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Humanitarian Situation in Madagascar 20 July 2009

CONTEXT

The outlook for Madagascar remains grim, as the on-going political uncertainty and global economic crisis continue to have a negative impact on fiscal revenues and on the economy as a whole. The combined impact of job losses, curtailment of development aid and reduction in basic social services is steadily eroding people's ability to cope, most particularly amongst the urban poor. According to the World Bank updates¹, the Malagasy economy is headed towards a severe recession. Both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank predict that the full negative impact of the crisis will be felt in the second semester of 2009, with a further serious crunch in early 2010, when the steady erosion in tax revenues and development funding will kick in.

The brunt of the impact is still expected to be felt by the urban population, and close monitoring remains crucial if a potential humanitarian crisis is to be averted. At present, most basic social services continue to function. However, with no political resolution in sight, a serious shortage of government funds is foreseen by the end of the year. Health sector partners warn that particular attention must be paid to the on-going availability of basic medicines, petrol and electricity, as any shortfalls in this area could affect critical interventions such as the maintenance of the cold chain. Another major concern is the cessation of donor funds for major initiatives such as the procurement of obstetric care kits.

Nevertheless, a large fraction of the Malagasy economy has been isolated from the current turmoil so far. The agricultural sector, which employs about 75% of the population, depends more on climatic and other factors, including public policy, not directly linked to international markets². A joint crop assessment carried out by FAO and WFP³ in twelve agricultural areas across the country where production is traditionally affected by drought or cyclones, showed a general improvement of the food security situation. Markets are well stocked and prices reasonable, with some decrease noted in the prices of basic foodstuffs. Preliminary findings reveal an overall increase of 17% in national production of rice for 2008/2009 as compared to 2007/200 - although in some rice-granary areas of the northeast and the southwest, the production has decreased up to 33% due to late and insufficient rainfall. Similarly for maize, despite the poor harvest reported in the drought-prone south, the overall national production has increased by 22%, particularly in the Vakinankaratra and the Betsiboka Regions, both of which had been supported by the Millennium Challenge Account project. However, due to the political situation, MCA funds are now frozen. It is therefore doubtful that these production gains will be sustainable over the next harvest season.

¹ World Bank Economic Updates of 19 June and 17 July 2009.

² Vulnerability Assessment 1, Interagency Working Group on Vulnerability Assessment, Draft Report, 8 July 2009

³ The crop assessment was carried out between 30 May and 15 June 2009.

The volume of domestic rice being sold is up from the previous year, indicating that Madagascar could be close to achieving self-sufficiency for rice. This year's good rice harvest has therefore helped to reduce pressures on poor households, both through self-consumption in rural areas and lower prices in urban areas⁴. This being said, the next challenge is around the corner: investment and planting decisions have to be taken at a time when lower producer prices⁵ might reduce rice intensification efforts by small commercial producers. This risk is exacerbated by the government's intervention in subsidizing prices (at a time of over-supply), and eliminating tariffs as well as Value Added Tax (VAT) on imported rice (at times of declining international prices), thereby favouring imports at the expense of local production⁶. Investment and planting decisions may be affected as a result, and compounded by other factors linked to the socio-political crisis, such as security concerns, dysfunctionality of one of the major wholesalers, and reduced availability/higher prices of fertilizers, seeds and other agricultural inputs. Furthermore, the positive gains noted by the crop assessment are deemed to be temporary, given that producers are currently selling their produce without constituting reserve stocks (either of food and/or seeds).

In any event, the crux may be that, even if a political accord is struck in the near future and donors release funding, revenue levels will have decreased so significantly that the financial capacity of both government and individuals will remain severely affected. Indeed, the ability of Malagasy households to weather shocks is limited⁷. The precarious nature of life in Madagascar means that people recover with difficulty, and over a considerable period of time. Based on previous experience, it is estimated that over half of households (53%) take over a year to recover, and an additional 23% take six months to a year.

