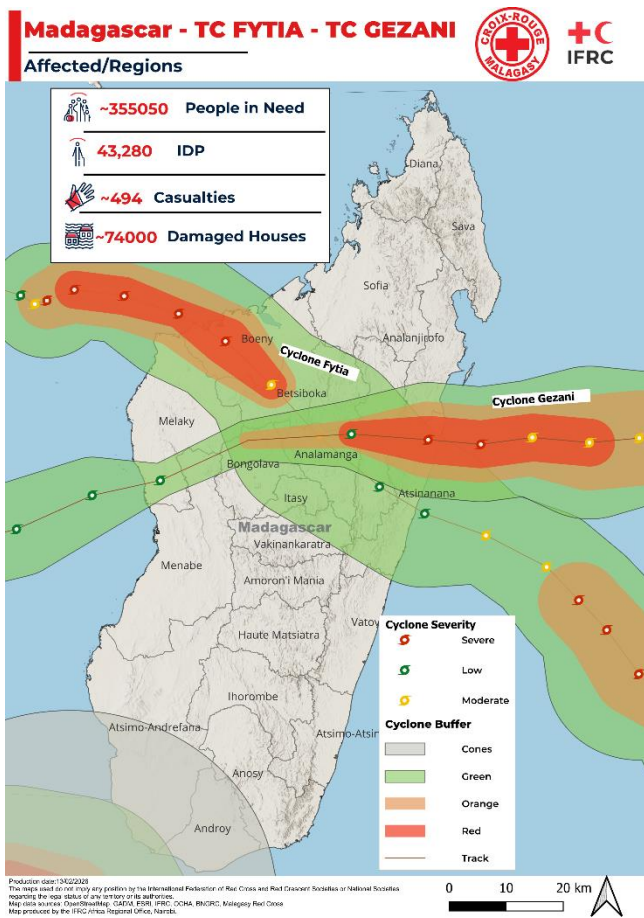




MRCS volunteers support communities evacuated due to Cyclone Gezani, by distributing dignity kits (Photo MRCS)

Appeal No: MDRMG027	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 5 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 7.5million¹	
Glide No: TC-2026-000015-MDG	People [affected/at risk]: 450,000 people	People to be assisted: 45,000 people (9,000 households)
DREF allocation: CHF 1 million	Appeal launched: 13/02/2026	Appeal ends: 31/12/2026

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Malagasy Red Cross (MRCS) in response to the emergency. It includes the MRCS's domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 2.5 million), as well as the funding ask of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 5 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Situation Update

Madagascar is being hit by back-to-back cyclones, cutting off communities from food, basic health services, and other essentials. Two destructive storms have struck the country within just ten days, compounding the crisis.

The humanitarian situation is severe and rapidly evolving, with impacts already exceeding national coping capacities. Additional events may occur before the cyclone season ends in April or May, as seasonal forecasts predict 10 to 14 weather systems in the southwestern Indian Ocean (compared with a normal average of 10), of which five to eight are expected to intensify into tropical cyclones (normal average of five).

Cyclone Fytia formed on 28 January 2026, made landfall on 31 January, and crossed the country through 1 February, causing severe flooding and widespread displacement before weakening and moving back out to sea on 2 February. Ten days later, Cyclone Gezani made landfall on 11 February

near Toamasina as a Category 4 cyclone, with winds of up to 250 km/h, devastating about 75 per cent of the city and prompting a national disaster declaration as it moved inland on 12 February.

Tropical Cyclone Fytia

Tropical Cyclone Fytia made landfall on 31 January as a Category 3 cyclone, triggering widespread flooding across northwestern Madagascar. As of 8 February, 14 deaths had been reported, more than 31,000 people displaced, and over 200,000 people affected across 35 districts. The majority of those affected are in the Boeny Region. Overall, the cyclone impacted 35 districts across nine regions: Boeny, Analamanga, Melaky, Sofia, Vakinankaratra, Betsiboka, Atsinanana, Alaotra Mangoro, and Itasy.

More than 19,000 houses were flooded, damaged, or destroyed, while 493 classrooms and 20 health facilities sustained damage. Extensive losses to rice fields, up to 70 per cent in the hardest-hit districts, and livestock have severely undermined livelihoods and food security. Public health risks are rising as water points have been flooded and health and nutrition services disrupted, compounded by medical supply stockouts and heightened risks of disease outbreaks, including Mpox. River transport and school classes remain suspended in the most affected areas. Access constraints, especially in remote areas reachable only by air, have hampered emergency response efforts.

