



# MADAGASCAR CASH IN EMERGENCY PRINCIPLES

## Context



Madagascar's recurrent political crises over the last decade have greatly affected the country's development and contributed to a deterioration in living standards. The impacts are felt in almost all areas: political, socio-economic and cultural, and also in terms of security. The crises have damaged legal and social norms and cultural values, and have contributed to the extreme impoverishment of the population: **91% of the country's 23 million people live in poverty.**

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 2006, nearly 9.4 million people have been affected by disasters, droughts and cyclones. In 2016 800,000 people were 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.

In response to such emergencies, cash transfer interventions have spread and have become a predominant way to assist vulnerable people affected. During the past last two years, more than 10 partners have been supporting and implementing 13 different type of cash programs and have targeted about 1.2 million people. This multi-partner approach has created challenges for technical and institutional coordination.

## Cash coordination

To improve coordination at technical and strategic levels, an emergency cash group was formed in 2016 under the overall umbrella of the Social Protection Thematic Group which was co-led by UNICEF and the Ministry in charge of social protection. This has strengthened coordination amongst partners; improved harmonization of programs; and created synergies with resilience programs and development-oriented cash transfer interventions.

To this end, the government and cash working group partners organized a workshop in August 2017 to share perspectives and lessons learnt. The main objective of the workshop was to improve and strengthen the coordination of social protection interventions, particularly cash transfers in response to emergencies by:



1. Reviewing experiences of the past 2 years in terms of institutional and technical coordination
2. Identifying bottlenecks in implementation and operationalization as well as the solutions adopted or required to address them?
3. Developing principles and proposals for emergency preparedness and response, and contributing to the development of a shock response social protection system to favor the optimal recovery of impacted families and populations.

## THE MADAGASCAR CASH IN EMERGENCY PRINCIPLES

The following are agreed principles in all future/new cash in emergency responses.

### Partners ensure that:

1. A regulatory framework of the cash working group is in place for the implementation of emergency cash transfer interventions.
2. Sharing of information at all stages of the planning, implementation and monitoring of cash transfers is done within the cash group and with the Ministry in charge of social protection.
3. Joint analyses are conducted of the context and possible integrated interventions during the phases of preparation, planning, response, monitoring, evaluation, and communication of cash interventions in coordination with respective national agencies.
4. A manual of harmonized procedures is developed and implemented with respect to the amounts of transfers, targets, and coordination with other interventions.
5. A standard framework for monitoring of national/regional programs is developed and regularly utilized to share information to build a common information system and national registry.
6. A common and harmonized communication strategy at institutional and community levels is implemented systematically within programs.
7. Joint advocacy is developed for the new cash programs to mobilize resources for cash interventions and reduce operational costs of the cash programs.
8. Linkages and coordination between national, regional and local levels and at the inter-ministerial level is strengthened among all cash responses.
9. Cash programs are evaluated and joint multi-partner assessments are considered.
10. Linkages between overall emergency interventions and development-oriented and resilience-building programs are reinforced. In particular, emergency cash should seek to contribute to medium- and longer-term resilience efforts.
11. All principles be adopted through memoranda of understanding among all relevant stakeholders and this agreement to be part of a common commitment.

## Emergency Cash Group Members

