

STATEMENT ON THE EFFECTS OF TROPICAL STORM ANA ON SOUTHERN AFRICA FAIRTRADE PRODUCERS

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Tropical storm Ana which formed in the east of the large island of Madagascar, triggered heavy rains that caused flooding and landslides in the capital Antananarivo. According to a [report](#) by the Madagascar disaster management agency at least, 34 people have died and nearly 65,000 others have been left homeless since the end of last week.

Fairtrade Africa's Southern Africa Network (SAN) supports eight countries, three of which have reported to have been badly affected by the storm for now. This includes Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique.

In Madagascar, Ms. Julia Fabiolah, Technical Manager of Cooperative Taratra based in the district of Fenerive-Est, Madagascar, says that at least 74 of its 232 vanilla and lychee producers who also grow rice on lowland areas near the river Lazafo have been affected. Due to the heavy rainfalls, the rice-fields of the 74 farmers were flooded a week before rice harvest was due. Consequently, farmers lost their food crop and are at risk of food shortage.

In Malawi, Phata Sugar Cane Growers which has 1150 certified members has caused severe damage to 805 (70%) homes. While the sugar cane fields have not been affected, around 60 hectares of land used for food crops production have been flooded, leaving families devastated. On the other hand, some 762 farmers, from Kasinthula Cooperative Society have also been affected. Close to 112 have lost their homes, livestock and possessions. Many were left destitute as the storm and rain ravaged their shelters. Schools have also been suspended as these structures are used to house some families, while others are sleeping at churches and many on the roadside. In addition, no access to roads has limited their ability to do a proper assessment of the damage caused.

While assessment continue, the extent of damage on producer organizations is yet to be evaluated. In Mozambique, UNICEF said it is deploying staff to set up temporary learning centers as well as distribute food, medicine and water purification tablets, while IFRC has released 140,041 Swiss francs (about R2.3m) from its disaster relief emergency fund to support local preparedness efforts and to prepare to support 20,000 people in the aftermath of the storm.

Immediate current needs for producer organization affected include emergency food aid assistance due to loss of rice fields.

Fairtrade Africa is closely monitoring the situation on the ground, and will be sharing updated information.