



Save the Children

MADAGASCAR - TROPICAL CYCLONE AND FOOD INSECURITY

KEY UPDATES

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SUMMARY

- Between January and April 2022 alone, Madagascar was hit by six storms and tropical cyclones (Ana, Batsirai, Dumako, Emnati, Gombi and Jasmine) that led to considerable damage.
- According to OCHA, cumulatively, about 960,000 people have been affected by the tropical weather systems that have impacted the island nation since January. Cyclones Batsirai and Emnati killed more than 200 people and caused significant crop and infrastructure damage, including the severe flooding of 60,000 hectares of rice fields. Tropical Storm Ana damaged a further 35,000 hectares of rice and 6,500 hectares of maize in the central prime land around Antananarivo.
- Three regions in the Grand Sud Est were greatly affected. According to the IPC, The Districts of the Grand Sud Est, with the exception of Vangaindrano, are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) even in the middle of the harvest period. Nearly 638,000 people are classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above requiring urgent action, representing 31% of the population of the districts analysed.
- According to the IPC, for the Grand Sud, although the situation remains fragile, it has improved significantly compared to April 2021, with a decrease in the population classified as IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Over the period April to August 2022, 33% of the population in the Grand Sud is still highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above). The district of Ambovombe is also in difficulty with 45% of its population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above. However, for the coming months, 1.95 million people, or more, are likely to be highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or more).
- An analysis of acute malnutrition revealed that approximately 309,000 children in the deep south of Madagascar are likely to be acutely malnourished until August 2022. This figure includes approximately 60,000 severely malnourished children.
- The government and development partners are delivering assistance to people affected by cyclones and food insecurity.
- Save the Children is providing life-saving and sustaining assistance in Antananarivo and through local Partner organizations: ASOS in Mananjary and Nosy Varika (South East, related to the cyclones), and SAF FJKM and Tompy (South, related to the food insecurity).
- Global warming and climate change have increased the risk of tropical storms, cyclones, and flooding in many parts of Madagascar. At the same time, Southern parts of Madagascar are dealing with 'the worst drought in four decades

THE IMPACT

Food Insecurity

- Since February 2022, the rainfall situation in southern Madagascar has improved significantly following the occurrence of two cyclones in the country: EMNATI and BATSIRAI. These cyclones caused significant damage in the Southeast region, but rain benefits the south of Madagascar.
- According to the IPC, May 2022, The Districts of the Grand Sud Est, with the exception of Vangaindrano, are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) even in the middle of the harvest period. The number of people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) is approximately 67,000 (including 15% of the population of Mananjary and 5% of the population of Manakara). Nearly 638,000 people are classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above requiring urgent action, representing 31% of the population of the districts analysed.
- Recent study led by FAO and Ministry of Agriculture, reported early in April 2022, exhibit a deterioration of nutritional condition and food security of people in affected areas. 50% of households in Mananjary and 41% in Nosy Varika have the low score of food diversity, the most alarming compared to all other districts. Mananjary followed by Nosy Varika also has the highest percent of household with poor food consumption score. 93% of households in Nosy Varika exhibit high reduced coping strategy index classified in crisis or in emergency.
- According to the IPC, for the Grand Sud, although the situation remains fragile, it has improved significantly compared to April 2021, with a decrease in the population classified as IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Despite the humanitarian aid that is the mainstay of the household economy, over the period April to August 2022, 33% of the population in the Grand Sud is still highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 122,000 people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), and 925,000 in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). OCHA added that despite heavy rains as a result of tropical weather systems in January and February 2022, the drought situation in the Grand Sud of Madagascar remained precarious. The district of Ambovombe is also in difficulty with 45% of its population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above.
- According to the IPC, for the coming months, both for the first projected period (September to November 2022) and for the second projection (December 2022 to March 2023), a deterioration of the food security situation is expected for the districts analysed. The global context (COVID-19, Russian-Ukrainian crisis) will affect inflation and household purchasing power. Thus, for the first projected period, 1.95 million people are likely to be highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or more), with a slight decrease in the population in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in the Grand Sud Est: this decrease is explained by the positive effects of the humanitarian aid distributed in the current period and the ongoing agricultural recovery. On the other hand, for the Grand Sud, the number of people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above could increase moderately, as this period coincides with the back-to-school and lean season. Over the peak hunger period from December to March 2023, the number of highly food insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or above) would exceed 2 million, with nearly 285,000 people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

THE IMPACT

Cyclones

According to the National Disaster Risk Management Agency's report on 10 March 2022

- There is significant damage in three regions in the South East: Atsimo Atsinanana, Vatovavy, and Fitovinany
- More than 328,209 people in need
- Seven communes heavily impacted by wind and rain
- Forty-six communes heavily impacted by rain and floods post-Batsirai/Emanati
- Forty-five humanitarian actors including Save the Children are responding in the three regions affected
- At least 205 people are reported dead as a result of Tropical Cyclone Batsirai and Emnati (OCHA, 2 March 2022)

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

In Analamanga Region

- Save the Children is supporting 1,881 school-going children, whose education was brought to a halt, due to the floods and cyclones in Antananarivo.
- We are supporting 47 teachers and four Public Primary Schools (PPEs) with teacher kits and wash kits. This will ensure that children do not miss school due to the ongoing crisis.
- We are providing cash transfers under the cash for work activities (55 parents) and distributing NFIs and dignity kits to the most vulnerable 200 households including children previously registered to attend school in the area.

