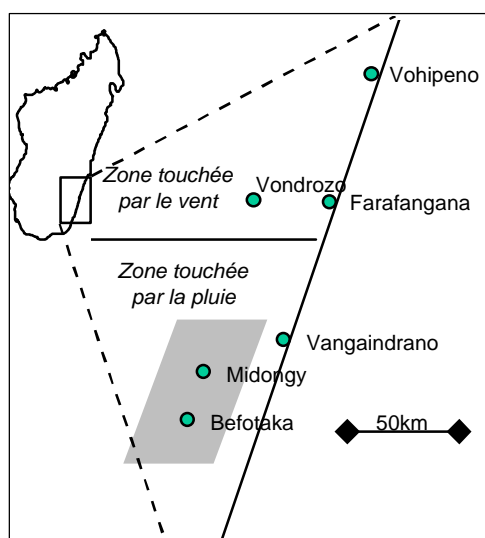


MADAGASCAR: CYCLONE GRETELLE

appeal no 03/97
(revised)

**REVISED APPEAL FOR CHF 1,534,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 42,000 VICTIMS FOR 6 MONTHS**



Population of the Fivondronana (administrative regions) affected :

Vohipeno	114777
Farafangana	228932
Vangaindrano	179089
Vondrozo	77542
Midongy	21478
Befotaka	19931
Total	641749

Diagram

North section : wind-affected area
South section : rain-affected area

Summary

Cyclone Gretelle, the worst cyclone to hit Madagascar in living memory, tore through the south-eastern part of the island on 24 and 25 January 1997, affecting an already vulnerable population who had not had to cope with this kind of disaster for nearly 20 years.

Strong winds in the north and rain in the south wreaked havoc. The entire population in these regions, more than 520,000 people, was affected to a some degree. Following the first partial evaluation, Emergency Appeal 03/97 was launched on 7 February 1997 seeking CHF 885,000. This appeal covered almost all requirements for human resources

and means of transport for first aiders, expenditure related to the expatriate delegates, communications and

computer systems. However the cost of basic foodstuffs and their transport by plane was calculated at first for only three weeks, until a more thorough evaluation could be made.

The Operation

In agreement with the Federation, the Malagasy Red Cross has decided to focus its relief efforts on the two Fivondronana (administrative regions) of Befotaka and Midongy. This is appropriate in light of the National Society's available capacity and the remoteness of the two areas, situated in the mountains and isolated from the rest of the disaster area. Roads into the region will have to be rebuilt in the coming months before trade can be resumed, meaning relief supplies will have to be brought in by air.

Landing strips from the colonial period had to be identified and repaired before airlifts could be carried out. Only 300 metres of the strip at Midongy can be used which means that planes must be able to take off and land in a very short distance. There is only one plane of this type available in Madagascar; it is currently being hired by the Malagasy Red Cross/Federation.

A multiple-flight, daily airlift was organised following a precise assessment of requirements by the Head of the Federation's East Africa Regional Delegation in March.

The Needs

It has become clear that the population in the two isolated areas must receive food for four months more than indicated in the initial appeal. This distribution must include seed distribution so that the affected population can hold out until the next harvest (in four months).

At present, with the financial means available following the initial appeal, 200 metric tonnes (mt) of rice, beans and oil can be distributed in April to the 17,000 most vulnerable victims, out of a total population of 42,000. This quantity is short of an ideal ration but has been determined by the cargo capacity of the only plane that can be used. In Befotaka and Midongy, small harvests of cassava, potatoes and breadfruit should partially cover the shortfall in food.

Needs yet to be covered are another 600 mt (200 mt per month for three months) of food as well as 21 mt of seed, all of which has yet to be purchased, and the cost of flying them in. Hence the initial budget of CHF 885,000 (70% covered) has been increased to CHF 1,534,000. Another request has been submitted to ECHO to cover part of this revised appeal. (ECHO, via the French Red Cross, has already made ECU 150,000 available for this operation.)

Malagasy Red Cross/Federation co-operation

In addition to the approximate 100 volunteers available at Befotaka and Midongy for the planned food distributions, the Malagasy Red Cross/Federation intend to become actively involved in the opening and functioning of two nutrition centres at Farafangana and Vangaindrano to assist 500 children suffering from malnutrition and members of their families - 2,600 beneficiaries in all. A doctor from the Malagasy Red Cross, the counterpart of the Federation's relief delegate, is overseeing distribution of dried food to this group; a nutritionist nurse will also come from Nairobi for three to five weeks.

The Malagasy Red Cross/Federation is providing the national headquarters and the Fianarantsoa regional branch with administrative and logistics support for all approaches to the different local government authorities.

Budget summary

See annex 1 (see also annex 2 for contributions).

Conclusion

Malagasy Red Cross, French Red Cross and the International Federation reacted quickly to the emergency and their response is valued by government authorities, the European Community, the United Nations and NGOs involved. The financial means required to pursue the operation must be found so that the populations in Befotaka and Midongy can recover food self-reliance.

Part of the additional appeal has been submitted to ECHO and a prompt reply is expected.

Margareta Wahlström
Under-Secretary General,
General Disaster Response & Operations Co-ordination

George Weber
Secretary

<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	<u>Appeal no. 03/97 revised</u>	<u>Annex 1</u> in CHF
NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)		
Rice / maize	352,000	
Beans / CSB	131,000	
Sugar	10,000	
Oil	120,000	
Seed	12,000	
SUB TOTAL NEEDS IN KIND		625,000
CASH NEEDS		
Miscellaneous supplies	39,000	
Vehicles	75,000	
Office supplies, radios	97,000	
Transport, warehousing, vehicle costs	418,000	
Personnel (3 delegates / 6 months)	180,000	
Local staff	15,000	
Administration and overheads	35,000	
Operational support from the Secretariat	50,000	
SUB TOTAL CASH NEEDS		909,000
<u>TOTAL FOR APPEAL</u>		<u>1,534,000</u>
LESS FUNDS AVAILABLE		0
<u>NET APPEAL</u>		<u>1,534,000</u>