



World Food
Programme

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WFP Madagascar Country Brief October 2021



Operational Context

Madagascar is a low-income country with an estimated population of 26 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: 26 million

2019 Human Development Index: 164
out of 189 countries

Income Level: Low

Chronic malnutrition: 42% of children
aged 6–59 months

In Numbers

461,500 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance and 157,700 beneficiaries through cash transfers under WFP drought response in southern Madagascar

8,185 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 79.5 million six-month net funding requirements for emergency response (November 2021– April 2022)

820,000 people assisted across all activities in October 2021

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 needs-based and implementation plan for the January-April 2022 period.

Operational Updates

Drought Situation

Madagascar continues to face the consequences of 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 [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) analysis](#) issued in May 2021 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.

With the start of the agricultural lean season, **both the diversity and market availability of local food staples are decreasing**, especially in the light of the recent poor harvest. **The level of food commodity prices is high** and shows an upward trend compared to last year at the same period: **+ 56% for cassava, 48% for imported oil, + 37% for maize, + 12% for local rice as well as + 10% for imported rice and cowpeas**. This widespread inflation is due to this year's poor agricultural production, high transportation costs, and the lasting negative impact of mitigation measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Preparatory work for the next IPC food security and malnutrition analyses is underway. Assessments such as Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) and SMART survey that will feed into the IPC have started and **the results for both IPC analyses will be published in December**.

Cooperating partners on the ground have been trained on SCOPE – WFP's digital beneficiary information and transfer management platform – and, with WFP's support, continue the registration of beneficiaries who were absent during the first round of registration. WFP intends to complete the registration of all beneficiaries under SCOPE by the end of year.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) Nov 2021 – April 2022
303.8 million	152.5 million	95.5 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.

Drought Response

WFP assisted **461,500 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance and 157,700 beneficiaries through cash transfers** in the 9 drought-affected southern Madagascar districts. As part of WFP's strategy to couple general food distributions with prevention of moderate acute malnutrition activities, 39,481 children aged 6 to 59 months and 12,474 pregnant and lactating women have also received nutritional supplements. In addition, 31,269 children aged 6 to 59 months have been treated for moderate acute malnutrition.

WFP has expanded access to treatment for moderate acute malnutrition by doubling the number of sites, from 413 to 827, and the number of districts covered, from four to eight. Between January and September, 96,000 children 6-59 months were admitted for treatment.

UNHAS Flights

In October, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) transported a total of 159 passengers. In addition to regular rotations, UNHAS organized four special flights for a few user organizations as well as one recce mission to Bekily. A recent internal quality assurance evaluation mission has identified several recommendations for service improvements that UNHAS is implementing. The cost recovery rate recently approved by UNHAS steering committee has been introduced to user organizations. With funding shortfalls foreseen as soon as March 2022, USD 250,000 is urgently needed to ensure service continuity of UNHAS until April 2022.

International Access and COVID-19

Although Madagascar's borders with the countries of the Indian Ocean islands are open since 23 October, the Government has announced the suspension of flights between Madagascar and Mauritius from 27 November onwards. Long-haul flights between Europe and Antananarivo have resumed since 6 November. To date, Madagascar has reported 44,072 cases of COVID-19 and 967 deaths.

WFP Regular Programmes

School Feeding

WFP is in the process of finalizing a home-grown school feeding strategy. In addition, the staff of eight schools in Amboasary has been trained on the management of school canteens and digitalisation process to strengthen the functionality of the programme in these schools. The country office is exploring the possibility to scale up food assistance through school feeding.

Nutrition

WFP provided technical and financial support for the workshop convened by the National Food Fortification Alliance during which the first national food fortification strategy was approved. In addition, WFP delivered a training on social and behaviour change communication strategies during the first 1,000 days to 102 community nutrition workers from partner NGO FIHAMY.

Resilience

Recent monitoring and evaluation missions on the impact of the climate-based insurance scheme for 3,500 insured farmers have captured the following results: Overall improvement of the food consumption score of households; Use of the compensation to primarily cover agricultural-related, personal and food-incurred expenses; Use of the indemnity informed by shared decision-making within the household; Opportunity to, in the future, combine the payouts of indemnities with other activities (e.g. training in post-harvest management) to further secure household livelihoods.

The joint WFP-Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene's access-to-water and irrigation project in the districts of Amboasary and Ambovombe is moving to the next step after the recent close of the call for tenders. Several tenders have been received and are being reviewed.

Funding Challenges

WFP operations face critical funding shortfalls. The school meals programme faces a funding shortfall of USD 8.2 million for the next 12 months. For nutritional interventions, one-year funding shortfalls stand at USD 7.3 million. For the implementation of resilience activities, WFP faces a funding shortfall of USD 12.3 million. Finally, WFP urgently requires USD 2.1 million for its emergency and response preparedness activities.