

## MADAGASCAR

UNICEF RESPONDS TO THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN AFFECTED BY POLITICAL UNREST, DROUGHT and CYCLONES ERIC AND FANELE



5 March 2009

## 1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

**Political Unrest:** Madagascar has been in a state of political unrest since mid January 2009, due to a protracted conflict between President Marc Ravalomanana and the capital city, Antananarivo's (now ex) Mayor and opposition leader, Andry Rajoelina. The first demonstrations on January 26<sup>th</sup> brought anti-government protesters to the streets, setting fire to state-owned television and radio stations in an apparent response to the government's previous closure of the Mayor's private TV station. Subsequent looting and arson attacks throughout the city targeted shops owned by the President and the President's family as well as other supermarkets and electronics stores. Looting, burning and civil unrest extended to the other large cities throughout Madagascar; over 140 casualties were reported, including children, mostly killed during the looting, burning and destruction of buildings. Further violence struck Antananarivo on February 7<sup>th</sup>, when anti-government protesters clashed with security forces at the Presidential Palace. Approximately 30 protesters were killed, including four children, and several injured, including 16 children, with both parties further entrenched in the conflict.

The political crisis continues; on 25<sup>th</sup> February, negotiations became blocked, and the Archbishop of Madagascar called for the UN to take over mediation efforts. The United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon, immediately dispatched his Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs on a second mission to Madagascar to assess the developments and further explore what the United Nations could do to help avert further violence and contribute towards peace and stability in the country. Ban Ki-Moon has also decided to appoint a Senior Mediator to establish an office in Madagascar to facilitate the role of mediation by the Malagasy Church Association, FFKM. On 26<sup>th</sup> February, anti-government protests restarted in Antananarivo. The main urban population currently affected by the political crisis is estimated to be 2.1 million people.

**Economic impact:** Before the political crisis occurred, an estimated 70 per cent of the population was considered to be living below the national poverty line. While total vulnerability levels are higher in rural areas than in urban areas, the impact of economic shock is more rapidly and severely felt in urban areas. The result of the continuing political crisis is likely to have an adverse impact on the already strained economic conditions, not only of the poorer strata of the population, but also of the middle-income class, with many Malagasy people becoming increasingly frustrated by the reduction of purchasing power, the increase in prices of basic commodities, unemployment and the absence of large scale social protection measures. Ongoing humanitarian operations in the country (in response to the recent cyclones and related flooding, alongside drought in the South) are facing challenges in ensuring that the effect of these separate emergencies on the economic situation of the population is limited as far as possible.

**Health and Nutrition:** With the onset of the political unrest, many children and women are without sufficient medical services or support to maintain their often already fragile health and nutrition conditions. The political crisis has also coincided with the season of endemic-epidemic disease transmission, meaning that this population is also being exposed to an increased threat of contracting such diseases. Currently, the capacity of the national Ministry of Health has been affected at times depending on the political developments in Antananarivo. However, so far, the Ministry of Health has managed to deliver services in peripheral areas of the city, building on its regional and district level network and offices. It is recognised that if the situation is prolonged, there might be a need to reinforce national health service delivery through partnerships with NGOs, CBOs and other actors. In terms of cyclone response, urgent medical supplies, support and preventive activities such as the provision of malaria nets and key life-saving messages are needed to avert the loss of life.

The crisis is expected to have an additionally detrimental impact on food security and nutrition. Prior to the crisis, a total of 20 per cent of the urban population was estimated to be chronically food insecure, while another 40 per cent were estimated to be moderately food insecure. A joint UNICEF-WFP food security survey in late 2008 confirmed the precarious situation in the most vulnerable areas of the five largest cities and towns in Madagascar; in four of these five cities and towns, the nutritional status of children under the age of five was considered as fragile, falling within the global acute malnutrition rate<sup>1</sup> of between 5 and 10 per cent<sup>2</sup>.

The looting and burning of various food and beverage stores in Antananarivo during the political unrest has compromised the stabilising effect of rice stocks in the capital on the overall rice price index in the country. Some shortages of rice and cooking oil have already been reported, with an ongoing trend for stocking up on basic commodities exacerbating the situation further, leading to price increases on the market for basic

<sup>1</sup> The global acute malnutrition rate refers to both severe and moderate acute malnutrition.

