



DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

MADAGASCAR - Cyclone FY 1990

Cyclone Alibera made landfall on Madagascar's south-eastern coast at 3 a.m. on New Year's Day, 1990. Described by local residents as the worst storm to hit the area since 1925, the cyclone packed winds of 250 km. per hour as it passed over Mananjary in Fianarantsoa Province. The storm took the lives of 46 people and made 55,346 of the affected homeless.

Strong winds and driving rains tore roofs off buildings, uprooted trees, and downed power and communications lines. Rain-swollen rivers and canals washed out roads and bridges and flooded agricultural land. The train track from Fianarantsoa to Manakara was submerged in some areas, cutting off regional routes to the sea by train.

A post-disaster survey revealed that the most serious cyclone damage was concentrated in a triangle defined by Nosy Varika to the north, Mananjary to the south, and a point some 150 km. inland to the west. Damage was extensive to both private housing and public buildings, although traditional housing appeared to have withstood the cyclone's effects somewhat better than buildings of modern construction with sheet metal roofing. A 500-meter stretch of mountainside road was completely destroyed and another 19 km. of the road needed repairs. Damage to rice, coffee, banana, and other crops, while extensive, was not as bad as initially estimated, and in-country food reserves were considered sufficient to meet local needs.

The Malagasy Minister of the Interior visited Mananjary and other cyclone damaged areas, and the National Relief Council sent rice, medicine, powdered milk, and cash to the storm's victims. In Mananjary, the local relief committee provided relief supplies and helped make emergency repairs. On Jan. 19, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar appealed for international assistance through the U.N. Office of the Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) to meet the urgent needs of the affected population.

On Jan. 24, U.S. Ambassador Howard K. Walker declared that a localized disaster existed in Madagascar as a result of Cyclone Alibera. He released \$20,000 from his disaster assistance authority for the local procurement of building supplies to repair health and school facilities. The 926 sheets of metal corrugated roofing material and nails purchased with the U.S. Government (USG) grant were distributed in Nosy Varika and Mananjary.

The international community responded with over \$135,000 in assistance. Japan gave about \$82,000. The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) provided \$15,000 for sheet metal roofing and the services of the UNDP resident representative who conducted a damage assessment. UNDRO granted \$15,000 for emergency supplies. The United Kingdom donated \$23,000 worth of roofing materials.

TOTAL USG

\$20,000