



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Madagascar

Country Brief

March 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 political crisis (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

1,198 mt food assistance distributed
US\$ 1.2 million cash distributed

US\$ 32.6 million crisis response **one-year** net funding requirements (April 2019 – March 2020)

597,000 people assisted
in February 2019

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.

WFP crisis responses face a critical funding shortfall of USD 32.56 million for the period April 2019 – March 2020. A possible reduction of the operations due to funding limitations could lead to a deterioration of the food and nutritional security of the affected people and impair the progress made so far.

WFP response: WFP in collaboration with its partners is providing food and cash-based emergency assistance to the most vulnerable people in the south and south-east until the end of the lean season in April. Assistance is coupled with nutritional support for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. In the Beloha district of southern Madagascar, WFP cash distributions are part of the national shock responsive social protection system funded by the World Bank and implemented with the Government, International Development Fund and UNICEF.

In March, WFP and its partners assisted 597,000 people through general food and cash distributions; moderate acute malnutrition treatment for children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW); nutritional assistance to tuberculosis patients; school meals, resilience activities and stunting prevention for children under two and PLW in southeastern and southern Madagascar.

Following the emergency assistance, WFP will implement the early recovery phase from May 2019 onwards through food for assets (FFA). FFA aims to rehabilitate communities' livelihoods, such as agricultural areas.

School-meals programme: WFP implements a school feeding programme targeting primary school children in the Anosy, Androy and Atsimo Andrefana regions in southern Madagascar. However, due to funding shortfalls, only half of the targeted children are currently assisted. In February, WFP provided school meals to 154,000 children. Moreover, WFP implements a pilot cash-transfer project for 5,000 children in eight schools. The cash transferred to the schools is used to buy fresh food locally and thus provide the children with diversified food.

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WFP Country Strategy

Transitional - Interim Country Strategic Plan Country Strategic Plan (April 2019 – March 2020)

Total Requirement (Apr 2019 – March 2020) (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements April – Sept 2019 (in USD)
68 m	18 m	50 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

Nutrition (stunting prevention): WFP provided supplementary feeding to 7,300 children under the age of two and pregnant and lactating women in the two districts of Ampanihy and Amboasary. This is part of the joint stunting prevention project “MIARO” implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, the National Nutrition Office (ONN), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Populations Fund (UNFPA).

ONN will implement an integrated stunting project, “*Tambatra*”, in the commune of Fiaferana, in the Antananarivo region. Through this project, WFP provides support in the implementation of home-grown school feeding using local production and in food fortification. This is one of the main objectives of the national nutrition action plan which is to reduce stunting prevention from 47.3 to 38 percent by 2021.

In March, the chemical company Badische Anilin- und Soda-Fabrik (BASF) and WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Handcrafts, the Ministry of Public Health and ONN, organized a food fortification workshop in Antananarivo. The main objective was to jointly develop a roadmap for food fortification programmes in Madagascar, under the leadership of the National Alliance for Food Fortification.

Strengthening resilience: In the three selected communes of Fotadrevo, Faux Cap and Tameantsoa (in the south), WFP and partners assist 12,700 people through resilience FFA. Despite having agricultural resources, these communes are the most vulnerable to shocks. FFA activities include the rehabilitation of irrigation canals, rural roads or river banks with the objective of improving agricultural production and communities’ revenues and resilience. Each participant receives a family ration. WFP and its partners are currently evaluating the assets that have been created or rehabilitated. Evaluation will be used for the design of future resilience FFA.

Support to market access for smallholder farmers: 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. WFP also supports 600 women and men farmers in the processing of cassava, fish and breadfruit. This helps ensure food availability in the lean season while providing farmers with market access opportunities.

Challenges

Logistical challenges: WFP faces challenges due to road and infrastructure conditions, which further deteriorate during the rainy season. Another challenge is the low capacity of transporters to deliver food to WFP distribution points.

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 at least 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 32.56 million for (April 2019 – March 2020). The school meals programme faces a funding shortfall of USD 9.5 million for the next 12 months. For nutritional interventions, funding shortfalls from September 2018 to June 2019 are USD 4.8 million. For the implementation of resilience activities, WFP faces a funding shortfall of USD 8.2 million.

Donors: Andorra, Australia, ECHO, France, Germany (multilateral), Global Partnership for Education (through the World Bank), FEED Projects, Finland, Friends of Japan, Japan, Monaco, Norway, South Korea, Sweden (multilateral), Switzerland, USAID, and private sector partners including Mastercard.