Tropical Cyclone Gezani

Tropical Cyclone Gezani crossed Madagascar and entered the Mozambique Channel near Antsalova around 17:00 local time on 11 February before weakening into a tropical storm. Along its path, it brought heavy rainfall nationwide, prompting the Government of Madagascar to issue an appeal for international assistance. On 12 February, further rainfall and strong winds were expected in central-western Madagascar. A red alert for strong winds and flooding was issued. The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) estimates that 1.3 million people were exposed to Category 1 (119 to 153 km/hr) or higher wind speeds. Maximum sustained winds reached 211 km/h (Category 4). The GDAC score is 2.5 (red).

As of 16:00 on Thursday 12 February, the Malagasy National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC) reported 38 deaths, six missing persons, 374 injured, and 269,407 people affected, including

16,318 displaced. Damage assessments indicate that 13,203 homes were flooded, 37,430 damaged, and 18,797 destroyed. Significant losses to education infrastructure were also reported, with 561 classrooms unroofed and an additional 175 classrooms damaged or destroyed.

Approximately 75 per cent of Toamasina and the surrounding areas have sustained severe damage, with widespread destruction reported. Aerial assessments are scheduled for 12 February, followed by further rapid evaluations supported by MRCS volunteers.

Gezani is now moving toward Mozambique and may approach the coast later this week, bringing heavy rainfall, while forecasts also indicate a possible, though uncertain shift back toward southern Madagascar. Coastal and low-lying areas remain at highest risk, with secondary impacts anticipated in parts of central and southern Mozambique by 13 February.

Priority needs focus on life-saving assistance, including emergency shelter, essential household items, clean water, sanitation and hygiene support, and food assistance, reflecting the high risk to coastal and low-lying communities as Gezani brought strong winds, storm surge, and heavy rainfall. Health services require reinforcement, while vulnerable groups need targeted protection. With forecasts showing possible further coastal impacts with an uncertain potential shift toward southern Madagascar, pre-positioning of supplies, evacuation readiness, and rapid response capacity remain critical. Early recovery priorities include restoring

essential services and supporting livelihoods already weakened by recent cyclones.

On 11 February 2026, the government declared a state of national disaster following the devastating impact of Cyclone Gezani, which struck multiple regions already weakened by Cyclone Fytia and prolonged heavy rainfall. The storms have caused significant loss of life, extensive damage to infrastructure and housing, major flooding, and widespread economic disruption.

During a Council of Ministers meeting, the President issued an urgent appeal for international solidarity to support emergency assistance for affected communities, noting that up to 75 per cent of Toamasina and the surrounding areas were devastated.

This may not be the last cyclone of the season, as forecasts predict additional systems that could reach Madagascar through April 2026. This underscores the need for heightened preparedness and sustained support to help communities mitigate the potential impacts of future disasters.

Since the beginning of 2026, the country has faced multiple emergencies, further compounded by the impacts of the two cyclones: i) Mpox outbreak: Madagascar's Mpox outbreak, officially declared by the Ministry of Public Health on 30 December 2025, has since spread to 21 regions nationwide; ii) Food insecurity: On 30 January 2026, the government requested international assistance to respond to several concurrent humanitarian crises, reporting that 1,077,140 people are in urgent need of nutritional support.

TARGETING

Cyclone Fytia affected over 200,000 people across nine regions in northwestern Madagascar, with the Boeny Region, particularly the districts of Soalala and Marovoay, identified as the most heavily impacted and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Cyclone Gezani affected over 250,000 people, with the most severe impacts concentrated around the eastern landfall zone, especially in Toamasina (Tamatave), Madagascar's second largest city, where roughly 75 per cent of the city was devastated, resulting in severe structural damage, uprooted trees, and extensive infrastructure collapse. The Atsinanana Region experienced widespread flooding and blocked roads, while coastal communities east of Antananarivo carried out evacuations as the cyclone approached. As Gezani moved inland, it continued to cause damage in the Central Highlands, about 100 km north of Antananarivo, before exiting into the Mozambique Channel.

