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Reporting Period: February 2022

Madagascar Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report No. 8

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Highlights

- Nutrition screening show an improvement in the nutrition situation compared to the same period of the last year and compared to the latest mass screening (Quarter 3 2021), but alert shall remain till end of the lean season until end of April.
- UNICEF's WASH interventions have reached 52,000 people who are most affected by the drought in the regions of Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana from the total of 60,000 reached by the cluster and thus out of the 800,000 targeted by the WASH cluster.
- By supporting the deployment of 29 mobile clinics to increase access to essential and life-saving care for women and children in the Great South, UNICEF covered 9,800 people in February, including 4,800 women and 5,000 men. Since the beginning of the year, a total of 32,500 people, or 16% of the annual target, have received essential and life-saving health services.
- UNICEF continued to coordinate the cash plus response to the drought through the Cash Working Group. In February, UNICEF covered about 45,000 people (approximately 24,000 children) with Humanitarian Cash Transfers..
- In response to the challenges faced by populations, service providers and humanitarian actors in identifying, reporting and seeking/providing quality assistance to victims of GBV or SEA, and in response to exacerbate risk situations detected, UNICEF is carrying out a series of dedicated trainings on GBViE and PSEA, including a training of trainers that will enable an acceleration in preventive and risk mitigation measures.
- Cyclone seasons started at the end of January with Ana in February with Batsirai, Dumako and Emnati affecting the capital city, the north East and the East Cost until the south Assessments indicate that 187,000 people were affected, including 43,000 displaced and 131 killed

Situation in Numbers



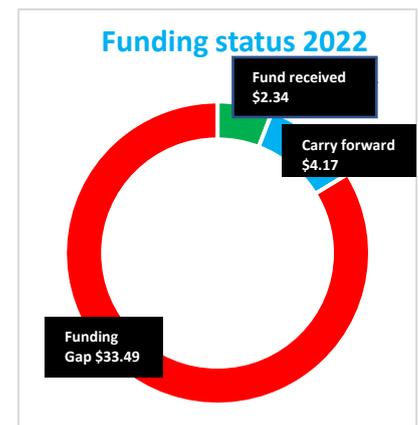
1,285,000
people facing high acute food
insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4)



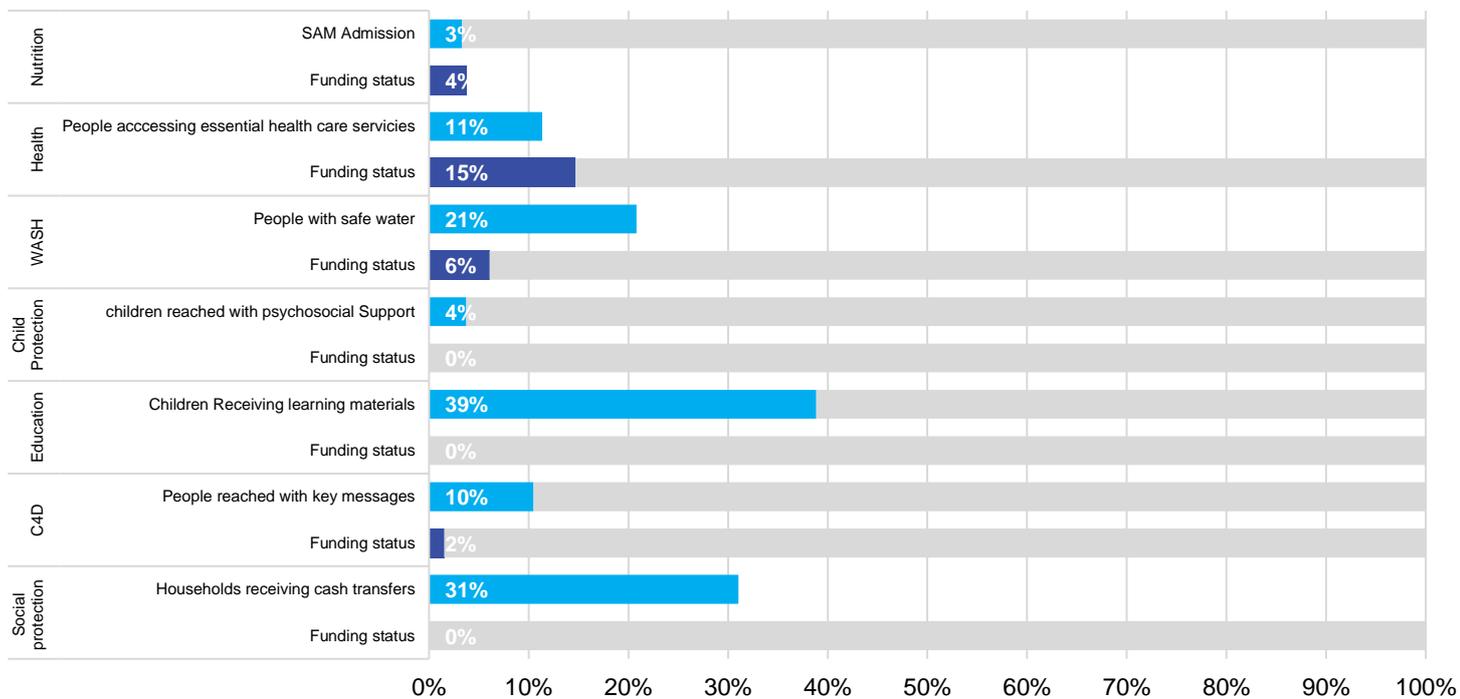
28,000
people critically food
insecure (IPC Phase 5)



