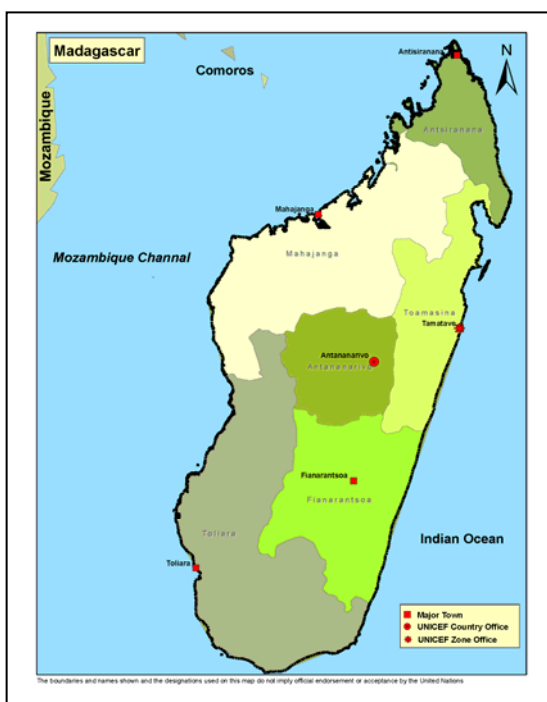


For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION MADAGASCAR IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	9613
U5 mortality rate (2006)	115
Infant mortality rate (2006)	72
Maternal mortality ratio (2000-2006, reported)	510
Primary school enrolment ratio (2000-2006, net, male/female)	93/92
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	61
% population using improved drinking water sources (rural/urban)	35/77
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	49
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight/stunting	42/48

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2008*

Because of its geographic location, Madagascar is prone to natural disasters, such as recurrent cyclones, flooding and endemic droughts. Together they cause additional hardship for an already vulnerable population. With almost 80 per cent of the 17 million populations living on less than a dollar a day, coping mechanisms for emergencies are limited. The challenge for the humanitarian community and the Government is to ensure the logistics work and that the most vulnerable children and women are reached timely. Funds raised through the *Humanitarian Action Report* will directly support an estimated 150,000 people, including women and children.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008

Sector	US\$
Health	1,700,000
Nutrition	1,300,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	550,000
Education	1,200,000
Child protection	60,000
Shelter and non-food items	300,000
Total*	5,110,000

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

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Because of its geographic location Madagascar is prone to natural disasters, such as recurrent cyclones, flooding and endemic droughts. Together they are responsible for additional hardship for an already vulnerable population, causing damage to local communities and setbacks to economic growth and making some parts of the country especially vulnerable to food insecurity. As the lean season coincides with the cyclone season (December-April), seasonal food insecurity is often aggravated by the effects of natural disasters such as cyclones and floods. Moreover, coping strategies among vulnerable populations are limited.

The nutritional status of under-five children is precarious under normal conditions. As per the latest Demographic and Health Survey, 13 per cent of children suffer from acute malnutrition and among them 3 per cent are severely malnourished. The infant and under-five mortality rates declined over the 1997-2004 period from 96 to 72 per 1,000 live births and 159 to 115 per 1,000 live births respectively. Achieving Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG4) will require a continued annual reduction of 6.4 per cent in the under-five mortality rate, with concerted efforts to address its leading causes: malaria (29 per cent), pneumonia (21 per cent) and diarrhoea (18 per cent).

In 2005, 69 per cent of the population was living in poverty – 27 per cent in absolute poverty. Urban poverty increased 10 percentage points over the preceding five years, mainly in peri-urban areas, while decreasing slightly in rural areas. One third of the rural population and two thirds of the urban population have access to an improved water source. Access to improved sanitation facilities is 34 per cent (48 per cent urban, 26 per cent rural). In many parts of the country, traditions and customs continue to dictate sanitation and hygiene practises, e.g., girls are often not allowed to use the same latrines as boys.

