

Madagascar – Drought & Tropical Cyclone Response

APRIL 18, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>29.2 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of Madagascar</p> <p>UN – 2022</p>	<p>1.5 - 2 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population In Need of Food Assistance</p> <p>FEWS NET – February 2022</p>	<p>404,775</p> <p>Estimated Population Experiencing Emergency—IPC 4—Levels of Acute Food Insecurity</p> <p>IPC – December 2021</p>	<p>960,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Adversely Affected by Tropical Cyclones In 2022</p> <p>WFP – March 2022</p>	<p>470,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Cyclone-Affected People in Need of Assistance</p> <p>BNGRC – March 2022</p>
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- Five consecutive tropical cyclones or storms have made landfall over Madagascar since late January, resulting in at least 207 deaths, adversely affecting an estimated 960,000 people, and leaving at least 470,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the Government of Madagascar and UN.
- Drought conditions persist in large areas of southern Madagascar, despite increased rainfall associated with the passage of tropical storm systems. Between 1.5 and 2 million people in Madagascar—particularly in the south—are currently in need of emergency food assistance, according to FEWS NET. Food security is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months in the absence of additional humanitarian assistance.



TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Madagascar Response in FY 2022

USAID/BHA¹ \$39,661,398

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

Total \$39,661,398

¹USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Tropical Cyclones Adversely Affect 960,000 People Since January

Five consecutive tropical cyclones or storms—Ana, Batsirai, Dumako, Emnati, and Gombe—made landfall over eastern Madagascar between January and March, resulting in at least 207 deaths, adversely affecting nearly 960,000 people, and damaging, destroying, or inundating more than 57,000 houses, according to relief actors. In the aftermath of the storms, the Government of Madagascar's (GoM's) National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC) reported that at least 470,000 people were in need of emergency food assistance in the heavily affected regions of Atsimo-Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy alone. The BNGRC and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continue to coordinate damage assessments and early-response efforts in storm-affected areas throughout the country.

On January 22, Tropical Cyclone Ana made landfall over northeastern Madagascar's Atsinanana Region as a tropical depression, later intensifying while crossing the Mozambique Channel and making secondary landfall over Mozambique. The storm resulted in at least 55 deaths and adversely affected an estimated 132,000 people, primarily concentrated around Madagascar's capital city of Antananarivo, the BNGRC reports. Two weeks later, Tropical Cyclone Batsirai made landfall over southeastern Madagascar; storm-related winds, floods, and landslides resulted in at least 121 deaths, and damaged, destroyed, or inundated nearly 21,000 houses and more than 70 health centers.

On February 15, Tropical Cyclone Dumako made landfall over northeastern Madagascar's Analanjirofo Region. Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding associated with the storm damaged or destroyed houses, bridges, roads, and electrical power infrastructure across four districts in northeastern Madagascar, resulting in at least 14 deaths and adversely affecting more than 9,900 people, according to BNGRC.

Tropical Cyclone Emnati made landfall over southeastern Madagascar on February 23, with sustained winds of approximately 75 miles per hour, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. The storm generated high winds and widespread flooding across much of central and southern Madagascar, resulting in at least 15 deaths and damaging, destroying, or inundating at least 23,000 houses. As the fourth consecutive cyclone to hit Madagascar since late January, Tropical Cyclone Emnati increased the level of need among previously storm-affected populations, while also impacting areas previously unaffected by other recent cyclones. As a result of the impacts of Tropical Cyclones Batsirai and Emnati, at least 470,000 people in heavily affected areas of Atsimo-Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy regions require emergency food assistance, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP), while the two storms damaged nearly 285,000 acres of cropland, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Moreover, an estimated \$34.3 million is required to meet urgent humanitarian needs across the three districts over the next three months, according to a BNGRC and UN joint multi-sector assessment released on February 28.

In response to the humanitarian impacts of cyclones in southeastern Madagascar, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Amy J. Hyatt declared disasters in Madagascar for Tropical Cyclones Batsirai and Emnati on February 8 and 22, respectively, requesting assistance from USAID/BHA to support ongoing relief efforts. USAID/BHA provided an initial \$100,000 to Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and an initial \$100,000 to CARE to support the provision of urgently needed protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to storm-displaced populations residing in accommodation sites. Additionally, USAID/BHA authorized CARE to provide urgent assistance to storm-affected populations in Madagascar using existing resources from the CARE-managed Regional Response Fund.

Tropical Cyclone Gombe—the fifth tropical system to affect Madagascar in 2022—traversed northern parts of the country on March 9 as a tropical storm before strengthening over the Mozambique Channel and making secondary landfall over Mozambique’s Nampula Province as a major cyclone. The storm adversely affected at least 930 people and resulted in two fatalities in northern Madagascar, according to the BNGRC.

