



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Madagascar Country Brief December 2020



## Operational Context

Madagascar is a low-income country with an estimated population of 25.5 million. With a gross domestic product per capita of USD 422, the country is ranked 161 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index. Almost 76 percent of the population lives on less than USD 1.90 a day. Five million people are affected by recurring natural disasters, including cyclones, floods and droughts. The 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey showed that the rate of acute malnutrition is 6 percent and the rate of chronic malnutrition is 42 percent, placing Madagascar as the 10<sup>th</sup> worst country affected by stunting in the world.

Due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the economic growth in 2020 is expected to slow from the forecast of 5.3 percent to 0.17 percent. An increase in the poverty rate is also anticipated, from 70.5 percent (estimated for 2020 in a scenario without COVID-19) to 72.1 percent (UNDP, 2020). This equates to nearly 18 million people living in poverty.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan in Madagascar (CSP) aims to promote an integrated, shock-responsive social protection system for ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to nutritious food before, during and after crises. It also aims to provide children in vulnerable communities with access to nutritious foods while at school and extend integrated approaches for the prevention of malnutrition among vulnerable women, adolescent girls and children. Moreover, WFP helps build the resilience of vulnerable smallholder households and communities and ensure that interventions for addressing both chronic and acute needs are supported by enhanced capacities and resources for emergency preparedness and response.



Population: **25 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **161 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **42% of children aged 6–59 months**

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## In Numbers

In November, **700,000 people** assisted (through drought response and regular programmes)

COVID-19 response: As of 24 December, **74,500 households** (350,000 people) received cash assistance during the second distribution cycle (July – December 2020)

**US\$ 35 million** net funding requirement for the drought response (December 2020 – May 2021)  
**US\$ 1.8 million** net funding requirement for the COVID-19 response (December 2020 – May 2021)  
**US\$ 11.7 million** net funding requirement for the regular programmes (December 2020 – May 2021)

## Operational Update

### WFP Emergency responses

#### Drought Update in the Southern Regions

The results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification published on December 2020 indicate that **1.35 million people** in the South of Madagascar will face of acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or above) between January – April 2021 as a result of the combined effects of drought and COVID-19.

#### Drought response

**Emergency food assistance:** With the available resources, WFP is assisting up to **500,000 people** through general food distributions combined with the provision of supplementary feeding for the prevention of acute malnutrition in nine districts. In January 2021, WFP will start providing cash assistance as well and aims to gradually reach almost **200,000 people** for three months till the end of the lean season in April 2021.

**Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):** WFP in collaboration with its partners, is supporting the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for **43,000 children** under five years of age in the four districts of Amboasary, Ambovombe, Bekily and Ampanihy. WFP implements MAM treatment throughout the year. This is done through the provision of supplementary feeding, nutrition counselling and cooking demonstrations for the children's caretakers.

**Emergency school feeding:** Additionally, WFP is planning to implement an emergency school feeding for 150,000 children to enable them to continue their schooling during the food crisis. This comes in addition to the **200,000 beneficiaries assisted under the regular school feeding programme.**

#### COVID-19 Update in Urban Areas

As of 24 December, the Ministry of Public Health indicated 17,714 cases and 261 deaths in Madagascar. The state of health emergency has been lifted in early October throughout the country. International commercial flights however remain closed.

Since April 2020, in support of the national social protection strategy, WFP has been providing cash assistance to vulnerable urban households economically affected by the lockdown measures. As of 24 December, WFP has assisted **105,768 households** (520,000 people) through the first distributions and **74,500 households** (350,000 people) through the second one, in the cities of Antananarivo, Moramanga, Ambatondrazaka, Fenerive Est, Manakara, Majunga, Tulear and Fort Dauphin.

The COVID-19 response is implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of the Population and the National Office for Risks and Disasters Management (BNGRC), and in collaboration with the Cash Working Group (World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF and NGOs).

## WFP Regular Programmes

**School-feeding programme:** WFP provides school meals to 200,000 primary school children in 800 schools in the South, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education. This includes 12,000 beneficiaries of cash transfers. Cash assistance enables the beneficiaries to procure themselves the food and helps diversify the school meals, while encouraging the communities to engage further in the school feeding programme management.

**Stunting prevention :** WFP implements a stunting prevention approach called “Miaro” in the districts of Amboasary and Ampanihy, in the South, targeting 45,000 pregnant and lactating women and children under two, jointly with FAO, UNFPA and WHO. WFP provides supplementary feeding to the targeted beneficiaries and supports vegetable crops projects run by community and in schools. The approach also entails a social/behaviour change communication component.

**Resilience/Food Assistance for Assets (FFA):** In 2020, WFP and its partners supported FFA activities in the communes of Faux-Cap, Fotadrevo (South) and Vohilava (South-east): reforestation activities, helping to build or rehabilitate community assets such as dams for water retention, irrigation canals, irrigated perimeters. These activities aim at improving food crops and strengthening households’ resilience to climatic shocks. As of October, 2,200 FFA participants received in-kind or cash assistance.

With its NGO partner *Transmad Développement*, WFP supports a community vegetable garden for 100 farmers in the commune of Itampolo through which farmers can make extra incomes by selling their food productions. Within the same partnership, WFP supports a water supply project for 1,700 beneficiaries in the neighboring commune of Androka.

## Funding Challenges

WFP is facing serious funding shortfalls that can hinder its ability to assist especially crisis-affected people.

WFP urgently requires **USD 35 million** to sustain the emergency response (including general food distributions, prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition, and emergency school feeding) and to reach almost 900,000 people until May 2021.

For the regular programmes, WFP faces a six-month funding shortfalls (December 2020 – May 2021) of **USD 11.7 million**: USD 4 million for prevention of acute malnutrition and nutritional support to tuberculosis patients, USD 2.4 million for school feeding, USD 2,8 million USD for stunting prevention and 2,4 million USD for resilience.

## Donors

European Union (ECHO), France, Germany, Republic of Korea (KOICA), Monaco, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, UBRAF, UN Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), UNICEF, UN Peace Building Fund (PBF), USAID (Bureau for Humanitarian assistance), WPD Japan, WPD Share the Meal App.

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month (December 2020 – May 2021) funding shortfall (in USD)
297.4 million	66 million	48.5 million

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

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected women, men, boys and girls in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs before, during and after crises.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

- Activities:**
- General food distribution and early recovery
  - Prevention of acute malnutrition
  - Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition
  - Nutritional support to tuberculosis patients

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

Strategic Outcome 2: Primary schoolchildren in targeted areas have access to adequate, healthy and nutritious food as part of a government-led social protection strategy

**Focus area:** Resilience

- Activities:**
- School canteens
  - Home grown school feeding

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

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations in areas with consistently high rates of undernutrition have improved nutritional status.

**Focus area:** Resilience

- Activities:**
- Chronic malnutrition prevention
  - Food fortification
  - Social Behavior Change Communication

**Strategic Result 3 : Sustainable food systems**

Strategic Outcome 4: Women and men smallholder producers in targeted communities facing climate shocks increase their access to profitable markets and establish more inclusive, efficient and resilient food systems all year round

**Focus area:** Resilience

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

**Strategic Result 4: Enhance global partnerships**

Strategic Outcome 5: Government and humanitarian partners in Madagascar are supported by effective emergency preparedness and response arrangements before, during and after crises.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

- Activities:**
- Support for assessment, analysis and emergency preparedness and response
  - Shared logistics services and platforms
  - shared emergency telecommunications services and platforms