<sup>2</sup> Global Acute Malnutrition Rate: Sep-08 Antananarivo 6.5% (CI 5.1- 8.1); Oct-08 Mahajanga 8.9% (CI 7.4 - 10.5); Nov-08 Toamasina 5.8% (CI 4.6% - 7.4); Dec-08 Toliara 4.1% (CI 3% - 5.5%) Dec-08 Fianarantsoa 7.5% ( CI 6.0 -9.3). Source: Nutrition Survey SMART methodology, UNICEF/Ministry of Health/National Nutrition Office

necessities. Lack of cash in hand, as well as potential shortages, may seriously impact on the food basket of the most vulnerable families throughout the country, with particular concern for the diet and nutritional status of children and women. In the present deteriorated socio-economic context, 30,000 children under the age of five are likely to descend into severe acute malnutrition, with approximately 10,500 children at risk of mortality without the provision of adequate medical care.

**Children's Protective Environment:** The protective environment of children has also been adversely impacted. The unusual rates of violence recorded during the recent political unrest have generated high levels of stress and anxiety among children and youth who witnessed or were directly exposed to violent events. A total of 29 children have been reported missing since the onset of the crisis, with indications from Child Protection Networks suggesting that an increasing number of children are running away from home. The crisis may also have contributed towards violence within families, many of which will have already had fragile resilience skills. Global experience shows that an increase in gender-based violence is likely in political crises, and action must be taken to prevent this from occurring in the current context. Children are likely to require psychological support in some cases, which, unfortunately, is at a nascent stage in Madagascar. In addition, the potentially negative economic impact of the crisis is likely to result in job losses, thereby directly decreasing overall family cash income and therefore families' capacities to provide for and protect children.

**Impact on Education:** Schools in Antananarivo remained closed between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January following the first outbreak of violence, with a total of 270,000 primary and secondary students missing out on their schooling. There are unconfirmed reports of threats made against schools that remained open during the crisis. Depending on their locations in the city and potential exposure to violence, several schools have been closed for shorter periods depending on the day by day situation. The need for catch-up classes, specific support to re-establish the sense of normalcy, and activities to reassure children will have to be urgently addressed. Furthermore, a deepening economic crisis is expected to inevitably reflect in vulnerable families keeping their children from going to school to perform other tasks, as has been the global past experience.

**Combined Crisis:** The regular and large-scale natural disasters coupled with the political crisis have a severely detrimental effect on Madagascar's development, undermining its immense potential to lift itself out of poverty. Therefore, quick and efficient response to emergencies is essential to minimise damage and allow Madagascar to realise its potential.

However, the elevation of the security level in Madagascar to Phase 2 (due to episodic violence, demonstrations, banditry and looting) has presented major challenges in realising UNICEF's work in the country, particularly in responding to the other current crises; the drought and cyclone response. These challenges have caused operations, supply and in-country logistics costs to increase sharply. UNICEF is concerned that if no immediate solution is found to the political crisis, Madagascar is likely to find itself with a weakened capacity to respond to a number of humanitarian challenges, either current or lying ahead.

**Drought:** There was a severe lack of rain in the last quarter of 2008 and beginning of 2009 in the South of Madagascar, particularly in the regions of Anosy and Androy. Both regions suffer from a consistently high rate of acute malnutrition; nutrition surveys undertaken in 2006 and 2007 showed that the malnutrition rate of children under the age of five reached up to 12 per cent during the lean season (in 2006<sup>3</sup>), and did not fall below 8 per cent, even in the harvest season.

The lack of rain in the two regions has adversely affected agriculture production (by January 2009, basic foodstuff crops had been seriously damaged, compromising the expected harvest in April) and threatens food security for the majority of households. A WFP early warning system<sup>4</sup> report has shown that 31 municipalities in southern Madagascar were food insecure by the end of 2008, with approximately 75,000 people expected to be affected in the near future, of which 13,500 are children under the age of five and 5,000 pregnant and lactating women.