500,000
children in need



UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Important note : these figures only refer to 2022 activities (month 02)

Funding Overview and Partnerships

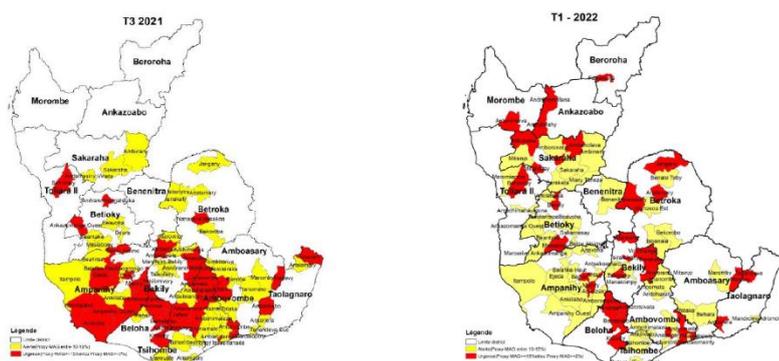
To immediately respond to ongoing humanitarian crisis, and to prepare for potentially worsened emergencies due to drought and cyclones, UNICEF Madagascar launched a US\$ 40.08 million appeal to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of children and women. As of 28 February 2022, 16 per cent had been received.

UNICEF strongly supported the preparation and the coordination of the response, partnering with the BNGRC thus reinforcing their capacity during the crisis, prepositioning supplies in most at risk areas, providing reports on the situation and facilitating sectoral coordination – especially with its NGO partners - and response especially in Nutrition, WASH, Health, Shock-Responsive Social Protection (Humanitarian Cash Transfers), and Education, while promoting and advocating for specific attention to be given to protection and gender concerns in assessment and response.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Based on latest IPC results, the acute malnutrition prevalence is estimated at 7.6% for the 10 districts, and with Severe Acute Malnutrition prevalence is estimated at 1.5%. The GAM prevalence is slightly improved compared to last year's SMART survey, which found SAM prevalence to be 2.0% and GAM prevalence to be 7.6%.

The latest seasonal screening demonstrates that International efforts to tackle malnutrition have proven their efficiency with still high figures (MAS at 0.7%) but less than at the same period last year and less than last quarter. However, population is exhausted after two years of intense drought, and – despite recent rains – aquifers and vegetation demonstrate that the water situation remains dire



Comparison T3 2021 and T1 2022, Municipalities in alert (yellow) and emergency (red) phases

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Nutrition

UNICEF and its partners continue to monitor closely the nutrition situation. For the quarter one 2022, 539,072 children¹ were screened for wasting across the 10 drought affected districts and extended to five bordering districts in the Atsimo Andrefana region. 5 out of 15 districts are classified as being in alert (Sakaraha, Ampanihy, Beloha, Bekily, Ambovombe) with wasting rate between 10-15% and the other districts are classified as being “under control” (wasting <10%). Despite the overall stable nutrition situation there are 34 municipalities with emergency level of wasting (>15%), and 50 municipalities are in alert situation out of 247.

