



# SOUTHERN AFRICA – FLOODS AND CYCLONES

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On January 16, Tropical Storm Dando made landfall in southern Mozambique, causing intense rains and severe flooding in Maputo, Gaza, and Inhambane provinces and the capital of Maputo. Only days later, Tropical Cyclone Funso tracked close to the Mozambican coast without making landfall; nonetheless, the storm brought as much as 18 inches of rain and resulted in heavy floods in Zambézia Province in central Mozambique and Nsanje District in southern Malawi. As of February 17, the combined effects of Tropical Storm Dando and Tropical Cyclone Funso had affected nearly 120,000 people in Mozambique, according to the U.N. Pending further assessments, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) estimated that the rains and floods from Tropical Cyclone Funso had affected more than 6,000 people in Malawi as of February 14.
- On February 14, Tropical Cyclone Giovanna made landfall on the eastern coast of Madagascar and traveled southwest across the center of the island. Resultant strong winds affected many densely populated areas, including the capital, Antananarivo, and caused significant damage to Brickaville and Vatomandry districts in central-eastern Madagascar, the U.N. reported. As of February 20, Tropical Cyclone Giovanna had resulted in at least 25 deaths, 90 persons injured, and 263,000 people affected, according to the Government of Madagascar National Disaster Risk Management Office (BNGRC).
- On February 18 and 19, two staff members from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)—deployed to Madagascar in response to Tropical Cyclone Giovanna—conducted assessments of the heavily affected Brickaville and Vatomandry districts. The USAID/OFDA field assessments supplemented information gathered from initial aerial assessments in which USAID/Madagascar staff participated on February 15 and 16. Through the field assessments, USAID/OFDA staff found that the cyclone most severely affected rural communities and confirmed that most storm-related damage in affected areas resulted from high wind speeds rather than from flooding.
- To date, USAID/OFDA and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) have provided more than \$2 million in humanitarian assistance in response to the effects of recent floods and cyclones in southern Africa. USAID support primarily consists of emergency food assistance and emergency relief commodities that address immediate humanitarian needs, including plastic sheeting that USAID/OFDA had pre-positioned in Madagascar in anticipation of potential shelter needs during the annual cyclone season.

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Country	Number Affected	Source
Madagascar	263,191	BNGRC – February 20, 2012
Mozambique	119,471	U.N. – February 17, 2012
Malawi <sup>1</sup>	6,159	IFRC – February 14, 2012

## TOTAL FY 2012 USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA FLOODS AND CYCLONES<sup>2</sup>

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique	\$1,449,905
USAID/FFP Assistance to Malawi	\$571,000
<b>Total USAID Assistance to Southern Africa</b>	<b>\$2,020,905</b>

## Context

- Since mid-January, heavy rainfall and a series of tropical storms—Tropical Storm Dando, Tropical Cyclone Funso, and Tropical Cyclone Giovanna—have caused damage to homes and infrastructure and affected approximately

<sup>1</sup> This figure reflects only the number of people affected by the heavy rains associated with Tropical Cyclone Funso. The figure does not include the number of people affected by other seasonal floods in Malawi.

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

389,000 people in Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique. Less severe floods—some due to the passage of tropical storms and some resulting from unrelated heavy rains—also affected parts of South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia, and Angola in late January.

- 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 the effects of the cyclone.
- The Southern Africa region remains prone to floods and cyclones during the October-to-April rainy season, and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs anticipates the flood situation may worsen in the near term, as regional weather forecasts predict normal to above-normal rainfall over most of continental southern Africa from February to April.
- USAID staff continue to monitor 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**

### *Shelter*

- According to USAID/OFDA field assessments, shelter is the most urgent humanitarian need among populations in Madagascar affected by Tropical Cyclone Giovanna. USAID/OFDA staff observed significant damage in rural communities, where residents construct homes using traditional wood and thatch materials without substantial bracing for lateral support. In cities and larger towns, where many people use improved construction techniques and higher quality building materials, USAID/OFDA staff observed limited damage, primarily to roofs, resulting from the cyclone’s strong winds.
- The Malagasy Red Cross Society (MRCS), with support from the French Red Cross, plans to distribute 2,000 shelter kits—currently en route to Madagascar—to meet the emergency shelter needs of 2,000 cyclone-affected families, or approximately 10,000 people.

