

MADAGASCAR- TROPICAL CYCLONE AND FOOD INSECURITY

KEY UPDATES

20 April 2022

SUMMARY

- Between January and March 2022 alone, Madagascar was hit by **five storms and tropical cyclones** (Ana, Batsirai, Dumako, Emnati, and Gombi) 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.
- According to OCHA's Situation Report on Madagascar published on 16 April, at least **470,000 people are in urgent need of food assistance** in Vatovavy, Fitovinany and Atsimo Atsinanana regions according to the latest estimate published by the BNGRC after Batsirai and Emnati made landfall.
- According to OCHA's report on 31 March 2022, 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.
- According to a joint report (BNGRC, Fewsnet, UNICEF, FAO, WFP), **5 districts out of 17 are on nutritional alert** according to SSN T1 with **34 communes in an emergency in the deep South**. More than 40% of households in Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Atsinanana regions show an insufficient prevalence of food consumption between mid-February and mid-March 2022.
- The IPC analysis shows **1.64 million people in Phase 3 and above** from January to April 2022 in the Grand Sud and South-East Madagascar, including **330,000 people in Phase 4**. In the South, **1.47million people are estimated to be in Phase 3 and above** under the assumption of more optimistic rainfall conditions than the last two seasons and better coverage of food assistance provided in terms of both numbers and needs. **In May-August 2022, 1.09M people will be in Phase 3 and will be in Phase 3 and above**, including 182,000 in Phase 4.
- 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 Tomy (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

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 Emanati (OCHA, 2 March 2022)

Food Insecurity

- According to the analysis of the last IPC of December 2021, around 1.64 million people out of **the 4.41 million people in the Grand Sud and Grand southeast regions** analyzed are **experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity** (IPC Phase 3 or higher) between November and December 2021, including more than 400,000 (9% of the population analyzed) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)
- According to the preliminary results of the nutritional surveillance system from the exhaustive screening for acute malnutrition in 15 districts in the South in December 2021, of the 576,363 **children (6-59 months)** screened, approximately **53,686 (9.3%) are in general acute malnutrition (GAM) and 4,242 (0.7%) in severe acute malnutrition (SAM).** For the Androy Region, in the four districts (Bekily, Beloha, Ambovombe and Tsihombe), the number of children in GAM situation is 18,697 (11.5%) including 1207 (0.7%) in SAM situation and 17,490 (10.7%) with MAM. Individually, for the district of Ambovombe, the number of children in GAM situation is 8,219 (11.6%) including 394 (0.6%) in SAM situation and 7,825 (11%) in MAM situation.

- 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.**
- The arrival of large quantities of precipitation, allowed **the improvement of access** to water for domestic uses and especially for the revival of agricultural activities in the southern region. The agricultural results forecast for this major 2021-2022 season will see a marked improvement compared to last year. Nevertheless, it remains uncertain as the phenomena of sandstorms, insect pests, and other factors are still unknown in the coming months.
- 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.

Mobilizing Community for Better Infant Nutrition



Save the Children's Community Mobiliser Officer talks to target communities to raise awareness about infant and young child feeding

Save the Children is running a project, funded by the Dutch Relief Alliance to improve the food and nutritional situation of households and promote child protection, GBV, and child nutrition. So far, we have conducted five rounds of multi-purpose cash distribution to 2,000 households to increase flexibility and allow households to decide on priorities

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

In Analamanga region

- Save the Children is **supporting 1,800 school-going children**, whose education was brought to a halt, due to the floods and cyclones in Antananarivo, Madagascar. We are **supporting 43 teachers and four Public Primary Schools (PPEs)** with school kits, teacher kits. This will ensure that children do not miss out on learning due to the ongoing crisis.
- We are **providing cash transfers under the cash for work activities** and **distribute NFIs and dignity kits** to the most vulnerable 200 households including children previously registered to attend school in the area.



"I like this new schoolbag because it is nice to have something new. In the schoolbag, there are notebooks, pens, a pencil case... I like it because I can write with new school supplies," says, 12-year-old Larissa.

Larissa is among the 1,800 students Save the Children has provided school supplies to in Antananarivo.



Kit distribution for 43 teachers in Antananarivo.

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. We are currently performing the baseline market assessment and the baseline study in the 3 communes of Andonabe, Androrangavola, and Ambodilafa. We have selected the beneficiaries in agreement with the communities. We are setting up Accountability mechanisms.
- 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.
- 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 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.

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 23,892 people** (94.62% of the target), of which 15,225 children (60.29% of the target).
- Save the Children, through its local implementing partners, has **reached 4,550 households in cash distribution for the month of March 2022**.
- **100 community volunteers were trained on several topics**: Child Protection, Child Safeguarding, parenting without violence, IYCF, Cooking demonstration, Covid-19 prevention, & gender, Feed-back mechanism
- **200 Children and youth were trained on children's rights and gender equality**
- 68 community leaders were trained on child protection mechanisms

- Ten new Village Saving Loan Association Groups were set up to improve their livelihood.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

CALL FOR 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.

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

For more information, please contact Dasy Tatiana, Programme Director, Madagascar CO
Telephone: +261 32 03 261 75
Email: tatiana.dasy@savethechildren.org