



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Madagascar Country Brief February 2024



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 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: **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

2,200 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 2.6 million cash-based transfers

USD 83.3 million funding shortfall for WFP's operations for the period March - August 2024

Over **855,800 people** assisted in February, of which almost 479,000 with food assistance, about 369,000 through cash-based transfers and over 7,800 with food vouchers.

Saving lives

Drought and Cyclone Response

Drought response: In February, WFP provided emergency assistance to drought-affected people in the south of Madagascar through unconditional in-kind and cash distributions. WFP targeted populations in four districts classified in "Crisis" (IPC3+) on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification scale (Amboasary, Ambovombe, Betioky and Ampanihy).

Tropical storm response: Tropical Storm Alvaro hit the South-west and South-east of Madagascar in early January. WFP assisted 9,000 people in Morombe, Vohipeno and Manakara through the distribution of prepositioned fortified biscuits provided by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). WFP's life-saving assistance complemented food distributions by the government. WFP appreciated the quick confirmation of USD 200,000 from the Republic of Korea to assist communities affected by the tropical storm.

UNHAS

In January, UNHAS supported the rapid multi-sectoral assessment following tropical storm Alvaro, deploying a special flight to Tulear and Morombe. Moreover, UNHAS transported more than 1MT of fortified biscuits to the affected areas.

UNHAS provided a dedicated flight for the visit of the UN Assistant Secretary General - Climate Crisis Coordinator for El Niño Response, Reena Ghelani and an inter-agency mission to the South of Madagascar.

In total, UNHAS transported 227 passengers in January 2024; and 198 passengers in February.

New aircraft: As approved by the Steering Committee, UNHAS has contracted a LET410 aircraft, which is a larger aircraft to accommodate the increased needs of humanitarian partners in the country. The new aircraft, expected to arrive in the country in early March, will reduce travel time and has additional space to transport humanitarian personnel and cargo.

Photo: High-energy biscuits donated by USAID/BHA are transported by zebu cart to cyclone-affected communities in southwestern Madagascar. WFP/Melinah Rabary

School Feeding

WFP is continuing the scale-up of the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme in light of the 40 million USD contribution received from the Government of Madagascar and World Bank in late 2023. WFP's HGSF model links the school feeding programme with smallholder farmers organizations which supply fresh and locally produced food to school canteens, targeting 250,000 beneficiaries (out of the 300,000 beneficiaries of the school feeding programme) in southern and southeastern Madagascar. As part of the HGSF scale-up, WFP has selected 6,000 farmers from farmers organisations in nine regions of Madagascar to supply the WFP-supported schools.

Nutrition

WFP started the *MIARO* programme in the Betioky district, southwestern Madagascar. *MIARO* prevents malnutrition through a package of activities such as supplementary feeding (followed by vaccination, antenatal and nutritional counselling), market gardening, social and behaviour change communication and small ruminant rearing. Through *MIARO*, WFP is supporting 42,000 pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months in 17 communes in the south of Madagascar.

Resilience

To support the recovery and strengthen resilience of disaster-affected people in the South and the South-east, WFP has launched post-lean season food-assistance-for-assets activities for 41,000 households. Activities include reforestation, dune stabilization, rehabilitation of community roads (to facilitate exchanges between communities), market gardening, development of agroecological lands and rehabilitation of ponds for rainwater catchment.

Supply Chain

Port assessment: WFP's standby partner BLG assessed the two main ports (Tuléar and Fort Dauphin) and road infrastructure in southern Madagascar. The assessment aimed to better understand the challenges and identify opportunities to optimise the capacity of existing ports and maritime transport services for humanitarian assistance.

Resource Outlook

WFP operations in Madagascar face critical funding shortfalls. To sustain all activities of the Country Strategic Plan between February and July 2024, WFP Madagascar urgently requires **USD 83.3 million** of which most is for WFP's emergency response (drought and cyclone responses). UNHAS operational costs in 2024 stand at USD 4.2 million with a funding gap of USD 2.4 million to sustain its services throughout the year.

Donors (2023 and 2024)

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).

Contacts: Mamadou.Mbaye@wfp.org

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

Facebook: [Programme Alimentaire Mondial Madagascar](https://www.facebook.com/ProgrammeAlimentaireMondialMadagascar)

X: [@PAM_Madagascar](https://twitter.com/PAM_Madagascar)

Madagascar Country Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated contributions (in USD)	Six months net funding requirement (in USD)
659.2 million	65 million	83.3 million

Strategic Result 1: Access to Food

CSP Outcome 1: People affected by seasonal or other shocks are prepared and able to meet their immediate food and nutrition needs throughout the year

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Unconditional resources transfers, food or cash
- Prevention of acute malnutrition
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition
- Nutritional support to tuberculosis patients
- Food assistance for assets

Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

CSP Outcome 2: By 2030, targeted groups at risk, especially young children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, are part of the national social protection scheme and have improved nutrition and education outcomes

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

- School canteens including Home grown school feeding
- Malnutrition prevention
- Food and cash-based assistance to people living with HIV, tuberculosis patients, older persons and persons with disabilities

Strategic Result 3: Sustainable Food Systems

CSP Outcome 3: By 2030, targeted communities benefit from productive, inclusive, sustainable food systems that contribute to improved food diversity, livelihoods and resilience to shocks, in particular climate and economic shocks

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Preparedness
- Risk financing
- Digital financial inclusion
- Rapid Rural Transformation model
- Sustainable value chains
- Market access

Strategic Result 3: Capacity Strengthening

CSP Outcome 4: By 2030, the Government and national stakeholders will have enhanced capacity to manage equitable and inclusive food and nutrition programmes, along with systems for social protection, emergency preparedness and early response

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Enhanced emergency preparedness and response capacity
- Coordination for emergency preparedness and response
- Strengthening social protection and inclusion
- School feeding operational and institutional capacity strengthening
- Enhancing nutrition capacity
- Rural transformation and women's economic empowerment
- Food fortification and private sector engagement
- South-South and triangular cooperation

Strategic Result 4: Enhance global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 5: Government, humanitarian and development actors have improved access to mandated and on-demand services and innovative solutions that enable the delivery of timely and cost-efficient assistance

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Logistics and coordination services
- Telecommunications services
- Aviation and air operations services