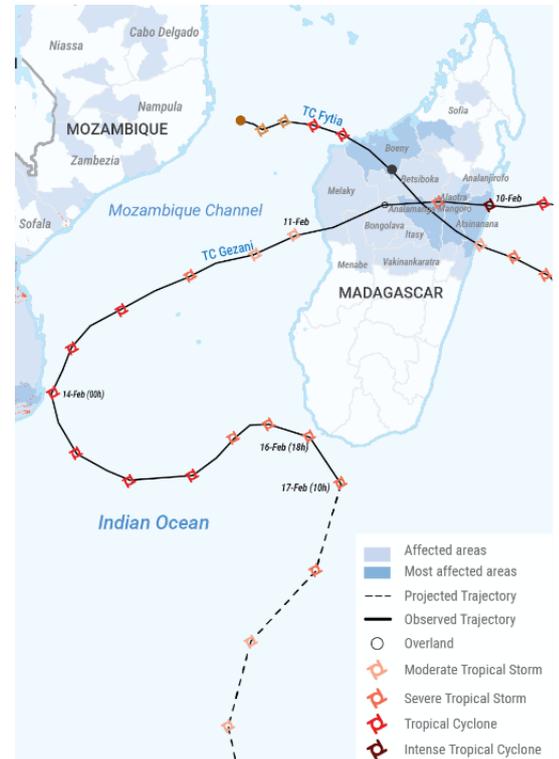


HIGHLIGHTS

- Intense Tropical Cyclone Gezani made landfall near Toamasina with winds of up to 250 km/h, causing widespread destruction within a 10 km radius and damaging homes, schools, health facilities, electricity networks, critical infrastructure and business building.
- An estimated 478,000 people have been affected, including 382,000 in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. More than 35,000 people have been displaced, including over 3,100 sheltering in 19 temporary sites in Toamasina.
- Over 25,700 houses were flooded, 48,000 partially damaged and 25,000 destroyed. At least 781 classrooms and 30 health facilities were damaged, disrupting access to essential services.
- Agricultural losses are substantial, particularly in rice-producing areas such as Brickaville, with more than 382,000 people facing acute food security needs due to crop damage and loss of livelihoods.
- The Government is leading response efforts, prioritizing shelter, food security, WASH, health, education, nutrition, protection, waste management and the restoration of essential services.
- Humanitarian partners estimate that US\$49 million is urgently required to support 382,000 people over the next two and a half months, complementing the Government’s US\$142 million appeal. Significant funding gaps persist across key sectors, limiting the scale-up of assistance.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Intense Tropical Cyclone Gezani made landfall near Toamasina, in one of the most densely populated coastal zones of the country, exposing large numbers of people and critical infrastructure to extreme winds and heavy rainfall. At landfall, wind speeds reached up to 250 km/h, causing widespread destruction. Severe wind damage was recorded within a 10 km radius of landfall, destroying or damaging homes, administrative buildings, schools, health centres and small businesses. Electricity networks and communication infrastructure were also affected, disrupting essential services and slowing initial response efforts. Moderate wind damage was observed up to 20 km inland, with partial roof losses, fallen trees and damage to public and



private infrastructure reported across several communes. Flooding affected multiple districts, particularly lowland and riverine areas already saturated from earlier seasonal rains. In Ambatondrazaka district, moderate flooding occurred in agricultural zones, though most villages were largely spared from extensive residential flooding. However, stagnant water and waterlogged soils continue to hamper mobility, assessments and relief operations.

Gezani weakened on 15 February and evolved into a strong tropical storm on 16 February, passing 40–50 km off the south-west coast of Madagascar, near Toliara Province. On 17 February, the system continued tracking south and south-west and is expected to gradually weaken further. It is forecast to lose its tropical characteristics by 19 February as it moves over colder waters in a southeasterly direction. Despite weakening, residual rainfall and saturated catchments continue to pose localized flood risks in affected areas.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Aerial assessments conducted in Ambatondrazaka, Toamasina I, Toamasina II, Brickaville confirms severe wind damage and localized flooding. Preliminary analysis indicates that approximately 423,986 people have been affected including 382,000 in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The most affected areas are concentrated within the 10 km radius of landfall, particularly in densely populated coastal communes. Five communes were severely affected by strong winds and eight moderately affected. Flooding heavily impacted four communes and moderately affected seven.