Grave concerns therefore remain regarding the on-going deterioration of the situation, which could be either a gradual slide, as economic hardships deepen and coping strategies are exhausted; or a sudden implosion, should frustrations and despair reach breaking point.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION - UN AND PARTNERS RESPONSE

Based on the most recent assessments and a common analysis of the humanitarian situation in Madagascar as of the end of June 2009, **the Flash Appeal is being revised downwards by 38.7%**, whilst extending its time-frame by a further three months, to respond to the most pressing needs as follows:

- Maintain and extend nutrition and food security interventions from five to seven districts in the south and south-west, supported by integrated health, water and agricultural early recovery activities;
- Ensure on-going monitoring and surveillance of the humanitarian situation in urban centres linked to the socio-political crisis, to ensure immediate scaling-up of response as needed;
- Reinforce protection and human rights measures to prevent a slide into violence and to counter the climate of impunity;
- Pre-position essential supplies to meet medical emergencies and basic needs in anticipation of further potential political unrest, and the up-coming cyclone season.

Overall, activities under the revised Flash Appeal aim to assist some 500,000 people, of which 276,000 affected by the drought (including 57,000 children under five and 24,000 PLW); 140,000 beneficiaries in urban areas affected by the socio-political crisis (including 85,000 students and youth) and 100,000 people in response to cyclone-related activities.

⁴ Idem.

⁵ Paddy prices are down from 600 Ar/kg in June 2008 to 450 Ar/kg in June 2009

⁶ World Bank Economic Update of 19 June 2009.

⁷ Vulnerability Assessment 1, Interagency Working Group on Vulnerability Assessment, Draft Report, 8 July 2009

The Madagascar Humanitarian Country Team is therefore seeking a total of **USD 21,904,522** under the revised Appeal. Of this, **USD 10,869,411 has been funded**. The total **funding gap** at the time of the revision is therefore **USD 11,035,111**.

DROUGHT IN SOUTH

In the south, the counter-season harvest of June 2009 has stabilized prices in local markets and is enabling previously food insecure areas to achieve a measure of self-sufficiency in the short-term. However, the respite is expected to be brief and insufficient to enable families to meet basic needs during the traditional lean season, which runs from September through December. Despite an overall increase of about 17% in rice production nationally, a decrease of up to 33% has been noted in some areas of the northeast and the southwest, due to the late and insufficient rainfall. Similarly, despite an increase of 22% in national maize production, the southern part of the country is suffering from a poor harvest. Little information is currently available on how national solidarity mechanisms may be put in place to assist areas in greatest need. As the situation stands, household food stock reserves are not expected to last for more than two months, and the lean season is therefore predicted to start earlier than in previous years.

Furthermore, the number of severely malnourished (SAM) children being detected is already higher than originally targeted in the Appeal. It is now estimated that up to 7,000 children require therapeutic nutritional support, as compared to the previously estimated 4,000, along with family protection rations, and related health, water and sanitation activities. In addition, an increasing number of under-fives are considered to be at high risk of falling into SAM (MUAC <125mm).

The on-going prompt, coordinated and well-targeted preventative response should help stabilize nutritional and health indicators in the region without burdening the already over-stretched health services. Under the revision of the Flash Appeal, activities are now being extended to cover all seven districts deemed food insecure, in support of nutritional activities to an estimated 7,000 severely malnourished children and 22,000 at risk of falling into SAM (MUAC<125mm), reaching over 275,000 beneficiaries overall.

NUTRITION

Since April, assessments and monitoring have shown that the situation has worsened considerably, mainly due to the prolonged lean season. Between March and the end of May, 4,303 SAM cases were diagnosed and put under treatment (27% more than expected, assuming coverage of 100%). Considering that active screening reached only 60% of the target population, revised estimates are currently for up to 7,000 SAM cases – an increase of up to 3,000 additional cases. Moreover, field reports show that SAM children on treatment are recovering slowly, and treatment with therapeutic food is prolonged. The average time of recovery has passed from 8 weeks to 12-13 weeks. This can mainly be attributed to low income, coupled with high levels of household food insecurity, which is leading to sharing of 'Ready Use Therapeutic Food' (RUTF - Plumpy-Nut) among family members.

In this context, on-going response activities are focusing on:

- Distribution of RUTF to SAM children.
- Distribution of family rations for households with at least one child diagnosed as suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (as protection of therapeutic food) to 5,000 families.
- Appropriate supplementation (fortified blended food and oil) for 22,000 children at risk of falling into severe malnutrition (MUAC < 125mm).
- Blanket feeding for all 24,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in two of the districts of Anosy where the SMART survey presented the highest Global Malnutrition Rates (GAM). To date, 18,000 out of 24,000 PLW have received the blanket feeding ration for two months. The total caseload will be completed by WFP partners by the end of July.

