

Alert

Madagascar

Tropical Cyclone Enawo

Nairobi, 14 March 2017

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

On 3 March 2017, Tropical storm Enawo formed in the southern Indian Ocean. The cyclone hit landfall in Madagascar on 7 March at around 10:30 am local time. Enawo is currently equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane and is a dangerous phenomenon representing a real threat to the inhabitants of the north-east coast of Madagascar. On March 8, Enawo weakened from an “intense” to a “moderate” tropical storm. The remnants of Intense Tropical Cyclone Enawo exited Madagascar on the morning of Friday 10 March 2017. The storm traversed nearly the length of the island over two days, affecting communities from north to south across Madagascar’s eastern and central regions¹. The northeastern Sava region has sustained significant damage to housing and agriculture. Antalaha port is inaccessible and more than half of the city’s homes have been destroyed. Farahalana commune is flooded by Lohoko River, with half of all housing under water. In the Analanjirofo region, more than 10,000 people are displaced (IFRC, 8 March 2017).

As at 12 March, the National Office for the Management of Risks and Crises (BNGRC) reported 295,950 people to have been affected by the cyclone, including 84,660 who remain displaced. The number of deaths due to the storm has risen to 50 with 20 people missing and 195 injured. These figures are based on information received to date and may continue to change as more areas previously inaccessible are able to be reached. The initial technical evaluation of the assessment conducted by the BNGRC and participating agencies suggests that humanitarian activities should be prioritized in Maroantsetra, where approximately 40 per cent of the population has been displaced by flooding; in Antalaha, where the cyclone made landfall and where significant damage due to high winds as well as the rain-fed rapid rise in water levels; and in the capital, Antananarivo, where 27,104 people have been displaced by flooding, flood waters have in the past proven to persist longer than in other areas. (Government/UNHCT, 12 March 2017).

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

An ACT response is needed due to the overwhelming needs of the affected populations, to address unmet needs, in spite of what government and other partners are doing. The affected population require immediate assistance that includes food, shelter, water, mosquito nets, school kits, plastic bags, construction materials and sanitation as well psycho-social and access to emergency healthcare support.

¹ <http://reliefweb.int/report/madagascar/madagascar-cyclone-enawo-situation-report-no-2-12-march-2017>

3. National and international response

The National Office for the Management of Risks and Crises (BNGRC) has dispatched staff to affected areas where the flooding has had a serious impact on the care, evacuation of victims, rescue of isolated persons and assessment of damage. Regular meetings of the Local Risk and Disaster Management Committee (CLGRC) and local humanitarian partners are organized, assessments and scaling up of emergency interventions are underway.

4. ACT Alliance response

ACT Madagascar Forum members, Eglise de Jésus-Christ à Madagascar - Dépt pour le Development (FJKM) SAF/FJKM and Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC) discussed the emergency and has continued to closely monitor the situation and are currently undertaking needs assessment through local partners and are responding to the emergency situation.

5. Planned activities

ACT Madagascar Forum members, SAF/FJKM and Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC) in collaboration with the National Office of the Risks and Disasters Management (BNGRC), is planning to respond to assist with:

- Food Distribution,
- NFIs such as light blanket, bar soap and oil
- Potable water
- Cash Distribution.

An RRF will be requested and depending on the needs assessment, a preliminary appeal could follow.

6. Constraints

The main challenge include access to the affected areas due to poorly maintained roads and a lot of damages and cuts on the roads caused by the strong floods. The 4x4 trucks and utility vehicles are being employed to manage this challenge.

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