Drought Conditions Persist in Southern Madagascar Despite Cyclone Rains

While Tropical Cyclones Batsirai and Emnati brought increased precipitation across the Grand Sud—the area comprising southern Madagascar’s Androy and Anosy regions and parts of Atsimo-Andrefana Region—in February, overall cumulative rainfall between December 2021 and February 2022 remained below-average, WFP reports. Though cyclone-related rainfall may improve harvests in some areas of Androy and Anosy in the coming months, drought conditions persist in most parts of the Grand Sud. Satellite imagery analysis indicates that the average vegetation cover in the Grand Sud remained between 50 and 70 percent below normal levels in February, although improvements were registered in some areas. In addition, high winds and flooding associated with Tropical Cyclones Batsirai and Emnati resulted in widespread damage to crops in many areas of the Grand Sud, further threatening food security across the region.

Overall availability of food is currently below average levels across most markets in southern Madagascar, according to WFP. In addition, most staple food prices remain above-average throughout the region, with prices for rice and cassava up by more than 10 percent since February 2021, and prices for vegetable oil up by 25 percent.

Ongoing Drought in South Threatens to Exacerbate Food Insecurity

A third consecutive below-average rainy season is driving poor crop and livestock production in southern Madagascar, threatening to exacerbate ongoing acute food insecurity and malnutrition, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. Delayed and erratic rainfall during the November-to-March rainy season—with localized rainfall amounts as low as 45 percent of normal levels—have led to ongoing drought, driving deteriorating livestock conditions and reducing anticipated crop yields. In addition, limited access to agricultural inputs has led farmers to reduce areas under cultivation, while reduced agricultural labor opportunities and high staple food prices are further restricting household income and purchasing power. Moreover, many households in southern Madagascar have already exhausted coping capacity during consecutive years of drought. FEWS NET estimates that between 1.5 and 2 million people in Madagascar—concentrated in the country’s southern regions—are currently in need of emergency food assistance. While ongoing food assistance distributions are mitigating the severity of current food insecurity conditions, assistance must be extended and scaled up through at least early 2023 to prevent the deterioration of food security conditions and the development of widespread Emergency—IPC 4—outcomes in southern Madagascar, according to FEWS NET.⁵

310,000 People in Need of Agricultural Support Following Cyclones

Tropical Cyclones Batsirai and Emnati resulted in significant damage to agricultural livelihoods throughout southeastern Madagascar in February, according to a recent assessment by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The assessment indicates that more than 310,000 people in the heavily affected regions of Atsimo-Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy are in need of agricultural recovery

⁵ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

assistance. Storm-related winds and flooding damaged or destroyed nearly 285,000 acres of staple crops, including 129,000 acres of rice fields and 112,000 acres of cassava fields. Staple crops in Fitovinany's Manakara District and Atsimo-Atsinanana's Farafangana and Vangaindrano districts were most heavily affected, according to FAO.

In addition, the storms damaged or destroyed approximately 201,000 acres of cash crops—including coffee, cloves, vanilla, and bananas—and resulted in the loss of 930 heads of livestock, 2,000 beehives, and more than 30,000 poultry across the three regions. Storm surge, flooding, and high winds also damaged or destroyed fishing equipment along the coast, including more than 700 boats, 1,500 nets, and 120 fish ponds, FAO reports.

The agricultural shocks of the two storms have had significant adverse effects on food security in southeastern Madagascar. More than 50 percent of surveyed households in the affected areas reported resorting to coping mechanisms indicative of Crisis—IPC 3—or Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity in the previous 30 days. FAO is recommending the provision of widespread agricultural recovery support in the coming months, including the distribution of seeds and fertilizer for off-season staple crops, assistance with livelihoods recovery in the fishing and cash crop sectors, and the promotion of climate-sensitive agriculture techniques.

WFP Reaches More Than 300,000 Cyclone-Affected People in Madagascar

USAID/BHA partner WFP has provided emergency food assistance to more than 300,000 people affected by tropical cyclones and storms in Madagascar since January. As part of its assistance, WFP distributed more than 550 metric tons of food commodities to approximately 85,000 people and \$1 million in cash transfers for food to nearly 216,000 people throughout Analanjirofo, Antananarivo, Atsimo-Atsinanana, Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy regions. In addition, the UN agency is providing support to the BNGRC and other partners who are distributing integrated packages of food assistance, shelter materials, and WASH kits to displaced households in Fitovinany's Manakara city and Vatovavy's Mananjary city. WFP is also funding a food-for-assets project to support efforts to clear roads in Atsimo-Atsinanana's Midongy-Atsimo District, where landslide-related road damage has cut off several communities for more than a month, resulting in sharp increases in staple food prices. USAID/BHA is supporting WFP's cyclone response efforts with approximately \$3 million in FY 2022 funding, which will be used to provide 1,200 metric tons of food commodities and cash transfers to an estimated 112,000 storm-affected people in Atsimo-Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy.

