



International Conference on  
**Social Protection**  
in contexts of **Fragility & Forced Displacement**  
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# Madagascar

*"The cash I received arrived at the right moment because the impact of cyclone Enawo was considerable on our family."*

Be Claire Monica



## TESTIMONIES

*"My second son just finished primary school but is living with a disability. The 60,000 Ariary (approx. \$20 USD) helped me pay the enrolment fee for Lower secondary. The cash I received arrived at the right moment because the impact of cyclone Enawo was considerable on our family."*

Be Claire Monica, 27, mother of 4 and part of a group of beneficiaries who received cash transfers in August 2017 in Madagascar's Sava region, which was heavily affected by the cyclone Enawo.

*"I have not seen my husband in a year since he left to work at a mining site. I have 7 children to feed. I am worried about my harvest, as it has not rained since last month, but also about access to land if [my husband who owns it] does not come back. My youngest 2 children are being treated with Plumpy'nut. I walk 17 km every two days to get water carrying a 20-liter jerry can. Thanks to the program, I have some hope. I can use the money to buy food and water and goods to sell back in my village."*

Florine, 33, from Soatsifa village in southern Madagascar hit hardest by the 2016 drought. She is one of 48,000 families receiving a cash transfer, nutrition supplements and a livelihoods grant as part of the Fiaavota program.



## BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Madagascar's recurrent political crisis in the last decade has greatly affected the country's development and contributed to a deterioration in living standards. Its impacts are felt in almost all areas: political, socio-economic and cultural, and also in terms of security. It has



damaged legal and social norms and cultural values, and has contributed to the extreme impoverishment of the population: 91% of the 23 million people live on less than US\$2 a day. It is the only country in Sub-Saharan Africa with a historically declining GDP.

Madagascar is also exposed to the hazardous effects of climate change. In 2015, it ranked among the top 10 countries most vulnerable to cyclones and weather-related events. Since then, nearly 1.5 million people have been

affected by an ongoing drought exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon, with 53% of them facing severe food insecurity and in urgent need of assistance and more than 935,000 people, including 439,690 children, without access to safe water.

The first national Social Protection Policy was adopted in late 2015. In mid-2016, with support from the World Bank (WB) and UNICEF, the first national cash transfer programs, Transfert Monétaire pour le Développement Humain (TMDH) and the 'Let-us-learn' top-up were launched. The programs targeted 39,000 poor families with under-5 and school-aged children.

In response to the drought, and to prevent families from resorting to negative coping mechanisms, the government with support from the WB and UNICEF launched an emergency (unconditional) cash transfer program called Fiavota in 2016.

In March 2016, the UN developed a joint humanitarian response plan for drought-affected southern Madagascar with an estimated need of US\$154.9 million, of which 62% has been secured from donors. To address the increased needs of families affected by Cyclone Enawo, the government and humanitarian country team issued a Flash Appeal for US\$20.1 million in March 2017, of which US\$9.3 million (45%) had been secured as of May 2017.

## PROMISING PRACTICES

### EMERGENCY CASH LINKAGES TO THE NATIONAL SYSTEM

In 2016, the government launched an emergency cash transfer intervention, Fiavota, with support from the WB and UNICEF. The program reaches 58,000 families, targeting mothers with children under 5 with a monthly cash transfer and nutrition component, as well as a livelihoods grant to enable families to undertake small-scale income-generating activities. To ensure that drought-affected families build resilience, the current beneficiaries will be integrated into the national cash transfer program from the end of 2017 onwards.

## COORDINATION

The recurrent crises led several humanitarian organizations and other partners to turn to cash interventions to complement other emergency responses. The government-led social protection group (co-led by UNICEF) has ensured that all social protection and emergency/resilience cash transfer interventions are coordinated among partners. For the recent cyclone



response in March 2017, the cash group agreed on targeting criteria, transfer amounts and geographical coverage. Identification of common bottlenecks and ways to overcome them has been integral part of cash group discussions.

A workshop exploring lessons learned from cash interventions over the past 2 years allowed partners to exchange experiences, draw up recommendations and 11 principles were agreed upon to be implemented in cash interventions.

## EVIDENCE

Evaluations of emergency cash responses are supporting Madagascar's development of a shock-responsive social protection system that could help mitigate effects of future crises and help families exposed to shocks to build resilience.

## MAIN CHALLENGE(S) AHEAD AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

- Coordination among humanitarian partners, and in particular with the government, is essential for creating synergies and enhancing the impact on crisis-affected populations. This includes coordinating programs led by humanitarian organizations with existing national programs, including cash transfer interventions.
- Joint assessments (including market, vulnerability and evaluation assessments) are essential to guiding humanitarian and emergency interventions. Coordination of such assessments within the existing cash group makes responses more efficient and effective.
- Scaling-up cash programs and building a shock-responsive social protection system requires immediate support from donors.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

[Intervention Development Fund](#)

[ [goo.gl/iuJYov](http://goo.gl/iuJYov) ]

[‘Vatsy Fiavota’ de plain-pied dans le Sud](#)

[ [goo.gl/4rznBe](http://goo.gl/4rznBe) ]

[Post-Catastrophe action](#)

[ [goo.gl/rAHe3X](http://goo.gl/rAHe3X) ]

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

UNICEF, in partnership with the European Union, FAO, Finland, Germany, SIDA, UK aid, UNHCR, WFP and the World Bank, organized the 2017 International Conference on Social Protection in Context of Fragility and Forced Displacement (<http://sp-fragility-displacement.onetec.eu/>). This country profile was produced as background material for the conference.

The country profile reflects a collective effort by UN agencies at country level to represent the country situation as of September 2017.

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