The impact of the drought is expected to become increasingly severe throughout 2009. Morbidity and mortality are likely to increase as the nutrition status of women and children, the most vulnerable groups, deteriorates. This is compounded by the fact that economic troubles, including those brought by the lack of harvest, mean that families' spending capacity has been further compromised, meaning that they have less money to attend basic health centre consultations in the event of sickness or for preventive care.

**Cyclones:** Madagascar is prone to natural disasters, including endemic drought, flooding and recurrent cyclones due to its geographical location, and compounded by the effects of climate change in recent years.

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<sup>3</sup> Global Acute Malnutrition Rate Androy region: Nov-07: 9.3% (CI 7.0%–11.6); May-07: 8% (CI 4.7–10.8). Source: Nutrition Survey SMART methodology, UNICEF/Ministry of Health/National Nutrition Office

<sup>4</sup> National Early Warning System for Food Insecurity in Southern Madagascar, supported by WFP and the EU

Cyclone Eric hit Madagascar on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at Fenenerive Est on the east coast of the island, and exited the country the same day. Four regions have been affected: Analanjirifo, Atsinanana, Sofia and Sava. Cyclone Fanele hit Madagascar on 21<sup>st</sup> January in Morondava on the west coast, and exited 24 hours later. The regions affected are: Menabe, Ihorombe, Haute Matsiatra, Atsimo Atsinana and Anosy. Data<sup>5</sup> available from the BNGRC<sup>6</sup> in Madagascar shows recorded damage including 58,493 people affected, 4,012 without shelter (with 1,395 still in accommodation centres to date), 33 people injured and 12 people killed. Approximately 3,062 hectares of land were also damaged, mostly due to flooding. As a result of Cyclone Fanele, 158 classrooms in 56 schools were damaged in three school districts (Morondava, Mahabo and Manja) in Menabe region. This affected more than 9,000 primary school students who were unable to return to school for several weeks. In Analanjirifo region, affected by Cyclone Eric, 43 classrooms made of local construction materials and 15 other education structures were damaged in the Fenerive Est district. Eight classrooms were damaged on the eastern island of Ile Sainte Marie.

UNICEF and its partners, including sister UN agencies and international and national nongovernmental organisations and civil society, are working closely through a cluster-configured approach to support the Government of Madagascar in the continued emergency response. The risk of further cyclones is still present, with the cyclone season running until March/April 2009.

## 2. UNICEF'S PLANNED EMERGENCY RESPONSE: ISSUES & ACTIONS

### HEALTH and NUTRITION

#### Issues

The political unrest is likely to have affected the supply of basic medical materials and vaccines, as well as the provision of technical support to basic health centres. Consequently, an impact can be expected on the quality and continuity of the medical services delivered, which needs to be urgently addressed to ensure the health of those already using health services, and that of those who don't but all of whom urgently need to be accessed. In terms of cyclone response, urgent medical supplies, support and preventive activities such as the provision of malaria nets and key life-saving messages are needed to avert the loss of life. For drought response, a package of joint health, WASH and nutrition interventions has been developed with regional partners to immediately address the urgent needs of the population, as detailed in the Urgent Actions below.

Regarding nutrition, the food shortages, price increases in basic foodstuffs and economic challenges brought by the political crisis are likely to have a severe impact on the poorest families, particularly on the diet and nutritional status of children and women, with 30,000 children under the age of five likely to descend into severe acute malnutrition, and approximately 10,500 of these children at risk of mortality without the provision of adequate medical care. The current drought in the South of Madagascar has seriously damaged crops in two regions that already suffer from a consistently high rate of acute malnutrition, with the impact of the drought expected to become increasingly severe throughout 2009. Approximately 75,000 people are expected to be affected in the near future, of which 13,500 are children under the age of five and 5,000 pregnant and lactating women. As detailed above, a package of joint health, WASH and nutrition interventions has been developed.

