Sahondra is 37 and lives in a poor area in the capital Antananarivo, where most people live on less than 1 USD per day. The COVID-19 pandemic resultant lockdown has significantly impacted their life. Women in the area often work as cleaning ladies and collect water for other people or do small scale trading. The men work as ‘dockers’, carrying merchandise for traders. When Antananarivo was put under lockdown, the trading companies closed and thus the dockers no longer got work. The employers who hired the women to do laundry etc. stopped working and could no longer afford their service. This further deteriorated the already precarious situation of households like Sahondra’s. She is married and has three children. Her youngest daughter, Nambinintsoa, aged 11 months old, suffers from moderate acute malnutrition and is being treated at a WFP-supported nutrition centre.

“During the lockdown, travel wasn’t allowed and my husband stopped working. Our eldest son was helping my husband doing small jobs. This allowed us to buy a can of rice and cook our evening rice porridge, the only meal for the day”. Since January 2020, Sahondra’s daughter has been receiving nutritional support from WFP’s partner Action Contre la Faim. The treatment consists of the distribution of ready-to-use-food, the provision of nutritional surveillance of the children and counselling for the mothers. She is still receiving treatment but has improved.

In her mother’s words, “Since she has been receiving this support, my daughter feels better. She has regained strength and can now stand. I had to go look for work but I could not fully concentrate on this. I was thinking about my daughter all the time. And there were other issues such as paying the rent and school fees of our eldest sons that I have to deal with too. COVID-19 has changed a lot in our life. We could not work. My husband and I started to wonder if we should stop sending the children to school. We were not even able to buy school supplies. All these things made us anxious. Our favourite dish is fish. If we cannot afford it, we just stick with what is available or not.”

RESOURCES 58.09 million USD received

COVID-19 IMPACT AND ADAPTATION

The COVID-19 pandemic became a compounding factor for existing risks while adding new ones such as global trade disruptions and domestic lockdown.

Madagascar faced crises such as widespread flooding and landslides caused by a tropical disturbance, the impacts of three consecutive years of drought, and a sharp recession triggered by the pandemic.

World Bank analysis indicated that 1.38 million people fell into extreme poverty by the end of 2020 due to the pandemic.

WFP has been working to promote women in agriculture and food processing to improve food and nutrition security and better adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

WFP employed protection and accountability lens in its programming to ensure respect for the dignity, rights, and safety of the assisted populations. WFP also prioritised households headed by women and girls in all its activities.

WFP has implemented food-assistance-for-assets projects such as reforestation of forests and fruit species, biological fixation of dunes and restoration of water access.

PARTNERS

National Office for Disaster and Risk Management (BNGRC), Ministry of Population, Social Protection and of the Promotion of Women (MPPSPF), Ministry of Health and the National Nutrition Office (ONN), Ministry of Agriculture

World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), CARE, Action Against Hunger (ACF), Red Cross

Picture (c) WFP/ Tsiory Andriantsoarana
Strategic outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs before, during and after crises

814,263 drought-affected people supported through food and cash

814,263 drought-affected people supported through food and cash

536,795 beneficiaries supported through cash assistance (COVID-19 response)

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

808 public schools in southern districts supported through School Feeding Programme

243,808 children (51 percent girls and 49 percent boys) assisted through hot meals distribution

21 public schools provided with fresh food grown by smallholder farmer associations

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

31,099 children 6 - 23 months and 43,252 pregnant and nursing women and girls supported through stunting prevention activities

392 farmers organizations supported through transformation and fortification of basic foods

800,000 people supported through social protection response activities

340 smallholder farmers supported through credit access to build economic capacities

11,225 people received food security and resilience support through food assistance for assets programme

Strategic outcome 4: Smallholders producers in targeted communities facing climate shocks increase their capacity to access markets and establish more inclusive, efficient and resilient food systems all year round

808 public schools in southern districts supported through School Feeding Programme

243,808 children (51 percent girls and 49 percent boys) assisted through hot meals distribution

21 public schools provided with fresh food grown by smallholder farmer associations

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

7,500 surveys completed in June-December using Mobile Vulnerability Assessment Monitoring

Contribution of WFP to IPC Analysis, which provides overview of the prolonged drought and COVID-19 pandemic

WFP conducted analysis on the impact of COVID-19 and related measures on food security in urban and rural areas

In collaboration with UNICEF, WFP conducted the SMART Analysis which provides relevant data for the Humanitarian Country Team response plan