

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

MADAGASCAR: CYCLONE INDLALA

Preliminary Appeal no. MDRMG002

Glide no. TC-2007-000034-MDG

29 March, 2007

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

Appeal no. MDRMG002; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 22 March to 28 March, 2007;

Appeal history:

- [Preliminary Emergency Appeal](#) launched on 22 March, 2007 for CHF 773,262 (USD 637,933 or EUR 477,763) for 6 months to assist 32,000 beneficiaries.
- CHF 185,000 was allocated from the Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) on 7 March 2007. For more information please refer to the [DREF Bulletin](#).

Operational Summary: Government agencies conducted an assessment and revealed that Cyclone Indlala caused great damages in various parts of Madagascar. People were rendered homeless, buildings and bridges were destroyed, damaged or submerged in water. Rice paddies and other crops were also destroyed by the flooding.

The International Federation deployed a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member, who was integrated into the Indlala response activity mainly focusing on identification of beneficiaries and distribution of emergency relief kits provided by the French Red Cross/Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI¹).

The Federation also deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to Madagascar. The FACT team supported the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) with the aim of having a clearer picture of the situation (impacts) and priority needs as well as elaborating a plan of action

As an initial response, 37MT of relief food, relief kits and WatSan purification equipment have been transported to Antalaha and Maroantsetra districts. Following the identification of beneficiaries, relief kits were distributed in Antalaha District and plans have been made to start distributions in Maroantsetra District. Water purification activities have started in Maroantsetra District and electricity generators have been provided to the MRCS branches in the affected areas.

Other partners, including CARE, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Médecins du Monde (MDM), MEDAIR as well as local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are assisting in relief distributions, assessments as well as conducting health and water and sanitation (WatSan) activities so as to reduce the negative impact made by the cyclone disaster.

This Operation Update focuses on the results of the assessments that were carried out by different partners. Implementation of the plan of action has not fully started and the needs of the vulnerable populations may increase once the assessments are completed. This may lead to a revision of the appeal.

¹In French: Plate-forme d'Intervention Regionale pour l'Océan Indien (PIROI).

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Background

Cyclone Indlala hit the north-eastern coast of the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar on Thursday, 15 March 2007. With strong winds of up to 165 km/h, the cyclone caused considerable damage on the northeast coastline. Initial reports indicated significant structural damage in Sava, Analajirofo, Diana and Sofia regions. Roofs were blown away and around 40% of property in Antalaha Town has reportedly been destroyed. Infrastructure such as water and electricity has also been severely damaged.

Cyclone Indlala is the fifth cyclone to hit Madagascar in the past three months. The accumulated impact of these 5 cyclones is widespread, with severe damage to infrastructure and crops, flooding, landslides and displacement of communities. The Malagasy Government estimates that 293,000 people have been affected by the floods, with 32,000 displaced (unconfirmed figures). Reports indicate that more than 150,000 farming families have lost an estimated 90,000 hectares of crop.

Tropical storms such as Indlala aggravate the already precarious food security situation, especially in the arid regions of the southern parts of the country, where a drought has affected 582,000 people. It is evident that the most vulnerable communities have faced successive periods of hardships and their coping mechanisms have been stretched to the limits.

On 20 February 2007, the Malagasy Government launched a US\$ 242 million appeal in response to Cyclones Bondo, Clovis, and Favio. On 15 March 2007, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners launched a Flash Appeal requesting USD 9.6 million to provide aid to people affected by floods and cyclones for a period up to six months. At the request of the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS), a Preliminary Appeal was launched to support their relief and response operation. This Appeal is expected to be revised pending the completion of FACT assessments, the evolving operation and emerging needs.

Operational developments



An aerial view of the damages caused by Cyclone Indlala

Government agencies conducted an assessment and revealed that 105,000 people have been rendered homeless after 5,083 houses were completely destroyed and 5,541 houses were damaged or submerged in water. 91 public building, 29 schools and 35 bridges were also damaged. 20,877ha of rice paddies and 12,006ha of other crops were also destroyed. Due to extensive flooding, access to the affected villages is only possible by air.

The three most affected regions include the North East, North West and the South East zones of Madagascar. In the North East zone, the cyclone destroyed houses in Antalaha Town and the surrounding villages. The roofs of poorly built houses have been blown away or severely damaged due to falling objects. Some vulnerable people are facing difficulties in rebuilding their houses as well as finding wood sticks.

