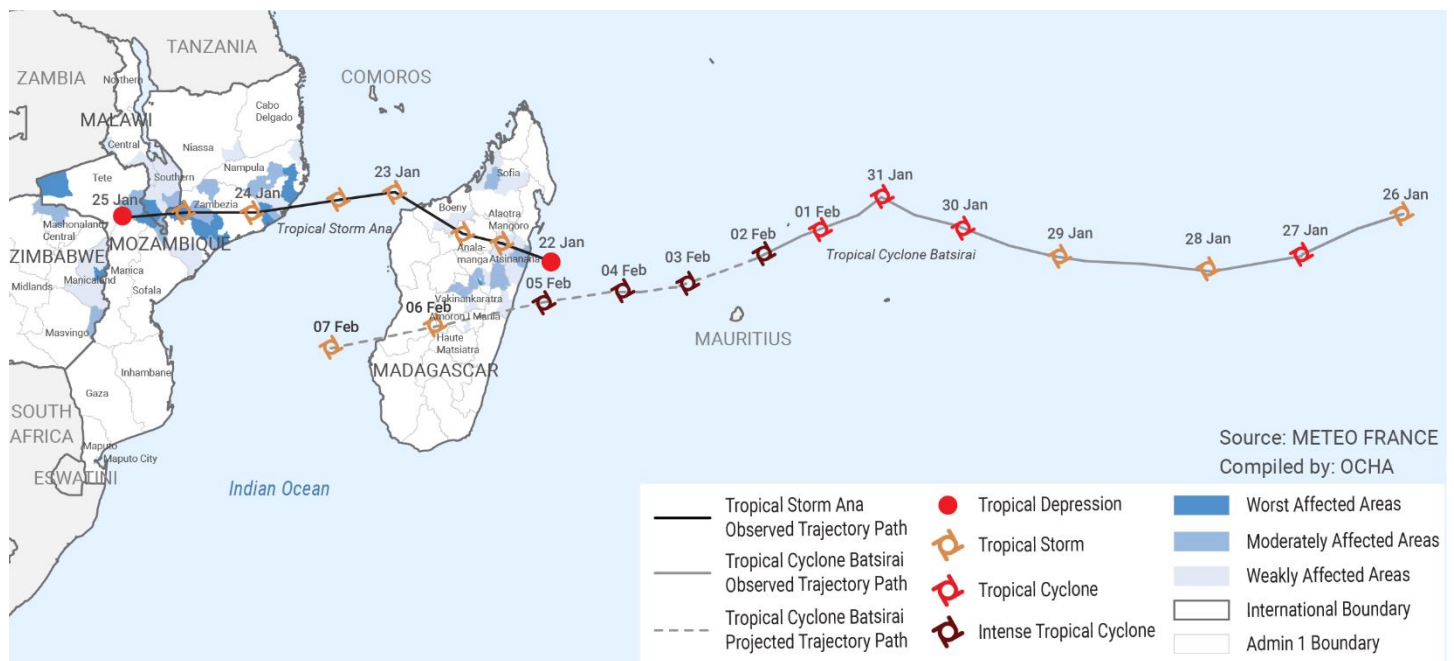


HIGHLIGHTS

- In late-January 2022, the Tropical Storm Ana weather system brought winds, heavy rains, damage and destruction to parts of Madagascar, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, affecting several hundred thousand people.
- In Madagascar, the Tropical Depression caused by the Tropical Storm Ana weather system made landfall on 22 January, compounding the flooding caused by an Intertropical Convergence Zone around 17 January.
- A new weather system—Tropical Cyclone Batsirai—has formed in the Indian Ocean in recent days and is expected to make landfall on the east coast of Madagascar around 5 February, after passing by Mauritius and Reunion.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

The 2021/2022 cyclone season in the south-west Indian Ocean intensified in January 2022, with Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe all facing damage and destruction from heavy rainfall and flooding.

