



## Background

Madagascar is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. <sup>1</sup>Situated in the southwest of the Indian Ocean and separated from the southeast coast of Africa by the Mozambique Channel, the country has recorded 50 natural disasters over the past 37 years. These have cumulatively affected more than 12 million people and caused an estimated 1 billion USD<sup>2</sup> in damages.

Madagascar is hit by an average of 1.5 cyclones per year. Cyclones are often accompanied by torrential rains and floods, threatening lives and community livelihoods. Some regions of the country are also vulnerable to severe droughts and epidemics such as plague.

Madagascar is ranked amongst the world's poorest countries. Chronic food insecurity and malnutrition are inherent, and more than 50% of the population lives below the poverty line<sup>3</sup>.

At the national level, the Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes (BNGRC) is the highest authority in place to coordinate risk reduction and disaster response activities. In addition to the role of emergency response coordination lead in Madagascar, the government body is also responsible for implementing activities primarily aimed at promoting disaster resilience of vulnerable Malagasy communities across the country.

BNGRC works closely with various ministries, private sector actors and sectoral groups which make up the humanitarian community in Madagascar (for more information see: <https://www.bngrc-mid.mg/>).

## Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

In general, the capacity and condition of road, port and air transport infrastructure in the country is insufficient and/or in poor condition. For example, several regions are difficult to reach or inaccessible by road and in some instances, bridges are not accessible by any types of vehicles, due to risks of causing additional damaging. Moreover, during the rainy season (November-April), road conditions deteriorate. Consequently, travel times increase, leading to an increase in the prices of transport services on the local market.

Moreover, the number of available logistics capacities in-country (both transport and storage) are insufficient to meet the needs of all responding agencies at national level. These factors combined constitute a major challenge for the establishment of a timely and uninterrupted supply chain for the delivery of life-saving relief items to populations affected by disaster.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.preventionweb.net/countries/mdg/data/>

<sup>2</sup> BNGRC, 2017-2018 Multi-risk Contingency Plan

<sup>3</sup> <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTPA/0,,contentMDK:20204495~menuPK:443279~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:430367,00.html>



## Preparedness Roadmap for Emergency Logistics (PRELog)

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Based on these observations, and under the leadership of the BNGRC, humanitarian actors present in-country have identified the following constraints, bottlenecks and lack of logistics resources:

- Need for coordination (structure, roles and responsibilities) at national, regional and local level between all actors.
- Lack of information on available logistics capacities at regional and local level.
- Insufficient human resources to fully support information management activities; lack of communication equipment; and, ineffective communication structures (information sharing mechanisms).
- Lack of available storage capacities to meet the immediate needs of actors responding to humanitarian emergencies.

### Goals & Objectives

In August 2018, a Working Group structure was implemented as part of a National Logistics Preparedness Workshop with support from the World Food Programme (WFP), Logistics Cluster and the BNGRC. The Working Group includes the participation of all stakeholders involved in disaster preparedness and emergency response activities in Madagascar.

The key objective of the group is to strengthen coordination to better prepare the various actors responding to humanitarian emergencies in the country and, as such, establish a timely and uninterrupted supply of relief items to populations affected by disaster. Specifically, a significant goal was the production and implementation of an action plan, which defined a set of activities to strengthen preparedness and operational planning across government, humanitarian actors and the private sector. The national [action plan](#) was published in October 2018.

In producing the action plan and to achieve the group's goals and objectives overall, it was necessary to identify and compile (i) available logistics capacities in-country (ii); potential bottlenecks, challenges and logistics gaps and, (iii); preventive solutions to ensure a more efficient and responsive supply of life-saving relief.

Based on this action plan, regional Working Groups have also been set up. The Working Groups meet to implement the activities defined in the action plan (e.g. identification of available storage capacities at the port of Toamasina), and to anticipate potential emergency response needs in a more coordinated and effective manner.

These platforms (Working Groups) are open to all actors wishing to support natural disaster preparedness and emergency response activities in Madagascar. The groups have been established as a priority in high-risk regions previously identified as particularly vulnerable to recurrent hazards such as cyclones, floods and drought and with a strong need for the implementation of logistics preparedness activities.

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Regions	Host cities for the establishment of working groups	Major risks existing in the region
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Manakara	Cyclone and/or flooding
Boeny	Majunga	Cyclone and/or flooding
Androy	Ambovombe	Drought
Atsimo Andrefana	Toliara	Cyclone and/or flooding
Analanjirifo	Fenerive Est	Cyclone and/or flooding
Analamanga	Antananarivo	Cyclone and/or flooding

### Planned Activities

- Implement coordination and information sharing platforms available to all humanitarian actors to better manage available data and enhance the capacity to make prompt and effective decisions.
- Bring logistics partners together in high-risk regions through regular meetings and workshops to develop a common understanding of supply chain risks and implement mitigation measures to improve emergency response.
- Establish a continuous information exchange system to undertake early actions.
- Implement a coordination mechanism and plan emergency preparedness activities at regional and local level through simulation exercises.
- Create an operational database of existing resources and logistics capacities for each region.
- Develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for logistics Working Groups at regional level.

