



CRMF



CARING RESPONSE MADAGASCAR FOUNDATION

"We empower women!"

Spring 2026

With remarkable support from donors, nonstop efforts by our partners, and the resilience of Malagasy people . . .

TOGETHER, AFTER CYCLONE GEZANI, WE RISE AGAIN

Springtime promises renewal, rebirth, and resurrection. This year our ONG St. Gabriel partners and friends in Madagascar must add repair and rebuild to those words along with determined energy and hope as they struggle to help their city rise again. On February 10, Cyclone Gezani devastated urban and rural Toamasina, impacting approximately 99% of the population. It destroyed homes and businesses, damaged the city's electrical grid, and halted the projects that CRMF and ONG St. Gabriel have built for a quarter of a century. Of this nightmare storm, Brother Edwin Joseph wrote: "The elders say they have never witnessed such a storm. In my 26 years in Madagascar, I have never witnessed such destruction."



Within days, the St. Gabriel team had conducted an urgent needs assessment and submitted cyclone response plans to CRMF. Thanks to you, our donors, CRMF has met every documented request for assistance.

The Number One priority: potable water. The cyclone damaged the newly dedicated Ranotsara water filtration plant in our Model Healthy Village at Ambodisana-Ivondro but the team brought it by canal boat from the rural village to the city where it was repaired and became the central clean water distribution station for much of Toamasina. Major organizations like Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF feared a cholera outbreak in the first weeks after the cyclone. The Ranotsara water filtering system averted that catastrophe by supplying tens of thousands of jerry cans of clean water to keep families healthy.



The Ranotsara water filtering system (above left) from our Model Healthy Village provided safe water for city neighborhoods and rural villages.



Above, distribution of rice and beans and distribution of nutrition supplement.

Damage to dwellings left whole families homeless, vulnerable and unable to salvage household items. With the help of your donations, ONG St. Gabriel was able to buy 348 sheets of corrugated metal sheeting to replace roofs that were blown away by the cyclone.

Because the city lost electricity and the cyclone destroyed solar panels there was a desperate **need for light** for learning and safety after dark. With CRMF funding, Brother Edwin purchased 1800 hand-held rechargeable solar lamps for use in urban and rural neighborhoods. With the solar lights literacy learners and grade school students were able to continue their studies. Within weeks, all twelve CRMF-funded literacy centers reopened! (See photo below on left.)



Above, rooftops were replaced with corrugated aluminum sheets.



Hundreds of women lost their livelihoods when Cyclone Gezani destroyed the small businesses they had built through the Self-Help Group program. With the help of CRMF donors, Brother Edwin and our St. Gabriel partners were able to provide small cash payments to 463 women that enabled them to restart their various enterprises and restore economic stability to their families. (See the photo above on right.)

In the Model Healthy Villages Cyclone Gezani damaged and destroyed family latrines, clean water points, and homes. 860 households in three fokontany have received filtered water, food, and solar lights while repairs and reconstruction of crucial sanitation infrastructure continues. (See photos below.)



Between now and the end of June, the St. Gabriel team hopes to repair the rural Ranotsara water station and essential bore holes, restart the menstrual hygiene program for 480 adolescent girls, and set up a food-for-work program. There is still so much to be done but we are on our way! (Story continues on page 5.)

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We remember with love VEROMANJAKA DORDINETTE



It is with great sadness that we, the team of ONG St. Gabriel and CRMF, announce the death of our team's Vero on February 25, 2026. For more than 20 years, she served with dedication, compassion and unwavering commitment to the cause of educating the poor of Madagascar. As leader of the Literacy Initiative projects, Vero devoted herself to adult literacy, the empowerment of girls and women, the creation of computer technology programs for youth, and to making sure the children of poor families had an opportunity to return to elementary school. Under her guidance, the Literacy Initiative became a national model, respected by regional and national authorities. Rest in peace, dear friend!



