



**Special Magazine on UNFPA Madagascar's
Response to Cyclones**
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Saving lives and reaching the last mile with comprehensive reproductive health services

The South-East region of Madagascar, composed of 06 districts has been hard hit successively by intense tropical cyclones including Batsirai, February 05, 2022 and Emnati February 25, 2022, with the entrance of the Mananjary District. These two cyclones left behind them desolation, damage to infrastructure and housing, and affected the majority of the population of this region, including pregnant women, nursing mothers and women of childbearing age.

Among the destroyed infrastructures, the maternity ward, the operating room and the Family Planning (FP) model center of the District Reference Hospital Center, level II of Mananjary, which are totally dislocated and damaged, limiting women's access to reproductive health and family planning services.

Moreover, these cyclones have also increased the prevalence of gender-based violence in all its forms. About 50% of women in this region suffer from violence, the most frequent form being domestic violence," said MAROSOA André Armand, Leader of the Men's Group in Manakara.

In response to this humanitarian crisis, UNFPA, with the support of its partners, mobilized and deployed emergency aid supplies estimated at \$458,000 through the National Risk and Disaster Management Office (BNGRC).

This assistance included medical supplies and equipment to support the Ministry of Public Health to reduce the risk of high maternal and neonatal mortality and the Ministry of Population to build women's resilience to violence.

UNFPA, through its partners and staff, has made efforts that continue today to enable women to recover, enjoy their fundamental rights and regain their dignity.



SAVE THE LIFE OF THE ONE WHO GIVES LIFE BY SETTING UP A TEMPORARY MATERNITY WARD AND DELIVERING MEDICAL KITS AND SUPPLIES TO THE LAST MILE!

Despite the damage caused by the cyclones, such as the damage to health facilities, in particular the maternity ward of CHRD 2 in Mananjary, an alternative has been put forward in order to save the life of the woman who gives birth by setting up a temporary maternity ward through a tent on February 26, 2022.

Many women, most of whom have complications, have had their prenatal consultation at this temporary maternity ward and have benefited from free care and delivery kits.

More than 100 births have taken place at this maternity hospital from February to May 2022.

The temporary maternity ward set up by UNFPA allows women to give birth safely.



Junis, waiting for her care



Junis, holding her baby



Evelyne with her baby

"I have been waiting for this baby for 15 days, he is finally out... I'm so happy," said a 20-year-old mother, Junis, who was visibly happy to have given birth to a baby safely. When the cyclone hit, she was a few months away from giving birth. "My house was dislodged because of Cyclone Batsirai. It gave me a lot of stress since I was 6 months pregnant. I had indeed a problem of high pressure and I was afraid that I will be operated..."

"Thanks to this temporary maternity ward which is equipped with medical inputs and qualified personnel, I was able to monitor my health and safely deliver my first child by vaginal delivery, which weighs 4kg700".

Individual delivery kits are also distributed to newly delivered women in the Basic Health Centers of this region.

"The rate of hospital deliveries has increased by 15% thanks to these delivery kits"

Dr Honoré, Head of the Basic Health Center Level II (CSB 2) Tsaravary

Our house was completely flooded and demolished the day of the Batsirai cyclone. I could not recover anything, being still 5 months pregnant. These kits have helped me a lot and I am grateful" said Evelyne, one of the women who benefited from delivery kits at the CSB 2 of Tsaravary.

90 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

benefited from medical equipment, delivery kits and contraceptive products.



MORE THAN 100 BIRTHS

have taken place at the temporary maternity ward of CHRD 2 in Mananjary since February 2022.





ENSURING ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES AND METHODS TO THE LAST MILE



In the southeast region of Madagascar, more than 90 health facilities were damaged, not counting damage to health commodity warehouses. Over 10 national roads have been made unreachable, making it difficult to provide a response.



This situation has resulted in a stockout of contraceptive products in the District of Nosy-Varika, which is classified as one of the most remote areas in Madagascar. Since the post-cyclone period to date, only river transport connects this district with other cities.