UNICEF continue to strengthen the capacities of all the 278 health centers and 9 hospitals, in the 10 affected districts offering community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) services. UNICEF helped the Ministry of Health on the deployment of 121 health workers (83 in Androy region and 38 in Amboasary region) for 6-month period. Mobile teams (62) across the districts are operational, led by various nutrition partners to complement fixed site nutrition services. UNICEF has also extended the support of Infant and Young child feeding in emergency to the districts of Ambovombe and Bekily through a partnership with ASOS. These activities include many dialogues at community level. There are 250 Fokontany reached which mean 5,736 people affected (men and women) by this activity. As a result of these communities’ dialogues, 250 Community Action Plans are developed, available and operational

Between January 2022 and February 2022, **7,376** SAM children admitted in CMAM (CRENAS), plus **51** children with complications. This brings the total to **7,427** children admitted between January 2022 to February 2022. Services cover 100% of all health centres (**278**) and hospitals (**9**) in the 10 Southern affected districts, plus **62** Mobile health & nutrition teams. The cure rates remain within acceptable spheres standard: at **89.6%**, with a mortality rate of **0.1%** and a defaulter rate of **5.9%**.

WASH



During February 2022, just over **52,000 people** received WASH assistance (essentially through water supply-water trucking, more construction of emergency boreholes equipped with handpumps are under study). Some 377m³ of water were distributed. The beneficiaries were mothers and MAS children (at the health and nutrition centres) and some community members in the Anosy, Androy and Atsimo Andrefana regions.

For this month of February, UNICEF’s contribution represented 76% of the cluster response in water trucking

Since the start of the response in 2021, out of the **800,000** persons targeted by the WASH Cluster, over **620,000** people have received the WASH assistance (which represents 78% of the target) through mainly construction of water points, water trucking. CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation) is also been carried out in the

communities targeted by the emergency response. From the above-mentioned cluster results, UNICEF direct contribution reached over 460,000 therefore UNICEF’s own contribution represents around 60% of the cluster response.

Reference: [Water Sanitation Hygiene | Humanitarian Response](#)

Challenges

Drought continued this year and underground water level is continuously depleting rendering difficult extraction (increase in pumping time etc) and the water trucking (reduced available quantity to be distributed). Latest data indicated that 0,30% of the territory has favourable conditions, 19% is normal to vigilant, 18% has alarming conditions, and 67% has extreme emergency conditions. For the second quarter of February, if the percentage of the territory with alarming conditions has halved from 18 to 9%, the percentage of the territory with extreme conditions has increased to 72%

The rains brought by the Emnati cyclone have not yet had an impact on the vegetation. For January, 42% of the sites present low to very low water tables (Alert to emergency), 26% show moderately low levels (vigilance) and 32% show normal levels.

¹ There is no noticeable gender difference in nutrition situation or access in the south, disaggregation is 50/50

Links to bulletins:

[Bulletin d'alerte sécheresse du Grand Sud de Madagascar - 2022 | UNICEF.](#)

<https://www.unicef.org/madagascar/rapports/bulletin-dalerte-s%C3%A9cheresse-du-grand-sud-de-madagascar-2022>

The WASH Cluster response plan estimated budget of **6 million** USD to cover WASH needs for the **800, 000** targeted people. Considering the recurrent cyclone situation that will drastically increase the number of people in need (+10,000 to 25,000 for WASH), there is a huge funding gap to be covered and advocacy need to be undertaken toward the FCDO (Foreign Commonwealth Development Office), World bank, USAID (United States Agency for International Development), ECHO (European Community Humanitarian Aid Office) etc to support WASH response in 2022

Health

UNICEF continues supporting health interventions in the Great South to increase access to essential health services for women and children affected by drought, malnutrition, and food insecurity. In February, 9,800 people reached, including 4,800 women and 5,000 men, covering 59% of the planned targets for the month. This less than 80% coverage is primarily because the mobile clinics entered a re-planning and prioritization phase in the second half of the month to align with new nutrition surveillance and IPC data. Year-to-date, 32,500 people, or 16% of the 2022 target, have been able to access essential and life-saving health care services.

