

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 GAFILO

Date 26 March, 2004

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 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 08/04; Operations Update no. 01; Period covered: 17 March to 25 March, 2004; Appeal coverage: 27.4%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 17 March 2004 for CHF 427,000 (USD 334,211 or EUR 272,606) for 3 months to assist 25,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 309,990

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 2004 Annual Appeal for Indian Ocean sub-regional programmes (01.09/2004)

Operational Summary: with timely and generous donor support, the delivery of the planned assistance has started, and the Malagasy Red Cross, supported by the Federation, is well on its way to meeting the planned objectives of this appeal. While the attached contributions list reflects an appeal coverage of 27%, pledged support is being recorded in the Federations pledge management system, and this will be reflected shortly. In addition to the contributions from the Finnish and Swedish Red Cross, the Canadian, Danish, and French Red Cross in particular have provided significant support to this operation, effectively bringing the actual coverage close to 80%.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Tropical cyclone Gafilo made landfall in the northeastern part of Madagascar on 7 March 2004 (north of the city of Antalaha), crossed the northern part of the island, and exited from the country on 8 March 2004. A day later,

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Gafilo returned as a tropical storm and hit the southwest where it diminished in strength, turned north over land, and finally left Madagascar heading east on 12 March, where it decreased in strength over the Indian Ocean. The present appeal comes at a time when Madagascar is still recovering from tropical cyclone Elita, which hit the island three times between 26 January and 4 February 2004, and left 44,190 homeless.

The cyclone is one of the strongest to have hit Madagascar in twenty years. At its height, the diameter of the area of impact was estimated at over 400 kilometres wide with wind gusts of over 250 kilometres an hour. As of 20 March 2004, 172 people have been confirmed dead, 879 people have been injured and 191 are still unaccounted for. According to UNOCHA and the Comité National de Secours (CNS), the total number of people reported to have lost their homes now stands at 214,260. Estimations made by OCHA indicate that the total number of people affected by the cyclone is 773,000.

A joint UN inter-agency flash appeal for Emergency Assistance in Response to Cyclone GAFILO was launched on Friday 19 March. The South African foreign ministry has sent a military team, four defence helicopters and a transport plane to help with relief operations in Madagascar.

Operational developments

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

The Malagasy Red Cross (CRM) held a press briefing on 16 March to provide information about its operations to date and plans for the future, and continues to closely coordinate with other agencies in Antananarivo. The Federation's Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT)-trained assessment leader completed her mission and returned to the Mozambique delegation on 17 March. A relief delegate recruited for a two-month mission is undergoing a series of briefings with technical regional delegates in Nairobi. He is scheduled to arrive in Antananarivo on 27 March. The Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) assessment delegate will complete his mission on 27 March and return to his Seychelles Red Cross Society.

The French Red Cross airlifted 680 tarpaulins for the operation in the southwest on Saturday 20 March and sent additional material for the Red Cross operation in Antalaha in the northeast (*see photo, courtesy of the French Red Cross*).

The CRM local branch mobilized 50 volunteers and deployed its health coordinator. The CRM President also visited the affected area.

The CRM, with the assistance of the Federation team, completed an initial assessment between 18 and 23 March in Morombe together with CNS, UNICEF, WFP and CRS. On 21 March, an interagency team including the Red Cross, conducted an air assessment over the areas of Ambakili and Utongo. It was concluded that there had been extensive flooding and considerable damage to the agriculture of Morombe area caused by a combination of excessive winds and heavy rains. It was easy to foresee the negative impact on human life and livelihood, a ground survey will need to be carried out.

The following day the assessment team visited areas that were accessible by foot only. In Ambahikily (5 km from Morombe town) families were visited who had left their homes and were accommodated in tents donated by UNICEF. Eighty per cent of the houses visited had either collapsed or were severely damaged. Household items had been swept away and rice and other crops destroyed. There has been an increase in cases of diarrhoea; respiratory infections, malaria and influenza, while new cases of conjunctivitis are being reported among children.

