

Somali Cluster of Kenya

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Floods In The Somali Cluster

Introduction and Background

This report highlights the current flood situation in the Somali Cluster. Since 2008 the Cluster had experienced severe drought adversely affecting the livelihood of the inhabitants due to losses of many livestock. However, following the November 2009 light showers and with improved conditions of their livestock most of the pastoralist moved had moved back to their homes by January 2010. The situation was however short-lived as from March 2010 the Cluster began to receive heavy rains with floods displacing families, destruction of property and roads. Reports from CEWARN Field Monitors had indicated that many families were affected and the worst hit areas include, Moyale, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir and Mandera Districts. The Kenya Meteorological Department had predicted in February 2010 that the long rains were expected to last till June 2010

Current Situation

The heavy rains experienced in the Somali Cluster have led to flooding, displacement families destruction of property, and roads have been cut off. Below are the areas that were affected.

AREA	DATE	SITUATION
Moyale	8/03/2010	This area of reporting is in the Upper Eastern Region of Kenya; heavy winds blew off roof tops of three classrooms, a store and an administration block in Anone Primary School. Property of unknown value was destroyed. 125 pupils and six teachers lost their property. In Dori village, Moyale District, 66 people were displaced by floods, while 200 goats and sheep, and 80 cattle were reported missing
	15-16th/04/2010	169 households were affected in Moyale after heavy rains in Ethiopia resulted in flash floods. Areas affected were Nana, Bor, Anona, Madoadi and Waye Goda, in Kinisa Location. A large water pan was also destroyed by flood waters in the area causing destruction of a fruit and vegetable farm run by a local self-help group.
Marsabit,	8/03/2010	A heavy storm destroyed 40 granaries in the area and at least 200 houses swept away and one person died. 100 households were affected in Bulganba. On the same day heavy rains and storms were experienced in Burgabo, Tigo, Bobisa, Shegeni and Chalbi areas, the storm blew

		away the rooftops of 420 houses. No casualties were reported. The floods also washed away two bridges namely Marsabit and Serena.
Isiolo		200 families were displaced and 200 goats and sheep were swept away by floods. Five people were reported missing.
Mandera	29/04/2010	Heavy rains caused an earth dam in Shimbir Fatuma in Mandera District to collapse releasing waters which displaced about 568 households and destroyed pit latrines. More that 100 livestock were swept by the floods.

Implications

- 1. Cholera/Typhoid outbreak** – The floods in Mandera have led to the flooding of pit latrines and wells were submerged. This is likely to lead to the out break of cholera and typhoid in the area, the same applies to high probability of malaria in the area because of the flooding.
- 2. Roads:** The heavy rains have rendered the roads impassable in the Isiolo Moyale road and other roads. This has greatly hampered access to some of the areas. Humanitarian organizations cannot reach the communities to distribute food and non-food items, and other relief necessities.
- 3. Markets:** The floods have hampered access to markets thus affecting business in the community.

Recommendations

1. Kenya and Japan Governments are currently in talks to improve early flood warning systems through the use of satellite technologies. According to Water Resources Management Authority once the agreement is finalized, boosters will be set up in Nairobi to monitor weather patterns in the country. There is need to speed up this process.
2. Need to mobilize both local and international resources for humanitarian assistance and relief provision.
3. The government needs to mobilize the medical and veterinary teams at districts level to respond to any disease outbreaks.