



# SOUTHERN AFRICA – FLOODS AND CYCLONES

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Between February 26 and March 4, Tropical Storm Irina brought intense rains and winds to areas of Madagascar, Mozambique, and South Africa. According to preliminary reports, the storm caused an estimated 72 deaths and affected nearly 78,000 people in Madagascar and resulted in 12 deaths in Mozambique and South Africa.
- On March 4, the Government of Madagascar declared a state of emergency in flood-affected districts in the southeastern Vatovavy-Fitovinany and Atsimo-Atsinanana regions. According to the U.N., sufficient pre-positioned food assistance and emergency relief supplies exist to meet the humanitarian needs of displaced people; however, rehabilitation of the damaged main road in the area may take up to 10 days, potentially hindering access to affected populations during repairs. Humanitarian assessment teams, initially deployed to evaluate the impact of mid-February’s Tropical Cyclone Giovanna, have already begun gathering damage information from flood-affected areas.
- During the week of February 27, staff from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)—deployed in response to late January storms and floods in southern Africa—traveled to heavily affected Zambézia Province in northern Mozambique to assess the humanitarian situation and monitor the distribution of USAID/OFDA-provided emergency relief commodities. In the same week, additional deployed USAID/OFDA staff in the capitals of Maputo, Mozambique, and Antananarivo, Madagascar, met with humanitarian agencies and attended coordination meetings to discuss humanitarian conditions and emergency relief operations.
- To date, USAID/OFDA and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) have provided nearly \$3.4 million in humanitarian assistance in response to the effects of recent floods and cyclones in southern Africa. Most recently, USAID/OFDA provided \$335,000 to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to augment the existing logistics capacity of the Government of Mozambique and relief agencies to conduct humanitarian activities in Mozambique. USAID/OFDA is also providing \$1 million to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in Zambézia Province in efforts to reduce the transmission of waterborne illnesses.

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Country	Number Affected	Deaths	Sources
Madagascar	324,780	107	BNGRC <sup>1</sup>
Mozambique	119,471	40	Government of Mozambique
Malawi <sup>2</sup>	6,159	-	IFRC <sup>3</sup>

## TOTAL FY 2012 USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA FLOODS AND CYCLONES<sup>4</sup>

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique	\$2,784,905
USAID/FFP Assistance to Malawi	\$571,000
<b>Total USAID Assistance to Southern Africa</b>	<b>\$3,355,905</b>

## Context

- Since mid-January, heavy rainfall and a series of tropical storms—Tropical Storm Dando, Tropical Cyclone Funso, Tropical Cyclone Giovanna, and Tropical Storm Irina—have caused damage to homes and infrastructure and affected more than 450,000 people in Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique. Less severe floods—some due to the passing of tropical storms and some resulting from unrelated heavy rains—have affected parts of Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zambia.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Madagascar National Disaster Risk Management Office (BNGRC)

<sup>2</sup> This figure reflects only the number of people affected by heavy rains associated with Tropical Cyclone Funso as of February 14, 2012. The figure does not include the number of people affected by other seasonal floods in Malawi.

<sup>3</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

<sup>4</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

- On January 30, U.S. Ambassador Jeanine E. Jackson declared a disaster for Malawi due to the effects of floods. On February 1, U.S. Ambassador Leslie V. Rowe also issued a disaster declaration due to flooding in Mozambique. On February 15, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Glenn Fedzer declared a disaster for Madagascar due to cyclone impact.
- USAID staff continue to evaluate the humanitarian impact of floods and other weather events on populations in southern Africa in coordination with other U.S. Government (USG) agencies, host governments, and relief organizations throughout the region.

## **Madagascar**

### *Tropical Storm Irina*

- On February 26, Tropical Storm Irina traversed northern Madagascar, bringing heavy rains for several days that displaced fewer than 150 people and caused limited damage to houses and public infrastructure. As of March 5, individuals displaced in the north had returned home, and national roads in northern Madagascar had reopened, according to U.N. reports.
- Additionally, between March 1 and 3, the Irina weather system brought heavy rains to southern parts of Madagascar as it moved through the Mozambique Channel and away from Madagascar. The rains led to severe flooding in areas in the southeast, leaving more than 14,000 people displaced, according to a March 7 BNGRC report.

### *Tropical Cyclone Giovanna*

- Tropical Cyclone Giovanna’s February 14 passage over Madagascar caused 35 deaths, injured 284 individuals, and destroyed more than 44,000 houses, according to the BNGRC on March 7.
- In a March 5 report, the U.N. noted robust responses from the Government of Madagascar and relief agencies to the effects of recent storms. For example, in response to concerns regarding the spread of vector-borne illnesses, such as malaria, in eastern and southeastern Madagascar, the U.N. World Health Organization had dispatched emergency malaria kits to cyclone-affected areas and the Government of Madagascar had initiated the spraying of insecticide in Brickaville District, one of two districts severely affected by the tropical cyclone.

