



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Madagascar Country Brief August 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 August 2021, WFP assisted **463,573 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance and 213,320 beneficiaries through cash transfer** in the 9 drought-affected southern Madagascar districts.

With the beginning of the lean season, WFP is operating according to a scaled-up implementation plan for its emergency response in southern Madagascar whereby the organization plans to reach **687,000 people in IPC 3+, including around 370,000 people in IPC 4 and 5 who will be provided with full rations from September to November 2021**. This is a key step forward as WFP and the other food security and nutrition actors had so far only managed to provide a half ration (due to financial constraints) with the exception of the 14,000 people in IPC 5 who have been given a full ration since June 2021.

**For the December 2021-April 2022 period, WFP intends to gradually reach 1,016,000 people in IPC 3, 4 and 5 with full rations** based on its revised needs-based plan. This scale-up is designed to address overall response gaps recently identified during consultations with food security and nutrition actors involved in the south.

## Key Highlights

**WFP's Director of Emergencies and the Regional Director for Southern Africa visited Madagascar on 16-21 August** to enhance WFP collaboration with the Government on the food insecurity crisis. The directors travelled to the Great South and met with local authorities and communities to discuss the ongoing response and durable solutions to mitigate the adverse impact of the cyclical drought situation. In Antananarivo, the team met with the Minister of Water and the Vice-Minister of Agriculture to discuss the crisis and ongoing response. Other meetings with partners and the UN Country Team were also held. The mission called for increased support as the dire food crisis is expected to further deteriorate in the months ahead. Both directors particularly highlighted the need to combine emergency food assistance with integrated resilience activities at the same time so that affected communities can withstand similar climate related shocks next year.

**WFP has started the process of registering beneficiaries on SCOPE**, the organization's digital beneficiary information and transfer management platform, in the districts of Ambovombe and Amboasary. Among various advantages, SCOPE allows for (i) enhanced assurance that the intended benefit has been given to the right person and (ii) the secure management of data so that each person's data is further protected.

**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.

## 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, including twice as many people in IPC 5 (from 14,000 to 28,000 people)**.

**Contact information:** [Aliou.diongue@wfp.org](mailto:Aliou.diongue@wfp.org) - [Arduino.mangoni@wfp.org](mailto:Arduino.mangoni@wfp.org)  
**Further information:** [www.wfp.org/countries/Madagascar](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Madagascar)  
**Facebook:** Programme Alimentaire Mondial Madagascar  
**Twitter:** @PAM Madagascar

## 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 – April 2022)
<b>303.8 million</b>	<b>146 million</b>	<b>91 million</b>

## 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

ADM, African Development Bank, European Union (ECHO), France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea (KOICA), LDS Church, Lichtenstein, Mauritius, Monaco, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, UBRAF, UN Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), UNICEF, UN Peace Building Fund (PBF), United Kingdom (FCDO), USAID (Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance), WPD Japan, Share the Meal App.

## WFP Madagascar Country Brief

August 2021

Photo: Beneficiaries at a WFP general food distribution site in Manevy commune, Amboasary Atsimo district. WFP/Jessica Malalaniaina

## Drought Response

In August, WFP reached **463,573 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance**, in line with the planned target for the month. Beneficiaries served include 13,975 people in IPC5 who received full rations of food assistance. **WFP's cash-based assistance reached 213,320 beneficiaries**. As part of WFP's strategy to couple general food distributions with prevention of moderate acute malnutrition activities, 118,900 children aged 6 to 59 months and 39,900 pregnant and lactating women also received nutritional supplements. In addition, 26,900 children aged 6 to 59 months were treated for moderate acute malnutrition.

## Upcoming Planting Season

In light of the upcoming planting season, WFP is working alongside the Government and various partners to support the procurement and distribution of seeds for eligible households in the Great South.

## UNHAS Flights

Between the first flight on 9 August and 20 September, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has transported 131 passengers and 220 kg of light cargo through 46 flights. This service operated by WFP provides humanitarian personnel with rapid access from Antananarivo to the following locations in Southern Madagascar: Fort Dauphin, Ambovombe, Ampanihy and Tulear. With funding shortfalls foreseen as soon as January 2022, additional funds are urgently needed in order to ensure service continuity of UNHAS up to the end of the lean season (April 2022) and beyond if need be.

## International Humanitarian Flights

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

## COVID-19

To date, WHO has registered 43,570 COVID-19 cases and 958 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 Regular Programmes

## School Feeding

WFP participated in the Government-led school feeding review workshop held on 25-27 August. Building on the challenges and recommendations identified from the previous year, a joint annual work plan was developed for the new school year.

WFP has started implementing a home-grown school feeding programme in the Amoron 'I Mania region. An initial mission helped identify the schools to be enrolled under this programme and liaise with school management committees as well as communities around the goals of this initiative.

## Resilience

WFP continues the implementation of its Food Assistance-for-Assets programme in the area of Tameantsoa (District of Betioky) with a progress rate of 43% at the end of August. The activities initiated in June 2021 include the rehabilitation and creation of dikes as well as the restoration of a water canal.

WFP is supporting the development of a partnership between the Government and the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) on the evaluation, transformation and promotion of the cassava value chain in support of school feeding programmes based on local production in Madagascar.

## Funding Challenges

WFP is facing serious funding shortfalls that can hinder its ability to assist crisis-affected people. **WFP urgently requires USD 91 million** to sustain its assistance during the next lean season (September 2021 – April 2022).

WFP currently faces **critical pipeline breaks** for its emergency response as soon as January 2022 for both in-kind assistance and cash-based assistance.