Infrastructural damage was reported with over 27,700 houses are flooded, 49,000 partially damaged and 25,000 destroyed. The Education Sector was impacted with 781 classrooms damaged including 76 totally destroyed. At least 30 health facilities were damaged.

As of mid-February, 35,000 people have been displaced including more than 3,100 hosted in 19 temporary sites in Toamasina while the rest are staying with host community. The duration of displacement remains uncertain. Economic precarity, post-disaster stress, family separation and overcrowding in shelters are contributing to heightened protection risks, including gender-based violence, exploitation and psychosocial distress.

Sectoral needs remain high. More than 232,000 people require emergency shelter assistance. Over 250,000 people need urgent water, sanitation and hygiene support, including water purification, disinfection of contaminated water points and hygiene promotion. Nearly 288,000 people require health services support, including rehabilitation of damaged facilities, deployment of mobile clinics, essential medicines and strengthened epidemiological surveillance.

Significant inundation of rice fields was reported around Brickaville, raising concerns about crop losses and the longer-term impact on food security and livelihoods. Agricultural losses, particularly in rice-producing areas, are substantial and are affecting both household incomes and local food supply. As a result, food security needs are acute, with more than 382,000 people requiring assistance.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Government, through the National Bureau for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC), continues to lead response. Immediate priorities include the provision of multisectoral assistance to displaced people in shelters; rapid support to households who have lost their homes, including both owners and tenants; restoration of emergency health and nutrition services; urgent water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions; and the rapid resumption of schooling following debris clearance.

Recognizing the scale and severity of the cyclone's impact, and to reinforce HAT capacity, OCHA regional office has deployed two officers in response to the Government's appeal to strengthen coordination, information management and sectoral response capacity. Remote support from the OCHA regional office is also being provided. The Southern Africa Development Community and the the European Union have deployed their

emergency response team to support national authorities in Madagascar, reinforcing government-led coordination, early recovery planning, ongoing needs monitoring. Humanitarian are supporting inter-agency assessments, coordination mechanisms and sectoral response, including food assistance, shelter, health, WASH, protection and logistics.

Additional priorities include rehabilitation of damaged rural roads, sanitation of stagnant water to reduce public health risks, and reinforcement of protection services, including gender-based violence prevention and response, family reunification and mental health and psychosocial support. Humanitarian partners continue to refine needs assessments and scale up assistance in coordination with national authorities.

Several donors, private companies, civil societies and Member States have demonstrated solidarity with the people of Madagascar and expressed their willingness to provide urgently needed financial resources. As assessments continue amid an overstretched response operation, humanitarian needs are likely to increase, underscoring the need for additional resources, flexible funding and sustained international support.

HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES AND GAPS

Following aerial assessments, humanitarian partners have indicated that approximately US\$49 million is urgently required to support 382,000 people over the next two and a half months. This complements the Government's appeal for US\$142 million launched on 14 February to address urgent humanitarian, recovery and reconstruction needs. The most critical funding gaps are in food security (US\$22.9 million), health (US\$6.1 million), agriculture (US\$5.9 million), emergency shelter (US\$5.1 million), nutrition (US\$3 million), protection (US\$2.9 million), water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$2.5 million), and education (US\$1.1 million).

Significant funding shortfalls remain from the response to Cyclone Fytia, with only US\$3.7 million of the US\$11 million previously requested covered, and about \$6.9 million out of \$49 million for Gezani. The cumulative impact of successive cyclones is straining national response capacity and humanitarian resources.

In addition to humanitarian needs, the economic sector, including small businesses and informal traders, has been heavily affected and will require recovery support to prevent further deterioration of livelihoods. Without additional funding, humanitarian partners will face constraints in scaling up assistance to meet urgent and growing needs.

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