

Cyclone Freddy kills four in 'rare' return to Madagascar

March 6 2023



Cyclone Freddy battered Madagascar for a second time after a "rare" loop trajectory having first hit on February 23.

Tropical storm Freddy returned to Madagascar in what meteorologists described on Monday as a "rare" loop trajectory, killing four people,

including two children as it hit for the second time in as many weeks.

Authorities in the Indian Ocean island nation said on Monday a one-year-old died when a house collapsed as [strong winds](#) and [heavy rains](#) battered the south-west.

Another child, aged two, was killed in unspecified circumstances.

Two women in their 50s also died.

In total at least 11 people have died in Madagascar since Freddy struck the first time in late February.

Another seven were killed in Mozambique, where the [tropical storm](#) was also forecast to revisit later this week.

"This 'loop' trajectory is very rare," Rivo Randrianarison, head forecaster at Meteo Madagascar, told AFP.

The last weather system to follow a similar path was recorded in 1998, he said.

Madagascar is typically struck several times during the annual November-April storm season.

"The main risks for today are the rainfall and therefore the floods, river floods, and landslides that it can cause," Randrianarison said.

The numbers of affected people has increased to more than 15,000 with nearly 11,000 displaced by the storm's return, Madagascar's National Risk Management Office (BNGRC) said.

More than 600 homes have been destroyed.

On Monday afternoon Freddy was located about 130 kilometres (80 miles) south-west of the southwestern coastal city of Toliara, with [wind gusts](#) of up to 125 kph.

The cyclone was forecast to strengthen as it barrels towards Mozambique.

It was expected to reach the southern African country on Friday.

The storm began to form in the first week of February off northwestern Australia and southern Indonesia.

© 2023 AFP

Citation: Cyclone Freddy kills four in 'rare' return to Madagascar (2023, March 6) retrieved 23 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-03-cyclone-freddy-rare-madagascar.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.