### *Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)*

- USAID/OFDA staff noted a lack of safe drinking water in some areas; however, issues concerning clean water existed before the cyclone struck. Households in affected areas have access to point-of-use water treatment products, such as Sûr’Eau, a chlorine solution developed by USAID/OFDA partner Population Services International (PSI), to disinfect water for consumption.
- In Brickaville town, MRCS is providing safe drinking water through a 20,000-liter water bladder and tap stand established at the district government office.

### *Logistics and Infrastructure*

- While the main roads connecting cities in assessed areas were clear, many smaller roads remained blocked by debris, such as fallen trees, which hindered humanitarian access to rural areas and small villages, according to reports from relief agencies. USAID/OFDA staff noted the need for debris cleanup from roads in affected areas.
- USAID/OFDA field assessments indicate that heavy winds had knocked down power and communication lines, as well as utility poles, in certain affected areas. Some areas, including in Brickaville town, remained without power at the time of the assessment.

### *USG Response*

- Drawing from a stock of approximately 400 rolls of plastic sheeting pre-positioned with funding from USAID/OFDA, CARE had distributed 88 rolls of plastic sheeting to rural and difficult-to-reach areas of Brickaville District as of February 20. The plastic sheeting is allowing 880 families to mend damaged roofs or make other housing repairs, thereby benefiting as many as 4,400 cyclone-affected individuals. CARE plans to distribute the remainder of the USAID/OFDA-funded rolls of plastic sheeting in Brickaville District and other affected areas in the coming week. In total, the USAID/OFDA pre-positioned plastic sheeting—valued at nearly \$145,000—is expected to assist approximately 3,970 households, or 19,850 people.
- In addition to the pre-positioned supplies, USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 to CARE to procure and distribute supplementary emergency relief supplies and to conduct post-storm clean-up activities.

## **Mozambique**

### *Shelter*

- In Mozambique, shelter is one of the most pressing humanitarian needs, according to the U.N. As of February 17, floods had destroyed or damaged approximately 20,000 homes throughout Mozambique, mainly in Zambézia Province, the Government of Mozambique reported.
- To date, the Shelter Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities—and counterparts from the Government of Mozambique have distributed emergency shelter and other relief items to the most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, child-headed households, people with chronic diseases, and people living with disabilities.

### *Health and WASH*

- The U.N. has noted that poor sanitation conditions, some of which pre-date the recent floods, may result in increased transmission of water- and vector-borne diseases, such as diarrheal illnesses and malaria. The Health Cluster is conducting hygiene promotion campaigns and supporting the use of chlorine-based water treatment products to prevent increased disease transmission.

### *USG Response*

- USAID/OFDA initially provided \$50,000 to PSI to procure and distribute point-of-use water treatment products that allowed flood-affected populations to disinfect water for consumption.
- Subsequently, in response to identified shelter and WASH needs, USAID/OFDA airlifted 1,200 rolls of plastic sheeting and 8,000 water containers from its warehouse in Dubai, United Arab Emirates—assistance valued at approximately \$755,000—to Mozambique on February 10. USAID/OFDA also provided \$400,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to distribute the USAID/OFDA relief commodities to more than 25,000 people in heavily affected Gaza, Inhambane, and Zambézia provinces and to locally procure and distribute additional relief items needed for the construction of temporary shelter in affected areas.

## **Malawi**

### *Humanitarian Needs*

- Shelter and WASH are the most significant humanitarian needs following the floods in Nsanje District, according to IFRC. Since the floodwaters have yet to recede completely, many affected families remain displaced from their homes. Both displaced and returned households require plastic sheeting and other tools to make housing repairs or construct temporary shelters.
- Relief agencies in Malawi have begun hygiene promotion campaigns to prevent potential outbreaks of waterborne diseases, according to the U.N. The Government of Malawi Ministry of Health has also started chlorinating water in affected communities as a preventative measure.

### *USG Response*

- USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to conduct hygiene promotion activities and to procure and distribute emergency relief supplies. The funds also provide agricultural inputs to help farmers begin replanting lost crops. USAID/OFDA staff continue to assess the situation in Malawi and evaluate additional potential response options.
- On February 16, USAID/FFP authorized partner CRS to distribute nearly 500 metric tons of Title II food assistance in response to the emergency food needs arising from flooding in Nsanje District and drought conditions in Balaka District in southern Malawi. Reallocated from an existing Title II development food aid program in country, the food assistance is expected to benefit more than 9,000 households in total, including approximately 1,000 families—or 5,000 people—displaced by floods in Nsanje District.

**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
	Logistics and Relief Commodities		\$755,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$1,205,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$1,205,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2012</b>			
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$1,449,905</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$571,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2012</b>			<b>\$2,020,905</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 February 22, 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).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)