Over the last decade, the primary education net enrolment ratio jumped from less than 70 per cent to slightly more than 90 per cent, thanks to the abolition of school fees and the distribution of school kits for first-year students. Poor infrastructure, inadequately trained teachers and an average student/teacher ratio of 51 hamper quality and completion and contribute to the 20 per cent repetition rate. Low achievement is also associated with the use of a foreign language of instruction (French) and weak school readiness; only 5 per cent of children three to five years old attend early childhood care and education. The primary-to-secondary transition rate is only 55 per cent.

The humanitarian implications of the various natural disasters are particularly significant, since Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 143 out of 177 countries in the 2006 Human Development Index. The scope and frequency of emergency situations remain a major challenge. Large structural problems, such as the remoteness of some towns and villages (making it difficult to reach disaster victims) and poverty (vulnerability in contingency situations due to the impossibility of accumulating resources), weaken the resilience of the populations as much as rapid response capabilities. Nevertheless, national systems have been strengthened, including at subnational levels, with child-focused responses on nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, warehouse management and local teacher/student support.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

UNICEF has been at the forefront of the Madagascar emergency response in partnership with the Government during the last cyclone season. With a comparatively limited number of international NGOs active in the country, a quick response capacity to cope with frequent natural disasters was essential. UNICEF's response was planned and implemented in close coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP), including air and road transport of supplies.

Between end-December 2006 and February 2007, heavy rains, cyclones, tropical storms, and flooding affected close to 293,000 people. The impact of the extreme cyclone season in 2007 temporarily displaced 64,000 people. In some areas, the displaced were quartered in schools, churches and public buildings. There was need for shelter assistance in seven regions. Sectoral assessments were undertaken in the accessible areas to determine the losses more precisely. A total of 166 classrooms were reportedly destroyed or rendered unusable in the north following cyclone Indiala, while another 1,443 classrooms were damaged in the previous cyclones. Some schools only required replacement of scholastic and learning supplies, while others needed structure rehabilitation and furniture. More than 260,000 people in the south-east suffered significant crop damages and lost upcoming harvests.

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In December 2006, relief operations were launched, with the BNGRC (Bureau national de gestion des risques et catastrophes) and humanitarian partners, mobilizing in-country resources and capacity. In February 2007, the Malagasy Government launched a US\$ 242 million appeal to the international community in response to cyclones and storms. In March, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners launched a Flash Appeal requesting US\$ 9.6 million to provide aid to people affected by floods and cyclones for a period of six months. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched an appeal at the request of the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) to support their relief and response operations. The UN Country Team submitted a Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) application for US\$ 4.5 million to fund the priority needs identified in the Flash Appeal and allow the UN and its partners to support the Government in averting large-scale mortality, malnutrition and disease outbreaks due to displacement and lack of food.

Based on the humanitarian reform process, the cluster approach has been introduced to enhance the emergency response in Madagascar. UNICEF has assumed the lead role in the areas of nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as designated by the Humanitarian Coordinator. The health cluster is being led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF worked closely with WHO and other counterparts to timely implement the health-related responses.

In the area of health and nutrition, UNICEF's assistance included the distribution of 10,000 long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to vulnerable groups (pregnant women and under-five children) in affected areas; the supply of complete 'new emergency health kits' to serve 40,000 people during three months; and the rehabilitation of basic health centres. As an immediate emergency response, UNICEF dispatched 91,259 non-food item kits composed of water purifiers, jerrycans, buckets, cooking sets, plastic water barrels, soap, blankets and mosquito nets. UNICEF along with the BNGRC set guidelines for the standardization of non-food item packages per family, the identification of vulnerable populations and the distribution and monitoring of the use of these supplies. To improve the supply and quality of water to flood-affected people in Antananarivo UNICEF distributed water- and hygiene-related non-food items (household water purification products, water containers, soap) to 22,000 affected people. UNICEF also constructed and improved emergency latrines and provided emergency shelter (tents, plastic sheeting etc.). A total of 250,000 children have been screened for malnutrition and, among them, 8,700 have been diagnosed as malnourished. All diagnosed cases were followed up with nutrition rehabilitation services. Over 11,000 pregnant women received supplementary feeding.