In close collaboration with local partners, these products and other medical supplies have been transported to Nosy-Varika and will serve more than 10 basic health centers.

The District of Ikongo, in the region of Fitovinany, has also benefited. Ikongo is one of the most remote districts in the southeastern part of Madagascar. The kits and medical supplies were transported by rail.

We ensure that family planning needs are met even during cyclones

Our services have always continued despite the impacts of the cyclone, at the UNFPA staffed tent. There has never been a stock-out. All methods are available, both short and long term.

Since February, more than 100 women have used family planning, the most used method being the implanon method, with women over 20 years of age being the main users. It should be noted that sensitizations are systematically done at the level of the center, almost every day.

Midwife Ianja, Family Planning Service Provider at CHR2 in Mananjary



BRINGING SMILES AND HOPE TO VULNERABLE WOMEN

In the humanitarian context, the prevalence of violence is increasing as the population endures pressure and lives in anguish. More than 300 cases of gender-based violence were supported at the temporary Listening and Legal Advice Center in Mananjary after the Batsirai cyclone which the most frequent forms are economic and sexual violence, affecting more women heads of household. UNFPA, through the Ministry of Population, has conducted awareness campaigns against this scourge in the shelter sites and at the community level.

- **Availability of services for the management of gender-based violence**

Measures have been put in place to facilitate access to care services through the setting up of a temporary care center and home visits. These services are provided by social workers and GBV survivors will be referred to medical and judicial care structures according to their case.

"My house was dislodged by cyclone Batsirai, so we moved to the temporary shelter for the victims," said Patricia, a survivor of gender-based violence, among the victims.

Awareness campaigns on various topics including prevention of gender-based violence and reproductive health are conducted in these sites, which Patricia attended.

"We were informed about what to do in case of violence. Having been a victim of domestic violence for about 10 years, I approached the Listening and Legal Advice Center as recommended. Thanks to the advice and guidance that me and my husband received, I finally found peace in my home."



Distribution of dignity kits to women beneficiaries of the CECJ



Patricia, beneficiary of care at the CECJ Mananjary

MORE THAN 300 VULNERABLE WOMEN

received psychosocial care and dignity kits



MORE THAN 20 MEN

are committed to the fight against GBV





BRINGING SMILES AND HOPE TO VULNERABLE WOMEN

- **Involvement of the community and men's groups in the fight against gender-based violence**

In case of violence, community leaders and members of men's groups report it to the competent structures and raise GBV awareness through field visits in Communities and spot on radio and television.

In the Vatovavy and Fitovinany regions, more than 25 men have committed themselves to this cause and have received awareness kits.

"I have been working in the fight against gender-based violence since 2015 because I was a member of Young Peer Educators of the Ministry of Youth. My experience made me what I am now. I did not hesitate to leave my mark because all human beings have the same rights", said Adelin, Animator of the Men's Group.

Since January 2022, Adelin and his team have been able to reach 05 villages and sensitize more than 1,000 people including women, men and children.

- **Provision of dignity kits to vulnerable women**

Many homes were destroyed by Batsirai cyclone; as well as their properties. The dignity kits will compensate for these gaps so that the women can live in normal conditions and will help them in their daily lives.

"I live by the Andovosira River, in a wooden house. Following the Batsirai cyclone, my home was flooded and some parts of the house are damaged. Some articles were washed away by the rain. These kits will fill the gaps and will help me in my daily life", said Georgine, beneficiary of dignity kits in Mananjary.

Mass sensitization at Mahatsinjo



Men involved in the fight against GBV raise awareness among their peers and the entire community



Georgine, cooking

Photo gallery



This woman uses the cup from the dignity kit

dignity kit to serve for daily use (bucket, bowl)



Commitment wall of the Manakara Men's Group, at the Lycée Sileny Paul, at the entrance to the city

Men involved in the fight against GBV raise awareness among their peers and the entire community





ending preventable maternal deaths



ending unmet need for family planning



ending GBV and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and child marriage