



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# Madagascar Country Brief September 2018



## Operational Context

Despite significant potential, over the past decades, Madagascar has experienced a stagnation in per capita income coupled with a rise in absolute poverty: 92 percent of its estimated 23 million people live below the international poverty line. Madagascar has experienced several political crises since its independence in 1960. The latest (2009-2013) negatively impacted institutional capacities, economic growth, major social sectors and compromised development efforts. It also reduced vulnerable people's access to basic services and their ability to prevent and recover from frequent shocks. Madagascar is one of the ten countries most vulnerable to natural disasters affecting communities' food and nutrition security.



Population: **24.9 million**

2017 Human Development Index:  
**161 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **47.3 % of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**314 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 55 m** six months net funding requirements  
(October 2018 – March 2019)

**58,605 people assisted**  
in September 2018



## Operational Updates

- **Food security situation in the drought-affected south:** Over 1.2 million people in southern and southeastern Madagascar are food insecure, according to the June 2018 Integrated food security classification (IPC) analysis. Among them, 400,000 people are in the emergency phase and 861,000 people in crisis.
- The preliminary results of the July 2018 crop and food security assessment recommend emergency multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance prior to the lean season (October 2018), to meet households' immediate food needs during the peak of the lean season in November 2018.
- Out of 1.2 million people, and in support to the Government, WFP aims to provide food assistance and nutritional support to 850,000 people using a combination of food and cash. WFP's response will focus on emergency relief assistance until December 2018, and on early recovery support from January to March 2019. It is expected that other actors (government and NGOs) will assist 35 percent of the population in IPC 3 and 4 phases.
- While 1.2 million people are at risk of food crisis, WFP emergency responses face a funding shortfall of USD 44 million for the period October – March 2019 to assist the targeted 850,000 people.

### WFP response:

- **Food Assistance for Assets:** in September, WFP and partners assisted 18,470 in the south through general food distributions, and asset creation to support communities' recovery. Food assistance was accompanied by acute malnutrition prevention benefitting 994 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under two years of age.
- **Nutrition:** if financial resources are sufficient, food assistance will be coupled with the acute malnutrition prevention programme through monthly distribution of supplementary feeding to 83,600 children aged 6-23 months and 41,800 pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as nutritional education and malnutrition screenings.

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# WFP Country Strategy

## Transitional - Interim Country Strategic Plan (January 2018 – June 2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>114.7 m</b>	<b>42.8 m</b>	<b>55 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Populations affected by natural disasters have access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of crises.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

#### Activities:

- General food distribution
- Moderate acute malnutrition treatment
- Nutritional support to tuberculosis patients

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: School children in southern and central regions receive safe, adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Root causes

#### Activities:

- School canteens
- Home grown school feeding

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Malnourished populations in targeted districts have improved nutritional status in line with national targets.

**Focus area:** Root causes

#### Activities:

- Acute malnutrition prevention
- Chronic malnutrition prevention
- Food fortification

### Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes

Strategic Outcome 4: Vulnerable communities, smallholder farmers in crisis-prone areas have increased resilience to shocks and benefited from enhanced in-country emergency preparedness capacities.

**Focus area:** Resilience

#### Activities:

- Local purchase to smallholder farmers organizations
- Food assistance for assets creation
- Disasters and crisis prevention and management

### Strategic Result 8: Enhance global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 5: Government institutions and the humanitarian community in Madagascar are supported in their efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of crisis response.

**Focus area:** Resilience

Strategic Outcome 6: Government institutions and the humanitarian community in Madagascar are supported in their efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency of crisis response

#### Activities:

- Food security assessment
- Vulnerability assessment

- **School Meals Programme:** WFP, in support of the Ministry of Education, implemented a school meals programme benefitting 260,750 beneficiaries in 1,100 primary schools in southern Madagascar during the school year 2017 - 2018. The school meals programme will resume in November 2018 when children start the school year.

- In close collaboration with FAO and IFAD, WFP links smallholder farmers to the school meals programme. A pilot Home-Grown School Feeding programme is being implemented in 20 schools, as part of which small-scale farming activities enable parent associations to supply school canteens with local foods. This pilot is being extended to 20 additional schools in southern Madagascar.
- **Nutrition:** In September, WFP provided supplementary feeding to prevent stunting to 23,518 children under the age of two and pregnant and breastfeeding women in the south and to 15,365 children below five years of age for acute malnutrition treatment. As part of a Food for Prescription programme, 258 tuberculosis patients were assisted in September.
- **Support to market access:** Based on the "Purchase for Progress initiative" (P4P), WFP supports farmers' access to markets by purchasing their surplus production. Farmers' organizations receive technical assistance from IFAD and are provided with drought-resistant seeds by FAO. In the south, 4,000 farmers benefit from P4P.

## Challenges

- The first round of presidential elections is planned for 07 November 2018. During the election period, WFP will ensure that food distributions and activities do not take place during campaign sessions, and thus, avoid the politicization of food assistance by political groups.
- In southern Madagascar, WFP faces logistical challenges, including the poor state of roads and infrastructure, which will likely further deteriorate during the rainy season, and the low capacity of transporters to deliver food to distribution points.
- WFP faces a funding shortfall of USD 44 million for providing unconditional food assistance and nutritional support (SO1) to 850,000 people for October 2018 to March 2019.
- For moderate acute malnutrition prevention (SO3), USD 4 million is required. If the funding shortfall is not met, WFP will no longer be able to provide supplementary feeding in November.
- The school meals programme (SO2) faces a critical funding shortfall of USD 6 million to assist 197,043 children during the 2018 - 2019 school year. School meals are often the only regular daily meal for children in southern Madagascar. A disruption of the programme would increase school dropouts and deteriorate children's nutritional status.

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