In the South East

- Procurement of critical NFIs, students kits, and materials for temporary schools classrooms is underway. So far, our partner Humanity Inclusion has distributed 151 NFI kits in 5 communes.
- We are set to provide cash and Voucher Assistance to at least 1,050 vulnerable households. Each household will receive unconditional cash transfers and a household kit composed of kitchen utensils and WASH materials.
- Baseline data collection was completed and data treatment/reporting is in progress. An intermediate version of market assessment report is available and the report is being finalized by the partner.
- The contract with the Financial Service Provider (MVola) was signed. The fund is being transferred. We have selected the beneficiaries in agreement with the communities. We are setting up Accountability mechanisms. A first round of Cash transfer was done in the Commune of Andonabe. 263 Households receive cash (100,000 MGA per HH, the standard amount agreed within Cash Working Group). Mass awareness on the use of Cash to meet family and especially children's right was conducted at the start. Feedback and complaints from the communities were also collected through form and boxes. Other distributions took place on May 23rd and 24th respectively for the Communes of Ambodilafa and Androrangavola.
- Save the Children has also received confirmation of funding to provide health and nutrition assistance, as well as psychosocial first aid. JPF (Japan) and ECHO are the donors. Under the JPF Funding, SC will set up 6 Mother and Baby Areas (MBA), 2 per Commune of intervention. SC will ensure that Pregnant and Lactating Women and children under 18 have an improved access to optimal nutrition and routine health services. Save the Children will also implement activities to prevent and limit the risk of vector-borne and diarrheal diseases. Under the ECHO funding, besides the distribution of NFIs, SC will also set up some Temporary Learning Spaces. SCI will work with local community agents and health workers to ensure MBA functioning.
- Save the Children will provide tarpaulin to 400 households in collaboration with Malagasy Red Cross. Distribution of tarpaulins to 50 households will also be conducted in the Commune of Andonabe on 20th May. 350 tarpaulins will be distributed to households in the Communes of Ambodilafa and Androrangavola in the week of 30th May.
- Save the Children is prepared to support the rehabilitation of 8 schools severely damaged by the cyclone through a community approach under cash for work modality. This activity will start after the first distributions.
- Under this support, 500 community members will receive cash grants in exchange for their support for the rehabilitation work.
- We will install 8 temporary learning spaces in the schools targeted for rehabilitation and provide 1,550 student kits and 400 dignity kits. Save the Children has prioritized unconditional cash assistance in the form of grants and cash for work, child protection, WASH and education in Emergencies.
- 498 students (247 girls, 251 boys) from two public primary schools in the Fokontany Androrangavola and Andonabe – Commune of Andonabe in Mananjary district received school kits (notebooks, chalks, coloured pencils, rulers...) on 12th May 2022.
- Development of tools for community/students information and awareness on child right is underway. Message on child protection will be disseminate through diverse channels. Community awareness on child right to development was conducted during the school kits distribution in Andonabe. The accountability mechanism was also introduced to the community at the start of the distribution.
- 15 teachers (8 women and 7 men) in the Commune of Andonabe benefit from capacity building on psychosocial first aid during 3 days (6, 7, 8th May). For the Communes of Ambodilafa and Androrangavola in Nosy Varika district, 20 teachers, 3 women and 17 men, was trained on psychosocial first aid for three days from 13 to 15 May 2022. The training was focused on children's rights, trauma screening and referral system, recreational activities, case studies, life skills and hygiene and finally education for peace and tolerance (accountability and child safeguarding). Following those theoretical sessions on psychosocial first aid, a practical training will be conducted. The content and planning are being finalized with the pedagogic council of Mananjary Education circumscription.



Some children receiving school kits in Mananjary school kits, after cyclones Batsirai and Emnati in the South-East

- The procurement of tents for Mother and Baby Area (MBA) and other items on JPF project is in progress. The location where each MBA's tent will be set up was identified. Community agents that will support MBA functioning was also selected. Initially planned on week of 23rd May, Training of community agents on IYCF and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) is postponed because of the ongoing government vaccination campaign. Training/Communication and visibility tools are being developed. Baseline questionnaire is being developed by the MEAL team with the partner.
- A kick-off workshop of all projects in the South-East took place on 29th April in Mananjary. The workshop was divided into three parts. A first session was with local authorities (General Secretary of Region, Mayors of Communes, representant of Education at district level...) to introduce the projects and open discussion. A second session was with Save Japan and Kenya team to discuss in depth JPF project. The last session was with the partner ASOS to discuss on JPF implementation plan and budget management.
- Capacity building of Save the Children and the partner staff on humanitarian concepts and principles and related topics delivered by HLA took place from April 26th to April 28th in Mananjary. 20 participants attend the training with 7 women and 13 men.
- Save the Children actively participate in subcluster regular meeting in Mananjary such as intercluster, Health, FSL. Other relevant clusters have to be relaunched such as Education and Protection. Save the Children planned to be involved on that and hosted Education cluster regular meeting on 20th May 2022.
- Master IPTT and output tracker tools for all current projects are being finalized by the MEAL team with support of a MEAL advisor, an international Save the Children deployed staff.

