

Alert note

Madagascar, Tropical BATSIRAI, 8th February 2022.

Completed by: SAF/FJKM

Date completed: February 7th, 2022

Forum: Madagascar

EPRP Link: To Be updated.

Type of emergency: Cyclone

Date of emergency: (5-6 February 2022)

1. The nature of the emergency

A new tropical cyclone named BATSIRAI formed over the Indian Ocean on 27 January and started moving westward, toward Mauritius, Réunion and Madagascar. On February 05, 2022, around 15.00 UCT, its centre was located at 118 kilometres from the East coast of Madagascar. The winds generated by the cyclone were 165Km/H with gusts of 235Km/H, and was moving at a speed of 19Km/H. The cyclone was equivalent to a category four cyclone on the Sapphire-Simpson scale before its impact point in Madagascar. It was pursuing a west-southwest trajectory (Reliefweb, February2022).

The cyclone made landfall around 20.00 HH local time during the night of February 5th, 2022, south of Nosy-Varika and closer to Mananjary at the stage of an intense tropical cyclone. The winds are estimated at 165Km/H at the time of impact. The cyclone is expected to lose intensity during its passage in Madagascar, and emerged at sea, in the Mozambique Channel, on February 06, 2022, around 15 hours local.

According to the bulletin n°3 of the Direction of Meteorology, the cyclone is at 183Km in the South-West of Toliara I at about 09.00 HH February 07, 2022. The winds it generates are only 65Km/H with gusts of 70Km/H.

The meteorology department has shared alerts through the media channels, urging affected communities to take different anticipatory measures including reinforcing houses (roofs, windows, doors, reinforcing food stocks (oil, rice, salt, sugar), reinforcing medicine stocks (paracetamol, Doliprane, syrup and reinforce water stocks.

Madagascar was still picking up the pieces after Tropical Storm Ana affected at least 131, 000 people across the island in late January with almost fifty-five deaths (Aljazeera, Feb 2022).

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

The impact of the cyclone was felt south of Nosy Varika and close to Mananjary. High intensity winds and torrential rains fell on all the eastern part of Vatomandry up to Vangaindrano due to the cyclone.

Since the cyclone went out to sea on February 06, 2022, the remaining cyclone warnings are the following for February 07, 2022:

There is a blue alert (Vigilance) for the areas, Morondava, Mohabo, Manja, Region Atsimo-andrefana, anosy and Androy.

Different groups of people have been affected in different ways. Vulnerability has been found to affect populations differently more especially according to their age (young adults and elderly being most affected). Those living with disability are also more affected than the able-bodied persons and women

especially those living in poverty have a particular vulnerability. According to the CRIC (Intersectoral Reflection Committee for Disasters) during a coordination meeting held in relation to BATSIRAI, it is estimated that 150,000 people may be displaced in public sites and at least 595,000 people affected. There is a request to continue to monitor the situation.

The category four cyclone "Bastia" caused the following losses, following its impact on 05 February 2022:

- Deaths: 20
- Displaced (households): 15,489

Impact:

Floods have caused electricity interruption, there has been the loss of food and non-food items, and many are not able to continue working on their farms or workplaces as casual labour, thus reducing their daily incomes. For others, we are witnessing the closure or destruction of their own source of income such as small grocery stores, other businesses, crop fields, etc. In the long term, the annual periodicity of floods leads to the disruption of crop cycles for farmers in the urban periphery, and thus causes vicious and prolonged cycles of poverty. For the most vulnerable, it may be difficult to restart their life support systems destroyed by floods.

3. Local and national capacity

When the cyclone landed, most of the population stayed at home; those who live in flooding areas were led to temporarily leave their homes and settle at the evacuation areas available in safe places (covered gymnasium, stadium, school, church). Most of them come from poor households. Women and children have been requested to evacuate; however, the males have opted to remain at the level of the dwelling huts even if they are flooded to ensure the safety of the homesteads/goods.

At national level, the operational structure under the leadership of the National Risk and Disaster Management Office (BNGRC) is coordinating emergency response actions. The BNGRC has ensured that there is continuous transmission of meteorological and hydrological information from institutions such as the Meteorological Services (DGM) and the National Authority for the Protection against Floods of the Antananarivo plains (APIPA) to partners and humanitarian actors.