This Emergency Appeal aims to reach a total of 9,000 households (45,000 people), including 10,000 of the most vulnerable people affected by Cyclone Fytia and 35,000 affected by Cyclone Gezani. The response prioritises the most affected and vulnerable households, aligned with national response plans to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. The approach also allows flexibility to scale up if conditions worsen due to continued rainfall or additional weather systems.




Through this Emergency Appeal, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement aims to deliver life-saving, time-critical assistance while simultaneously laying the foundations for early recovery and long-term resilience in the areas most affected or imminently at risk. The Malagasy Red Cross Society will implement this through a comprehensive strategy comprising:

- Anticipatory Action: Activities undertaken ahead of the current cyclones, as well as those forecast during this cyclone season, to reduce potential impacts and enhance community preparedness.
- Immediate Life-Saving Relief: Rapid emergency assistance targeting the most vulnerable households in crisis, ensuring timely support to protect lives and address urgent humanitarian needs.
- Recovery and Resilience Building: Actions focused on restoring essential services, supporting early recovery, and strengthening long-term community resilience to reduce future vulnerability.

Targeting will also consider overlap with areas engaged under the recent [DREF \(MDRMG026\) for Mpox](#), particularly where it intersects with Cyclone Fytia affected communities.





PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) seeks to support the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) in responding to the series of cyclones that have affected Madagascar in 2026. The IFRC’s response strategy will focus on the following priority areas:

	<p>Integrated assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide cash or in kind support to help households meet essential needs, including food, household items, and emergency shelter. • Support early recovery through cash for community-identified needs and in-kind distributions, such as seeds, tools, and other essential shelter materials.
	<p>Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver immediate health services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). • Improve access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene through targeted services and the provision of essential hygiene supplies, including disinfection sessions in public areas. • Promote hygiene practices and water treatment techniques to prevent waterborne diseases.
	<p>Protection and Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen community preparedness by training local responders and reducing flood and landslide risks through mitigation measures. • Ensure safe and equitable access to services by integrating gender, protection, and inclusion considerations into multisector assessments. • Engage communities and stakeholders throughout the response to ensure transparency, meaningful participation, and accountability.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	<p>Coordination and partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate the response through a Federation-wide approach, including reporting, management, and technical services. • Strengthen coordination and partnerships within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with relevant external actors, including the government and UN agencies.
	<p>Shelter Cluster coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFRC will support the MRCS, as needed, in fulfilling its IASC commitment by leading Shelter Cluster coordination once activated.
	<p>IFRC Secretariat services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFRC Secretariat will ensure the operation's efficiency, effectiveness, and financial compliance by implementing appropriate risk-mitigation measures. Its support will focus on strengthening visibility and accountability through procurement and logistics oversight, producing communications materials to maintain donor confidence, and coordinating with Movement partners and external stakeholders. • The Secretariat will also deploy surge personnel to provide technical support and reinforce implementation through a joint workforce, ensuring timely reporting. Monitoring visits and lessons learned exercises will further support quality and accountability throughout the operation.
	<p>National Society Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Emergency Appeal includes targeted capacity strengthening measures to reinforce the effective delivery of the current response. These actions build on ongoing National Society Development (NSD) investments and align with the NSD plan and the IFRC's NSIF priorities, particularly in volunteer management, safeguarding, governance, and financial systems. They are essential to mitigating operational, safeguarding, and accountability risks, ensuring safe, timely, and scalable assistance while strengthening long-term disaster response capacity. • Support will also focus on enhancing MRCS preparedness and response capabilities through contingency planning, simulation exercises, and the pre-positioning of stocks with partners such as the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (PIROI), in line with Federation-wide National Society Development plans.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After 31 December 2026, response activities to this disaster will continue under the [IFRC Network Madagascar Country Plan for 2026-2028](#). The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's actions. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while continuing to ensure that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



Malagasy Red Cross Society

The MRCS has approximately 10,000 volunteers across 23 regional branches nationwide, supported by 150 staff members. Established in 1915 and formally recognised in its current form by decree in 1963, the MRCS was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) that same year. The MRCS's auxiliary role to the public authorities in the humanitarian field was formally regulated in 1984. The National Society is a key organisation directly supporting disaster preparedness in Madagascar and leads emergency operations, as well as reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts following disasters. It is part of the country's national emergency response mechanism, led by the government through the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management.

