



WFP Madagascar Country Brief June 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 stabilise 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**

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In Numbers

In June 2021, WFP assisted **459,465 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance** and **213,115 beneficiaries through cash transfer** in the 9 drought-affected southern Madagascar districts.

For the July-August 2021 period, WFP plans to reach **674,000 people** with both in-kind and cash-based transfer (CBT) modalities, coupled with prevention of malnutrition. 14,000 people in IPC 5 will continue to receive a full 30-day ration, while a half ration (15 days) will be distributed to those in IPC 3 and 4.

WFP urgently requires **USD 78.6 million** to sustain the emergency through the next lean season (September 2021 – March 2022) by providing full rations to 674,000 people in IPC 3-5.

Key Highlights

WFP Executive Director David Beasley visited Madagascar on 16-18 June.

David Beasley traveled to Ambovombe in the Great South where he visited several programme sites and met with beneficiaries. In Antananarivo, he held meetings with the Prime Minister as well as a delegation of key Ministers. He also met with several ambassadors and local representatives of foreign governments. Following his visit, David Beasley spoke with several journalists from global media outlets, including [CNN](#). A press release accessible [here](#) was also issued.

At least 500,000 children under five years of age are expected to be acutely malnourished through April 2022 in southern Madagascar, including 110,000 severely malnourished requiring urgent life-saving assistance, according to the [latest IPC Acute Malnutrition analysis](#) conducted in ten districts in the Grand Sud. The districts of Ambovombe and Bekily have 'Critical' levels of acute malnutrition (IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 4), requiring urgent treatment to save the lives of the affected children. Amboasary, Beloha, Betsioky, Toliara and Tsihombe districts have 'Serious' levels of acute malnutrition (Phase 3) and also require action for treatment and prevention.

A pilot analysis of the 'risk of famine' was jointly conducted by the IPC Global Support Unit, the Madagascar IPC Technical Working Group and global partners. The pilot focused on districts with high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition – Amboasary Atsimo, Ambovombe - Androy, West Ampaniy – for the period October to December 2021, which marks the beginning of the lean season. **Ambovombe - Androy district was consequently flagged as being at 'risk of famine'** in the worst-case scenario, due to the negative impacts of drought on food security and a potential new wave of COVID-19 with additional restrictions on movements of households dependent on casual labour.

Operational Updates

Drought Situation

Madagascar continues to face the most severe drought since 1981, affecting most of the areas in the south, including Atsimo Andrefana region, the breadbasket of the Grand-Sud, and resulting in a severe humanitarian crisis.

The latest [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#) shows that 1.14 million people need urgent assistance (IPC Phase 3 or above). Amboasary Atsimo is the most affected district, classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 75 percent of its population is in IPC Phase 3 or above, and nearly 14,000 people are in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). The situation is expected to continue deteriorating from October to December 2021, bringing the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above to 1.31 million.

Continuous increase in the prices of certain basic foods coupled with a marked decrease in availability on the markets continue to be reported in the majority of districts. A decrease in the availability of local rice is particularly noticeable in the markets of certain communes within the districts of Betsioky and Tulear II. This shortage is causing a raise in the price of local rice. In the district of Betsioky, the price per kg of local rice increased in the commune of Masiaboy from 2,200 Ar in June 2020 to 2,600 Ar in June 2021 (+20%), in the commune of Marsavao from 2,100 Ar in June 2020 to 2,450 Ar in June 2021 (16%) and in the district of the district of Tulear II (Efoetse and Beheloaka communes) from 2,275 Ar in June 2020 to 2,713 Ar in June 2021 (19%). The same trend of inflation is observed for maize grain, dry cassava, cowpea and imported oil in the main markets of Betsioky and Tulear II districts.

In June, WFP reached **459,465 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance**, in line with the planned target for this month. Beneficiaries served include 13,975 people in IPC5 who received full rations of food assistance. As part of WFP's strategy to couple general food distributions with prevention of moderate acute malnutrition activities, 18,697 children aged 6 to 59 months and 16,026 pregnant and lactating women also received nutritional supplements. In addition, 25,349 children aged 6 to 59 months were treated for moderate acute malnutrition.

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD) for the next lean season (Sept 2021 – March 2022)
297.4 million	66 million	78.6 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

WFP's cash-based assistance reached 213,115 beneficiaries, implementing the cash distribution plan at almost 100%.

With the available resources, WFP aims to continue its assistance beyond the 2020/2021 lean season and reach almost **214,000 people** with cash and **460,000 people** with in-kind assistance in July-August 2021.

Internal and International Humanitarian Flights

WFP is ready to start operating UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights in Madagascar upon clearance from the Government. The operational fleet will comprise of one aircraft based in Antananarivo and operate flights to targeted destinations in the Grand Sud throughout the lean season period. Besides, WFP is also making plans to, as soon as permitted, reactivate international humanitarian flights between Johannesburg and Antananarivo.

COVID-19

To date, WHO has registered 42,517 COVID-19 cases and 936 deaths in Madagascar. Although the state of sanitary emergency remains in place, internal borders have reopened, and internal flights have resumed. Nevertheless, regular international commercial flights remain suspended.

WFP Regular Programmes

School feeding:

Thanks to additional funding, WFP's school feeding programme is expanding to the Amoron'i Mania upland region in partnership with FAO and UNICEF. This intervention will include the supply of fortified rice in Madagascar for the first time. Through another donation, WFP is also expanding school feeding in the South to 20 additional schools in collaboration with the office of secondary education of Ambovombe. Furthermore, the "Education for All" joint programme implemented by UNICEF, WFP and ILO has been extended for one year, until June 2022.

Nutrition:

A large audience participated in the first national consultation for the upcoming Food Systems Summit held on July 8, 2021, with the support of WFP and other UN agencies. The second national consultation is scheduled from July 26 to 28, before the Pre-Summit.

The mid-term evaluation workshop of the National Nutrition Action Plan III recently took place with the assistance of WFP and other UN agencies.

WFP is in the process of strengthening its nutrition emergency capacity, including through the deployment of three senior nutritionists in the South.

Resilience:

A partnership agreement between WFP and the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene has been finalized regarding the access-to-water and irrigation project targeting 14 sites in the Districts of Amboasary and Ambovombe. On-the-ground implementation studies and data collection for this project are ongoing.

Under its Food Assistance for Assets programme, WFP has kicked off rehabilitation activities in the area of Tameantsoa (District of Betsioky). The activities include the rehabilitation and creation of dikes along with the restoration of a water canal. The irrigation of 187 ha of rice fields and the recovery of 166 ha of arable land previously covered by sand are among the expected outcomes of this project.

Funding Challenges

WFP is facing serious funding shortfalls that can hinder its ability to assist crisis-affected people. **Additional funding is crucial** for WFP to be able to continue its assistance beyond August in order to meet the growing needs as the drought persists and to avert the approaching famine. WFP currently faces **critical pipeline breaks** for its emergency response as soon as August 2021 for cash-based assistance and October 2021 for in-kind assistance. WFP urgently requires **USD 78.6 million** to sustain the emergency response (including general food distributions, prevention of acute malnutrition, and moderate acute malnutrition, MAM, treatment) during the next lean season (September 2021 – March 2022).

Donors

European Union (ECHO), France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea (KOICA), Lichtenstein, 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.