UNICEF, as a member of the Health Cluster and co-lead of the Nutrition Cluster, has prioritised the following critical activities. Health related actions will target 120,000 people affected by the political crisis, 75,000 people affected by the drought and 60,000 people affected by the cyclones. Nutrition-based actions will target 120,000 affected by the political crisis, 18,500 pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of five affected by the drought and 60,000 affected by cyclones:

#### Urgent Actions

- Provide medical supplies for the management/treatment free of charge of those injured;
- Support hospitals by making additional space available through provision and installation of temporary shelter (tents) for treating injured people;
- Donate minor surgical equipment and materials to major hospitals in key cities or in political unrest 'hot spots';
- Operational and logistics support to major hospitals or health facilities in the main cities where there were casualties from the political unrest;
- Purchase and distribution of emergency medical kits;
- Ensure the operation of an advanced strategy / outreach services in cities to provide healthcare to the most vulnerable populations;

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<sup>5</sup> As of 3rd March 2009

<sup>6</sup> 'Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes', or National Office for Disaster Risk Management

- Provide support to the implementation of updated regional and district health and nutrition action plans to re-focus and integrate activities addressing the impact or consequences of the political crisis;
- Supervision, monitoring and evaluation to ensure that women and children have adequate access to services including confidential, youth-friendly reproductive health and GBV response services (testing and counselling and PEP for HIV, emergency contraception, medical referral, etc.);
- Reinforce routine messages on exclusive breastfeeding up to the age of 6 months, and the continuation of breastfeeding with complimentary feeding above the age of 6 months;
- Ensure most updated IYCF in Emergencies in the form of IEC material is easily accessible to all Health personal, IMAM sites and Hospitals as standard message.
- Massive Nutrition Screening to ensure early detection of severe acute malnutrition (including the provision of equipment/tools and trainings to health centres and community health/nutrition sites to diagnose and treat acute malnutrition);
- Undertake nutritional survey with partners to assess the magnitude of the problem and impact of the actions undertaken, ensuring that village chiefs and young people are engaged in assisting field activities;
- Expansion of ambulatory treatment of acute malnutrition to all primary health centres;
- Training of community agents and community nutrition sites in prevention, early detection and referral of malnutrition cases;
- Equip referral hospital for the treatment of complicated malnutrition cases;
- Analysis of data collected at the Nutritional Security sentinels sites established in five main towns; Antananarivo, Mahajanga, Tulear, Fianarantsoa and Tomasina.
- Provide incentives to 98 basic health centres to ensure that people seeking medical assistance receive appropriate treatment;
- Engage communities, especially young people, in mapping of needs and distribution of medical supplies to treat the most common diseases, including Oral Rehydration Salts, impregnated mosquito nets, Artemisinin Combined Treatment tablets, Rapid Diagnostic Test kits and antibiotics. Train humanitarian actors, police, teachers, and security personnel in HIV prevention, GBV including SEA, and reproductive health issues, and ensure the existence of and signing of codes of conduct.
- Engage communities, especially young people, in communication of life-saving messages including breast-feeding and complimentary food, and the symptoms of Malaria and Acute Respiratory Infections;
- Support young people to design and lead a reproductive health sensitisation campaign that engages male and female youth as change agents;
- Engage communities, especially young people, in mapping the need and distributing of life-saving and critical relief supplies such as plastic sheeting.

## **WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE**

### **Issues**

In Madagascar, even in non-emergency periods, the rates of access to safe drinking water areas are already critical at around 36 per cent in rural areas and 76 per cent in urban areas. The sanitation situation is even more extreme, with only 18 per cent of the urban population and 10 per cent of the rural population having access to appropriate sanitation, and open defecation remaining widespread.

The impacts of the political crisis is compounding Madagascar's water and sanitation situation further. The municipality waste collection system is operating at a greatly reduced capacity, which presents the risk of previously eradicated water and sanitation diseases re-emerging. In these circumstances, attention must be paid to monitor and respond to cholera and other virulent diseases, and to reduce water and sanitation diseases. Special attention needs to be paid to the drought in the South of Madagascar, to ensure that people have free access to water.

Flooding caused by the recent cyclones increased the amount of water present within the water table, with the potability of this water uncertain. People faced with a lack of alternatives are being forced to use stagnant, untreated water, putting the health of women and children in particular at increased risk. Continued rain is aggravating the situation further, and water-borne diseases are likely to be transmitted.