Services to screen and treat acute malnutrition have been implemented and are operational in all 115 basic health centers and five referral hospitals of the seven districts in the three regions affected by drought. Active screening of acute malnutrition is being conducted in all 2,353 *fokontany* by 7,059 community agents trained on MUAC measurement.

In order to avoid excess morbidity and mortality, urgent additional RUTF and systematic drugs are required. There is also a need to increase awareness and ownership among community leaders about SAM treatment to promote adequate use of RUTF and prevent sharing among family members. A follow-up SMART survey will be carried out in October, in the areas previously surveyed in April, in order to monitor the situation of Global Acute Malnutrition and retrospective mortality rates in children under five.

In order to maintain the gains acquired via the nutritional intervention and to prevent a new nutritional crisis during the up-coming lean season, WFP and partners will carry out blanket feeding with blended food and oil (1,500 MT) to approximately 75,000 children under two, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for a duration of three months in the 44 municipalities expected to be classified as food insecure in the three regions⁸. This protein and fat-rich supplementation will be coupled with the staple cereal and pulse family ration distributed via food-for-work (FFW) activities, to contribute to a complete kilo-caloric and micronutrient-rich food basket. Funds for the blanket feeding intervention have already been secured by WFP via its Country Programme.

FOOD SECURITY and LIVELIHOODS

In support to the nutritional rehabilitation efforts, jointly being carried out by WFP and UNICEF, general food distributions to protect the nutritional ration from dilution are on-going. In June, 650 MT of food aid was distributed to about 100,000 beneficiaries, in collaboration with CARE, ADRA, Azafady and ASOS. Furthermore, coordination is being established with a recently announced American initiative on food security, through the Multi-Year Assistance Program (MYAP), to be implemented by the Office of Food for Peace over a five-year period from 1 July 2009 at a total estimated cost of US\$80,932,300. The program targets 98,500 vulnerable households (or approximately 492,500 people) in 120 rural communes in 21 districts and three urban centers in eastern and southern parts of the country.

Preliminary findings from the FAO/WFP Crop Assessment show that household food stock reserves are unlikely to last for more than two months in the affected districts. The lean season is expected to start earlier than in the previous years. Should funding therefore be made available, FFW activities to cover an estimated caseload of 30,000 households (150,000 beneficiaries) are planned as from September 2009, so as not to adversely affect markets during the counter-seasonal harvest, whilst aiming to cover the food gap generated by an estimated 30-40% harvest loss and in anticipation of a harsh lean season.

The loss of the 2008-2009 harvest has also resulted in a complete lack of seed stocks. In parallel with the FFW activities described above, seed distribution targeting the same 30,000 households will be carried out as a matter of urgency, to re-launch the up-coming planting season as from September. As a result of the last lean season and dependence on extreme coping strategies, agricultural implements and material have been sold by households at low prices. The proportion of households owning a plough has fallen from 50% to a mere 10% - despite the fact that this implement is essential for increasing surfaces being cultivated, and for rapid cultivation in an area where the soil must be worked immediately, during the short and scarce rainy season.

Activities planned under the revised Flash Appeal therefore also include distribution of 3,000 ploughs to local agricultural groups (ten households per group), for communal use by the 30,000 targeted households. Given that the districts targeted are also pastoral in nature, beneficiaries will provide the necessary cattle for plowing activities.

WASH

Following two missions to identify needs and determine rehabilitation requirements, WASH interventions began on 6 April, with priority being given to providing WASH kits to community health centres (CSBs) and families with infants affected by acute and severe malnutrition. As of 5 July 4,308 families out of 4,987 had received WASH kits.

⁸Androy, Anosy and Atsimo-Andrefana.

Support is being provided on a continuous basis to ensure access to water for all CSBs in Androy and Anosy regions. As of 30 June, 95% of the 97 CSBs recorded have regular access to water: ceramic filters, collapsible tanks or containers are available at each CSB. Over the coming months, 'dug wells' and boreholes with hand pumps will be installed as sustainable facilities for some of these CSBs. Moreover, high rainfall has been recorded in June (compared to the situation in May) and as a result, 25 CSBs have sufficiently full tanks to meet needs for at least one month. In the meantime 168,000 liters of water were delivered to 28 CSBs by 5 July, with an additional 72,000 liters to be delivered during the month.

Agreements have been drawn up with NGOs (CRS, ASOS, SOARANO, SAHI) for the construction and rehabilitation of water tanks, wells, boreholes and toilets to benefit 160,000 people. Awareness-raising campaigns will support all activities to ensure appropriate hygiene practices in CSBs, villages and communities.

