

MADAGASCAR

CRISIS REPORT - May 2023

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Humanitarian crises in figures



2.2 million people face food insecurity and need humanitarian assistance.¹



479,000 children suffer acute malnutrition in the Grand South and Grand South-east



115,000 children need to be treated for acute malnutrition this year.²



2 successive strong cyclones in January and February this year

Tropical Cyclone Cheneso made landfall on January 19, bringing strong winds and heavy downpours that caused extensive flooding. According to the BNGRC, the government's Office for Risk and Disaster Management, over 90,000 people or 20,980 households are affected in 18 regions.

Out of 90,000 people affected, over 34,000 were temporarily displaced.

Cyclone Freddy made landfall on the evening of 21 February. According to BNGRC, over 79,000 people or 20,200 households are affected and over 23,700 people or 5,700 households were displaced.

The vulnerable Malagasy people need our help

"The water situation in the country is precarious. It is due to long-term drought in the vast areas of the Grand South and a cyclone after another in the Grand Southeast causing massive destruction.

It is hard to imagine how the vulnerable population will survive with limited access to food, contaminated water, and lack of proper hygiene and sanitation practices that cause child malnutrition." - Medair's Senior WASH Advisor Erik Van de Giessen

¹ European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. Madagascar Factsheet: https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/africa/madagascar_en

² UNICEF, Acute malnutrition threatens the lives of vulnerable children in the Great Southeast of Madagascar: <https://www.unicef.org/madagascar/en/stories/acute-malnutrition-threatens-lives-vulnerable-children-great-southeast-madagascar>

Medair responds

- Medair remains committed to respond to the most vulnerable through our multisectoral responses in the Grand South and Grand Southeast, focusing on these sectors: water, sanitation, and hygiene, health and nutrition, emergency response, and disaster risk management.
- We have people on the ground with two field bases across the most-affected regions of the Grand South and Grand Southeast of Madagascar. We had just successfully finished our Cyclone Cheneso Emergency Response in the west coast of the country.
- While continuously responding to the long-term drought in the south through WASH and health and nutrition, Medair has responded to cyclone-stricken survivors in January and February, respectively.
- Cyclone emergency responses this year:
 - Cyclone Cheneso: 48,320 people / 9660 households reached with emergency kits, dignity kits for women and girls, WASH sensitization, and over 450 community drinking wells disinfected.
 - Cyclone Freddy: 10,136 people / 2027 households reached with emergency kits, WASH sensitization, installation of temporary showers and latrines, garbage bins, drinking well disinfection, and shelter construction.

In 2022, Medair reached over 669,000 people, excluding the 3,848,678 people in Madagascar who received emergency alerts and warning messages to prepare for incoming cyclones, spread in the Grand South, Southeast, and west coast of Madagascar, providing much-needed aid and helping families with long-term solutions on how to mitigate and prevent intense natural disasters through disaster risk management.



Humanitarian needs



Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation



Health and Nutrition



Disaster Risk Reduction

Objective 1

Increase access to adequate clean water, sanitation facilities and improve knowledge of appropriate hygiene practices

Reduce mortality and morbidity of children under five years old, lactating, and pregnant women

Reinforce the flood/cyclone early warning system and development of an impact-based forecast model

Objective 2

Strengthen the capacity of the community for anticipatory actions and rapid response to reduce the impact of disasters.

Stories from the field

Delphine, a 35-year-old mother, walks through a cactus-filled forest under the scorching sun every week along with her six-month-old son Adoratisoa. The mother and child go to the site in their village where Medair sets up a mobile health clinic which monitors and provides food supplements to malnourished children. Adoratisoa was closely monitored by Medair health workers because of acute malnutrition.

Most of the families in the villages of drought-stricken southern Madagascar eat cactus fruit and raw cassava every day to keep them from starving. Mothers like Delphine would immediately go to the mobile clinic site and breastfeed their children on an empty stomach.

According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, the malnutrition crisis in southern Madagascar will drastically worsen if funding is not secured early this year. The USAID created the Famine Early Warning Systems Network to provide early warning and analysis on food security.



Malagasy mother, Zaferina, recalls how she and her villagers struggle to find access to drinking water while her child is drinking water beside her.

"Most of the time, we find a water source after five hours of walking but the water we get is not enough to cover the needs of a family of 11. It is an exhausting chore," Zaferina says.

"We couldn't go there every day because it's very far and tiring. We had to manage using 45 litres of water for two days. The water is only limited to cooking and drinking, and we use soil for our hands. But sometimes, we go to bed and wake up with a dried mouth and throat because we no longer have water left in our containers," she adds.

Zaferina is one of the 8100 people in 16 villages that benefit from the project. At the time of writing, Medair is close to completion of the 54m³ reservoir and 7,9km pipeline, aiming to improve the health and well-being of villagers that need access to safe and clean drinking water.

You can make a difference for Madagascar



Despite the efforts of like-minded humanitarian organisations, Medair remains extremely concerned over the increased frequency and intensity of storms, making landfall in the country, on top of the spiking child malnutrition cases in the Grand South and Grand Southeast due to lack of humanitarian assistance on food and livelihood restoration following the two strong cyclones that made landfall early this year.

Madagascar needs help more than ever. The severe humanitarian needs and the impact of intensifying natural disasters on the vulnerable Malagasy people, especially those living in isolated and hard to reach villages and communities, must be met soon.

Donors in 2022-2023

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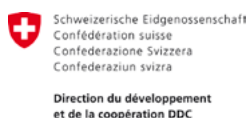
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