UNICEF, as co-lead of the WASH Cluster, has prioritised the following critical activities, to benefit 160,000 people affected by the political crisis, 75,000 affected by the drought, and 60,000 affected by the cyclones:

### **Urgent Actions**

- Procure and engage communities, especially young people to distribute WASH kits for vulnerable populations in cities and other affected populations;

- Engage communities, especially young people to conduct a hygiene promotion campaign in cities based on messages identified by volunteers;
- Set up a WASH monitoring system in cities to ensure waste water canals are cleaned, solid waste collected and water flow continuity ensured;
- Based on the input of women and girls, boys and men, determine optimal locations for installation of stand posts, public toilets and showers with locking doors and adequate lighting within vulnerable areas in cities;
- Support Municipal solid waste collection and disposal;
- Support free access to water within vulnerable areas in large cities;
- Water trucking to ensure free water supply in the South;
- Based on the input of women and girls, boys and men, determine appropriate contents of family kits (i.e. jerri-cans, water purification tablets etc.) and engage communities in their distribution;
- Provide water tanks and showers in drought affected areas;
- Assess existing water supplies and hygiene facilities in health centres and schools in drought and cyclone affected areas;
- Train and equip communities to disinfect water points;
- Construct new water supply systems in drought and cyclone affected areas, using locally-sourced labour and materials where possible;
- Train and equip communities to disinfect public places;
- Provide temporary sanitation and water facilities in cyclone affected areas;
- Support other emergency response initiatives in need of water and sanitation infrastructure, such as child friendly spaces, public canteens etc.

## EDUCATION

### Issues

UNICEF's extensive experience in disasters has demonstrated that returning children to school as quickly as possible (after any crisis, be it political unrest or cyclones) is one of the most valuable emergency interventions that can take place. Education is key to children's long-term opportunities, and interruptions to their schooling need to be minimised. In addition, schools provide children with a sense of normalcy, which is crucial to their psychological well-being. Schools also provide a very important forum for communicating key life-saving messages, particularly in the immediate post-crisis period. UNICEF, as co-lead of the Education Cluster, has prioritised the following critical activities, to benefit 42,000 students affected by the political crisis and 10,000 students affected by the cyclones:

### Urgent Actions

- Provision of learning materials (including notebooks and pens for vulnerable children), school-in-a-box kits and recreation kits, with contents determined based in part on participatory engagement of young people;
- Support to vulnerable families including adolescent-headed households to prevent dropout resulting from increased economic vulnerability;
- Based on the input of students, provide peace and reconciliation/ conflict resolution materials for lower and upper secondary schools in towns affected by the political crisis and orientation with learners, teachers and parent/teacher associations;
- Resumption of classes (part time, multi grade, catch up as required) in close collaboration with local Ministry of Education entities, and outreach to affected communities, to ensure that children are able to complete the school year;
- In consultation with young people, parents, and relevant authorities, determine the ideal content (life skills, livelihoods/employability, peace education, etc.), structure (hours, location, safety concerns, etc.), and necessary inputs (childcare, sanitary supplies for girls, feeding, etc.) and provide non-formal education that attracts the maximum number of out-of-school youth;
- Train young people as peer educators, and enlist them to design appropriate life-saving messages and to locate (through participatory mapping, etc.) and engage out-of-school and marginalised young people in sensitisation activities;
- Evaluate need for nutrition in school support, and contribute to school feeding in collaboration with WFP if necessary;
- Ensure continued assessment and analysis with the Ministry of Education emergency unit to ensure accurate information on number of classrooms and students affected and type of cyclone damage to structures to permit consolidated and appropriate planning of remedial and reconstructive measures;

- Provision of materials including plastic sheeting (for the construction of tarpaulin tents) for temporary learning spaces to ensure that children in cyclone-affected areas can continue classes, with appropriate and child-friendly WASH and recreation facilities;
- The cleaning and disinfection of classrooms in cyclone affected areas and engagement of communities, especially young people, in the distribution of WASH kits in collaboration with the WASH unit.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

### **Issues**

Support must be provided to ensure populations which have already been devastated by the crisis are not also affected by violence or other forms of abuse which are often seen to increase in such situations. There is an urgent need ensure that children suffering from stress have access to professional counselling, through building and reinforcing the capacity of psycho-social service delivery, which is currently at a nascent stage in Madagascar. UNICEF has prioritised the following actions to provide services targeting 1,050,500 children affected by the political crisis in the 6 main cities of Madagascar, and 4,000 children affected by the cyclones.

