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Source : photo WASH cluster March 2024

Highlights

- On March 27, Tropical Cyclone Gamane hit the north and northeast of Madagascar, killing 18 people, injuring three and leaving four people missing.
- An estimated 18,000 homes have been flooded with some 22 health centres damaged and 230 classrooms impacted, leaving more than 37,000 children with no access to education.
- Gamane hit the northern regions with massive rains and winds of up to 200 kilometers an hour.
- The national disaster risk management office (BNGRC) puts the number of those affected at 89,000, with 22,000 people displaced. However the rapid assessment shows that about 212,000 people are in need of support for WASH needs.
- Clusters and sectoral coordination groups mobilized to assess needs and ensure the coordination of response, in an environment characterized by logistical challenges such as limited air access.
- USD 17 million is required for immediate lifesaving action, and the initial recovery response covering the areas of water and sanitation, education, child protection, nutrition and health.

Madagascar Country Office Cyclone GAMANE

Update No.1

Situation in Numbers



212,000

People affected especially for WASH needs



18

Deaths



22,000

People displaced



106,000

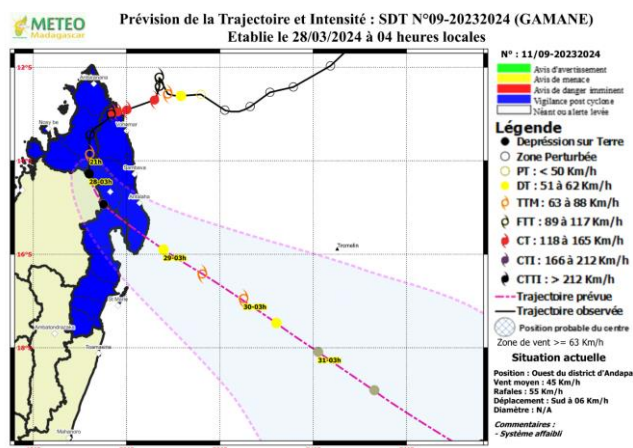
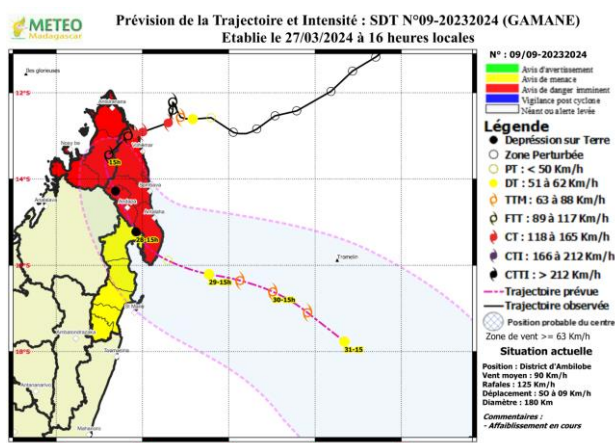
children in need

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Gamane is the first tropical cyclone to hit Madagascar in 2024. The cyclone made landfall in the commune of Ampisikinana at 5:45 am on March 27. The average wind speed was estimated at 150 kilometres an hour with gusts of over 200 kilometres an hour.

On making landfall, Gamane reduced in strength but brought heavy rains causing widespread flooding in the regions of Diana, Sava and Analanjirofo.

The storm system then turned south-east exiting the country over the extreme south of the Masoala peninsula on the evening of March 28.



Humanitarian coordination and response

On March 30, a rapid assessment was conducted under the leadership of the Government Emergency Bureau (BNGRC) together with UN agencies and one NGO. UNICEF participated in this assessment for the health and nutrition aspects. This mission was done mostly by plane as most areas were not accessible by road with bridges entirely damaged. The plane was able to land in two different locations; Sambava and Antalaha.

The rapid assessment concluded that the most urgent needs were around WASH and around food security.

The Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator is leading coordination efforts, supported by UN OCHA. A Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCT) meeting was held on April 5. The CERF has agreed to allocate USD4 million for the response to Cyclone Gamane and the concept note for the CERF has been developed and finalized on April 5th. The response supported by CERF will focus on Sava region only and on three districts: Sambava, Vohemar and Ambilobe

UNICEF will receive funding for WASH (USD700,000), protection (USD100,000) and education (USD200,000). UNICEF ensures that its interventions are in line with Humanitarian Country Team guidance and recommendations, working in close partnership with the Government, international and local humanitarian NGOs, and the UN system.

UNICEF plays a key role in sectoral coordination by co-leading, with the Government, the WASH, Education and Nutrition clusters and the CASH working group. The WASH and education clusters already met as well as the Cash Working Group. UNICEF plays a central role in Accountability to Affected Persons by co-leading the group with the BNGRC.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

Actions taken:

- Provision of 100 boxes of water purification products (Watermaker) to Sava Region for 1,200 households
- A regional coordination meeting of the Analanjirifo WASH sub-cluster was held to plan coordination of the response

Next steps:

- Sending 500 WASH kits
- Deployment of staff to ensure coordination and WASH responses
- WASH in-depth assessments

Nutrition

Actions taken:

- Emergency meeting with the Regional Directors of Public Health and the Regional Office for Nutrition Coordinators of the Sava, Analanjirifo and Diana regions on March 27
- Identification of urgent nutrition needs in affected areas, as well as a rapid assessment of their capacity to respond.
- Rapid briefing of these 3 regions on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) activities and elements of the national flood/cyclone contingency plan
- Census of children under 2 years old, pregnant and breastfeeding women housed in shelters

Next steps:

- Strengthening surveillance of SAM and MAM admissions in affected areas
- Meeting between the cluster to discuss the establishment/strengthening of nutritional surveillance in priority areas.

Health

Aiming to assist 24,000 children, 16,000 adolescents and 5,500 pregnant women, actions taken so far include:

- Participation in the production of health sector reports
- Distribution of mosquito nets to 750 households as well as medicines to care for people in accommodation sites in the Maroantsetra district (via prepositioning).
- Participation in the cluster meeting

Next steps:

- Provision of emergency health kits and essential medicines to the health districts of Sambava, Vohemar, Ambilobe, Antalaha and Maroantsetra.
- Preparation of local care activities for one month, with priority given to the district of Maroantsetra and Ambilobe

Education

Actions taken:

- Data reporting and compilation as part of the rapid assessment and decision-making according to Ministry of education, 230 classrooms were affected and 37,062 children deprived of lessons to date in 4 regions/11 districts)
- Sector group meeting and coordination of responses with National Ministry of Education and the disaster risk management agency
- Mobilization of stocks already prepositioned in Sambava and Maroantsetra

Next steps:

- Field mission to Sambava/Maroantsetra to support ministry and school districts partners in ensuring the effectiveness of responses
- New orders for stock replenishment

Child Protection

Actions taken:

- Monitoring child protection needs with field staff and partners
- Identification of partners involved in the affected regions
- Support from partners in planning child protection responses
- Support to Catholic Relief Services in coordinating the protection sector

Next steps:

- Technical and financial support from partners in the implementation of responses

Social Protection

Actions taken:

- Cash Working Group coordination meeting was held
- Actors who positioned themselves in relation to the response in the north: CARE, World Food Program, Intervention Funds for Development), Save the Children, Madagascar Red Cross

CROSS SECTORAL

Social and Behaviour Change (SBC)

Actions taken:

- Community actors mobilized in risk areas, including volunteers, community UNVs, young leaders and Scouts to disseminate messages to communities.
- Broadcast of audio spots and radio sketches, regionally and nationally
- Raising awareness among the population through the dissemination of key messages
- Rapid assessment on SBC indicates:
 - 88% received messages about the cyclone
 - 51% received WASH messages (72% for water treatment and 68% for handwashing with soap).
 - 49% health messages
 - 33% child protection