In the area of education, a total of 73,036 primary students in 1,031 schools benefited from UNICEF's emergency response. With the support of UNICEF, the school districts distributed 54 tents, 196 school-in-a-box kits, 37 recreational kits plus additional school supplies (notebooks, pens, pencils, chalk). This permitted students to complete the school year under acceptable conditions. Moreover, make-up classes were organized by the school districts for students who lost class time due to the cyclones. Further to the estimated 659 classrooms reported destroyed as a result of cyclones, 90 cyclone-resistant classroom structures are being constructed with community participation. The Ministry of Education has asked UNICEF to reconstruct 95 additional classrooms destroyed by cyclone Indiala with funds obtained from the Norwegian Government.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

UNICEF leads the UN thematic group on emergency prevention and management. The cluster approach that was introduced in April 2007 will be continued and further developed in 2008 in tight collaboration with the BNGRC (Bureau national de gestion des risques et catastrophes). An inter-agency contingency plan is currently being finalized with the Government.

Regular programme

Emergency preparedness and response is integrated into all programmes of the Country Programme: Mother and child survival and development, education, child protection and HIV/AIDS prevention. Programme communication promotes and informs on appropriate emergency preparedness. Supply planning includes emergency stocks and prepositioning.

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Health (US\$ 1,700,000)

UNICEF will protect 150,000 people affected by natural disasters from an increase in morbidity and mortality, through the following activities:

- Distribute insecticide-treated nets/artemisinin-based combination therapy (ITNs/ACT) and oral rehydration salts (ORS);
- Distribute emergency health kits;
- Support the rehabilitation of basic health centres in order to re-establish access to health services;
- Conduct outreach services for the expanded programme on immunization (EPI);
- Reinforce hospital services with equipment, specific drugs and therapeutic food;
- Restore cold chain for the conservation of vaccines and ensure vaccination of women and children in affected regions;

Nutrition (US\$ 1,300,000)

UNICEF will screen 150,000 children affected by emergencies for malnutrition and follow up the severely malnourished with rehabilitation services, through the following activities:

- Undertake rapid assessment;
- Ensure management of acute malnutrition and follow up with nutrition rehabilitation services.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$ 550,000)

UNICEF will prevent the outbreak of communicable diseases associated with inadequate and unsafe water supplies, lack of sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices for up to 60,000 displaced persons through the following key activities:

- Distribute water- and hygiene-related non-food items (household water purification products, water containers, soap);
- Disinfect/rehabilitate community and family wells (with the support of the Ministry of Energy and Mines) and equip them with manual hydraulic pumps;
- Construct and improve emergency latrines;
- Conduct hygiene education activities focusing on handwashing;
- Train and sensitize on WASH principles mayors, school directors, health centre directors and heads of Fokontany (village chiefs).

Education (US\$ 1,200,000)

A total of 75,000 primary schoolchildren will benefit from UNICEF's emergency response through the following key activities:

- Distribute tents, school-in-a-box kits, recreational kits and additional school supplies (notebooks, pencils etc.);
- Support the construction of temporary school/classroom structures to accommodate primary schoolchildren;
- Support the rehabilitation of schools and build latrines in affected localities;
- Support the training in emergency preparation and response of education officials;
- Train primary schoolteachers, with particular attention to HIV/AIDS and peace education.

Child protection (US\$ 60,000)

UNICEF will provide psychosocial support to children and households in the affected areas through the following key activities:

- Improve local capacity of community members to ensure protection of children's rights and provide psychosocial support to children in the affected communities by creating child-friendly spaces;
- Offer proper modes of recreational activities that act as positive stress or trauma reduction mechanisms for children.

Shelter and non-food items (US\$ 300,000)

Up to 60,000 people will be reached through the following activities:

- Provide emergency shelter and other basic household items (tents, plastic sheeting, cooking sets etc.);
- Deliver relief goods in the most isolated municipalities by airlift operation (using helicopters).