### **Urgent Actions**

- Rapid assessment of psycho social capacities available in capital city and systematic data collection by trained community members, including adolescents in all 192 fokontanys (communities or groups of communities) of the capital city, as well as in other large towns affected by violence where UNICEF has networks established, and youth-led focus groups with children and youth, to be extended in other 'hotspots' of the country. Data will be updated regularly to follow up the mid term impact of the crisis, with a specific focus on adolescents;
- Activation and creation of 10 'child friendly' and 'safe' spaces for children in the most severely affected areas (including the provision of tents, educational and didactic games kits, and linkages with water and sanitation emergency provisions), including activation and creation of separate youth-friendly spaces;
- Based on the input of a heterogeneous group of adolescents (with regard to naming the space, locating the space, needed inputs, etc.), activation and creation of separate youth-friendly spaces in the most severely affected areas as hubs for sports and cultural activities (dance, music, drama), media production, sensitization campaigns, non-formal education, peer outreach, etc.;
- Support established youth groups and users of youth-friendly spaces to design and implement a series of dialogs on issues they identify as relevant to their development, and support outreach activities focused on reaching marginalised and less-visible youth;
- Train and support local authorities and partners to provide a protective environment in the most severely affected areas, and to monitor and report any incidences of abuse or exploitation;
- Develop strategies for the tracing of missing children;
- Identify children who are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress, including the training of social workers and teachers (in the detection of stress and counselling), and set up a referral system.

## **OPERATIONS, SUPPLY and IN-COUNTRY LOGISTICS**

### **Issues**

Important transportation needs for distribution is an ongoing challenge in Madagascar, due to the variable and often mountainous terrain and limited road infrastructure. Coordination of local authorities at the field level with the local disaster management taskforce also needs to be strengthened through the provision of technical assistance. The worsened security situation, reflected in the increase to Security Phase 2 in Madagascar, has had the knock-on effect on increasing prices for in-country transportation, the cost of increasing the security of warehouses, and putting in place Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS) compliant measures to ensure staff security.

### **Urgent Actions**

- Keep stock of the most essential emergency supplies in a separate temporary space within the office compound for immediate (24/7) availability in case of blockage or inaccessibility of UNICEF warehouse;
- Order additional Portable Radio Kits and Mobile Station kits to upgrade the communication level in line with MOSS compliance requirements;
- Ensure all vehicles are MOSS compliant and equipped with Satellite phones and First Aid Kits;
- Reinforce security in the UNICEF office, including the Installation of a fire detection mechanism, window grills and additional fencing;
- Provide trauma kits for staff use if necessary;

- In-country logistics of emergency supplies;
- Action where necessary stand-by/Long-term Agreements for contracting small aircrafts and helicopters for assessments and to deliver light emergency supplies;
- Deliver operational and logistics support to field assessments and coordination.

## LIVELIHOODS

### Issues

The political crisis, as it increasingly becomes an economic crisis, will have a significant impact on the country's most vulnerable populations. The longer the crisis persists, the more severe the effect on the local economy. At least 10,000 people have already become unemployed as a direct result of the political crisis in the capital city alone, as foreign businesses pull out, and several sectors have been notably affected (tourism, textiles etc.). Unfortunately, there is an absence of a national social protection scheme to mitigate any impact of short-term or long-term crises on the most vulnerable populations in Madagascar, meaning that a substantial one-off investment is needed (US\$ 300,000) to put in place a mechanism for disbursement of emergency cash assistance. Critically affected households are therefore left to balance daily needs alone, drawing on increasingly exhausted coping mechanisms. Given the nature of the crisis, it is perceived that the rapid establishment of an emergency cash transfer scheme for the most vulnerable families in urban centres would immediately secure minimum income stability. This would enable these families to improve their food security, nutrition quality, water supply and health care, and would allow them to continue to send their children to school. UNICEF has prioritised the following action to benefit an estimated 10,000 families (around 50,000 people):

### Urgent Actions

- Establish an emergency cash transfer scheme for the most vulnerable families in most severely affected urban areas, and disburse cash assistance.

