

UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

MADAGASCAR

SITUATION UPDATE

In the first half of 2010, Madagascar suffered the effects of multiple crises, including lack of rainfall in the southern regions of Madagascar, a moderate tropical storm and a continued period of political instability without an internationally recognised government. The political crisis has exacerbated the vulnerability of the 68 per cent of the Malagasy population living under US\$1.25 per day, and particularly those living in urban areas. The situation is currently being closely monitored, especially in regards to the slow erosion of basic social services. Already overcrowded public schools are facing increased pressure as parents move their children from private to public schools and the reduced public school budget has resulted in a 30 per cent increase in costs for parents.¹ The current pressure on parents is resulting in children being left to fend for themselves and, as a result, they are more vulnerable to exploitation and violence. Additionally, poor rainfall between September 2009 and March 2010 has negatively affected the main agricultural season resulting in increased food insecurity for large parts of the population, which if not addressed will develop into a nutrition crisis affecting hundreds of thousands of children under five. Surveys in the regions of Androy and Anosy (April 2010) indicated a global acute malnutrition rate of 8.7 per cent in Anosy and 7.2 per cent in Androy. In March 2010, the eastern coast of Madagascar was hit by the moderate tropical storm Hubert, affecting 74 communes in eight districts with a total of 151,200 children under five.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Health and Nutrition: Medicines were provided and are being used by 174 health centres to enable free treatment for people affected by the tropical storm, covering the needs of around 1,430,499 people, which represents 92 per cent coverage.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): In collaboration with local NGOs, Association Socio Sanitaire Organisation de Secours (ASOS) and St. Gabriel, UNICEF provided WASH kits to 3,544 vulnerable households to ensure access to potable water, providing 91 per cent coverage of planned activities. One hundred and seventy water points have been disinfected benefiting 50,000 people, representing 50 per cent coverage of the planned target.

Education: Fifty-two classrooms in 80 schools damaged by the tropical storm have been temporarily repaired using plastic sheeting enabling 8,394 students to resume their studies, and 48 tents have been set up in collaboration with Diakonie Emergency Aid enabling a further 2,400 students to resume their studies. A total of 328 school-in-a-box education kits and 152 recreation kits were distributed to 150 schools benefiting 26,240 students.

Child Protection: Child rights violations were monitored through the 19 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Tana, reaching over 1,600 children in collaboration with local partner Union of Professional Graduate Social Workers. The family tracing and reunification programme traced 238 children reported as missing and reunited 138 of those children. One round of the inter-agency multi-cluster rapid assessment mechanism (McRAM) has been carried out in Antananarivo to inform programme managers on critical areas with potential intervention needs.

KEY CHALLENGES

The political crisis has led to the suspension of aid and budget support to the Madagascar government, which is slowly eroding basic social services. A further implication of the political crisis has been the change in Ministry staff at both national and sub-national levels, including technical experts, which has weakened the capacity to both assess and respond to emergency situations quickly and efficiently.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF supported the emergency response efforts in Madagascar as a member of the Madagascar Humanitarian Country Team and through the implementation of the cluster approach framework. UNICEF Madagascar is providing cluster coordination leadership in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Nutrition, Education and Child Protection Sub-Cluster and is an active member of the WHO-led Health Cluster. Following Hubert, a multi-sectoral rapid assessment was conducted in late March in the south east comprising of three teams made up from UN agencies,

¹ Evaluation de la situation des écoles primaires et collèges en période de crise, UNICEF, April 2010.

NGOs and the National Disaster Management Office. A standardised multi-sectoral assessment tool, developed jointly by humanitarian actors, was used for the first time, and out of the 74 affected communes affected, 48 were visited.²

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Out of the US\$11.5 million total requirements, only US\$331,565 (3 per cent) has been received as of mid-year, for nutrition activities. Response to the tropical storm was enabled through reprogramming of regular resources and the use of pre-positioned stock of emergency life saving items. The tropical storm and lack of rain in the south has created a food security crisis, which if not addressed adequately, will lead to a nutritional crisis in both the south and south east of Madagascar, requiring a significant emergency response which explains the increase in the health and nutrition budget.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)				
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap
Health and Nutrition	2,000,000	3,031,565	331,565	2,700,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	5,000,000
Education	4,000,000	2,906,000	0	2,906,000
Child Protection	450,000	176,000	0	176,000
Total*	11,450,000	11,113,565	331,565	10,782,000

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

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

Health and Nutrition:

- UNICEF and the WHO will jointly strengthen and train decentralised Health Clusters in three regions particularly at risk from cyclone in emergency preparedness and response.
- Thirty health centres in the two regions affected by the tropical storm Hubert will be rehabilitated, and 178 new centres for outpatient nutritional rehabilitation for severe malnutrition (CRENAS) will be set up in preparation of a deterioration of the nutritional situation following Hubert. The current CRENAS in the south, south-east and major cities will be maintained.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

- Ten thousand people in 200 communities in Antananarivo and the drought affected areas will be assisted with potable water supply, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion activities.
- Six regional WASH Clusters will be trained and provided with information management tools so that emergency information is available for decision-making at regional/district level.

Education:

- Two hundred eighty six teachers and 134 officials working for local educational authorities in target areas will be trained to effectively respond during emergencies.
- One hundred eight classrooms will be reconstructed, and 204 classrooms damaged by the tropical storm will be rehabilitated.

Child Protection:

- Two rounds of the multi-cluster Rapid Assessment Mechanism (McRAM) household survey will be carried out in Antananarivo, Tulear, and six selected rural areas of the country.
- Missing children will be traced and reunited with their families through community-based mechanisms.

² The main findings included 8,080 shelters destroyed, 281 water sources flooded, 229 schools and 34 health centres damaged, more than 60 per cent of expected harvests destroyed.