



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Madagascar Country Brief February 2022

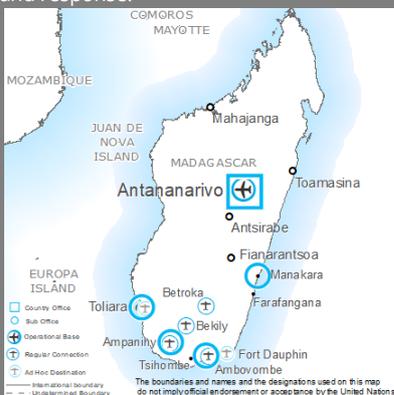


## Operational Context

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 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 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 were expected to stabilise in 2021, the impact of the pandemic has casted 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

**672,968 beneficiaries reached with in-kind food assistance and 172,230 beneficiaries through cash transfers** under WFP's drought response in southern Madagascar

**420,000 people affected by current cyclone season to be gradually reached through 3-month food and cash-based assistance**

**US\$ 45 million required until September 2022 for the drought emergency response and US\$ 17.5 million required for the cyclone emergency response**

**1,096,154 people** assisted across all activities in February 2022

## Operational Updates - Emergency Responses

### Cyclone Season Overview and Response

In the span of six weeks, Madagascar has been hit by five storms and tropical cyclones (Ana, Batsirai, Dumako, Emnati, and Gombo) that have caused considerable damage, affecting more than 960,000 people. At least 470,000 people are in urgent need of food assistance in the Vatovavy, Fitovinany, and Atsimo Atsinanana regions according to the latest estimate established by the National Office of Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC). In response, WFP is gradually reaching 420,000 people who have been affected by the tropical cyclones and storms that have hit Madagascar since January. WFP's 3-month response is providing lifesaving food and cash assistance to families whose homes were fully or partially destroyed by the storms, as well as providing evaluation, coordination, logistics and IT support to the Government and other partners.

### Emergency Overview and Response

During the ongoing lean season, **WFP intends to assist over 1 million people in IPC 3 and 4** through its emergency response in southern Madagascar. In February, WFP delivered life-saving assistance to 890,121 people in the southern provinces and 151,525 people on the eastern coast (cyclone response).

As part of WFP's strategy to couple general food distributions with prevention of moderate acute malnutrition activities, 156,486 children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) received nutritional supplements in February. In addition, 59,897 children aged 6 to 59 months were treated for moderate acute malnutrition.

The latest results of the national nutrition surveillance highlighted that **24 out of 202 municipalities are in a nutritional alert situation against 33 in the previous quarter**. To increase people's access to nutrition services, WFP's prevention and treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in the districts on alert will be intensified through the improvement of the programme's coverage and the enhancement of awareness-raising actions on essential family care practices.

### UN Humanitarian Air Service

In February 2022, UNHAS transported 365 passengers from 28 organisations (12 NGOs, 10 UN agencies and 4 diplomatic missions / donors and 2 Red Cross). Following the cyclones, it operated an emergency air bridge between Antananarivo and Mananjary providing rapid access for aid workers and cargo to reach the impacted areas. A new regular flight schedule was introduced to cover the need of the humanitarian partners to move urgent relief workers and light cargo. A Mi-8 helicopter, with capacity for 19 passengers or 3 mt of cargo, was also deployed to Madagascar and started operating in February to enable access to the unreachable locations transporting urgent food and medical items.

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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) March - August 2022
<b>364.3 million</b>	<b>193.1 million</b>	<b>111.2 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 (2021 and 2022)

African Development Bank, European Union, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea (KOICA), Lichtenstein, Mauritius, Monaco, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Kingdom (FCDO), USAID (Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance) and Switzerland.

## WFP Regular Programmes

### School Feeding

WFP aims to scale up home-grown school feeding activities as part of the integrated resilience programme. This programme aims to support public schools through a range of activities combining school feeding activities, linked to production and market access support for small-scale producers, and nutrition-sensitive interventions. Food production (grains, vegetables and legumes) and resilience activities will be implemented around water supply infrastructure.

WFP's school feeding programme has been shifting towards the digitalization of monthly reporting by the Ministry of National Education staff. The first digital reports on food distributions in school canteens were sent using tablets.

### Nutrition - Development

WFP is in contact with private sector actors in Madagascar to explore the possibility of purchasing locally produced fortified specialized nutritious food. The approach aims at optimal purchases (price, quality and especially reduce lead times) thus enhancing efficiency.

WFP has provided equipment for rice fortification to the commune of Fieferana, in Analamanga region. The unit is operational, and production is expected to be launched in March. The production is intended to support school feeding in 13 public elementary schools. Since rice is the most consumed cereal in Madagascar, rice fortification offers great potential to reduce the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies.

### Resilience

Construction of a multi-purpose water supply system has begun in three villages of the Androy region (southern Madagascar) and will last until June 2022. This construction aims to set up water supply systems for clean water and irrigation to intensify agricultural production. The installations are designed to cover the needs of the population until 2036.

This project began after the signature of an agreement between WFP and the Ministry of Water to mobilize water resources with the goals of increasing agricultural production in southern Madagascar to strengthen communities' resilience.

Following the lean season response, WFP aims at assisting some 400,000 vulnerable households, aiming to transition its support towards recovery and resilience strengthening programmes. These include support to home-grown school feeding (approx. 900 schools) linking schools to smallholder farmers, support to smallholder farmers (value chain development, investing in drought resilient crops, improving smallholder farmers' access to markets, offering insurance etc.), and investing in environmental protection while contributing to food security outcomes – dune fixing, reforestation, preventing land degradation etc.

### Capacity Strengthening Support to the Government

WFP is still supporting BNGRC with equipment to enable the entity to conduct assessments. WFP is also providing connectivity for their operational center in Mananjary, and equipment (mobile VSATs, satellite phones) to support them in areas not covered by mobile connectivity. WFP is also supporting the BNGRC in rehabilitating its operational center in the capital.

### Funding Challenges (other than the emergency response)

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 5.3 million. For the implementation of resilience activities, WFP faces a funding shortfall of 13.1 million. Finally, WFP urgently requires USD 2 million for its emergency preparedness activities.

### COVID-19 update

Despite a rise in COVID-19 cases since early December, WFP's programmes and activities continue to be implemented as planned. To date, the country has reported 63,870 cases of COVID-19 and 1,377 related deaths.