Tropical Storm Ana

In **Madagascar**, intense rainfall in January caused flooding, landslides, destruction of infrastructure and loss of life, particularly affecting the country’s capital, Antananarivo, and other areas of Analamanga Region, in the centre of the country. The rains were initially driven by an Intertropical Convergence Zone around 17 January and increased when a Tropical Depression—which subsequently formed Tropical Storm Ana—made landfall in the east of the country on 22 January and exited the other side of the island on 23 January. At least 131,000 people were affected across 7 regions, including 71,000 people who were displaced according to authorities. At least 58 people have died, almost all of them in the capital, where traditional houses collapsed, and others were swept away by landslides. Although people have since begun to return to their homes, the situation may deteriorate again in the coming days with the approach of Tropical Cyclone Batsirai, which is currently projected to make landfall in Madagascar as an Intense Tropical Cyclone on 5 February.

In **Mozambique**, Tropical Storm Ana made landfall in Angoche district, Nampula province, on 24 February, significantly affecting the provinces of Zambezia, Nampula and Tete. The storm has affected nearly 141,500 people and damaged or destroyed at least 13,670 houses (more than 7,700 of which have been completely destroyed). Essential services have been significantly impacted, with 30 health centres damaged and more than 2,400 classrooms destroyed by the storm,

affecting nearly 300,000 students. At least 25 people have died, and 220 were injured, during the devastating floods caused by Tropical Storm Ana. Further details on the situation in Mozambique are available [here](#).

Tropical Storm Ana then passed through southern **Malawi**, causing heavy rains and flooding, with some weather stations recording more than 300 millimeters (mm) of rainfall within a 24-hour period, including Masambaniati (360mm), Mpemba (344 mm), Supuni in Chikwawa (336 mm) and Chileka (305 mm). More than 110,800 people (22,174 households) have been displaced by the floods and are staying in 122 displacement sites, according to the latest data from the Government of Malawi's Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA). At least 33 people have died, and 158 were injured, while a further 20 people remain missing. The storm caused damage to homes, roads, bridges and other infrastructure (including schools, health centres and churches). The districts of Chikwawa and Nsanje have been hardest-hit, according to satellite imagery analyzed by **UNOSAT**. The heavy rains also damaged a key power plant, leading to the temporary disruption of power supply across large parts of the country. On 26 January, the President of Malawi declared a State of National Disaster and called for support and assistance for people affected by Tropical Storm Ana.

In **Zimbabwe**, the passage of the Tropical Storm Ana weather system caused destruction and damage in at least six provinces, with Manicaland Province hardest-hit. At least 3,000 people have been affected by heavy rains and flooding, and schools, bridges and roads were damaged.

Tropical Cyclone Batsirai

Tropical Cyclone Batsirai has intensified and is now moving west/west-south-west at about 19 kilometres an hour (kh/h). Batsirai is expected to pass by **Mauritius** at the end of the day today, 2 February, and **Reunion** tomorrow morning, 3 February, according to the latest forecast from Meteo France. Mauritius is experiencing wind and rains, which are expected to gradually improve tomorrow. Reunion has been on orange alert since 6 a.m. on 2 February, and conditions have begun to deteriorate, with gusts exceeding 100km/h on the coast and 120km/h in the highlands, according to Meteo France.

Batsirai is expected to make landfall on the east coast of **Madagascar**—likely between Mananjary and Mahanoro districts—as an Intense Tropical Cyclone at the end of this week. All of the eastern coast of Madagascar has been placed on green alert in anticipation of the cyclone's landfall, which is expected to have a significant impact.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS

Tropical Storm Ana

In **Madagascar**, the Government, municipal authorities in Antananarivo, humanitarian organizations and private sector have mobilizing assistance for people displaced by flooding. President Andry Rajoelina organized a high-level meeting on 20 January to coordinate Government interventions, including preventive evacuations ahead of the Tropical Depression's landfall on 22 January. In Antananarivo, the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC), humanitarians and private sector mobilized relief items, including cash, food, water, sanitation and hygiene items, as well as health, protection and camp management services at the displacement sites. All response activities emphasized COVID-19 risk mitigation and prevention, given the increase in transmissions reported in Antananarivo since the start of 2022.

