



A child carrying a sheet of metal in his arms walks through floodwater the day after Cyclone Gezani struck Tamatave.  
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## Flash Update #2 CYCLONES FYTIA and GEZANI

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### Situation Overview

Following Tropical Cyclone FYTIA in north-west Madagascar on 31 January 2026, Intense Tropical Cyclone GEZANI struck the east coast on 10 February 2026 with winds exceeding 250 km/h. After making landfall near Tamatave, the system weakened as it crossed Madagascar but continued to bring torrential rainfall and flooding along its path. GEZANI has since moved into the Mozambique Channel and may curve back toward southern Madagascar; while a second landfall is not currently expected, the system could still generate heavy rainfall and localized flooding.

The most severe impacts have been reported in Atsinanana Region, where the cyclone struck Tamatave—Madagascar’s second-largest city and its principal port. Across Tamatave and surrounding areas, GEZANI caused widespread damage to homes and critical infrastructure, including schools, basic health facilities, water supply systems and electricity networks. As of 14 February 2026, preliminary reports indicate **41 deaths** and **427 injuries**, with **324,404 people** directly affected. An estimated **16,428 people are displaced**, with **48 displacement sites** currently hosting displaced families. Conditions in displacement sites remain challenging, including limited access to safe drinking water, and displacement heightens protection risks—particularly for an estimated **6,000 displaced children across Tamatave I and II districts**. Reported housing impacts to date include 21,267 flooded homes, 39,086 damaged homes, and 19,527 homes completely destroyed.<sup>1</sup>

Cyclone GEZANI caused widespread damage to critical infrastructure in Tamatave city, disrupting access and essential services. Electricity and water networks have been completely cut off. Main roads and some secondary roads are being cleared in stages; however, the RN2—the city’s main artery—was closed for three days, slowing initial response movements and supply delivery. Health services have been severely affected: the two university hospitals sustained major roof and facility damage, while multiple basic health centres were impacted—solar panels were blown off in Tamatave I, and 21 health centres in Tamatave II reported infrastructure damage, with vaccine cold-chain capacity compromised in two facilities. The Centre Vonjy, located within the hospital and providing integrated services for child survivors of sexual violence, has been heavily damaged and is currently non-operational. Education infrastructure has also

<sup>1</sup>National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC) update, February 14, 2026.

been severely affected. Authorities report 35 schools damaged, with 563 classrooms without a roof and 218 destroyed, leaving approximately 29,000 students unable to attend classes. In addition, damage to the central prison compromised separation arrangements, requiring temporary relocation within the facility for 48 detained boys aged 13–17.

A high-level delegation visited affected areas on 12 February 2026, comprising the UN Resident Coordinator and representatives from UNICEF, IOM and WFP, alongside the Japanese Ambassador, the US Chargé d'affaires, the German Head of Cooperation, the Country Director of the African Development Bank and the EU Deputy Chief of Cooperation. The delegation met with the President of the Republic at the BNGRC Operational Centre. The President travelled to Tamatave ahead of landfall and remained during and after the cyclone to assess the situation, engage with affected communities and oversee ongoing response efforts.

## Coordination

Coordination of the response is being led by the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC), with UNICEF working closely with Government authorities and partners to support a coherent, coordinated approach. A rapid multi-sector aerial assessment was conducted on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and findings are currently being consolidated, alongside a rapid multi-sector needs assessment completed on the ground on February 13<sup>th</sup>, with results to be shared shortly. As Cluster Lead Agency, UNICEF sectors are maintaining regular coordination through partner meetings and updated partner response mapping—to strengthen information-sharing, identify priority gaps and avoid duplication.

**Government's call for international solidarity:** On 11 February, during the Council of Ministers, the President of the Republic called for international solidarity to support urgent assistance for affected communities. On 14 February, the Government—under the leadership of the Prime Minister—convened ambassadors, international organizations and partners to reiterate this appeal and mobilize additional support. The Prime Minister also announced the establishment of an ad hoc coordination committee to strengthen oversight and ensure transparent management of incoming assistance. Several countries, as well as the World Bank and private sector actors, pledged support.

## Funding

The first emergency actions were made possible through rapid partner support. Nearly USD 900,000 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was released one day before Cyclone GEZANI made landfall, through the Anticipatory Action framework—the first time this approach has been piloted in Madagascar—allowing key preparedness measures to be put in place ahead of impact and enabling an immediate response after the cyclone. UNICEF also mobilized internal humanitarian funds to kick-start life-saving assistance. This early financing has been critical to the speed of the response; however, significant additional resources are urgently required to sustain and scale up support to affected communities in the weeks ahead.

## UNICEF Response to Date

### Cyclone FYTIA Response

- UNICEF's field office in Boeny region provided an immediate operational platform for the response, with seven staff reinforced by five surge staff (12 total) to strengthen coordination and accelerate delivery of assistance. As Boeny is also the epicentre of the ongoing Mpox outbreak, response operations are being implemented in a highly complex, compounded crisis context—requiring simultaneous scale-up of cyclone response and public health measures.
- Early warning and safety messages were disseminated via SMS, U-Report, radio and TV, reaching more than 42,000 people to help families protect themselves, their homes and belongings.
- Emergency education kits were delivered for 4,400 students and temporary learning spaces supported for 1,500 children, helping children return to learning as quickly as possible.
- Hygiene supplies were rapidly distributed to 8,670 people to reduce disease risk after flooding, and four 2,500-litre water tanks were installed across two displacement sites in Mahajanga to support safe drinking water through regular refilling.
- Basic services were sustained through the establishment of health posts in two displacement sites to facilitate early identification and referral of vulnerable cases. Four tents were also provided to replace damaged health facilities serving nearly 10,000 people, alongside delivery of integrated emergency health kits (IEHK) reaching more than 20,000 people.
- Community outreach workers were deployed across displacement sites in Boeny, and displaced families in Mahajanga were reached with messages on child protection, prevention of gender-based violence, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, Mpox prevention, and hygiene practices to promote safer behaviours in crowded conditions.
- To avoid stock-outs during the cyclone period, 290 cartons of Plumpy Nut were pre-positioned to prevent interruptions linked to access constraints.