2: Maternal and neonatal health

To increase access for pregnant women and newborns in the Great South, maternal and newborn care services strengthened through mobile clinics. 500 pregnant women came for their first prenatal consultation and 100 for their fourth visit. During these prenatal visits, to protect the mother and newborns, 100 pregnant women tested for HIV and 50 received bed nets to prevent malaria. 280 newborns received postnatal visits.



Passage of the Mobile Clinic in Rerango- Commune Tranoroa- District of Beloha- Region of Androy/ Photo Credit Mobile Clinic Beloha

3: Immunization

To effectively increase immunization coverage and prevent disease outbreaks, the mobile clinics offered immunization services to children and pregnant women based on their immunization status and appointment. In February, a total of 1,400 children seen at the mobile clinics to receive their vaccinations.

4: Child and adolescent health

In addition to immunizations, many children seen in these mobile clinics, primarily for illnesses, but also for monitoring their health status, including their nutritional status. During these mobile clinics, 7,100 children under the age of 5 were seen on an outpatient basis (3,400 girls and 3,700 boys). Among these sick children treated, the majority were related to the 3 most deadly pathologies for them, namely malaria, acute respiratory infection (ARI) , and diarrhea with a total of 2,800 cases and the rest scattered on other diseases such as (not exhaustive): dental disease, headaches, dermatosis, intestinal parasitosis, thrush, ...

Education

UNICEF continued its support to the ministry of Education (MoE) by strengthening the coordination mechanism. With the contribution of UNICEF, four comprehensive contingency plans for preparedness, response and resilience interventions including intersectoral interventions as well as gender and handicap were finalized at central level and decentralized level. The strengthening of the monitoring mechanism resulted in the decentralized education authorities of the three drought-affected regions, in a monitoring report that revealed an increased rate of children and teachers' absenteeism. In 42 primary schools in Ampanihy district (Atsimo Andrefana region), this rate increased in one month from 4.76% to 6.28% for school children and from 12.87% to 23.43% for teachers. With the displacement of the population due to the drought, some schools with canteens are however reported to be crowded. Monitoring of the situation is ongoing.

During the reporting period, if the cyclone BATSIRAI went through the North of the Atsimo Andrefana region, all three regions were hit by the cyclone Emnati. This exacerbated the needs of the education sector in the Grand Sud. They have approximately 26,000 students with no access to education in at least 200 schools because of damage or destruction to school infrastructure (roofs blown away, walls collapsed, damaged school furniture and equipment, etc.). Responses were immediately initiated to cope with these increasing needs following the cyclone, UNICEF in collaboration with the regional directorate of national education (DRENs). The distribution of prepositioned stock namely tents tarpaulin and school kits that already benefited to approximately 11,343 children (5648) in 61 schools in the ANOSY region were organized. In Atsimo Andrefana, tarpaulin and 24 SIB (School in a Box) were distributed. In all, 11,224 children (5246 girls) are benefitting from this immediate response.

Despite accessibility constraints during the cyclone period, UNICEF continues the delivery of individual school kits to 325,000 pre-primary (60,000), primary (240,000) and secondary (25,000) students in the three drought-affected regions of Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo Andrefana. 163,000 individual kits already received and the remaining distribution of 162,000 individual kits will be completed shortly. UNICEF support the 3 DRENs in the delivery of the emergency material from the school district (CISCO) level to the 325,000 beneficiary children in 1050 pre-primary/primary schools and 100 secondary schools.

Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Social Policy

The joint response plan prepared by the Cash Working Group (CWG) – led by the Government and UNICEF – and the Food Security Cluster (SAMS) continues to be implemented. The plan covers about 900,000 people who continues to receive monthly Humanitarian Cash Transfers (100,000 MGA/per household). In February, eight members of the Cash Working Group (Fond intervention pour le Développement, FID through the World Bank and UNICEF; WFP; Save the Children; Action Against Hunger; the Malagasy Red Cross; Welthungerhilfe, Catholic relief Services and SAF FJKM) were able to reach 90% of the forecast target for the month: 139,000 households out of 153,000 planned, reaching out to approximately 420,000 children. **UNICEF covered about 45,000 people (approximately 24,000 children) with Humanitarian Cash Transfers.**

The cash transfer is implemented with accompanying measures that improve the well-being of households and strengthen their access to basic social services such as nutrition, education and health of children and stabilize their income. These accompanying measures include essential family practices, early childhood development, financial and productive education, family planning, etc.

The shock-responsive social protection response is expected to end in April, and to transition to the regular national social protection programme thereafter. However, actors are still analysing needs to understand when and how to move forward with this transition, retooling the national social protection programme to better respond to climate risks. A capitalization, lessons learned, and experience sharing workshop to develop a common response strategy for the social protection programming in response to shocks, including climate change, and to prepare the transition to the regular social protection program is being prepared.

Additional funding (around 3.5 million USD) is needed to support the transition to the regular programme, that will include for UNICEF the modelling of a climate resilient child benefit and equal opportunity benefit (for children and adults living with disability) in the next three years to better respond to the root causes of poverty in the south of Madagascar and build resilience to climate change and other shocks.

Child Protection

1- Strengthening coordination and response capacity for child protection during emergencies in the South

In relation to cyclone Batsirai, the regional directorate of the Ministry of Population (DRPPSPF) of Anosy region, with UNICEF support, implemented child protection preparedness actions including refresher training of social work volunteers on child protection in emergencies. 25 workers in child-friendly spaces, including 7 animators (5 women and 2 men) and 15 social work volunteers (8 women and 7 men) were supported. Their knowledge of the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) was strengthened so that they could carry out awareness-raising activities. A survey of the three accommodation sites was conducted by a team composed of UNICEF, WHO and DRPPSPF staff. Recommendations on the capacity of these sites (risk of GBV, risk of violence against children, state of sanitary facilities) were issued and sent to the governorate by the DRPPSPF Anosy

In the district of Amboasary, 1680 children displaced in 3 shelter sites (including 789 boys and 891 girls) as a result of cyclone Emnati benefited from the activities of the child-friendly space for 2 days. Six social work volunteers, six young peer educators and six men who were previously trained as role models carried out thematic activities on violence against children, GBV, PSEA and reporting. In addition, 23 members of the young reporters' clubs were sensitized about the types of violence and reporting before their production of awareness-raising programs on violence and reporting on local radio stations.

2 - Strengthening of services and care for child victims or children at risk during emergencies

During February, the members of the trained Child Protection Networks and the members of the local watch groups in the Anosy and Androy regions carried out awareness-raising activities. In total, 3,515 people (2,888 adults, including 1,775 men and 1,113 women, and 627 children, including 315 boys and 312 girls) were sensitized on the fight against violence against children, child marriage and GBV. During the month of February, 14 cases of children (11 girls and 3 boys) who were victims of physical violence (4), abandonment (6), and sexual violence (4) were reported in the three regions (Anosy, Androy and Atsimo Andrefana). The children received care and support facilitated by social work volunteers

3- Prevention of violence, abuse, exploitation, child marriage and neglect during the drought period.

The implementation of the life skills programme continues for 2170 out of school children (946 boys and 1224 girls) and 2156 children within the school context (926 boys and 1230 girls). Child-friendly spaces in three fokontany of the Amboasary district, led by the social work volunteers and facilitators are continuing their activities. In February, 75 children (38 girls and 37 boys) benefited from the activities offered in these spaces.

The literacy programme implemented by the NGO Faravehivavy continues in the Anosy Region. 351 beneficiaries (88 girls, 43 boys and 220 women) of these literacy courses are in the sixth week of their 4-month courses.

In the Androy region, in response to the malnutrition situation in the Ambovombe prison linked to the drought, food support for incarcerated children and women continues.

Following the training conducted in January on positive masculinity and the roles of boys and men in creating a more protective environment and on reporting cases of violence, the trained "model" men raised awareness among other men in their communities. In February, in the Androy region, 115 new male role models were sensitised and engaged in protection against violence and exploitation, including GBV. In the Anosy region, 229 boys aged 14 to 18 and 236 men aged over 18 were sensitized on positive masculinity.

