
Current Context

According to the Seasonal Climate Forecast issues by IGAD's Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), there is a 55% likelihood of above-normal rainfall occurring over most parts of Somalia from April 2024 ([SWALIM, March 2024](#)). This poses a particular challenging for locations in the South of Somalia, where many locations are already difficult to access either due to security concerns or physical limitations such as lack of road infrastructure. During the recent floods in late 2023, numerous bridges in the southern regions were damaged and are currently impassable (refer to Annex I), while airstrips and road segments have also been affected, necessitating urgent repairs. The insufficient funding for infrastructure restoration has left the southern regions of Somalia in a precarious situation, with ongoing difficulties in accessing affected areas. With the imminent onset of further rains, access is expected to become even more challenging, with the few functional bridges at risk of becoming impassable and airstrips and roads facing additional damage. Currently, out of 25 airstrips in southern Somalia, nine are only accessible by helicopter (refer to Annex II) due to security concerns or airstrip damage. As the rainy season approaches, it is anticipated that more airstrips will become inaccessible to fixed-wing aircraft and will only be accessible by helicopter.

Operational Highlights

Coordination

- The Somalia Logistics Cluster facilitated two National Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings on 5 and 19 March 2024.
- Furthermore, the Logistics Cluster has assessed the current boat capacity and their functionality along the two rivers, Juba and Shabelle. The assessment highlighted a total of 51 boats operating across these two rivers ([Refer to Log.ie](#)). Out of the 51 boats, two boats are currently not functional.
- Additionally, with the support of Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), the Logistics Cluster has identified the locations most prone to riverine flooding. Based on this evaluation, recommendations have been presented to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) regarding the strategic placement of boats. Key priority locations for riverine flooding include: Belet Weyne, Bulo Burte, Jalalaqsi, Balad, Afgoye, Afgoye Jowhar, Kurtunwaarey, Dollow, Luuq, Saakow, Bu'aale, Jamaame, Jilip, and Sakow.
- The Logistics Cluster has been actively advocating for the exemption of the Certificate of Conformity (CoC) for humanitarian cargo. Following the meeting with the Somalia Bureau of Standards (SOBS), it has been agreed that the SOBS will conduct individual assessments with partners to ensure compliance with the documentation requirements for exemption from the CoC. Once verified, humanitarian partners will receive an official letter of exemption.
- Furthermore, the Logistics Cluster is closely collaborating with United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to deploy a Buffalo aircraft for short-term assignments in Somalia. This aircraft will facilitate the transportation of vehicles to various locations in Somalia on behalf of partners.

Information Management

- The Logistics Cluster has published the Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) on the Logistics Cluster [website](#). The GNA is a collaborative effort between the Logistics Cluster and its partners to identify common logistics gaps that hinder the efficient and cost-effective delivery of humanitarian aid in Somalia.
- The Logistics Cluster has implemented a new cargo tracking system called the Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA). The objective of RITA is to streamline the process for partners to submit cargo requests and to monitor the status of these requests more effectively. Trainings on how to use the RITA system have been facilitated during the months of March to support partners in the implementation process.

Operation Overview, March 2024

Somalia



Common Logistics Services

- In March 2024, the Logistics Cluster played a crucial role in transporting 81 metric tons of cargo to hard to reach areas, providing support to five cluster: Nutrition, WASH, Health, Education, and Shelter. The cargo was transported on behalf of seven partners to seven locations.

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