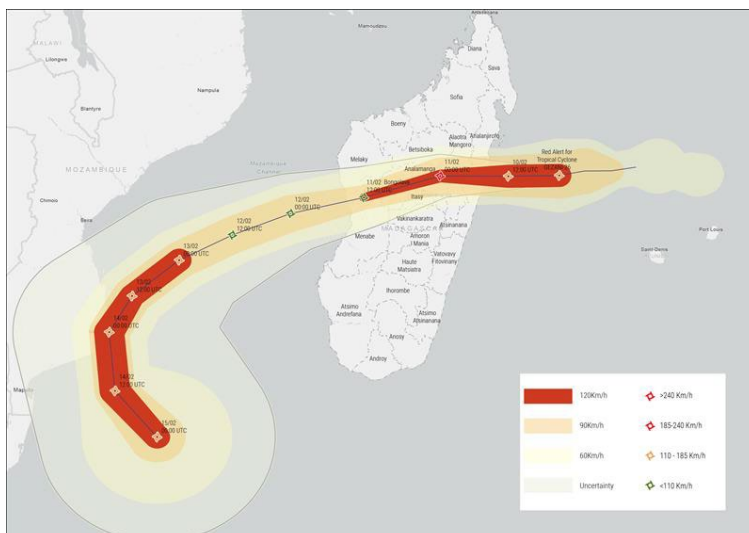


HIGHLIGHTS

- Intense Tropical Cyclone Gezani intensified on 9 February and is forecast to make landfall in Madagascar in the evening of 10 February near the city of Toamasina. Coastal and low-lying areas are at highest risk, with secondary impacts anticipated in parts of central and southern Mozambique by 13 February.
- Humanitarian partners are concerned that large numbers of people will be at risk from the cyclone in both Madagascar and Mozambique.
- The UN Central Emergency Fund (CERF) allocated US\$3 million to six UN agencies in Madagascar in pre-arranged finance for anticipatory action to help partners support more than 93,000 vulnerable people among the most exposed to and at high risk of being severely impacted by the cyclone.
- To support the response to the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Fytia, CERF has also made a provision of \$2 million for an urgent response for Tropical Cyclone Fytia. The allocation is funding life-saving support – such as providing food, agriculture inputs, clean water, health care, emergency shelter, education support and basic household items - for affected communities in Soalala and Marovoay districts.
- Cyclone Gezani compounds existing humanitarian needs, coming just ten days after Tropical Cyclone Fytia, which caused 12 deaths, displaced over 31,000 people and affected more than 200,000 people across nine regions, damaging nearly 18,600 houses, 493 classrooms and 20 health facilities, and undermining food security and essential services.



Map source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

A tropical system that formed on 5 February in the Indian Ocean off Madagascar's north-eastern coast intensified into Tropical Cyclone Gezani on 9 February. Madagascar and Mozambique face the highest risk of exposure, with coastal and low-lying areas expected to bear the brunt of strong winds, storm surge and heavy rainfall.

The cyclone is expected to make landfall in Madagascar in the evening of 10 February as an intense Tropical Cyclone, with significant humanitarian impacts anticipated across the south-western Indian Ocean region and potential secondary impacts in parts of Mozambique by 13 February. In Madagascar, landfall is likely along the eastern coast between Mananara Avaratra and Vatondranjy. Highly populated areas, including Toamasina and Ambatondrazaka, are among those at highest risk.

By the afternoon of 10 February, the cyclone was tracking westward less than 200 km from the coastal city of Toamasina, Madagascar. It was expected to continue intensifying rapidly and could reach the stage of an intense tropical cyclone before making landfall near Toamasina. As a precaution, the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC) has placed Analanjirofo and Atsinanana under red alert, while Ambatosoa, Alaotra Mangoro, Analamanga, Betsiboka, Bongolava, Itasy, Vakinankaratra, Melaky, Menabe, Antalaha,

Andapa, Mandritsara, Befandriana and Avaratra have been placed under yellow alert. Severe weather conditions are expected inland, particularly north of Antananarivo, south of Mahajanga and north of Toliara. Regional authorities in some areas, including Analamanga, have suspended school classes on 11 February as a public safety measure following the alerts.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Humanitarian partners are concerned that large numbers of people will be at risk from the cyclone in both Madagascar and Mozambique. Past severe cyclones have caused widespread destruction of homes, displacement of tens of thousands of people, extensive damage to critical infrastructure such as health centres and schools, disruption to agriculture and markets, and increased food insecurity and health risks.