Furthermore, the water distribution had been disrupted creating more anxieties. The areas situated in the north western part of Antalaha are not accessible as a bridge connecting to the area was washed away by the raging floods. In addition, 80% of coconuts and vanilla trees have been damaged.

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Maroantsetra District is the most affected area, where 60,000 people have been affected by the flooding. The flooded area is a productive farming valley. Houses, field crops, schools and health centres have been submerged. A total of 1,200 boreholes were also flooded. Access and circulation inside Maroantsetra is only possible by boat. However, the water has begun to recede and access to these areas will improve for the people on foot as well as for animal-driven carts.

In the North West Zone, the cyclone seemed to lose its wind intensity but continued on its path to the Diana and Sofia regions with heavy rains. According to government information sources, 7 districts have been affected and 95 people have died. In addition, 20,000 people have been rendered homeless and 500 houses, schools and administrative buildings have been destroyed or damaged.

In Ambanja District (Diana Region), the situation is similar to Sofia Region, where 29,305 people have been rendered homeless and 36 people have died. It has also been reported that a number of livestock has been killed by the floods. Roads and bridges have been damaged and 156 tons of rice stock have been destroyed in Antsohihy. This will create a major challenge in supplying rice to the affected areas.

The south east region is also affected and food security challenges are foreseen in the coming months as 70 to 80% of rice crops have been destroyed and access to vulnerable groups is very difficult.

Assessments are still ongoing and figures are expected to increase once the assessment team is able to access the remaining affected areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress and impact

On 13 March 2007, the International Federation deployed a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member to support the national society in implementing the response activities related to precedent floods and cyclones.

The RDRT member was integrated into the Indlala response activity mainly focusing on identification of beneficiaries and distribution of emergency relief kits provided by the French Red Cross/Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI²).



Emergency Relief distribution by MRCS

Considering the severity of Cyclone Indlala as a result of successive hazards, the Federation deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to Madagascar. The FACT team, supported by the Federation's Regional Delegation in Nairobi disaster management coordinator arrived in Madagascar on 23 March 2007 to support the MRCS with the aim of having a clearer picture of the situation (impacts) and priority needs as well as elaborating a plan of action

Relief distributions

37MT of relief food, relief kits and WatSan purification equipment have been transported to Antalaha and Maroantsetra. Following the beneficiary identification, relief kits were distributed in Antalaha District and plans have been made to start distributions in Maroantsetra District. Water purification activities started in Maroantsetra District, covering the needs of 6,000 people as per SPHERE minimum standards. Electricity generators have also been made available to the MRCS branches in the affected areas.

Federation coordination

The Federation/FACT supported the national society in the food distribution exercise in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) in the North East Zone (planning of the intervention strategy is ongoing). In addition, the Malagasy Red Cross Society and the Federation's FACT conducted a joint rapid assessment in the same zone. Plans are underway to conduct an assessment in the north western region involving the MRCS and supported by the FACT team where the identified priority needs will be addressed with support from the Federation.

²In French: Plate-forme d'Intervention Regionale pour l'Océan Indien (PIROI).

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The MRCS and FACT team are attending regularly coordination meeting organized by the national disaster management body. The FACT team also held coordination meetings with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and supported the idea of putting in place a partners coordination meetings in the spirit of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

The Federation supported the MRCS with distribution of 238 metric tonnes (MT) of food, provided by WFP, in the north eastern region. CARE, in collaboration with the WFP, also distributed food in Antalaha Region. Presently, distribution plans and joint identification of beneficiaries are being conducted. Assessments conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are ongoing in order to estimate the severity of the crisis. Médecins du Monde (MDM), MEDAIR, CARE International as well as local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are conducting health and water and sanitation (WatSan) activities. CARE has a project that puts into consideration the recovery phase in terms of repairing of roads using a food-for-work programme, seed distribution and borehole rehabilitation.

PIROI was also active in giving immediate support to the MRCS after the Cyclone Indlala disaster. All items distributed and all logistic networks in the North East Zone were provided by PIROI. The RDRT member supported PIROI and MRCS in organizing relief distribution and beneficiaries' identification in Antalaha District. PIROI also assisted the national society in conducting an assessment in Maraontsetra District.

National society capacity building

The RDRT member organized training to increase the national society's capacities in beneficiaries' identification, relief distribution and supervision.

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For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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