



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Madagascar Country Brief December 2023



## Operational Context

Madagascar is a low-income country with an estimated population of 29 million. With a gross domestic product per capita of USD 505 in 2022, 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 8 percent and the rate of chronic malnutrition is 40 percent, placing Madagascar as the 10<sup>th</sup> 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: **29 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **40% of children aged 6–59 months.**

## In Numbers

**5,431 mt** of food assistance distributed

**3.56 million USD** cash-based transfers

**114 million USD** of funding shortfall for the period January to June 2024

**1.2 million people assisted in December 2023**, of which 646,441 with food assistance and 576,124 through cash-based transfers<sup>1</sup>

## Saving lives

### Drought and Cyclone Response

In December 2023, WFP assisted 763,000 drought-affected people in the South of Madagascar through unconditional in-kind and cash distributions. WFP targeted the population in communes considered priority 1 and 2 in four districts classified IPC3+ on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale (Amboasary, Ambovombe, Betioky and Ampanihy).

In the south-east, WFP provided cash transfers to people in four districts (Ikongo, Midongy, Befotaka and Nosy Varika) who are recovering from the impacts of the cyclone Freddy.

### UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

In December 2023, UNHAS flights chartered by WFP transported 135 passengers from 18 humanitarian organizations to and from the disaster-affected south and south-east of Madagascar.

At its meeting on 14 December, the UNHAS Steering Committee approved the deployment of a 19-seater aircraft to Madagascar in the first quarter of 2024 to increase UNHAS capacity and respond to the growing demand for humanitarian flights.

## Changing lives

### School Feeding

WFP is implementing the Home-Grown School Feeding model for 136,000 school children in 348 primary schools (out of the 300,000 school children supported by the school feeding programme) in the south, centre and south-east. This model provides the schools with food procured from local sources including farmers' associations, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. In December, WFP trained the community school staff in the use of standard tools for school feeding management and nutritional education.

*Photo: Since the launch of UNHAS service in 2021 to support the humanitarian response, a dedicated fixed-wing aircraft has been providing weekly connections from Antananarivo to the south. The number of destinations and the frequency of flights have been increased to also reach the cyclone-affected Grand Sud-East. In December, UNHAS transported 135 passengers, including the head of the Humanitarian Adviser Team, Rija Rakotoson, disembarking at Fort-Dauphin airstrip. WFP/Benoit Lognone*

<sup>1</sup> Due to operational delays, some food assistance distributions planned for November have been finalized in December instead, resulting in a higher number of beneficiaries being reached in December compared to the previous month.

**Emergency nutrition:** WFP provided nutrition services for the treatment and the prevention of malnutrition among children and pregnant and breastfeeding women as part of the emergency response in the south. WFP has extended its prevention programme using local solutions such as the FARNE model and cash-based transfers.

**Nutrition in school:** WFP has provided schools with equipment to support the preparation of nutritious recipes as per the catalogue of recipes that was developed with ONN and the Ministry of National education. Formative research to support the development of a Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategy was conducted and completed in December. The strategy will be developed by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

## Resilience

**Anticipatory actions:** WFP distributed cash to 102,000 people in the districts of Betsioky and Betroka as part of anticipatory actions to mitigate the effects of drought in the southern regions of Madagascar. Cash distributions were conditional on beneficiaries' participation in agricultural and environmental activities such as land preparation and reforestation aimed at improving and protecting their livelihoods.

## Supply Chain

**Emergency preparedness:** in view of the 2024 cyclone season, WFP signed a contract with local transporters for a surface and cabotage transport service to facilitate the access in cyclone-prone areas.

**Food arrivals:** 693 tons of super cereal, 225 tons of pulses and 15 tons of fortified biscuits, which will be used for drought and cyclone responses, arrived at Tuléar and Fort Dauphin ports in December.

**Collaboration with the government:** the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC) and WFP organised a workshop in Tuléar, southern Madagascar, to discuss current challenges and explore relevant technological solutions to risk and disaster management in the country.

## Resource Outlook

WFP operations in Madagascar face critical funding shortfalls. To sustain all activities of the Country Strategic Plan between January and June 2024, WFP Madagascar urgently requires **USD 114 million**.

The emergency response (drought and cyclone responses) is critically underfunded, with a shortfall of USD 56.4 million between January and June 2024 to continue the provision of life-saving unconditional food assistance. The funding requirement for the emergency nutrition programmes aimed at preventing and treating acute malnutrition urgently require USD 3.1 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 8.1 million. School feeding activities to provide hot meals to primary school children in districts classified as IPC 3 have a funding gap of USD 7.9 million.

## Donors (2023)

Canada, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Madagascar, Monaco, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), USAID (Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance).

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>628.3 million</b>	<b>380 million</b>	<b>114 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

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