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Rapid Field assessment report Antananarivo:

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This report is written following a very quick (3 hours) assessment one displacement sites and sites of origin in Antananarivo, on 15 March approximately one week after Cyclone Enawo.

Overview

A rapid field assessment was made of one displacement site and sites of origin in Antananarivo. It should be noted that one collective centre was visited. At its peak 128 families, or a total of 545 persons, were staying there. A significant proportion of the families have returned. Of some concern was the plan to relocate families from the evacuation centre to another tented site with inadequate space and sanitation facilities for the anticipated caseload of 78 families.

Comments below are the result of key informant interviews with Malagasy Red Cross (CRM) workers, local government officials, displaced people and people from communities of origin

Critical issues:

- There is a clear need to **ensure that return is voluntary** in nature. It should be noted that there is pressure to avoid protracted displacement into schools and other public buildings.
- There is a clear need to **avoid secondary displacement**, especially to sites which will prove overcrowded and have poor sanitation. Where return or relocation is to be encouraged, **return or transit sites must be viable and not threatening to public health.**
- **Limited need for shelter interventions was identified.** However sampling was incomplete and this is not to say that there is no need in other parts of the informal settlements from which people were displaced.
- **Care needs to be taken with distributions inside collective centres** as these can cause a pull factor, both for this response and for future years. In many cases it is difficult to separate the needs of the urban poor from those who have been displaced.
- Some **returns will be complicated by a need to engage in longer term issues** to facilitate safe return. These include slum planning and upgrade, poor urban sanitation, marginal land and increased flood risks caused by construction of roads to wealthier settlements need to be addressed, many of which may be outside of the scope of the emergency response.
- Further displacements in future years remain highly likely. There remains a heightened risk for additional displacements with the current cyclone season.



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Location 1: EEP: Soavimasoandro



Location: S: 18^o51.768 E 047^o31.048

Displaced population: 128 families, or 545 persons at peak. This had now reduced to 62 families, although more were present for the distribution. The site was open and not overcrowded (pictured here during distribution).

Parts of the school were being used as an evacuation centre, and a food distribution was being conducted (WFP and MRC) during the site visit. People were staying there by night and returning to their accommodation by day. However it also appeared that men were staying by their houses by night to guard them. The distribution was primarily attended by women. More people attended the distribution than were actually staying in the collective centre, and many people were staying at the collective centre longer so as to receive the distribution.

The distribution was conducted on the condition that people leave the collective centre – either moving to a tent camp that was being established or returning home. The BNGRC, on 14th March, informed IDPs that all the schools would have been evacuated by yesterday night to allow pupils to restart normal activities. There was a plan to rehabilitate / disinfect the school when people left.

This displacement had happened in previous years following heavy seasonal rains.



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Location 2 : “camp” / Relocation centre: Amboditanimena



Location: S18°51.539 E47°30.727



The “camp” was approximately 750m from the school. Three 8mx4m Tents were being erected under an existing corrugated iron roof over concrete stalls in an unfinished covered market. Wooden palettes were being used to make a raised floor (approximately 1m off the floor). The intention was for 62 families to relocate to this site. The space seemed woefully inadequate as this would mean approximately 100 people per tent. For the raised platforms there would be safety issues for small children, with risks of fall off.

There was an existing shower block but with no water and insufficient toilets for the intended caseload. Water was being sold in a nearby kiosk next to the bus stop.

If this site becomes populated as planned with the forced closure of the school there would be severe overcrowding and sanitation issues. If relocation proceeds, public health conditions at this site require careful monitoring.



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Location 3: An area of origin



S: 18⁰51.115 E47⁰30.742

The site visited was approximately 500m from the intended relocation site. Houses were built on marginal land on the sides of raised embankments. The location was semi rural – with livestock and rice paddies.

Flood waters had risen and flooded many of the houses, but now had receded and dried out causing minimal visible structural damage. Houses were primarily built of burnt brick with mud mortar, and were of low income households. This year the flood waters were higher than normal.

The risk of flooding had been increased in recent years by the development of recent roads infrastructure with insufficient culverts and drainage. This had reduced the ability of the land to drain during heavy rains.

Location 4: Area of origin 2



S18⁰52301 E47⁰30739

The site is approximately 1.5km from the evacuation centre. It is an informal urban settlement on the edge of a large permanently flooded area. Houses were small as 2m x 3m and primarily built of burnt brick with mud mortar. Roofs were of a combination of corrugated iron and plastic.

Most of the houses visited were no longer flooded, but there was some evidence of structural cracking in the walls. The location had chronic sanitation issues, was built on marginal land and was highly overcrowded.