## **Cyclone GEZANI Response**

- Field presence enabling rapid response: UNICEF's established presence in Fénérive-Est (10 staff), located 100 km north to Tamatave, enabled pre-landfall deployment to Tamatave, with one staff from Antananarivo, to strengthen coordination and position early action. Since landfall, UNICEF has reinforced the response with four additional surge staff to accelerate planning, coordination and scale-up. Currently 13 staff (health, education, WASH, logistics, operations, protection, SBC) are deployed locally with two more staff joining in the next 24 hours. UNICEF has existing warehouse space in Tamatave and pre-positioned supplies that were mobilized to support early action.
- Anticipatory actions: Ahead of landfall, UNICEF supported dissemination of general and sector-specific early warning messages, enabling families to take protective measures, and distributed water purification supplies for 2,400 people in Brickaville district to help ensure access to safe drinking water immediately after the cyclone.
- To help prevent disease outbreaks in displacement sites, UNICEF distributed WASH kits to 178 households.
- Safe water access in displacement sites is being secured through the installation of temporary water reservoirs and regular water trucking to ensure displaced families can access safe drinking water. With the city water supply disrupted, the team has identified an alternative source to meet

immediate needs. Ten 10,000-litre reservoirs are currently available in the city, with additional units to be deployed as required.

- Priority sites have been identified for temporary learning centres, and UNICEF has emergency education supplies available to support 14,000 students in Tamatave, helping restore learning as quickly as possible
- Essential health services are reinforced at the two university hospitals (2 CHU) through provision of fuel for generators for up to 7 days and 2 tents for patient reception and first-line emergency care.
- Vaccines were secured from damaged storage units in affected health centres and safely transferred to alternative cold-chain storage under the regional health directorate and district health office.
- To mitigate heightened post-cyclone health risks, UNICEF delivered 2,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets for 1,000 households and two IEHK kits, sufficient to cover essential health needs for 40,000 people for one month.
- UNICEF is supporting community outreach and key messages on safe water and hygiene practices, breastfeeding, child protection, and available feedback channels, including the toll-free hotline 930.
- Awareness sessions were conducted in across displacement sites, reaching 125 households with messages on safe water storage, menstrual hygiene, correct use of WASH kits, nutrition including breastfeeding, prevention of violence against children, available feedback channels including the toll-free hotline 930.

## UNICEF Planned Response

- Multi-sectoral response activities are ongoing in affected areas of Boeny Region to Cyclone FYTIA, with teams on the ground in Mahajanga and surrounding districts continuing to deliver life-saving support. Efforts are focused on restoring access to learning, safe water, basic services and child protection support, alongside reinforcement of supplies and transport to reach the most affected and hard-to-access communities
- UNICEF is developing a budgeted, multi-sector emergency response plan covering both Cyclones FYTIA and GEZANI to consolidate priorities, quantify critical needs and gaps, and guide a coordinated scale-up of life-saving assistance with Government and partners.

## Cyclone GEZANI

- Education support will scale up to enable children to return to learning, including establishing temporary learning spaces, distributing emergency school kits, and rapid procurement of essential materials, including tarpaulin, tents and metal sheets, for 300 affected schools.
- Essential medical supplies will be deployed to displacement sites to sustain access to health care.
- Referral and outreach capacity will be strengthened through one ambulance per district across seven districts and deployment of mobile teams in urban and peri-urban areas for 15 days.

- Five damaged health facilities will be supported to restore service delivery through tents for destroyed facilities, tarpaulins for damaged structures, light rehabilitation including cold-chain repairs, and deployment of additional medical teams from central level to reinforce local capacity.
- Child protection services will be maintained and expanded in affected areas, including prevention activities, case management and referrals, and the establishment of child-friendly spaces through delivery of CFS kits in affected areas, including displacement sites.
- Community engagement will be intensified through interpersonal communication with community volunteers (including scouts) and local leaders, complemented by expanded community radio outreach to reach remote areas.
- Youth volunteers will be mobilized to support the response, including the cleaning of streets and buildings and supporting communication.
- Accountability and feedback will be strengthened through the toll-free hotline 930, with reception and analysis of community feedback ongoing.

## Gaps and Challenges

- Access constraints due to Cyclone FYTIA continue to limit response capacity in the most affected districts, slowing delivery of life-saving assistance.
- Key frontline responders and government partners in Atsinanana Region have themselves been affected by Cyclone GEZANI, reducing operational capacity and limiting the availability of essential services for affected communities. Most administrative buildings are heavily damaged or destroyed making it very difficult for the regional teams to be functional.
- Significant funding shortfalls are limiting the ability to rapidly scale up life-saving assistance. With already limited resources stretched by the Mpox response and Cyclone FYTIA, available funding is insufficient to sustain and expand priority interventions in the hardest-hit areas.
- Operational constraints include debris and damaged infrastructure restricting road access, the need for a secure logistics hub, and reliable communications where networks are down, alongside sustained fuel and power solutions to keep critical services running and support restoration of electricity and water systems.
- Coordination is being reinforced, including through dedicated inter-agency/sector meetings. However, with systems and partners already stretched by the Mpox response and successive cyclones (Fytia and now GEZANI), additional support is needed to sustain effective coordination, ensure efficiency, and deliver a coherent, life-saving scale-up across sectors.

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