



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Madagascar Country Brief November 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**

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In Numbers

2,229 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 45.7 m six-month net funding requirements
(December 2018 – May 2019)

302,800 people assisted

in November 2018

Operational Updates

- **Food security situation in the south and south-east:** according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in October 2018, 1.3 million people from 15 districts in the drought-affected south and cyclone-affected south-east of the country are experiencing severe food shortages and need urgent humanitarian assistance until March 2019.
- WFP in collaboration with NGO partners aims to provide food and cash-based emergency assistance and nutritional support to 846,000 people out of the 1.3 million. Due to funding limitations, WFP is assisting 400,000 people in IPC 4 (emergency phase) and IPC3 (crisis) until March 2019. Partners (government and NGOs) would assist 35 percent of the population in IPC 3 and 4.

WFP's response in November (south and south-east) and activities in December and January 2019

- **Emergency response:** WFP in collaboration with partners assisted 150,777 people through general food distributions; nutritional support for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children under five years of age and protection rations for their families; and nutritional support to tuberculosis (TB) patients.
- In December in the Beloha district in the south, the Prime Minister will officially launch the shock-responsive social protection programme called *Toseke Vonjy Aigne*. This project assists 55,000 food insecure people in two communes of Beloha through cash transfers, as part of a collaboration between WFP, the World Bank, UNICEF and the International Development Fund (FID). It provides life-saving assistance to food insecure vulnerable households while helping them recover from the impacts of drought.
- Towards the end of December, the Research Department "X22" will publish the preliminary results of the feasibility study of food banks in food insecure southern and southeastern regions of Madagascar. In response to the recurring and structural food difficulties in these areas, a food bank pilot project will be inaugurated on 25 January in the commune of Tanandava of the southern district of Amboasary through a collaboration between the BNGRC, Lions Club and WFP.

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)
112.9 m	43.8 m	45.7 m

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 assessments
- Vulnerability assessments

- WFP is preparing to launch a Community Households survey in January which will enable the surveillance of the food security and nutritional situation in WFP interventions zones in the south and south-east of the country.

- **School Meals Programme:** Supporting the Ministry of National Education, WFP provides daily fortified hot meals to pre-primary and primary school children in the three southern regions of Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana. In November, 196,000 children were assisted. Schools located in highly food insecure IPC 3 (crisis) and IPC 4 (emergency) areas were prioritized due to funding limitations. Aside from food assistance, WFP currently organizes trainings on school canteen management for the school canteen management committees; and sensitization sessions for the communities in the 784 WFP-assisted schools.
- WFP is implementing a cash-based transfer programme for 5,306 beneficiaries in eight pilot schools in Tuléar. This pilot project will help reinforce food diversification for the children by providing them with local fresh food to complement WFP-provided rations.
- **Nutrition:** WFP in collaboration with partners provided supplementary feeding to 16,247 children under two years of age and pregnant and lactating women for the prevention of chronic malnutrition.
- WFP with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the National Office for Nutrition, the SUN Business Network and other partners in the nutritional sector is preparing a rice landscape analysis for January 2019, with the aim to analyze the feasibility of rice fortification in Madagascar.
- **Support to market access:** Based on the "Purchase for Progress initiative", WFP in collaboration with FAO and IFAD supports farmers' access to markets by providing them trainings and purchasing their surplus production. In the south, 4,000 farmers benefit from this initiative.

Challenges

- **Logistical challenges:** WFP faces challenges due to the poor state of roads and infrastructure, which further deteriorate during the rainy season; and the low capacity of transporters to deliver food to WFP final distribution points in the south.
- Commodity lead times in Madagascar (time between the confirmation of a contribution to the arrival of food) are long and highly variable (3-6 months). This means that resources need to be mobilized 6 months in advance for a timely humanitarian response.
- **Funding challenges:** WFP operations face critical funding shortfalls. The emergency responses face a funding shortfall of USD 35 million for December 2018 – May 2019. The school meals programme faces a funding shortfall of USD 6 million for the 2018/2019 school year. For nutritional interventions, funding shortfalls through June 2019 are US USD 7 million for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition; USD 74,000 for nutritional support to TB patients, USD 235,000 for the prevention of acute malnutrition and USD 1.2 million for the prevention of chronic malnutrition.

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