



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# Madagascar Country Brief January 2019



## 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**

2015 Human Development Index:  
**161 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

## In Numbers

**2,731 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 32.3 m** crisis response net funding requirements (January – December 2019)

**411,334 people assisted** in December 2018

## Operational Updates

- **Food security in the south and south-east:** according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) from 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 600,000 people in IPC 4 (emergency phase) and IPC3 (crisis) until March 2019. Assistance is provided through general food or cash distributions, or a combination of the two modalities, and nutritional supplementation for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

### WFP's responses in December

**Emergency response:** WFP in collaboration with partners assisted 179,697 people through general food or cash distributions; nutritional support for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among children under five years of age; and nutritional support to tuberculosis patients.

- Through the cash transfer modality, WFP in collaboration with its partners distributes USD1.4 million monthly in Beloha and Ampanihy since November 2018. WFP is extending interventions to the districts of Ambovombe and part of Taolagnaro, assisting 352,000 people.
- General food or cash distributions are accompanied by (food or cash-based) assistance for assets (FFA) to strengthen communities' resilience. WFP and its partners assist 56,300 people in the communes of Fotadrevo, Faux Cap and Tameantsoa, in the south. Activities include the rehabilitation or construction of productive assets such as dams, irrigation canals or rural roads. WFP will be using drones for risk analysis and mapping of the targeted communes.
- WFP has started to use the digital beneficiary data management system SCOPE which allows WFP to better focus on the beneficiaries and make the assistance more personalized and adequate. To date, WFP has registered 12,000 households in the Beloha district.

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# WFP Country Strategy

## Transitional - Interim Country Strategic Plan (February 2018 – July 2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>112.9 m</b>	<b>43.8 m</b>	<b>8.2 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 assessments
- Vulnerability assessments

- **Food bank:** In response to the structural and recurring food difficulties in southern Madagascar, a food bank pilot project was inaugurated on 25 January in the commune of Tanandava in the southern district of Amboasary, through a collaboration between BNGRC (*Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes*), Lions Club and WFP.
- **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 December, 213,361 children were assisted. Aside from food assistance, trainings on school canteen management are ongoing for school canteen management committees.
- WFP is implementing a cash-based transfers programme for 5,306 people in eight pilot schools in Tuléar. This pilot project will be extended to the commune of Fotadrevo (Ampanihy district) where WFP targets 1,000 children. It will help reinforce children's food diversification by providing them with local fresh food to complement WFP-provided rations.
- **Nutrition:** in December, WFP in collaboration with partners provided supplementary feeding to 18,276 children under two years of age and Pregnant and Lactating Women for the prevention of chronic malnutrition.
- A rice landscape analysis is ongoing, with the aim to analyze the feasibility of rice fortification in Madagascar, through a collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the National Office for Nutrition, the SUN Business Network and other partners in the nutritional sector.
- **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 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 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 timely humanitarian response.
- **Funding challenges:** WFP operations face critical funding shortfalls. The emergency responses face a one-year funding shortfall of USD 32.3 million for (January – December 2019). The school meals programme faces a funding shortfall of USD 7.5 million for the 2018/2019 school year. For nutritional interventions, funding shortfalls through June 2019 are US USD 3.9 million. Funding shortfalls for nutrition also affect the associated costs, especially the transportation of nutritional food to the intervention areas.

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