



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Madagascar Country Brief January 2021



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 164 out of 189 on the Human Development Index. Almost 70 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 10th worst country affected by stunting in the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a sudden and deep recession, reversing nearly a decade of prior income per capita gains. The latest [World Bank economic update](#) for Madagascar estimates that the economy contracted by 4.2 percent in 2020 due to COVID-19 disruptions to global trade and domestic activity. While conditions are expected to stabilize in 2021, the impact of the pandemic will cast a long shadow on economic and social prospects and could be compounded by other shocks, including droughts and other climatic events affecting already vulnerable populations.

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**

2019 Human Development Index: **164 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

In January 2021, WFP reached **390,507 people** through in-kind and cash assistance for the drought response

COVID-19 response: **103,044 households** (515,220 people) residing in urban areas received cash assistance

USD 25.6 million funding requirement for the drought response (February – July 2021)

USD 6.2 million net funding requirements for the regular programmes (February – July 2021)

Key highlights

The drought in the south of Madagascar persisted throughout January, further **deteriorating food supply** and critical **access to water** in some areas.

The lack of precipitation has caused **sandstorms** that **significantly reduced seeding capacities**, especially in Androy region.

On 18 January, the UN launched a [Flash Appeal](#) for international aid to the amount of **USD 75 million** to alleviate the humanitarian situation in the south.

Operational Update

WFP Emergency responses

Drought in the Southern Regions

The December 2020 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) showed a very alarming projection for food and nutrition security during the lean season from January to April 2021. Ten Districts in southern Madagascar are facing food and nutrition crisis almost twice more intense than in the previous years. Some **1.35 million people** are estimated to be severely food insecure and require urgent food assistance.

Current weather conditions (scarce rainfall and recurring sandstorms that prevent seeds from growing) give grounds to believe that the 2021 lean season is very likely to be extended beyond April 2021, leaving people in need for a longer period. The crisis is also becoming more and more complex due to the increased migratory flows of affected people to urban centers.

Drought Response

Emergency food assistance: In the areas where the markets are still functional, WFP has started to provide unconditional cash assistance at an amount of USD 20 per household per month. In January 2021, **100,560** people residing in the drought affected southern regions of Madagascar received cash transfers. Where the markets are not fully functional, WFP reached **289,947 people** with in-kind assistance, additionally complemented with supplementary nutritious feeding for pregnant and lactating women as well as children under the age of 6 months.

With the available resources WFP aims to scale up its assistance till the end of April 2021 and reach almost **300,000 people** every month with cash and **450,000 people** with in-kind assistance. **Additional funding is crucial** for WFP to be able to continue its assistance beyond April and to meet the growing needs as the effects of prolonged drought persist.

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM): In collaboration with its partners, WFP supports the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for **43,000 children** under five years in the districts of Amboasary, Ambovombe, Bekily and Ampanihy. Given the deterioration of the nutritional situation, WFP plans to intensify MAM treatment in these four districts and increase its assistance to **46,000 more children** until June 2021.

Needs assessment: In February 2021, WFP and FAO are jointly conducting food security and crop assessment, the results of which will give humanitarian actors a better understanding of the current food security situation and an estimate of the prospects for the upcoming harvest.

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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

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).

COVID-19 Response

As of 9 February, WHO indicated 19,065 cases and 281 deaths in Madagascar. Although there is little sign of a second lockdown to be announced, and the state of health emergency was lifted in early October throughout the country, international commercial flights 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 to the amount of USD 20 per family for two months split in two distribution cycles. As of January 2021, WFP has assisted **108,922 households** (544,610 people) through the first cycle of distribution and **103,044 households** (515,220 people) through the second one, in the cities of Antananarivo, Moramanga, Ambatondrazaka, Fenerive Est, Manakara, Majunga, Tulear and Fort Dauphin. In February, WFP will reach the remaining beneficiaries and terminate its cash distributions as part of the COVID-19 response.

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. Enrolment in schools with canteens is increasing due to migration flows in the south. This situation may result in an additional need in schools with canteens as the number of children increases. In January, the programme initiated a digitalization process enabling the collection of quantitative and qualitative data to monitor results and impacts of school feeding activities.

Nutrition: The nutritional situation is severely deteriorating in the southern area of Madagascar. Five out of ten districts assessed during the last trimester of 2020 in the south are in a situation of nutritional “alert”. This is symptomatic of a global nutritional status degradation with at least 7,000 new cases of acute malnutrition compared to the previous trimester. In January 2021, WFP met with government counterparts, UNICEF and other partners to strengthen coordination of the humanitarian nutrition response and find opportunities for expansion of activities to cover growing needs.

Resilience/agricultural insurance: WFP implements agricultural insurance activities in Madagascar as part of the FAGNAVOTSE joint social protection support programme. It is funded by the SDG Fund, under the leadership of the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Women's empowerment and under the coordination of the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Madagascar.

Some 3,500 farmers (70 percent women) benefited from performance-based agricultural insurance through a fully funded insurance premium. This project is being carried out in nine communes in Amboasary and aims to strengthen resilience against the effects of climate change for long-term food security and improved livelihoods.

Funding Challenges

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

WFP urgently requires **USD 25.6 million** to sustain the emergency response (including general food distributions, prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition) and to reach almost 900,000 people until July 2021.

For the regular programmes, WFP faces six months funding shortfalls of **USD 6.2 million**: USD 2.9 million for school feeding, USD 2.3 million for nutrition and USD 937,963 for resilience.

A joint inter-agency UN Flash Appeal for USD 75 million was launched on 18 January, including USD 56 million for food security, followed by the note verbale issued by the Madagascar Government on 2 February.

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.