454 children in the districts of Beloha and Bekily have been supported to obtain birth certificates, allowing them to enjoy their right to identity and to be less vulnerable to the impacts of the crisis and the risks of abuse and exploitation.

Social and Behaviour Change Communication, Community Engagement & Accountability

Drought-related media communication in the south was strengthened following an advocacy meeting with 12 out of 18 local radio station managers. An orientation session was also organized with the participation of more than 30 journalists, the Junior Reporters Club coach and radio presenters from the Anosy and Androy regions. Through the support of UNICEF, each local radio station has developed a media plan for two months (December 2021 and January 2022) focusing on the broadcasting of drought-related programs. In collaboration with the regional department of youth and sports, the mobilization of youth community actors and volunteers in Ambovombe and Tsihombe was strengthened. A total of 77 young men and women were trained in communication and community engagement and have further engaged with 180 young people and 30 youth local associations to actively participate in drought-related community actions.

Through communication activities, 45,000 people including 5500 Adults (1980 Men and 3520 Women), 27500 Young people (including 11820 Men and 15 680 Women) and 12,000 children including 3250 boys and 8750 girls were reached with messages of behaviour change. The setting of the two-way communication approach allowed 620 people (including 250 young men, 300 young girls and 170 adults) to offer their feedback and questions through the community feedback mechanisms available for this purpose (idea box by commune, feedback via radio, focus group at school level, interaction with young people community actors). The approach of communication through entertainment is one of the most effective in rural areas. With the support of the NGO ASOS 30 folk song shows with local artists /song competitions were held. Thirty puppet shows were organized, 30 community animations were carried out through sporting events, 90 group awareness sessions were conducted (crochet radio, neighbourhood atmosphere...), and 180 collective listening sessions were conducted.

In preparation for the arrival of the tropical cyclone EMNATI, awareness sessions were held on tam-tam radios in 11 fokontany in collaboration with the regional directorate of youth in Anosy in at risk areas. With ASOS youth volunteers, key messages related to the yellow alert were translated into Antanosy dialect and shared on local radio stations in collaboration with the Anosy Regional Director of Communication and Culture.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Wash and Nutrition clusters were officially activated on 7th of December 2021 and UNICEF will rapidly upgrade its capacity to respond as per standards. Websites are already available for each cluster: (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/madagascar/nutrition>
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/madagascar/water-sanitation-hygiene>)

UNICEF ensures that its interventions are in line with humanitarian leadership, whether from the Humanitarian Country Team and from government authorities including the National Office for Disaster Management (BNGRC).

This coordination is relayed to the clusters UNICEF is responsible for (Nutrition, WASH, Education, CWG) and to the field. UNICEF's strategy aims at ensuring a nexus between its humanitarian and development interventions, at reinforcing partners' capacity in all elements of social systems (data, HR, planning, supply, advocacy) and in giving priority to "scale up" potentially innovative interventions. Partnership and coordination with key UN Agencies (WFP, FAO, OCHA), international NGOs (MSF, ACF, MEDAIR, CRS, SOS Children's Villages) and local NGOs (FJKM and ASOS) is indispensable to ensure proper response and coordination of information.

UNICEF plays a leadership role in coordinating partners and co-chairs sector meetings with the National Nutrition Office (ONN) for Nutrition, the Ministry in charge of WASH for WASH, Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Empowerment of Women for Social Policy (Social Protection Working Group and Cash Working Group) and for Child Protection Area of Responsibility/sub-cluster.

Cyclonic season is starting, with a first cyclone having hit Antananarivo on 17th of January, and a complex cyclonic season is foreseen for February. This situation will contribute to fragilize current support, may divert resources and attention.

A major element that must be highlighted is the complexity of operating in Madagascar: the COVID-19 pandemic has severely restrained aerial capacity, with severe restrictions being put on external arrivals, even for humanitarian teams. Roads to the south are structurally damaged, and insecurity slows logistics transports. UNHAS flights have however started to serve the south of Madagascar, in addition to a biweekly flight to the two cities bordering the region (Fort Dauphin and Tulear). Electricity and internet coverage are excessively limited making information gathering and compilation complex.

