



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Madagascar Country Brief May 2023



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 173 out of 191 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 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.

Development prospects in Madagascar continue to be hampered by the country's low growth potential and exposure to frequent, deep, and persistent crises, according to the [World Bank's latest economic update on Madagascar](#). Growth averaged 3.5 percent in the five years leading up to the pandemic and was followed by a recession in 2020 that was about 3 times deeper than in the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa. Activity had started to recover in 2021 but was disrupted again in 2022 by a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, a series of extreme weather events and the fallout from the conflict in Ukraine.

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 ensures that interventions for addressing both chronic and acute needs are supported by enhanced capacities and resources for emergency preparedness and response.



Population: **26 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **173 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **42% of children aged 6-59 months**

In Numbers

829 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 491,241 cash-based transfers

US\$ 144 m six months (June-November 2023) net funding requirements,

579,900 people assisted in May 2023

Operational Updates

Emergency Overview and Response

Drought

May 2023 marked the start of the post-lean season. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the number of people assisted, reaching the most vulnerable experiencing critical food insecurity. Some 451,820 people received unconditional food assistance, which was coupled with prevention of malnutrition for 31,658 pregnant and breastfeeding women and 10,849 children under 24 months.

Cyclone Season Overview and Response

In the Great South-East, the food needs due to cyclone Freddy remain high and WFP has completed most of the planned unconditional food assistance for the month of May. WFP reached 128,080 people of which 41,165 people received food and 86,915 people were assisted through cash transfers. The assistance will continue in the months to come, thanks to new funding from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the African Development Bank Group (AFDB), for some 486,655 beneficiaries.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS transported 474 passengers and 19.8 mt of cargo for 30 organizations during May 2023 - 212 people and 18 mt of them were carried by the ECHO-funded helicopter operating the "EU Humanitarian Aid Flight" enabling access to the hard-to-reach locations affected by cyclones and floods. The helicopter stopped operation by 11 May 2023 due to lack of funding.

Users were able to provide feedback on the service to UNHAS and directly from the field (Ambovombe and Ampanihy).

An evaluation mission was conducted by WFP Engineering to assess the airfields' condition in the south and to identify the rehabilitation works needed to maintain the vital aviation access to Ambovombe, Ampanihy and Bekily.

Photo: *Aside from delivering daily hot meals in the schools assisted through the school feeding programme, WFP gives cash which enables the schools to procure nutritious food such as vegetables on the local market. Mirella is one of the beneficiaries of this cash modality. WFP/Volana Rarivoson*

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
628.3 million	380 million	144 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 (2022 and 2023)

African Development Bank, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea (KOICA), Lichtenstein, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Private Donors, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Kingdom (FCDO), USAID (Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance), Government of Madagascar, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)

School Feeding

In May, WFP continued to provide support to 987 schools covering 336,585 students under the school feeding programme, of which 345 schools and 135,000 children benefit from the Home-Grown School Feeding model. As part of its end of school year exercise, WFP and government teams prepared for annual school inventory to assess food stocks and non-food items.

Nutrition – Development

In terms of stunting prevention (Miaro approach), a total of 15,488 beneficiaries, including children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, received nutrition supplementation through the distribution of specialized nutritious food (SNF). Additionally, support was provided to 1,066 vulnerable households and 1,593 community beneficiaries to improve food diversification practices in 11 municipalities.

Most districts in the south saw a reduction in admissions for moderate acute malnutrition, except for Ampanihy and Betroka. However, in the southeast, two districts (Farafangana and Vangaindrano) experienced an increasing trend in admissions despite being in the post-harvest period. Plans are underway to extend treatment sites to districts with high levels of acute malnutrition, such as Ikongo, in collaboration with the Regional Nutrition Office of Fitovinany. According to WFP/ ORN (*Office Régional de Nutrition*) data, there was a 6 percent decrease in admissions of children with moderate acute malnutrition in the south and southeast between April and May.

Resilience

As part of WFP’s integrated climate risk management, a joint WFP/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) After-Action Review was conducted in Fort Dauphin following the activation of the Anticipatory Actions System based on weather forecasts. Mainly funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the system triggered actions prior to the forecasted moderate drought in four communes of the Grand Sud to prevent food insecurity impact in those vulnerable locations. This included dissemination of early warning messages, support to the production of drought-resistant seeds, including local seed production, and the implementation of the rainwater harvesting system. Some 62,211 people have been reached, including 26,000 people with cash-transfers.

WFP Madagascar has implemented energy-water-food support through solar energy hubs in four remote villages to serve innovative irrigation systems, milling, cooling boxes, income generating activities, digital training and schools and many other activities. Finally, support to women group association continued in May with the organization of their participation at a national trade fair as part of market access support, in addition to training and other marketing assistance.

Supply Chain

WFP in collaboration with BNGRC (National Risk and Disaster Management Bureau) hosted an engineering mission from WFP HQ Engineering Unit, to conduct a field assessment in the southeast on damaged roads and infrastructure to determine priorities in terms of rehabilitation to restore access to remote communities. Key priority areas in terms of infrastructure include road and rehabilitation of airstrips, and a Logistics Humanitarian Hub on the east coast (Manakara).

Funding Challenges

WFP operations face critical net funding requirements that stand at USD 105 million for Emergency response, USD 7.4 million for School Meals assistance, USD 2.2 million for Nutrition, USD 3.4 million for Resilience, and USD 1.2 million for Emergency Preparedness.