Floodwater in some areas has receded, although access remains limited (*photo courtesy of Imaz Press Réunion*).



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Following these assessments the agencies have developed a systematic plan. In a first phase food and non-food articles will be provided to 19,928 most affected homeless people (3086 families) in the three most seriously affected localities of Ambahikily, Antongo and Anosy Ambositra. The combined assistance package will include food for one month, tents (where appropriate) blankets, jerry cans, water purification tablets, mosquito nets, plastic sheeting, soap, candles, matches, seeds and if possible kitchen sets. WFP will provide the food, CRM will distribute the UNICEF donated 2,500 blankets, 2,000 jerry cans, 30 rolls of plastic sheeting, 20 tents, 100 cartons of water purification tablets and the 680 tarpaulins donated by the French Red Cross.

The CRM is also considering assisting in meeting outstanding needs for mosquito nets, soap, candles, matches and kitchen sets.

The logistics and distribution operation of this first phase is an interagency effort. The CRM has dispatched a relief coordinator to receive and supervise the distributions with the other agencies. The WFP ship was due to arrive in the port at Tolaria on 24 March. All the food and relief materials will be trucked by road in one convoy to the WFP office in Sud Fort Dauphin. From there, these will be airlifted by a South African helicopter to distribution sites in Ambahikily, Antongo and Anosy Ambositra.

The Malagasy Red Cross continued to work closely with the French Red Cross-supported Indian Ocean Rapid Intervention Platform (PIROI) in the northern town of Antalaha. In a second phase the Red Cross assistance will be widened to neighbouring affected areas. Meetings have been held with CNS to define the intended locations for distribution of the 5,000 family kits. The CNS has proposed the localities of Betroka, Befotaka and Vondrozo in Tolaria and Midongy South in Fianadantsia.

Relief Distribution

Objective 1: To provide shelter materials for 5,000 flood affected families in the Morombé region.

Progress/Achievements

Activity: To procure, airlift, transport and distribute 5,000 tarpaulins and 10,000 blankets.

Orders have been placed with suppliers in Durban, South Africa, and arrangements are being made for sea freight on a container ship departing Durban 29 March arriving 2 April. Customs clearance and temporary storage arrangements are being made for the arrival.

Objective 2: To prevent the outbreak of epidemics and water borne diseases among 25,000 of the most affected people in the Morombé region.

Activity: To procure, airlift, transport and distribute 5,000 jerry cans, water purification tablets and other basic relief items, and conduct basic health education activities.

See above as jerry cans will be shipped with the tarpaulins and blankets.

Objective 3: To strengthen the disaster response capacity of MRC at headquarters, provincial and local levels.

Activities: To assist and guide MRC volunteers in the implementation of the relief operation. To conduct a lesson learning exercise at the end of the operation to capture learning and focus future disaster preparedness initiatives. The Federation assessment delegate has worked closely with the local CRM branch volunteers to mobilize and train them in relief distributions.

Federation Coordination

The CRM and the Federation assessment team have attended daily coordination meetings with the CNS and other humanitarian organizations and closely cooperated in the interagency group for the planning of the assistance in Morambe. Close links have been maintained with the PIROI.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

Madagascar: Cyclone Gafilo; Appeal no. 08/04; Operations Update no. 1**Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The national society has specifically requested the support of the regional information delegate in building up the capacities and skills of the Malagasy counterpart. In a first phase, the counterpart will travel with the Federation relief delegate to the affected areas and produce articles on CRM/Federation response. Coaching and editing will be provided by the regional information delegate. A digital photo camera for the CRM information unit will be purchased through the present appeal. The counterpart is also scheduled to attend a Regional Communications Forum at the end of April in Nairobi. At a later stage the possibility for the regional delegate to travel to Madagascar, according to requests formulated by the national society, will be taken into account.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Madagascar - cyclone Gafilo

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 8/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

26/03/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				427,000		27.4%
FINNISH - RC		20,000	EUR	31,510	23.03.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		500,000	SEK	85,500	23.03.04	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				117,010	CHF	27.4%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	