Human Interest Stories and External Media ‘

International Media

The communication section supported a visit to the south by Al Jazeera. The visit was focused on the response areas of: education, WASH and nutrition.

The nutrition section had an Interview with France Inter, about the reasons of malnutrition in the south: <https://www.franceinter.fr/emissions/un-jour-dans-le-monde/un-jour-dans-le-monde-du-mardi-22-fevrier-2022>

Global campaigns

As part of the Child Alert global campaign in March 2022, the section has produced the following content: Two stories on UNICEF's nutrition response, training parents in the use of the MUAC band, one photo essay on UNICEF interventions, and a library of photos and videos (unedited).

Social media

- [Emergency assistance to families in the South affected by cyclone Emnati](#)
- [UNICEF and partners support the supply of RUTF and therapeutic milk to prevent and treat malnutrition in children in southern Madagascar](#)
- [Impacts of "cash-plus" child benefits on families affected by drought in southern Madagascar](#)
- [Cash transfers help to empower women in drought-affected areas in the south](#)
- [Mobile health clinics save lives in remote, drought-affected areas of southern Madagascar](#)

Contact for further information

Jean Francois Basse, Representative of UNICEF Madagascar, jfbasse@unicef.org

Jean Benoit Manhes, Deputy Representative, UNICEF, jmanhes@unicef.org

Jacky Roland Randimbarison, Emergency Specialist, UNICEF, jrandimbarison@unicef.org

Annex A

Summary of Programme Results (Reference HAC 2022)

Sector		Total needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
			2022 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2022 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
Indicator	Disaggregation							
Health								
# people provided with access to essential and life-saving health care Services	female	169,000 (children)	169,000 children	4 700	▲	213,500	N/A	
	male			5 000	▲			
	women pregnant	31,000	31,000	100	▲	31,000		
Nutrition								
# of children under 5 with SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment sites	girls	110,000	110,000	3725	▲	110,000		▲
	boys			3651	▲			▲
	women							
Child Protection								
# of children reached with psychosocial support	girls	13,000	13,000	287	▲	13,000	N/A	
	boys			198	▲		N/A	
# women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	girls	106,000	106,000	5299	▲	137,000	TBD	
	boys			5033	▲			
	women			7355	▲			
#people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	persons		261,000				TBD	
Education								
# Children Receiving learning materials	girls	440,000	440,000	98,390	▲	637,250	-	▲
	boys			95,573	▲		-	▲
WASH								
# of people who accessed the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	girls	800,000	500,000	28,000	▲	800,000	38,000	▲
	boys			23,000	▲		33,000	▲
	women			29,000	▲		40,751	▲
	men			24,000	▲		34,000	▲
C4D								
# of people reached with access to services and behavioural change messages (through interpersonal communication activities)	girls	225,000	225,000	600	▲			
	boys			0	No change			

	women			17,900	▲			
	men			5,100	▲			
# people who transmit their feedbacks and questions through available mechanisms	girls		397,000	0				
	boys	12,000		0				
	women			600	▲			
	men			900	▲			
Social Protection								
# Households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and/or funding	Households	200,000 (households)	29,000	9,000	▲	200,000	130,000	▲

Annex B

Funding Status*

Reference: HAC 2022

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal 21 February 2022)						
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	Total	\$	%
Nutrition	15,794,500	600,000	1,751,121	2,351,121	13,443,379	85%
Health	6,840,000	1,004,951	39,698	1,044,649	5,795,351	85%
WASH	9,895,000	600,000	1,381,921	1,981,921	7,913,079	80%
Education	2,284,000	-	303,007	303,007	1,980,993	87%
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA	1,702,000	-	138,938	138,938	1,563,062	92%
Cross sectoral (C4D, RCCE and AAP)	1,642,500	24,933	16,683	41,616	1,600,884	97%
Cash-based transfers	1,850,000	-	267,066	267,066	1,582,934	86%
Cross sectoral / Cluster coordination	-	110,000	275,907	385,907	(385,907)	0%
Total	40,008,000	2,339,884	4,174,340	6,514,225	33,493,775	84%