

DISASTER
RELIEF

CASE REPORT

Malagasy Republic-Cyclones
January 1975 & March 1975

Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523

MALAGASY REPUBLIC

Cyclones—"Deborah" January 1975 "Ines" March 1975

The two cyclones with winds up to 125 miles per hour killed seven people, injured 50, and left more than 10,000 homeless.

Estimated damages: Private homes	\$, 2,700,000
Roads and bridges	16,300,000
Dikes and dams	55,500,000
Crops and farm animals	1,600,000
Value of U.S. Government Assistance	\$ 20,000
Value of Assistance by U.S. Voluntary Agencies	15,000
Value of Assistance by International Community	200,500

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of the Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Cyclone "Deborah" with winds up to 125 miles per hour struck southern Madagascar in the region of Fort Dauphin on January 18, 1975, causing extensive wind damage to thousands of acres of crops. Homes were destroyed, power lines knocked down, and roads and bridges washed out. Initial reports on the damage were incomplete and slow to trickle into Tananarive owing to ruptured communications; damage was more severe and widespread than originally estimated.

Less than two months later, on March 8 Cyclone "Ines" with winds of the same velocity struck the middle northeast coast in the vicinity of Tamatave and, moving east to west, cut a swath inland toward the high plateaus, pouring extremely heavy rains on a wide area of the central agricultural region for several days. The complex system of irrigation canals and dikes was

Taking their personal belongings with them, families were forced to leave their homes in the flooded areas.



widely damaged, and over 500,000 acres of paddy rice were inundated. In many cases, the floodwaters did not recede in the paddies and other low-lying areas for several weeks. Hundreds of streams and rivers rose above their banks or dikes, washing out roads, fields and dams, forcing people in great numbers to flee their homes. The country's main rail link from Tananarive to Tamatave was cut for over two weeks. By mid-March it was apparent that the flooding had assumed disaster proportions—the worst since 1959 according to the Malagasy news media.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAGASY

The Malagasy Government airlifted blankets and medical supplies to stricken outlying areas, and emergency food supplies were made available to homeless victims by the National Relief Council (NRC). At the local level, officials and village councils in the affected areas undertook measures to repair broken dikes and gave aid to persons forced to flee their homes. The relief expenditures by the NRC follows:

Food, fuel, and soap for victims in Tananarive	\$ 5,750
Supply of rice for Anosibe	5,550
Supply of meat products for Tamatave	2,500
Cost of air transport of blankets and medical supplies to Fort Dauphin	1,000
Miscellaneous relief items	300
Total	\$15,100

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

On March 19, U.S. Ambassador Joseph A. Mendenhall declared the floods constituted a disaster warranting U.S. Government help and authorized the expenditure of \$20,000 for the Malagasy relief effort. Ambassador Mendenhall presented a check to the Malagasy Foreign Minister Albert Zakariasy on March 21, which was deposited in a special treasury account to be used by the National Relief Council in giving aid to the flood victims.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

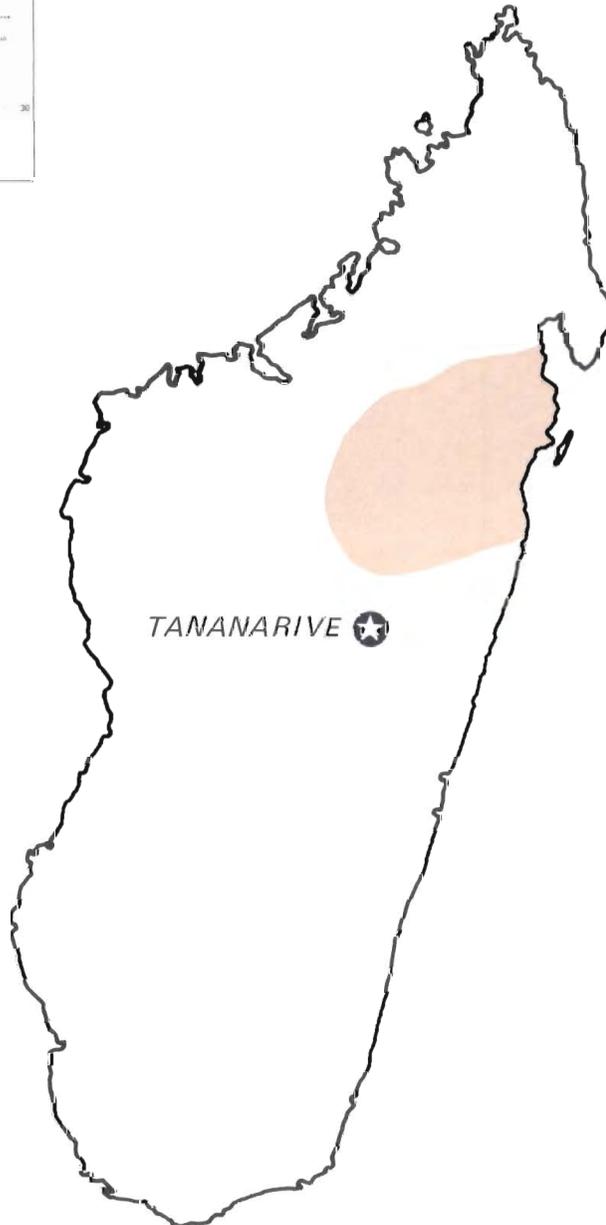
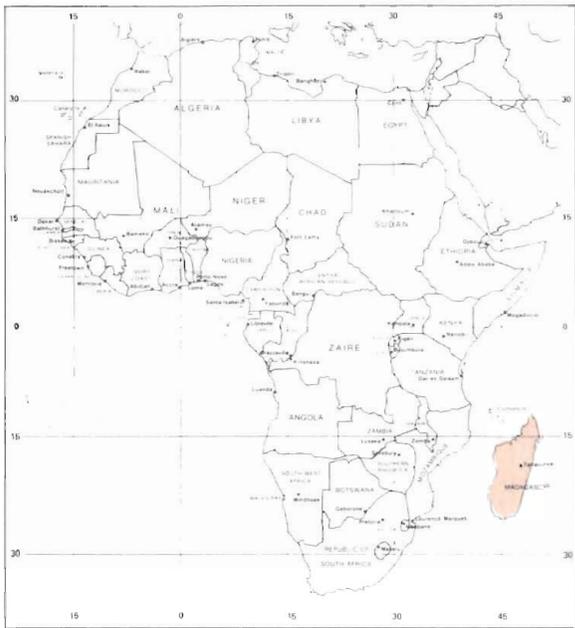
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
CRS made a special distribution of 800 sacks of PL 480 Title II Food for Peace corn/soya blend, and for the reconstruction of houses in southern Madagascar CRS donated funds amounting to \$10,000
Church World Service (CWS)
To locally purchase relief supplies for the hard-hit areas in the south, CWS gave a cash donation of \$ 5,000

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO)
UNDRO sent medical supplies valued at \$25,000; 400 tons of rice valued at \$160,000; and a cash donation of \$15,000 for reconstruction, for a total of \$200,000
Indian-Malagasy Association
Gave a cash donation of \$ 500



Winds up to 125 miles per hour destroyed many private homes leaving more than 10,000 people homeless.



MALAGASY REPUBLIC

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