(Continued from page 2)

Cyclone Gezani tore the roof off the **Ankirihiy CSB II**, home to our Saving the Lives of Mothers and Babies project, destroyed the crucial sterilizer which disinfects essential medical instruments, ruined quantities of medication, and left the clinic without clean water. ONG St. Gabriel supplied the CSB with clean water and with your donations CRMF paid for new roofs for the CSB and its staff, bought a new sterilizer and also supplied essential medications to the clinic, the city prison and the local hospital emergency room.



St. Gabriel provided vitally important clean water to the maternity clinic.

Above, left, the new Popinelle sterilizer, and on the right, arrival of medicines and supplies

Our dear friends, the Sisters at the Dispensary Antsiramandroso, suffered catastrophic damage to the dispensary’s physical buildings and lost all the solar panels that supply their electricity. The dispensary is now resupplied with solar electricity and its buildings are well under repair, thanks to CRMF donors and St. Gabriel work crews. “The support we received has been crucial,” said Sister Pauline, director of the Dispensary Antsiramandroso. “It allowed us to restore electricity and continue treating patients, even during difficult conditions.”



Left, the dispensary after the cyclone, and right, with new solar panels installed. Below, reconstruction of the buildings continues.



Brother Edwin reflected on the impact of the storm with wisdom writing, “The wind may have torn our roofs, uprooted our trees, silenced our networks—but it did not uproot our solidarity. Perhaps that is our quiet strength. Cyclone Gezani has written a painful chapter in our history. But it has also reminded us that even in the poorest corners of the planet, even under the most violent winds, the human heart still stands. And that, no storm can destroy.”

CARING RESPONSE MADAGASCAR FOUNDATION

MISSION STATEMENT

Caring Response Madagascar Foundation partners with the poor of Toamasina, Madagascar, to improve their lives through education, the development of economic self-sufficiency, public health, and medical training. We emphasize the advancement of women and girls. **ONG St. Gabriel**, our partner in Toamasina, implements our programs.

Our project goals are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

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Words of thanks from our friends



“I am speaking today on behalf of the entire team at CSB2 Ankirihiry. When Cyclone Gezani struck, our health center was severely damaged — the entire roof was destroyed. Every time it rained, water leaked throughout the building, making our work extremely difficult. Thanks to CRMF, a new roof has been installed. Today, our center is fully restored, and we are able to work in safe and stable conditions, even during heavy rains. This support has truly transformed our daily work.”
Dr. Alberte Razafitsitamy, Director, Ankirihiry CSB II

“We are the Tafita Self-Help Group, engaged in artisanal activities to support our families. The cyclone severely affected us: our business spaces were damaged, and all our tools were destroyed. In a single moment, we lost our livelihoods. Today, thanks to the support of CRMF through Saint Gabriel NGO, we are slowly recovering. We have repaired our workspaces and started our activities again. Step by step, we are selling again and regaining hope. We sincerely thank CRMF and Saint Gabriel NGO.”



“My name is Françoise, and I am the mother of a 6-month-old baby girl, Princilla. We are very happy to have received these nutritional supplements for our children. Nowadays, baby food has become very expensive, so this free support is a great relief for our family.”

“My name is Sylvianne, and I am the mother of a 4-month-old baby boy, Roel. I would like to sincerely thank CRMF and Saint Gabriel NGO for providing food support to our children. We feel very fortunate to receive this assistance, which will help cover our children’s nutritional needs for the coming months.”

“I am very grateful to Saint Gabriel NGO because what they have done for me exceeded my expectations. Thanks to the cash assistance they provided, I was able to buy materials to rebuild my house. What makes me especially happy is that the toilet built with the NGO’s support was not destroyed.”
Mme Anitha Josée



Special thanks to ONG St. Gabriel’s Communications Director, Minniella Anissou Warda, for sending CRMF reports on post-cyclone activities, photos, updates, and videos. We could not have created this newsletter without her help!

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