### *USG Response*

- In anticipation of potential shelter needs during the cyclone season, USAID/OFDA annually pre-positions plastic sheeting in Madagascar. Within days of the passage of Tropical Cyclone Giovanna, CARE, in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), began distribution of approximately 400 rolls of USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting to rural and remote areas of Brickaville District. The plastic sheeting allowed cyclone-affected populations to start mending wind-damaged roofs or making other housing repairs immediately after the storm, thereby reducing displacement. In total, the USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting—valued at nearly \$145,000—is assisting approximately 3,970 households, or 19,850 people.
- In addition to the pre-positioned supplies, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to CARE to procure and distribute supplementary emergency relief supplies and to conduct clean-up activities following Tropical Cyclone Giovanna.

## **Mozambique**

### *Tropical Storm Dando and Tropical Cyclone Funso*

- The combined effects of Tropical Storm Dando and Tropical Cyclone Funso in January have affected nearly 120,000 people and resulted in approximately 40 deaths, according to the Government of Mozambique.
- Following consultations with the U.N. and relief agencies in Mozambique in late February, USAID/OFDA staff concluded that the current humanitarian response is adequately addressing priority needs, particularly in the shelter and WASH sectors.
- Food security assessments remain ongoing in affected areas. Recent storm-related floods destroyed nearly 42,000 hectares of crops, according to the Government of Mozambique Ministry of Agriculture.

### *USG Assessments*

- On March 1, USAID/OFDA staff traveled to heavily affected Zambézia Province, where approximately 56 percent of the storm-affected population—or nearly 67,000 people—reside. The assessment team visited Namacurra District, where winds and rains from Tropical Cyclone Funso had completely flattened some houses. According to USAID/OFDA staff, residents of affected areas in Zambézia Province appeared able to recover from the storm with the resources available. The team also noted that plastic sheeting provided by USAID/OFDA was allowing many

families throughout assessed areas to erect temporary shelters that served as provisional housing while they rebuild or repair their homes. Recipients of the plastic sheeting included widows, single mothers, and pregnant women.

- Since the two January storms, the U.N. has noted that poor sanitation conditions in parts of Mozambique, most of which pre-date the recent floods, could result in increased transmission of water- and vector-borne illnesses, such as diarrheal diseases and malaria. While observing no overwhelming WASH needs in assessed areas, the USAID/OFDA team confirmed existing poor sanitary practices and noted that Tropical Cyclone Funso had damaged some latrines and other WASH infrastructure.
- USAID/OFDA staff observed that most families in assessed areas remained food secure; however, the impact of crops destroyed by flooding may affect communities in the coming months.

*USG Response*

- USAID/OFDA initially provided \$50,000 to Population Services International (PSI) to procure and organize distribution of point-of-use water treatment products that allowed flood-affected populations to disinfect water for consumption. According to PSI, distribution of the water treatment products through U.N. and relief agency partners is currently underway.
- Subsequently, in response to identified shelter and WASH needs, USAID/OFDA consigned to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) 1,200 rolls of plastic sheeting and 8,000 water containers airlifted from a USAID/OFDA warehouse in Dubai—assistance valued at approximately \$755,000—in mid-February. IOM anticipates completing the initial transfer of the emergency relief commodities to partners for onward distribution by March 8. The relief supplies are expected to assist more than 25,000 flood-affected people in Zambézia Province.
- USAID/OFDA also provided funding to IOM to locally procure and distribute additional construction items, such as rope and tools, to dispense with USAID/OFDA plastic sheeting. Such assistance helps meet the need for shelter kits identified by the Shelter Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities—and allows affected families to better construct emergency shelters or make housing repairs.

**FY 2012 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA FLOODS AND CYCLONES<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MADAGASCAR<sup>2</sup></b>			
CARE	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities		\$144,905
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MADAGASCAR IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$194,905</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MADAGASCAR IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$194,905</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI</b>			
CRS	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI<sup>3</sup></b>			
CRS	500 MT Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Nsanje and Balaka districts	\$571,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$571,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$621,000</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE</b>			
PSI	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$50,000
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Gaza, Inhambane, and Zambézia provinces	\$400,000
UNICEF	WASH	Zambézia Province	\$1,000,000

WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$335,000
	Logistics and Relief Commodities		\$755,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$2,540,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$2,540,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2012</b>	
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>	<b>\$2,784,905</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>	<b>\$571,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2012</b>	<b>\$3,355,905</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 7, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:  
The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).