## MEDIA and COMMUNICATION

### Issues

Close to 60 per cent of the population in Madagascar have access to radio, and there are various public and private radio stations operational at all levels. However, during the political crisis, media has become a concern, as many private radio and TV stations have not remained neutral and broadcast political propaganda, resulting in various rumours and occasional messages inciting hatred that spread fast throughout the island. The President of the 'Journalistic Order' issued a statement on 8 February asking journalists to avoid the dissemination of messages inciting hatred between various groups, messages related to 'popular justice' and messages based on rumours and non-verified sources.

UNICEF will work with partners to reinforce the capacity of media both at the national and local levels, to take responsibility in promoting human and child rights, to contribute to reconciliation, and to facilitate dialogue with youth.

### Urgent Actions

- Purchase equipment for the reinforcement of a radio station and develop and translate modules (into the national Malagasy language);
- Training of 40 journalists/producers and 30 young people to work together;
- Develop modules and establish a network of journalists to promote human/child rights, peace building and reconciliation;
- Operate journalistic competitions for best reporting on children and peace building, targeting all journalists in Antananarivo;
- Engage heterogeneous groups of children in media production (radio, TV, VCDs for video clubs, newspapers, posters, songs, etc.) around issues flagged by them (i.e. peace education, public health including GBV and SEA, WASH, RH, malaria, etc., livelihoods/employment services, etc.), with special emphasis on peer-to-peer communication and giving voice to all groups. This activity will target the 30 young people already trained (as above), plus the existing over 140 young radio reporters.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### Issues

Regular data collection and monitoring systems in Madagascar remain in their nascent phase; they include the Rural Observatory Network, a UNICEF-supported observatory that collects survey data relevant to children from sentinel sites around the country. During the current political crisis, however, there is an

increased need for UNICEF and its partners of the IASC to develop innovative monitoring and evaluation systems, including participatory approaches and linkages with NGOs, to measure the impact of the political impasse on vulnerable children, particularly where government monitoring systems are weakened or inoperative. Crucial financial and human resources will be pooled by agencies involved in the humanitarian response to ensure consistent data collection across clusters, regions and agencies; a multi-cluster rapid assessment mechanism will be implemented including application of technology in data collection and processing and ensuring a professionalised approach to assessments in emergencies.

**Urgent Actions:**

- Together with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), establish multi-cluster rapid assessment mechanism for Madagascar that carries out regular and quality assessments for monitoring of the situation and evaluation of the humanitarian response;
- Engage communities, including NGOs, community groups and young people, to establish indicators, collect baseline data, and measure outcomes of programming in all UNICEF-focused sectoral areas;
- Disseminate evaluation reports to communities and engage young people to publicize the results;
- Support a process of ongoing community-level dialogue around programme outcomes.

**3. ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNED ACTION FROM MARCH TO AUGUST 2009**

The total funding requirement is US\$ 11,970,637. The cyclone response funding requirements of US\$ 2,189,766 are part of the funding requirements of US\$ 6,600,000 in the Humanitarian Action Report (HAR), which was launched in January. The HAR requirements cover UNICEF’s response to the cyclones that frequently hit Madagascar, but to date have not been as high as predicted as the cyclone season continues. The funding requirements for the political crisis and drought are separate to those in the HAR.

**Table 1: Estimated funding requirements from March to August 2009\*\***

Sector	Political Crisis Response US\$	Drought Response US\$	Cyclones Response US\$	Total per Sector
Health and Nutrition	1,491,270	546,235	<u>551,050</u>	<b>2,588,555</b>
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,822,831	4,332,965	<u>1,417,750</u>	<b>7,573,546</b>
Education	275,044	n/a	<u>152,636</u>	<b>427,680</b>
Child Protection	319,352	n/a	<u>68,330</u>	<b>387,682</b>
Livelihoods/Employment	<u>895,365</u>	n/a	n/a	<b>895,365</b>
Media and Communication	97,809	n/a	n/a	<b>97,809</b>
<b>Total*</b>	<b>4,901,671</b>	<b>4,879,200</b>	<b>2,189,766</b>	
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>11,970,637</b>			

\*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF’s Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

\*\*Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other, under-funded emergencies.

Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in UNICEF can be obtained from:

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