



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Madagascar Country Brief November 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 175,465 beneficiaries through cash transfers under WFP drought response in southern Madagascar

US\$ 56.3 million six-month net funding requirements for emergency response (January – June 2022)

820,000 people assisted across all activities in November 2021

As the lean season moves towards its peak, **WFP intends to gradually reach 1 million people in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 and 4** 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.

Preliminary results from the latest food security and malnutrition IPC analyses conducted in November show that while the number of people in IPC 4 has not augmented, the number of people in IPC 3 has increased from 730,000 to over a million since the previous IPC results released in April 2021. Overall, the initial findings highlight a steady deterioration of the food security situation over the past year with 1.47 million people in IPC 3 and above as per the latest IPC analysis compared to 1.14 million and 1.06 million people in IPC 3 and above for the previous IPC analyses respectively conducted in April 2021 and December 2020.

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 lean season, both the diversity and market availability of local food staples are decreasing, because of the meager production from the latest harvest. Food inflation is estimated at 8% and is mainly driven by poor agricultural production, high transportation costs, and the lasting negative impact of mitigation measures against COVID-19.

Security

On 7 December, an attack was perpetrated on two humanitarian workers from WFP partner, NGO Young Progress, in the commune of Tranomaro in the north of Amboasary district. The assault which killed one of the workers and injured the other did not appear to be premeditated and was rather an ordinary robbery which turned into a tragic incident. Following the attack, operations were suspended for a few days and then resumed once the local police and United Nations Department of Safety and Security had concluded their investigation.

Supply Chain

WFP is expanding its logistics capacity in the context of the ongoing scale-up of its emergency response. A logistics base with a warehouse capacity of 6,000 MT has been established in Fort-Dauphin and a logistics facility with 1,000 MT of storage will be set up in Bekily. In addition, WFP is in the process of increasing the total storage capacity of its warehouse in Amboasary from currently 6,000 MT to 10,000 MT.

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Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) January – June 2022
364.3 million	189.8 million	64.9 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.

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Photo: Soajoboa, single mother of a one-month-old child, starting her SCOPE registration in Marofoty Avaradrova. WFP/Rakotoarisoa RINDRAN.

Drought Response

WFP assisted **461,500 beneficiaries with in-kind food assistance and 175,465 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, 58,549 children aged 6 to 59 months and 24,666 pregnant and lactating women have also received nutritional supplements. In addition, 35,090 children aged 6 to 59 months have been treated for moderate acute malnutrition.

UNHAS Flights

As of 30 November, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has transported 493 passengers to remote locations in southern Madagascar since its launch on 9 August. In addition, UNHAS' flight schedule has been enhanced since 1 November to offer a second weekly rotation between the capital, Antananarivo, and various locations in southern Madagascar, including two new destinations (Bekily and Betroka).

International Access and COVID-19 update

Although the Government announced in October the reopening of international borders, international flights remain limited to Paris and the Réunion Island, France. Despite an upsurge in COVID-19 cases since early December, WFP's programmes and activities are carried out as planned. To date, the country has reported 47,295 cases of COVID-19 and 996 deaths.

WFP Regular Programmes

School Feeding

In addition to its school feeding programme in the south, WFP is planning to assist 34,841 people (32,260 school children and 1,290 adults) in 198 schools in the regions of Vatovavy, Atsimo Atsinanana (South-east), Amoron'i Mania (Central) and Atsimo Andrefana (South) through home grown school feeding (HGSF) using local farming produce. WFP provided training to the targeted schools in November and plans to start the HGSF activities in January.

Nutrition

On 24 and 25 November, WFP and its partners organized the annual workshop of the stunting prevention project "MIARO" which is implemented in the Ampanihy and Amboasary districts. The workshop objectives were to identify the challenges, lessons learnt, good practices, innovations and recommendations to inform the planning of the project for 2022.

As part of the stunting prevention project "TAMBATRA", implemented in two communes of Antananarivo affected by high stunting levels, WFP participated in a community fair promoting nutritive cooking practices, healthy diets and the consumption of fortified foods.

Resilience

In the south, WFP started the "Inclusive cassava value chain development for community resilience and women empowerment" project in the communes of Tameantsoa, Bekily, Ambovombe and Amboasary. The project helps mitigate the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis on vulnerable women. In partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP is supporting 160 women in processing cassava into gari, cassava-based flour. Beneficiary groups are supplying school canteens with gari-based meals from which 1,600 schoolchildren benefit.

Funding Challenges

WFP operations face critical funding shortfalls. The school meals programme faces a funding shortfall of USD 5 million for the next 12 months. For nutritional interventions, one-year funding shortfalls stand at USD 7.2 million. For the implementation of resilience activities, WFP faces a funding shortfall of USD 12 million. Finally, WFP urgently requires USD 1.8 million for its emergency and response preparedness activities.