A WASH assessment is on-going in Atsimo Andrefana region to identify priority actions related to water and sanitation at CSB and community levels, in support of extended nutritional interventions. Funding is being sought to support the projected activities, to reach a total of 80,000 people (16,000 families) in 260 villages with no access to potable water in all three regions.

HEALTH

UN staff has been deployed to coordinate health response activities in the southern regions and to ensure complementarities with the on-going nutrition and WASH responses. Field monitoring activities are being strengthened in Androy and Anosy, and extended to cover four districts in Atsimo Andrefana.

Health partners aim at improving coverage of outreach and mobile health services through strengthening district and implementing levels of the MoH, and integrating local communities, as well as of NGOs and the Croix-Rouge Malagasy (CRM). Actions aimed at avoiding disruption of the cold chain, including provision of fuel and spare parts, will ensure continuity in the provision of vaccinations. The Expanded Programme in Immunisation is being reinforced in the south of the country. Thirty-one Sibir refrigerators have been ordered for CSBs and 12 VestFrost refrigerators for district health facilities. This equipment (including spare parts) will be delivered over the coming weeks.

Sensitization activities for the use of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) are on-going, in particular in Ihorombe and Atsimo Andrefana regions, in partnership with ASOS. ITNs are being distributed to pregnant women coming for prenatal consultations and to women with vaccinated children.

Field assessments have also indicated a steady deterioration in the situation of pregnant women. The rate of deliveries in health centres in Androy region has decreased from 17% at the end of 2008, to 15%⁹ currently. Maternal deaths occurring in health centres have risen from 7 to 17 per month over the same time period. Furthermore, the rate of abandonment in the use of PF (family planning method to avoid unwanted pregnancies and clandestine abortions) has risen from 5.7% at the end of 2008 to 19.6% currently.¹⁰ CERF funding has enabled UNFPA to undertake activities targeting 27,003 women of reproductive age, 5,283 pregnancies and 4,697 expected deliveries, through the purchase and distribution of emergency reproductive health kits, as well as other essential medical supplies for a basic minimum and adequate service delivery. Extension of activities to an additional four districts determined as food insecure will be covered by UNFPA annual programming budgets. To minimise disruption of maternal and reproductive health care, partners will step up training, and reinforce provision of reproductive health equipment and supplies, together with development of IEC materials to improve awareness and early detection of danger signs of pregnancy complication. The availability of post-rape care treatment (including post-exposure prophylaxis [PEP] to prevent the transmission of HIV) will also be made available.

⁹ Source GSIS with reporting coverage of 89%

¹⁰ Idem

URBAN VULNERABILITY

Traditionally food insecure communities in urban areas, half of whom depend on urban agriculture, are currently able to meet their nutritional needs through auto-consumption of the seasonal harvest, in the short term, as demonstrated by the first results from a multi-cluster rapid assessment mechanism (McRAM)¹¹ carried out at the end of May. Furthermore, the country as a whole is benefitting from this year's good rice harvest, with Madagascar close to achieving self-sufficiency in rice for 2009¹², following on investments made in 2008. Although falling domestic prices of rice¹³ are helping to mitigate the immediate impacts of the socio-political crisis in urban areas, there are signs that coping strategies will quickly wear thin. The on-going manipulation of media and youth by the various political factions, combined with the eroding economy and increasingly precarious livelihoods of urban households, could lead to a rapid deterioration in security, renewed civil unrest and give rise to a humanitarian crisis.

The next follow-up multi-cluster rapid assessment mechanism (McRAM) survey will therefore be carried out in August 2009.

FOOD SECURITY and LIVELIHOODS

Food security surveillance in urban areas is being strengthened by all partners to ensure effective monitoring and analysis of assistance gaps to fine-tune response according to priority needs identified.

The general food security situation, including child malnutrition trends, appears to be stable. However, a high incidence of coping mechanisms is reportedly being used by households during a time of comparatively low food prices, thereby indicating continued high levels of vulnerability. The overall situation risks to deteriorate with the up-coming lean season (end July). Moreover, a decline in key economic sectors of activity (i.e. textile industry, construction and tourism), may lead to massive job losses in urban centers. Consequently, continued McRAM assessment surveys are deemed crucial in monitoring the evolution of the situation at household level.

