority 2):
  - Bulo Burte
- Locations identified as being at the third highest risk for riverine flooding (priority 3):
  - Jalalaqsi
- Locations identified as being at the fourth highest risk for riverine flooding (priority 4):
  - Balad
  - Afgoye
  - Jowhar
  - Kurtunwaarey

Currently, all locations potentially affected by riverine floods have sufficient boats, except for Balad, Afgoye, and Kurtunwaarey. Therefore, it is recommended that partners consider prepositioning boats to any of these locations.

Additionally, locations at risk for flash floods, including Baidoa, Galkayo, and Qardho, currently do not have any boats or inflatable boats prepositioned.

The Logistics Cluster will serve as the primary coordinating entity for boat monitoring and prepositioning. Partners with any inquiries regarding boat prepositioning are encouraged to reach out to annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org.

The Logistics Cluster has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for boat usage.

4. AOB

- Partners have requested the Logistics Cluster to coordinate with the Health Cluster to facilitate a presentation on the current Cholera situation in Somalia.
- The Formal Education Network for Private Schools (FENPS) has requested to conduct a presentation on climate resilience during the upcoming Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting.
- Discussion topics for the next Logistics Cluster Meeting can be shared with annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org.
- The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place on 2 April 2024 at 11:00 am EAT, online.

**Contacts**

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