The MRCS aims to prevent and alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people impartially, without discrimination based on ethnicity, race, class, sex, religion, language, social status, or political opinion. It contributes to disaster management and risk reduction, health improvement, disease prevention, first aid, in addition to increasing public awareness on disaster response, and encouraging youth engagement in its activities.

Having mobilised early actions, the National Society is now implementing an immediate response for both cyclones. Some of the actions to date are outlined below.

For Cyclone Fytia a DREF operation (MDRMG027) was launched to support 9,500 people, representing approximately 16 per cent of the 60,758 individuals affected. Seventy volunteers were mobilised to carry out preparedness and response activities as part of the operation. The MRCS plans to expand its response through the distribution of shelter kits, kitchen sets, WASH kits, and dignity kits, complemented by community awareness activities that integrate Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approaches.

For Cyclone Gezani, the Early Action Protocol (EAP) was partially activated. A total of 30 volunteers in Toamasina and 58 in Fenerive were deployed to deliver early warnings and support across eight primary sites. These volunteers alerted approximately 300 people and distributed 53 dignity kits. They also conducted alert messaging and awareness activities; however, no anticipatory action kits were distributed in Toamasina due to the cyclone's earlier than expected landfall. The MRCS also reported damage to its office and warehouse in Toamasina and, in the aftermath, has continued to support the BNGRC by participating in rapid needs assessments.

Prior to Cyclone Gezani's landfall, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) provided 300 relief kits containing shelter, WASH, and dignity items to support preparedness efforts. On 12 February, the FCDO further supported the Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS) through a crisis-modifier allocation of GBP 150,000. In addition, the ongoing Cyclone Fytia DREF operation (MDRMG027), with an initial allocation of CHF 328,097, will be scaled up to cover life-saving and immediate response needs arising from Cyclone Gezani.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC has maintained a permanent presence in Madagascar since 2018 to support the wider Indian Ocean region. Its engagement with the Malagasy Red Cross Society focuses on strengthening strategic and operational coordination, advancing National Society development, and promoting humanitarian diplomacy. Accountability is emphasised as a cross-cutting priority across all areas of support. The IFRC also helps reinforce the MRCS's auxiliary role by facilitating regular engagement with government stakeholders. Operating from its Country

Cluster Delegation office based in Madagascar, and supported by the Africa Regional Office, the IFRC provides financial, technical, and operational coordination to ensure coherent and effective humanitarian action.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

This Emergency Appeal forms part of a Federation-wide approach aligned with MRCS priorities and existing coordination mechanisms in Madagascar, supported by several IFRC member National Societies already present in-country, including the French Red Cross (PIROI), the German Red Cross, and the Luxembourg Red Cross. The French Red Cross (PIROI) is assisting the MRCS with procurement, disaster risk reduction, and logistics, while the German Red Cross provides technical support in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and anticipatory action. The Luxembourg Red Cross contributes specialised shelter expertise to strengthen MRCS capacities and support affected communities.

The ICRC has no permanent presence in the country but conducts regular visits to support Restoring Family Links (RFL) services during emergencies. The IFRC, Participating National Societies, and ICRC continue to meet regularly to ensure effective Movement coordination.

External coordination

The MRCS is an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team and participates in its monthly meetings and other regular coordination meetings. It co-leads the Shelter Cluster and is also a member of the Cash, Health, WASH, and Anticipatory Actions working groups. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the MRCS is part of the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) – Food Security and Livelihoods, WASH, and Health-Nutrition Clusters, and co-leads the Shelter Cluster led by the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC). The BNGRC coordinates with various partners and leads preparedness and response efforts nationwide. Given its auxiliary role, the MRCS participates in national disaster management mechanisms and attends coordination meetings alongside other governmental and non-governmental institutions.



Destruction of houses in Toamasina by TC Gezani. MRCS supporting joint assessments (Photo MRCS)

The MRCS is a partner of choice when it comes to preparedness and response in Madagascar. Given the challenges related to the routing of assets and personnel into the country, existing community-based organisations will play a central role in this response. The MRCS was contacted directly by the BNGRC to provide support with needs assessments, as well as with the management of accommodation sites.

Contact information

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Reference



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