

Solar energy madagascar

With only a 15% connection rate, Madagascar faces a chronic lack of access to electricity, which hampers its economic and social development. However, there is tremendous potential in terms of solar power, estimated...

Madagascar currently generates around half of the energy it needs from hydropower, whereas solar still only plays a minor role. However, the huge potential it has for exploiting renewable energy could allow...

Over one million people in drought-stricken southern Madagascar are benefitting from a range of complementary UN development initiatives which are being coordinated in order to have a greater impact as the UN Resident Coordinator in Madagascar Issa Sanogo explains.

"Since my arrival in Madagascar as the UN Resident Coordinator at the end of 2020, the country has been hit by unprecedented cyclones and experienced the most severe drought in 40 years.

Coupled with other extreme weather events, the drought caused widespread hunger and pushed thousands into near famine-like conditions. In the south of the country, where the land is arid and households more dependent on rain-fed agriculture, the issue of malnutrition is particularly acute.

Crops are not only suffering from a lack of water but have also been damaged by high winds which blow away the fertile topsoil. In these conditions, communities are struggling to grow key staples, including corn.

Last year, thanks to relatively sufficient rainfall and scaled-up humanitarian assistance from our UN CountryTeam and partners food security and nutrition improved in southern Madagascar. Our multi-sectoral humanitarian response benefited close to 1.1 million people in the areas of nutrition, food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, health and protections, and cash transfers.

In 2022, no district was classified as facing a nutritional emergency, compared to five districts the previous year. But, accelerating recovery from the drought and tackling these long-term impacts across the region require more than emergency assistance alone.

This is why, alongside ongoing humanitarian efforts, our UN Country Team has been working together to help communities across the region build greater resilience to the effects of droughts and prepare for future climate shocks.

The Resident Coordinator's Office played a key role in promoting greater integration of agencies' interventions; helping to increase synergies and boost the impact of our cooperation.

At a food distribution site in Maroalimpoty, run by the World Food Programme (WFP), I saw just how important integrated prevention measures are to tackle the issue of malnutrition. As well as providing general food distributions to meet the immediate food needs of the most vulnerable families in the area, WFP is using the same site to conduct screenings and hold nutritional support and awareness-raising sessions targeted towards children and pregnant and lactating women.

In a neighbouring commune, I visited an integrated health centre where UNICEF-trained nurses screened children for malnutrition. The centre provides a full package of high impact nutrition interventions and, with UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) support, conducts preventive, therapeutic and advocacy activities on other health issues, benefiting the whole community.

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