

## P R E S S E M I T T E I L U N G

### **Storm Batsirai: Children in Madagascar prepare for second major storm**

Antananarivo, Friday 4 February 2022 – Families in Madagascar are bracing for the second tropical storm in two weeks, following the [most severe drought the country's south has faced in 40 years](#), according to Save the Children.

Less than three months after the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), where world leaders failed to commit to enough funding for the world's poorest countries, the situation facing children in Madagascar is a stark illustration of the impacts of the climate emergency, the children's rights organisation said.

Storm Batsirai is expected to be a Category 3 or 4 cyclone that could force as many as 140,000 people in Madagascar, including tens of thousands of children, from their homes. Cyclone Idai, which tore through south-east Africa three years ago and was one of the strongest tropical cyclones to hit Africa and the southern hemisphere, was a Category 3 cyclone.

Extreme weather events such as Storm Batsirai – which has already torn through Mauritius and Réunion and is projected to make landfall on Madagascar on Saturday – are becoming more frequent as a result of the climate crisis. The destruction caused by multiple successive extreme weather events shows the immediate need for more funding from higher-income countries to support lower-income countries in dealing with climate impacts, says Save the Children.

The new tropical storm comes just two weeks after Storm Ana made landfall in Madagascar, causing flooding, landslides, and loss of life, as well as forcing 72,000 people from their homes. The storm also put education out of reach for 9,271 children across the country, completely destroying 70 classrooms and partially damaging 440 others. Storm Ana then swept onto the coast of the main African continent, wreaking havoc.

Meanwhile, the south of Madagascar continues to experience the most severe drought in 40 years. Last year, some families described how hungry children [play games](#) cooking with sand, soil and leaves, and eating them to feel full.

**Save the Children's Programme Director for Madagascar, Tatiana Dasy, said:**

*"The people who had the power and the platform at COP26 three months ago, particularly those in countries that have economically benefitted from producing the most global emissions, are back to 'business as usual'.*

*"Meanwhile, children in Madagascar have been going to bed hungry because of the drought, have had their classrooms destroyed by Storm Ana, and are now bracing themselves for a severe cyclone that could rip their homes away. How is any of this their fault, and why should they be condemned to a life without basic needs such as food, shelter, and an education? This is too much for a child to bear."*

**Yolande Wright, Save the Children's Global Director of Child Poverty and Climate, said:**

*“Leaders talk about the climate emergency as a ticking time bomb, but in the countries most vulnerable to its impacts, like Madagascar, that bomb has already gone off. Sadly, extreme weather events, and their deadly impacts on children, their families and communities, are likely to continue to worsen as global emissions rise and the likelihood of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees becomes more remote.*

*“At COP26 there was an opportunity for high-income countries and historical emitters to pledge more funding to help countries like Madagascar cope with these kinds of extreme weather events. This opportunity was tragically missed, and we continue to see some of the world's poorest countries forced to deal with the consequences.”*

Save the Children in Madagascar is monitoring the situation over the coming days and is prepared to work with local authorities and other agencies to respond where it is needed.

**Bei Interviewanfragen wenden Sie sich bitte an unsere Pressestelle.**

**Kontakt:**

Save the Children Deutschland e.V.

Pressestelle – Marie-Sophie Schwarzer

Tel.: +49 (0)30 – 27 59 59 79 – 226

Mail: [marie.schwarzer@savethechildren.de](mailto:marie.schwarzer@savethechildren.de)

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**Über Save the Children**

Im Nachkriegsjahr 1919 gründete die britische Sozialreformerin und Kinderrechtlerin Eglantyne Jebb Save the Children, um Kinder in Deutschland und Österreich vor dem Hungertod zu retten. Heute ist die inzwischen größte unabhängige Kinderrechtsorganisation der Welt in rund 120 Ländern tätig. Save the Children setzt sich ein für Kinder in Kriegen, Konflikten und Katastrophen. Für eine Welt, die die Rechte der Kinder achtet. Eine Welt, in der alle Kinder gesund und sicher leben und frei und selbstbestimmt aufwachsen und lernen können – seit über 100 Jahren.