KEY FIGURES



\$33.9 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for agriculture, food assistance, and nutrition programming in FY 2022

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

With more than \$34 million in FY 2022 funding, USAID/BHA is providing agriculture, food, and nutrition assistance in southern Madagascar, reaching communities experiencing acute food insecurity and malnutrition due to the ongoing, multi-year drought and other drivers. USAID/BHA supports WFP and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Action contre la Faim (ACF) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to provide emergency food assistance—in the form of U.S. in-kind food commodities, locally and internationally procured foods, cash transfers for food, and food vouchers—to help food-insecure households in Madagascar's Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Atsimo-Atsinanana, Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy regions to meet

their basic needs. USAID/BHA also supports ACF and WFP to address rising acute malnutrition rates across southern Madagascar, with funding to support the procurement of specialized nutritious foods for the prevention and treatment of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—in children and pregnant and lactating women, as well as malnutrition screening and case management services. In addition, USAID/BHA provides funding to ACF, CRS, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Potato Center to conduct activities that complement food and nutrition assistance efforts, such as bolstering agricultural production and livelihoods through the distribution of seeds and tools. In FY 2022, USAID/BHA-supported ACF continues to improve food and nutrition outcomes for vulnerable populations—including children ages five years and younger—in southern Madagascar through integrated food, nutrition, health, and WASH assistance.



\$674,000

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2022

WASH

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$674,000 in FY 2022 funding to date to ACF, Doctors of the World, and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to conduct WASH interventions across southern Madagascar and among storm-affected populations, preventing the spread of communicable diseases and reducing the prevalence of acute malnutrition. USAID/BHA-supported WASH activities continue to improve drought-affected populations’ access to safe drinking water, including the provision of emergency water trucking services across southern Madagascar. With USAID/BHA support, UNICEF also aims to provide WASH services for 20,000 storm-affected people in Fitovinany’s Vohipeno town and in Vatovavy’s Mananjary and Nosy Varika towns.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Madagascar is susceptible to numerous natural disasters—including disease outbreaks, drought, floods, pest infestations, sand storms, and tropical cyclones—that disrupt livelihoods and force households to adopt negative coping mechanisms to survive, leaving them more susceptible to future climatic shocks. Southern Madagascar in particular is susceptible to recurrent drought conditions that lead to poor harvests and decreased livestock productivity.
- Lean seasons—the periods between harvests when household food stocks are low—have lasted longer in recent years, according to WFP. Currently, populations in southern Madagascar’s Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo-Andrefana regions are facing the most extreme drought since 1981, resulting in rapidly deteriorating food security and nutrition conditions, the UN reports.
- On October 7, 2021, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires (CDA) Amy J. Hyatt redeclared a disaster in Madagascar for FY 2022 due to the drought and food insecurity crisis. USAID/BHA continues to support food-insecure communities in southern Madagascar with food assistance and other emergency interventions, including programs to improve agricultural production and revitalize livelihoods. USAID/BHA funding also supports the provision of health care, nutrition assistance, and WASH services to drought-affected communities in southern Madagascar.
- On February 8, 2022, CDA Hyatt declared a disaster in Madagascar due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Batsirai, and on February 25, 2022, CDA Hyatt declared a disaster in Madagascar due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Emnati. Overall, the 2021-2022 tropical cyclone season has adversely impacted nearly 960,000 people in Madagascar.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR RESPONSE IN FY 2022

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
ACF	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$1,500,000
CRS	Agriculture	Androy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$4,499,996
	Food Assistance	Androy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$2,530,000
Doctors of the World	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Androy, Anosy	\$1,000,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Shelter and Settlements	Fitovinany, Vatovavy	\$599,445
International Potato Center	Agriculture	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Atsimo-Atsinanana	\$2,500,000
FAO	Agriculture	Atsimo-Andrefana	\$2,000,000
UNFPA	Protection	Androy, Atsimo Andrefana	\$1,000,000

UNHAS	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Atsimo-Andrefana, Fitovinany, Vatovavy	\$697,057
WFP	Food Assistance	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Atsimo-Atsinanana, Fitovinany, Vatomandry, Vatovavy	\$20,273,396
	Nutrition	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$1,226,604
	Logistics Support		\$634,900
	Program Support		\$200,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$39,661,398
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR DROUGHT AND CYCLONE RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$39,661,398

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 18, 2022.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)