WFP has been ensuring general food distributions in health centres and orphanages in the cities of Antananarivo, Fianarantsoa, Tamatave and Tulear, in collaboration with Reggio Terzo Mondo, ASERN and Salfa. In June, approximately 75,000 people benefited from 500 MT of food assistance in urban areas. In addition, the Malagasy Red Cross (CRM) soup kitchen project is currently supporting 6,300 of the most vulnerable in the capital city of Antananarivo to prevent them from falling into destitution, over a period of five months.

In accordance with the first-round of McRAM results and the rice harvest season, WFP is gradually scaling-down food distributions in urban areas to finish in July.

WASH

Sensitization and soap distribution campaigns were carried out in ten vulnerable *fokontany* for 17,000 families in June. UNICEF is also supporting Vohitra Environment to monitor the most vulnerable areas of the city known for outbreaks of disease, in particular plague 'hot spots'.

To respond to assessed needs, WASH partners are currently seeking funding to:

- Distribute 10,000 WASH kits¹⁴ to the most vulnerable families to improve water collection and treatment, thereby aiming to improve their hygiene status. Selection of households was done at an

¹¹ Situation des ménages de la ville d'Antananarivo dans le contexte de la crise socio-politique – Madagascar, Berthine Razafiarisoa, Isabelle Nirina, Dorothée Klaus, Système des Nations Unies, Juin 2009.

¹² World Bank Economic Update of 19 June 2009.

¹³ Rice accounts for as much as one third of the consumption basket in poor households (Source: World Bank Economic Update, June 2009).

¹⁴ WASH kit is composed of: two buckets of 15 litres, one jerry can of 20 litres, six bars of soap of 850 g, 12 bottles of 150 ml of chlorine.

earlier stage of the crisis, with the assistance of the Municipal Office of Hygiene and with the support of the communities and local NGOs;

- Set up a water and sanitation card system for 10,000 identified vulnerable families in Antananarivo to ensure free access to communal water and sanitation facilities. UNICEF will cover the costs of NGOs managing the water stand-posts and sanitation facilities;
- Promote hand washing in poor and vulnerable urban areas through hygiene campaigns for at least 10,000 families in Antananarivo.

HEALTH

Given the unresolved nature of the situation, there remains a need to continue to monitor the indirect impact of the on-going socio-political crisis on the health situation in urban centers. Although recent surveys do not reveal a humanitarian emergency at present, the situation could deteriorate rapidly should coping strategies of the most vulnerable reach their limits, health services begin to erode under budgetary pressures and/or violence re-occur. Funds are therefore being sought to reinforce surveillance and to restock essential medical and surgical supplies depleted earlier in the year at the height of the crisis, in order to meet emergency needs should they arise.

PROTECTION

UNDP funded research into the impact of the political crisis on the functioning of the judiciary, law enforcement, and prison system in Antananarivo, as well as the perception of these institutions amongst the general public and those who have dealt with these institutions during the crisis, has been finalized and the report is currently being drafted. The UNDP Human Rights Advisor received training on tools to monitor and evaluate a human rights-based approach to justice reform.

The Protection Cluster included a range of projects into the revised Flash Appeal to respond to human rights concerns linked to the political crisis, including the establishment of a human rights monitoring and documentation system; the establishment of a legal aid clinic for victims of human rights abuses; reinforcement of national NGO capacity to monitor human rights abuses and provide legal aid; the provision of training on international policing standards for the armed forces and police, as well as the promotion of freedom of expression and social cohesion through training of the media.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is in the process of recruiting two Human Rights Officers to be deployed to Madagascar. A PROCAP Senior Protection Officer was deployed in June for a minimum of three months to help strengthen the Protection Cluster.

Furthermore, in partnership with the Syndicate of Social Workers, all activities to mitigate the impact of the crisis on child protection are moving forward:

- Missing children and family reunification: A total of 397 missing children in Antananarivo have been reported since January. Family tracing and reunification activities are on-going with 265 cases now closed (children or parents have been traced and reunited) and home visits for follow-up.
- Psychosocial support for vulnerable children in medical facilities and in schools in Antananarivo: Around 1,000 children per week are benefiting from psycho-social activities in these facilities with many expressing the importance of this support to them. Psychosocial support was recently extended to affected schools in Fianarantsoa and Ambositra, in coordination with education partners (see below). According to the children, this is the only place where they can express themselves and relate their fears.
- Child friendly spaces: In Antananarivo, 14 'Child Friendly Spaces' are now equipped and operational, with full WASH facilities. Fifty-four additional community workers have been trained to work in the Child Friendly Spaces. These facilities will also help to support children whilst schools are closed for the holidays. Thanks to funds received against the Flash Appeal (Sweden - SIDA), a new partnership will be elaborated in the coming days for two more child/youth friendly spaces

in some of the most vulnerable areas of the capital city and specific youth activities will be extended, following the release in June of the study "Pandora's box: Youth at a Crossroads".¹⁵

