**Context**

Low lying areas along the Niger River which marks Benin’s North-Western border, have been severely affected by recent flooding. The Logistics Cluster team conducted a transport assessment collecting information on affected areas.

Existing maps (see below) are not sufficient guides, as villages are located or named incorrectly and information on roads and tracks is patchy.

The assessment was conducted in villages throughout Malanville. Some of the areas were completely cut off during the floods and others were partially inaccessible.

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**West of Malanville**

Karimama and villages up to Garbe Kouara can be supplied by trucks during the dry season. 5 mt trucks would be ideal and 8 mt trucks is the maximum capacity reported to have passed the bridge between Dekarcui and Birni Lafia south of Karimama.

The condition of the road is bad but access is not threatened. However, during the rainy season, roads will be very slippery.

To the North of Gorouberi (see map below) the road has been flooded but remains in reasonably good condition. However, it should be noted that villages to the North of this stretch will be cut off again if flood were to occur.
For the current dry season, access by truck to Tin-Tin, Bari-Kani, Alafari, Toyo, Kompanti and Garbe Kouara is given.

The affected village Kompa 34 km from Karimama cannot be accessed by trucks due to a narrow bridge restricting access. As for the village only one kilometre from the bridge, the distribution point was established at the bridge.

Past Kompa all the way to the North, the road becomes a mere track through the bush and is even difficult to travel using 4x4 vehicles.

River transport is the only suitable way to transport humanitarian relief items to camps in Monsey and Pechinga. It can be launched from a good loading point to the South-East of Karimama. The crossroads to reach it from the main road at GPS position N 12°02’45.10”, E 3°12’05.47”, 3.5 km to the South East from the centre of Karimama. From this crossroads 1.2 km to the east, the small path is suitable for trucks given due care, the charging point is at N 12°02’55.03”, E 3°12’42.58”.

There are three boats that are available for river transport. A motorised flat bottom boat (15 mt) with 75 hp needs half a day to reach Monsey barques, a small (2 seats) but fast boat which needs 2 hours for the way to Monsey, and navy-operated boat with no freight capacity can be organized. The contact for all of these vessels is the mayor of Karimama Dr. Belou Mossa (95 03 22 92). Please note that any transport has to be planned well in advance and boats should be rented at least 2 days before the day of transport.

In the arrondissement of Garou and Madecali to the East of Malanville, transport by road is possible. The access to two existing camps, 5 km East of Garou and in directly south of Madicali, is difficult but possible with small trucks of up to 8 tonnes.
Erosion has caused a number of considerable obstacles but roads were restored enough to guarantee utility.

Sources: LogCluster

The very sandy condition of some stretches of tracks in this area is likely to increase the care required when driving in this area over the coming dry season.

Other remarks

The RN 2 between Kandi and Parakou, the only paved road in this part of the country, and is in very bad condition. Some parts of the roads are being repaired. Also the road between Allada and Bohicon in the South is problematic. Thus, allow for 12-13 hours in a 4x4 excluding breaks for the 733 km from Cotonou to Malanville and two days by truck.

UNDSS asks to avoid any travel in the North after dark.

Telecommunication

Internet access using Kanakoo USB stick is possible in Malanville. Mobile phones have reception in the largest villages as well as towns such as Malanville. Locals use two phones with different providers to improve the odds of reception in villages when working there.