This comes as Madagascar is still reeling from Tropical Cyclone Fytia, which made landfall on 31 January and resulted in at least 12 deaths, the displacement of more than 31,000 people, and over 200,000 people affected, mainly in the north-west of the country. The majority of those affected are in Boeny Region. Overall, Cyclone Fytia impacted 35 districts across nine regions; Boeny, Analamanga, Melaky, Sofia, Vakinankaratra, Betsiboka, Atsinanana, Alaotra Mangoro and Itasy. The cyclone also caused significant infrastructure damage, with nearly 18,600 houses flooded, damaged or destroyed, alongside damage to approximately 493 classrooms and 20 health facilities. The cyclone has caused widespread disruption to education, livelihoods, and essential services. Schools used as temporary shelters require disinfection before classes can resume, while extensive losses of rice fields and livestock are undermining food security. Public health risks have increased due to flooded water points and limited access to health and nutrition services, compounded by medical supply shortages. In the worst-affected areas, river transport and school activities remain suspended.

To date in 2026, Madagascar has been affected by at least two notable weather systems, Tropical Cyclone Fytia and Cyclone Gezani, while earlier systems, such as Ewestse and Dudzai in January, did not significantly impact the island. The peak of the cyclone season will continue until end of March.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian actors and national authorities in Madagascar started coordinating preparedness and anticipatory actions ahead of Cyclone Gezani, with contingency planning focused on mitigating the impacts of strong winds, torrential rainfall and flooding, and on protecting lives and critical assets in areas expected to be affected. The Government is ensuring preparedness measures are in place, while humanitarian partners have deployed response teams and are pre-positioning supplies along the eastern coast.

Action triggers for the Anticipatory Action framework in Madagascar have been met, based on the latest meteorological projections indicating that Cyclone Gezani is forecast to make landfall as an intense tropical cyclone on 10 February. To this effect, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, has [released](#) US\$3 million for Madagascar and US\$4.5 million for Mozambique from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support anticipatory action, including the pre-positioning of staff and relief supplies. The AA framework was activated after pre-agreed action trigger thresholds were reached based on Météo-Madagascar forecasts for Tropical Cyclone Gezani. The CERF funding will support preparedness and early response activities by UN humanitarian agencies. This comes as the humanitarian community in Madagascar is seeking US\$11 million to assist more than 93,000 people directly affected by Tropical Cyclone Fytia.

Anticipatory cash distributions were already being undertaken by partners ahead of Cyclone Gezani's landfall in at-risk communities. Humanitarian partners are also supporting government-led efforts by informing communities, assisting with evacuations, and organizing shelter sites for populations at risk. Likely sectoral humanitarian needs include emergency shelter for displaced populations, WASH interventions due to

contamination of water sources, and food access support as a result of flooded croplands and blocked roads. On 28 January, CERF also allocated US\$2 million for an urgent response to the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Fytia. This funding is supporting life-saving assistance, including food, clean water, health care, emergency shelter and basic household items, for affected communities in Soalala and Marovoay. The Red Cross and the Start Network have also activated their Anticipatory Action protocols ahead of Cyclone Gezani's landfall, with approximately US\$1.46 million allocated through the Start Network. In addition, the Government and the World Bank are considering the activation of the national contingency fund, while African Risk Capacity (ARC) insurance may also be triggered to support the response to Tropical Cyclone Fytia.

HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES AND GAPS

One of the most pressing challenges, that hampered humanitarian assessment and response, is the disruption of transport networks. Road access between and within districts has been cut, a situation expected to last for several months, particularly in Mitsinjo, Soalala, Ambatoboeny and rural Marovoay. This has already hampered assessments, as the initial aerial mission was unable to land in Soalala.

Critical funding gaps persist. Limited pre-positioned stocks in affected and surrounding areas are insufficient to meet escalating humanitarian needs. Sustained logistical support remains essential, as reliance on air, maritime and river transport is expected to continue, with road access to several landlocked districts unlikely to improve during the peak rainy season.

Public health risks are rising following successive floods, necessitating strengthened risk communication, enhanced disease surveillance and large-scale disinfection of high-risk sites to prevent outbreaks, including the potential spread of mpox. Assessment coverage remains incomplete, requiring further field assessments in uncovered areas, alongside analysis of the medium-term cumulative impacts of recurrent flooding on food security and nutrition.

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