



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Madagascar Country Brief September 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 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 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

WFP assisted **372,432 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance and 178,750 beneficiaries through cash transfers** in the 9 drought-affected southern Madagascar districts.

WFP is currently reaching **687,000 people in IPC 3+** under its emergency response in Southern Madagascar. **370,000 people in IPC 4 and 5 are now receiving full rations** while people in IPC 3 continue to receive half rations.

As the lean season moves towards its peak, **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 for the December 2021-April 2022 period.

Key Highlights

Recent empirical observations as well as latest trends available point to a **concerning deterioration of the food insecurity and malnutrition situation in Southern Madagascar:**

- The food security and nutrition situation of the people seems to be already severely stressed at a time when the lean season is just beginning;
- Overall food prices are increasing. Besides, the availability and quality of drinking water are decreasing while its price is spiking;
- Despite limited quantities of seeds available in some of the markets in and around Ambovombe and Ampanihy, people in the villages do not have seeds as stocks as they have been exhausted or consumed;
- Latest Post Distribution Monitoring conducted by WFP shows the positive, albeit limited, impact of WFP assistance and confirms the need to (i) increase assistance to current beneficiaries and to (ii) extend the assistance coverage given the concerning negative trends for non-beneficiaries;
- Although the levels for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) new admissions have decreased after the peak observed in April 2021, the SAM and MAM trends are higher in comparison to same time last year. The data stemming from the active screening conducted by community agents in September shows that the number of children in MAM is already close to the new admissions in April 2021.

WFP new Country Director, Pasqualina Disirio, recently arrived in Madagascar and received her credentials from the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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)**.

Food availability is considered lower than normal in most markets in the South due to the poor harvest registered earlier this year as well as limited imported products.

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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 (Oct 2021 – Mar 2022)
303.8 million	152.5 million	89 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

Archer Daniels Midland Co., 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.

Overall, prices are stable compared to August, except for oil which has increased by 12% on average. However, prices are up for all staple foods (oil + 52%, local rice + 16%, cowpeas + 13%, imported rice + 12%) when compared to the same period last year. In light of the latest harvest and the onset of the 2021-2022 lean season, it is expected that food prices will follow a usual, albeit more pronounced, with an upward trend in the coming months.

Drought Response

WFP assisted **372,432 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance**. Due to the additional logistics required to scale up from half to full rations, WFP reached 77% of its targeted number of beneficiaries for September. **WFP's cash-based assistance reached 178,750 beneficiaries**. As part of WFP's strategy to couple general food distributions with prevention of moderate acute malnutrition activities, 76,130 children aged 6 to 59 months and 12,495 pregnant and lactating women have also received nutritional supplements. In addition, 31,524 children aged 6 to 59 months have been treated for moderate acute malnutrition.

UNHAS Flights

In September, UNHAS operated 36 flights transporting 110 passengers from 12 organizations. These numbers confirm an increasing demand from the humanitarian community for this service. UNHAS has recently added two destinations to its programme (Bekily and Betroka in Southern Madagascar) and will adopt a cost-recovery mechanism from November 2021 onwards. With funding shortfalls foreseen as soon as March 2022, additional funds are urgently needed in order to ensure service continuity of UNHAS until April 2022 and beyond if need be.

International Access and COVID-19

The Government has announced the reopening of international borders. As a result, flights between Madagascar and the countries of the Indian Ocean islands will resume on 23 October. Long-haul flights between Europe and Antananarivo will resume on 6 November. To date, Madagascar has reported 43,622 cases of COVID-19 and 960 deaths.

WFP Regular Programmes

School Feeding

WFP school feeding team has launched a Home-Grown School Feeding programme (HGSF) in the regions of Vatovavy and Atsimo Andrefana with respectively 10 schools and 6 schools enrolled in each region for a total of 5,000 beneficiaries. This launch is part of a larger HGSF programme that includes the regions of Amoron'i Mania and Atsimo Andrefana for a total of 6,500 beneficiaries reached. Due to the increasing needs, the team has also launched an emergency school feeding programme in 42 schools in the South.

Nutrition

For the first time in Madagascar, WFP blended the first local fortified rice of the country in Fieferana, in the Analamanga region. Fortified rice will be distributed in WFP school canteens. WFP and the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) research platform called MIKASA have created a cookbook with nutritious and affordable recipes that use gari and breadfruit flour as the main ingredients. WFP is also finalizing a retail, marketing and packaging strategy for these two food items.

Resilience

WFP Madagascar will be present in Glasgow in early November for the COP 26 and will participate in several panel discussions on climate finance and risk transfer mechanisms as well as solutions to build climate adaptation and resilience.

Monitoring and evaluation missions took place in late September to assess the impact of the climate-based insurance scheme launched in 2020 that has benefited 3,500 insured farmers.

Funding Challenges

WFP is facing funding shortfalls that can hinder its ability to assist crisis-affected people. **WFP urgently requires USD 89 million** to sustain its assistance throughout the current lean season (October 2021 – March 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.