- Child protection sub-cluster: The second sub-cluster meeting took place and the ToRs have been validated. Partner mapping is underway and a 3W directory is being developed.

EDUCATION

Since the beginning of the intervention, response activities have been organized in 68 schools of Antananarivo, Fianarantsoa and Ambositra. Psychosocial support sessions have reached 26,734 students and 1,995 teachers at both primary and secondary levels. Amongst the students reached, 571 required individualized support because of domestic violence and/or because they had to start working due to insufficient household resources. Examination classes have been the priority target to prepare for the Primary End Certificate exam which took place on 13 July, and Junior Secondary End Certificate examinations taking place from 27 to 30 July 2009. In 39 schools in Fianarantsoa and Ambositra, the absenteeism rates were 9.23% and 7.1% respectively in May 2009. The pass rate of the mock exams was estimated to be at 55.45% for these two towns.

In terms of following-up on the impact of the crisis, a survey to gather detailed information on schools has been developed in partnership with UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and validated by the Education Cluster on 8 July during the meeting of National Trainers of Education in Emergencies.

CYCLONES

The cyclone season of 2008/2009 was relatively mild, and most needs were met through pre-positioned stocks - the exception being the rehabilitation of schools. However, preparedness levels for the next cyclone season are inadequate, both in terms of stocks and of the efficiency of coordination mechanisms in the present socio-political context, leading to concerns as to the level of preparedness to face the up-coming cyclone season of 2009/2010.

FOOD SECURITY and LIVELIHOODS

With a view to enabling an immediate response to emergencies during the next cyclone season, WFP plans to pre-position 1,500 MT of food before mid-November 2009 the latest. Of this, some 1,200MT (or 80% of projected needs) remain to be covered. WFP is therefore seeking additional funding to ensure an adequate degree of preparedness for the up-coming cyclone season.

WASH

As of end June 2009, all UNICEF and partners' pre-positioned stocks - which would enable a response to future emergencies - have been used and need to be replenished. Funding is being sought to pre-position the following materials:

- 5,000 cartons of 12 bars of soap (800g), 40,000 jerry cans, 40,000 buckets, 40,000 bottles of 150ml of Sureau (water purification liquid), 100 cartons of water makers (2g), 100,000 hygiene kits, 200 water containers of 215 liters, 5,000 squatting plates, 200 rolls of plastic sheeting, 50 mobile latrines, four water treatment units and ten bladders.

EDUCATION

A training of trainers on « Education in Emergencies » was organized by the cluster between from 6-8 July 2009 to prepare training at field level on preparedness and response activities for cyclones, floods, social/political crises and tsunamis.

¹⁵ Unicef Madagascar – Play Therapy Africa, June 2009.¹⁵

In response to the damages caused by cyclone JADE, urgent funding is being sought for the construction of 30 anti-cyclonic classrooms at a total cost of USD 360,000.

OVERALL COORDINATION

Coordination activities have focused on the revision of the Flash Appeal, as well as on developing and reinforcing tracking mechanisms - in particular for monitoring and detection of increasing urban vulnerability, and on improving and strengthening humanitarian coordination mechanisms (including with NGOs), and taking into account Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) by integrating early recovery.

The contract of the Canadian-funded OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer in Madagascar ends in July. Urgent funding is being sought to support coordination activities under the revised Appeal.

Contact Details

Dr. Xavier Leus

*Resident Coordinator of the UN System
Antananarivo, Madagascar*

Catherine Lengyel

*Humanitarian Affairs Officer UN OCHA/BCR
Antananarivo, Madagascar: +261 32 0507
695*

Zoe Rasoaniaina

*National Information Officer UN Information
Centre
Antananarivo, Madagascar: +261 320746669*

Rija Rakotoson

*Humanitarian Affairs Officer UN OCHA/BCR
Antananarivo, Madagascar: +261 32 0507 693*