- The BNGRC coordinates the various actions of the different partners in the field and provides essential information on the gaps in terms of field intervention.
- It also ensures the management of information and accommodation sites in co-lead with the different clusters.
- Each cluster is working together to ensure the effectiveness of the aid under the supervision of BNGRC and UNOCHA.
- Each cluster provides support in each relevant sector to fill gaps in resources and assistance. There are therefore eight clusters that have been activated: WASH, Health, Food Security and Nutrition (SAMS), Protection, Logistics, Education and Habitat.

The local decentralized structures are also in coordination with the BNGRC for information feedback at the local level

Resources available to deal with disasters:

- Tents (to support settling in displaced camps).
- Backhoe loaders (to clearing drainage channels to reduce flooding).
- Boats for rescue and evacuation
- Other food and non-food items provided by members of each cluster in case of emergency.

Funds:

- The government has a contingency fund managed by the BNGRC to deal with disasters
- It also has a loan from the World Bank (CAT-DDO) which can be disbursed in case of emergency

The BNGRC in collaboration with UNOCHA has a plan indicating the situation of pre-positioning stocks at the national level and therefore at the level of the different regions. The plan details the different stocks disaggregated by cluster. This plan is updated every year before the beginning of the cyclone season.

Coordination

Also, updates of the national, regional and district contingency plan are made every year before the beginning of the next cyclone season to report on the level of preparedness of each entity, local and national authority, as well as the coordination of the various actions to be conducted before, during and after a cyclone.

1. The emergency response plan is already outlined in both the National Risk and Disaster Management Strategy (NDRMS) and the National Contingency Plan, and the BNGRC is organizing itself with partners (UN, state agencies, NGOs) as an operational command centre to respond to the emergency. Actions and interventions are well implemented throughout the emergency stage
2. For the UN, the call for international assistance is triggered (this is always done if the number of affected people is more than 25,000). Activation of humanitarian funds managed by UNOCHA (emergency, cash, grant, CERF)
3. Activation of the flash appeal- agencies are on standby to activate a response from the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (**UNDAC**) as part of the international emergency response system for sudden-onset emergencies. The UN Resident Coordinator connects the clusters/ humanitarian team with the government.
4. At the operational level, UNOCHA is coordinating the support of all partners at the BNGRC level.
5. The humanitarian teams of the United Nations system and the IFRC coordinate the clusters at the operational level.

4. Key needs and gaps

According to an assessment conducted by BNGRC's on January 31, 2022, there are at least 131,000 displaced/ affected in the twelve most affected regions with most people living temporarily in schools. In addition, there is a lack of health care at the displacement camps, with a likelihood of a rapid spread of COVID-19.

Available water and sanitation/hygiene services are under pressure and school pit latrines are filling up quickly.

A more detailed assessment report showing the impact of the cyclone will be shared in a few days after BNGRCs assessment on ground is complete.

Madagascar would like to consider a Rapid Response Fund and to also launch an Appeal.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Budget Size
SAF/FJKM	Madagascar, twenty-one regions of interventions	Food Security Protection WASH Health	Equipment Activity funding Technical Expertise	To be determined
SMT FLM	Madagascar, twenty-one regions of interventions	Food Security Psychosocial support WASH Health	Equipment Activity funding Technical Expertise	To be determined

5. Potential responses

SAF/FJKM and SMT FLM operate in the affected areas.

SAF/FJKM and SMT FLM have been intervening in emergency situations in areas affected by climatic hazards such as cyclones, drought, floods.

The planned actions conducted are in the sectors of food security, education, shelter. The actions have reached between 500 and 2500 beneficiary households through cash transfer and distribution of food.

Capacity of the ACT members in Madagascar:

The two national ACT members in Madagascar are SAF/FJKM (The church of Christ in Madagascar) and SMT FLM Malagasy Lutheran Church).

SAF/FJKM has fifty-nine branches in twenty-one regions, thirty-five clinics, and twenty-four development units spread over the areas under cyclone alert. Atsinanan, Vatovavy, Fitovinany, Atsimo, Atsinanan, Mangoro, Analamanga, Bongolava, Itasy, Vakinankaratra, Amoron'lanja, Matsiatra Ambony, Ihorombe, the Districts of Soanierana Ivongo, St Marie Fenerive est.

To respond to the current emergency, SAF/FJKM and SMT FLM plan to conduct an emergency response by assistance in cash or in kind, on shelter, food assistance, protection, health, and WASH followed by early recovery on food security, shelter, and sanitation.

To respond to these actions, SAF/FJKM would require:

- logistic and financial support.
- Capacity building and technical support especially on MEAL and communication
- Networking for further fundraising