#### 1. Coordination

- Facilitate strategic Working Group meetings under the leadership of the BNGRC, to address the logistics gaps in each region and according to each dedicated regional action plan.
- Plan and coordinate emergency preparedness activities through logistics Working Groups with the support of the BNGRC, involving as many actors involved in emergency response as possible.
- Ensure that relevant logistics information is communicated with partners and humanitarian actors before cyclone season to identify available resources, promote synergies and synchronise activities.
- Organise and coordinate information sharing mechanisms at national level to enable decision-making. Subsequently, disseminate these decisions with regional and local authorities.

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## 2. Information Management (IM)

- Inform all humanitarian actors and logistics working groups of the Logistics Cluster Platform to improve and facilitate information sharing and exchange.
- Compile, analyse and disseminate to relevant actor's, logistics information originating from the regional Working Groups. This includes information such as road conditions, availability of carriers and other means of transports.
- Implement a centralised database for collected and disseminated data/information to ensure partners also have access to the information.
- Strengthen the capacity of logistics Working Groups in terms of data collection and information transmission. This includes supporting staff in information management tasks (i.e. the production of IM products such as reports and action planning).
- Provide the necessary equipment to communicate effectively and continuously.
- Produce and disseminate newsletters highlighting ongoing partner activities in Madagascar. The newsletter should be a dedicated resource for the humanitarian community.
- Update and disseminate Madagascar's logistics database to the humanitarian community (the latest Logistics Capacity Assessment update is available [here](#)).

## 3. Logistics Services

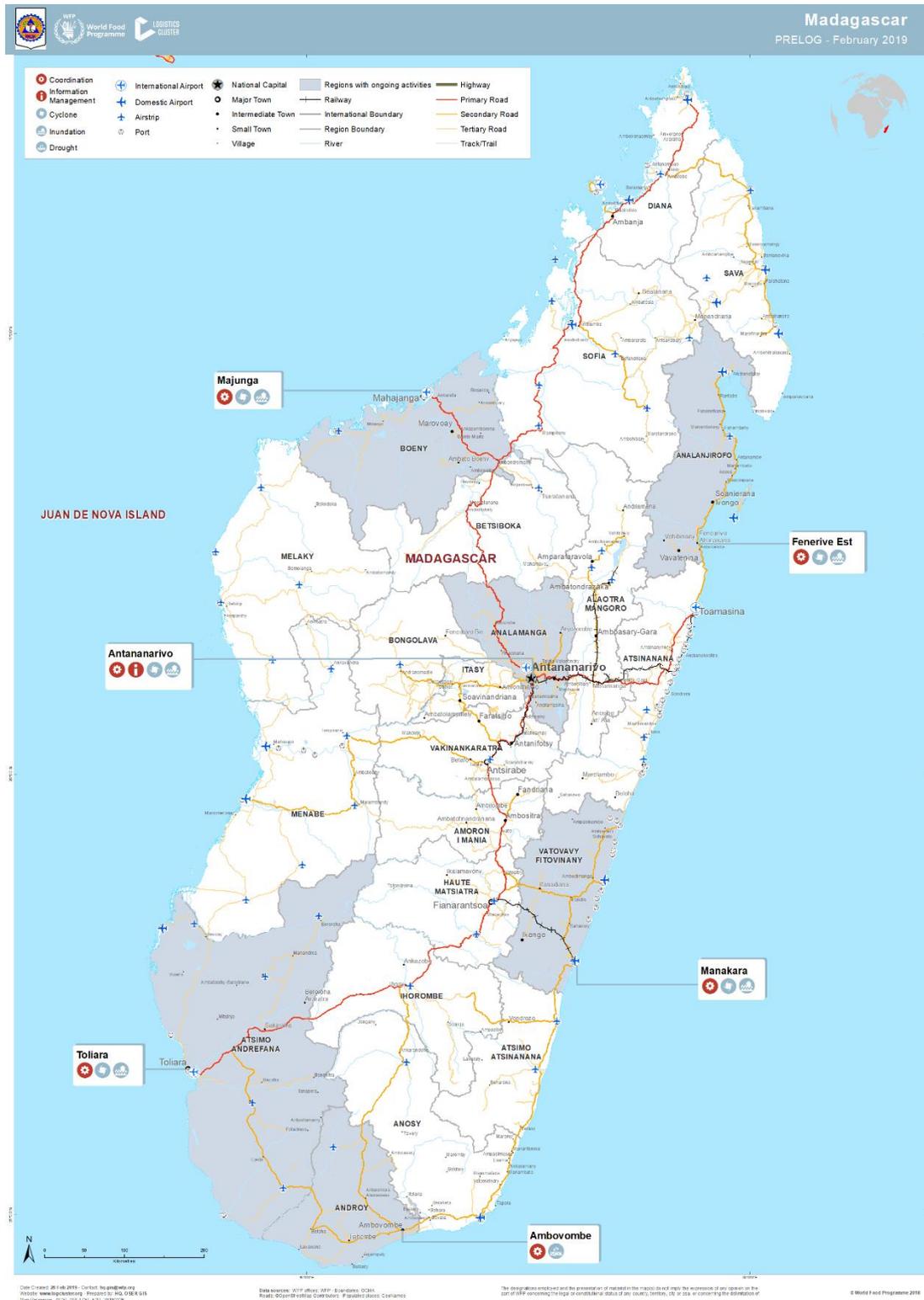
- Under the leadership of the BNGRC, the national action plan will be implemented in collaboration with the logistics Working Groups and the humanitarian community at national and regional level.
- The action plan is available [here](#).



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## Annex – Concept of Operations Map



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