



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Madagascar Country Brief September 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 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**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

1,409 mt of food assistance distributed

US 953,466 cash-based transfers

US\$ 132.8 m next six months (November 2023 to April 2024)

392,894 people assisted in September 2023 with General Food Assistance, of which 215,434 with food and 177,460 through cash-based transfers.

Saving lives

Drought and Cyclone Response

In September, WFP finalized the targeting for the lean season response (October 2023 – April 2024) and selected 11 cooperating partners in the drought prone area of southern Madagascar. WFP also continued emergency food assistance in the District of Betroka following regional food security cluster assessment recommendations in July.

Recovery from multiple cyclones that impacted the south-east of the country in recent years have been slow due to structural challenges compounded by drought, cyclone damage, logistical hurdles, and water-related diseases. WFP is implementing unconditional food assistance in the three main regions of the south-east impacted by cyclone and drought (Midongy, Ikongo, Befotaka, Nosy varika with cash and Manakara, Farafangana and Vangaindrano in-kind).

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS maintained its humanitarian flights reaching 9 destinations in the south and south-east of Madagascar transporting 225 humanitarian worker and 555 kg of cargo on behalf of 26 organizations. In addition to the regular flights, UNHAS performed 3 ad hoc flights for delegations from UNICEF, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and WFP Friends of Nutrition.

Changing lives

The new school year resumed at the beginning of September and WFP's **school feeding programme** will continue supporting 316,659 children across 983 primary schools during this school year. The **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF)** model is being implemented in 347 schools in 18 districts and the Government of Madagascar through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is committed to scale up the approach across the country in the coming years. As part of the approach, WFP supports the establishment of school and community gardens, clean cooking methods and nutrition support, including through Social Behaviour Change Communication. As part of the HGSF programme, WFP has contracted two leading farmer organizations for the local supply of rice, beans, and maize to school canteens, for a total amount of approximately 4 billion Ariary (USD 891,178).

Photo: Based on climate forecasts, WFP's anticipatory action in southern Madagascar helps communities mitigate the effects of drought by supporting access to water, providing cash assistance, distributing drought-resistant seeds and disseminating awareness messages. Vola Chantal, a farmer in Behara (Amboasary district) has participated in these activities. WFP/Vahatriniaivo Iarijaona

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Madagascar

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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	132.8 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, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), United Kingdom (FCDO), USAID (Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance)

In collaboration with the National Nutrition Office, WFP continues to deliver **nutrition interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition** in areas most severely affected by chronic malnutrition.

In September, **WFP and UNICEF launched a 5-year joint programme** supported by the German Development Ministry. Bringing together UNICEF's expertise on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and social protection and WFP's experience in community nutrition services and resilience building, this programme aims to significantly enhance malnutrition prevention in four drought-prone communes in the south. In September, WFP also hosted a mission to visit nutrition programmes in southern Madagascar of the WFP Executive Board "Friends of Nutrition," which placed significant emphasis on the seamless integration of nutrition interventions with other WFP operations (e.g., school feeding, resilience, and unconditional assistance) and the continuum of care from prevention to treatment of all forms of malnutrition. This approach will be further emphasized during a side event planned to take place on the margins of WFP's Executive Board in November, with a deep dive on Madagascar's nutrition response.

In the context of **South-South-Triangular cooperation**, WFP facilitated the visit to Madagascar of two Egyptian experts on irrigation and soil restoration as well as date cultivation. With the aim of contributing to food and nutrition security in Madagascar, the experts will support the Malagasy government in designing a roadmap to develop the value chain for date cultivation and processing in southern Madagascar.

As part of the impact of El Niño, below average rains are predicted for the southern regions of Madagascar. Following the **activation of anticipatory action protocols for drought**, WFP and partners started the dissemination of early warning messages in the districts of Betioky and Betroka to help the population mitigate the impact of the forecasted drought. This activity is carried out in collaboration with community agents, equipped with radios and visual aids to communicate crop calendars, climate forecasts and agricultural advice to communities.

In anticipation of the upcoming cyclone season WFP has also initiated preparedness activities including the prepositioning of food and critical equipment. WFP is liaising closely with the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC).

Resource Outlook

WFP operations in Madagascar face critical funding shortfalls. To sustain all activities of the CSP during the lean season **between November 2023 and April 2024**, WFP Madagascar urgently requires USD 132.8 million.

The **emergency response** is critically underfunded, with a **shortfall of USD 71 million** between November 2023 and April 2024 to continue the provision of life-saving unconditional food assistance. Nutrition programmes aimed at preventing and treating acute malnutrition urgently require USD 3 million, while resilience activities that support early recovery of shock-affected populations as well as longer-term resilience have a funding shortfall of over USD 5 million. School feeding activities to provide hot meals to primary school children in districts classified as Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 have a funding gap of USD 8 million.