



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Madagascar Country Brief July 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 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**

In Numbers

In July 2021, WFP assisted **463,573 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance and 213,730 beneficiaries through cash transfer** in the 9 drought-affected southern Madagascar districts.

In August, WFP plans to reach 674,000 people with both in-kind and CBT modalities, coupled with prevention of malnutrition. 14,000 people in IPC 5 are being provided with a full 30-day ration, while a half ration (15 days) is distributed to those in IPC 3 and 4.

Following consultations with food security and nutrition actors involved in the south, WFP has increased its needs-based plan for the upcoming lean season (September 2021 – March 2022) **from 674,000 to 1,016,000 people in IPC 3, 4 and 5** in order to cover gaps recently identified in the overall response. WFP urgently requires additional funds to sustain this substantial scale-up and provide all targeted beneficiaries with full rations at least until March 2022.

Key Highlights

The first **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)** flight took place in Madagascar on 9 August. UNHAS uses a 12-seater aircraft to connect through weekly rotation the following southern locations from and to Antananarivo: Fort Dauphin, Ambovombe, Ampanihy and Tulear. Although enough funding has been secured until January 2022, additional funds are needed in order to ensure continuity of this service up to the end of the lean season (March 2022) and beyond if need be.

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, Betioky, Toliara and Tsihombe districts have 'Serious' levels of acute malnutrition (Phase 3) and also require action for treatment and prevention.

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**.

The food security situation remains worrisome in the coastal areas of the Tulear II district as well as parts of Betioky South district. During the second half of July, Ampanihy district has registered rainfalls for a total average of 1.2 millimeter. Albeit limited, some farmers have taken advantage of these rainfalls to plant off-season crops such as sweet potatoes.

The prices of main food commodities remain stable, compared to June, in the districts of Betioky and Tulear II, except for cassava having increased by 25%. In some areas of Ampanihy district, the price of a 20-liter water jerrycan has risen from 300 Ariary (Ar) in June to 700 Ar in July, despite some rainfalls over the past few weeks. The price of oil has increased by 2,000 Ar, from 6,000 Ar per liter in June to 8,000 Ar in July.

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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

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.

Drought Response

In July, WFP reached **463,573 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, 141,000 children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant and lactating women also received nutritional supplements. In addition, 27,000 children aged 6 to 59 months were treated for moderate acute malnutrition.

WFP's cash-based assistance reached 213,730 beneficiaries, implementing the cash distribution plan at almost 100%.

After consultations with other food security and nutrition actors involved in the south, WFP has reviewed and increased its needs-based plan to include people that were not covered in the overall response plan for the next lean season. As a result, WFP's revised needs-based plan foresees **full ration for 1,016,000 people in IPC 3-4-5** throughout the September 2021- March 2022 period. **Prevention of moderate acute malnutrition activities for 59,000 pregnant and lactating women as well as for 189,000 children aged 6-59 months** are also included in the revised caseload. In addition, WFP intends to provide monthly **treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to 44,000 children aged 6-59 months**.

International Humanitarian Flights

As soon as authorized, WFP stands ready to resume international humanitarian flights (WFP Global Passenger Air Service) between Johannesburg and Antananarivo.

COVID-19

To date, WHO has registered 42,795 COVID-19 cases and 950 deaths in Madagascar. Although the state of sanitary emergency has been extended, internal borders have reopened, internal flights have resumed and there is no longer a curfew in place. Nevertheless, regular international commercial flights remain suspended.

WFP Resilience Programme

WFP is currently supporting the improvement of the network of weather stations located in the south in order to provide smallholder farmers with enhanced and better weather services. Over the past weeks, a field mission took place to (i) assess the conditions of existing meteorological stations and (ii) identify suitable locations for the implementation of new stations. As part of WFP's focus on expanding the use of renewable energies throughout the whole food value chain, the mission also scouted for intervention areas suitable for future reforestation, clean cooking, and rural electrification activities.

The distribution of the first indemnities to households enrolled in the microinsurance scheme recently introduced in the Ambovombe and Amboasary districts by WFP and its partners has started. Compensations have been activated after most households registered in the programme experienced a full loss of their maize as a result of adverse climatic conditions.

Through the partnership of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and WFP, a cassava-into-gari processing unit was inaugurated on 24 July in Bekily.

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 October 2021 for cash-based assistance and November 2021 for in-kind assistance.