In the South

- Save the Children and its local partners are responding to the drought crisis through three cash plus projects in the South of Madagascar in the Androy Region, Ambovombe District, in the urban municipality of Ambovombe and rural municipality of Andraignanivo.
- We reached 15,676 people (90.87% of the target), including 10,252 children (over 100% of the target).
- Save the Children, through its local implementing partners, has reached 3,028 households in cash distribution for the month of May 2022.
- 98 community volunteers were trained on several topics: Child Protection, Child Safeguarding, parenting without violence, IYCF, Cooking demonstration, Covid-19 prevention, & gender, Feed-back mechanism
- 1,000 Children and youth were trained on children's rights, child protection, safeguarding and gender equality
- 500 adults were trained on child protection, positive parenting and gender.
- -186 community leaders were trained on child protection and safeguarding, violence free parenting, positive parenting and gender equity.
- 57 community leaders, including 27 men and 37 women, on the mechanism for escalating and handling complaints and providing feedback on responses at the community level.
- 33 community sensitization meetings/knowledge fairs were held in 33 villages to raise awareness on child protection issues. In total, 9,656 people were directly affected by the sensitizations.
- Completion of the fourth round of cash transfers for 2,000 beneficiary households.
- Realization of the third round of cash transfers to 1,050 households. The amount of the transfer is 100,000 ariary corresponding to 50% of the minimum expenditure basket, in accordance with the recommendations of the working group on cash transfers.
- Save the Children runs an activity that aims to reduce poverty through the establishment of village savings loan association groups (VSLA), 300 beneficiary households divided into 15 VSLA groups benefited from technical support on the establishment and operating methods of the VSLA groups. By setting up these VSLA groups, member households will be able to improve their financial development through the local savings and loans system. Sensitization of 12 VSLA groups on the different themes promoted by the project including: child protection, safeguarding, Parenting without violence, gender equality. A total of 766 people received appropriate knowledge on the different themes promoted by the project. Setting up listening groups within VSLA groups and identifying community volunteers

- 5,154 people were reached during community outreach meetings to raise awareness on child protection issues: child labor, abuse, and harmful practices such as child marriage, how to respond, including where to report and which protective services to contact.
- 115 community leaders who also serve as community complaint management committees have gained knowledge about the different channels for escalating complaints and feedback and their roles in the mechanism.
- 160 case managements were identified. Response plan is ongoing.
- Mass screening: 929 children were screened at 5 sites in 23 villages in the rural commune of Andraignanaivo. According to the screenings, 164 children are categorized as MAM (Moderate Acute Malnutrition) and 5 children are categorized as SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition).
- Save the Children with its various local and institutional partners, carries out actions aimed at improving the food and nutritional security of vulnerable households through the distribution of multi-purpose cash and through awareness-raising and training sessions for local communities on the themes promoted by the project, in particular: the protection and safeguarding of children, gender equality, infants and young children nutrition (IYCN), Covid-19 and positive parenting.



Realization of knowledge fairs and revitalization of the Child Protection Network in the 33 villages where the project intervenes.



KEY ADVOCACY MESSAGES AND ASKS

The Climate Crisis

- The climate crisis is a child rights crisis at its core that affects children first and worst. Children bear the brunt of the actions and inactions of yesterday and today.
- Children from low- and middle-income countries, like Madagascar, will continue to bear the brunt of worsening climate change, which is linked to wider issues of inequality and failures to uphold children's basic rights, trapping them in poverty.

The Government of Madagascar

- Must act urgently to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius in the best interests of children and rapidly transition away from dependency on fossil fuels
- Increase financial commitments to help vulnerable communities and children deal with and recover from climate disasters and shocks – including funding for adaptation.
- Create a new climate finance mechanism to address loss and damage by 2023 to help address the cost of the irreversible impacts of the climate crisis to children's rights. This includes supporting communities already hit by irreversible climate impacts in the country
- Saving livelihoods saves lives. Humanitarian action must be targeted at protecting livelihoods and assets to ensure quick recovery and sustainability of assistance

Call to Action - Donors and Government

- Government and Humanitarian actors must prioritize a localized response that can be delivered as close as possible to affected communities to prevent further displacement and aggravating the humanitarian crisis
- Investment in anticipatory resilience and recovery programs that save livelihoods from the impact of the climate crisis must be the focus, so that communities have the ability to sustain themselves
- Protection mechanisms must be put in place and adequately funded to protect vulnerable groups particularly children and women from additional risks associated with displacement
- Save the Children is a partner of choice in areas devastated by frequent climate shocks in Madagascar as an organization who has proven commitment and experience in localization and locally-led crisis response. We work to ensure that our interventions are designed to increase the leadership and authority of crisis-affected communities and local actors, and that they identify their priority needs, and determine how resources are utilized.