In **Mozambique**, the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management (INGD) is leading the coordination of response and needs assessments. In the first days following the storm's landfall, INGD conducted Search and Rescue (SAR) operations; reinforced essential medical stocks; repaired affected public infrastructure; and distributed food and non-food items (NFIs) to more than 5,600 people in the first 72 hours in Zambezia. Since 28 January, multisectoral needs assessments teams, composed of local authorities and humanitarian partners, have been gathering data on the storm's impacts in all affected provinces. Humanitarian partners have complemented the Government's assistance through the distribution of essential aid supplies; deployment of surge staff; repositioning of emergency stocks in the affected provinces; and contributing to the construction of emergency shelters and setting up accommodation centers. Humanitarian agencies are providing health supplies in the three most affected provinces to cover about 100,000 people for two months (including tents, medicines, and kits for community workers). In Nampula, education materials to assist some 2,800 children were distributed, while the WASH cluster delivered 800 hygiene kits and 200 latrines.

In **Malawi**, DODMA, in collaboration with the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), developed and disseminated warning messages through national and community radio stations and council public address systems ahead of the storm's arrival. DODMA also led SAR operations by boat in areas of Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mulanje and Phalombe districts that were cut-off. The Malawi Defense Force (MDF) also deployed a helicopter to support with aerial surveillance as well as search and rescue of trapped people. Vital relief items are being dispatched and distributed by the Government and aid agencies. DODMA has dispatched 42 housing units to Nsanje, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Mulanje, and Zomba, while the MRCS provided 46 tents to Chikwawa, Mulanje, Thyolo, Phalombe, Zomba and Nsanje, according to DODMA's update on the status of response operations on 2 February. DODMA has also dispatched 985 metric tonnes (MT) of maize, 125 MT of maize flour,

60 MT of beans, 15 MT of salt, 6,000 plastic plates, 1,500 plastic pails, 800 plastic basins, 7,500 plastic cups and 200 sacks of clothes to flood-affected areas. Humanitarian partners—including UNICEF, WFP, WHO, Concern Worldwide, Partners in Health, Gift of the Givers and Save the Children—have also provided assistance, including food and non-food items.

The response to the rains and floods in **Zimbabwe** is being led by the Government's Department of Civil Protection (DCP), which activated evacuation centers for flood-affected people to seek shelter. All affected districts have received alerts for people to move away from areas at risk of flooding to evacuation centers and DCP has cleared all roads that were inundated with water. Civil Protection Committees have been activated by DCP at District, Ward and Village levels, and humanitarian partners are coordinating with Government at national, provincial and district-level to support the response. Humanitarian partners are supporting the Government-led response, including through the provision of tents for flood-affected families whose homes have been destroyed. The Humanitarian Logistics teams have been collaborating with government to ensure availability of warehousing facilities and facilitating transport for provincial and district level pre-positioning of stocks.

Tropical Cyclone Batsirai

In **Madagascar**, multiple steps are underway to prepare for Intense Tropical Cyclone Batsirai's landfall later this week: a search and rescue team will be pre-deployed in Brickaville, Manakara and Morondava districts; the Government's disaster management agency (BNGRC) has engaged with UNOSAT to request satellite imagery support; Government is planning to undertake a refreshment of post-disaster assessments on 2 February; and aircrafts are being placed on standby for immediate aerial assessments and response. The START Network has set aside some US\$567,500 (GBP419,046) to provide assistance through cash transfers, through its Anticipatory Action project. HCT members are updating their emergency stock lists, while urgently processing local purchases of additional humanitarian items to increase stocks.