



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Madagascar

Country Brief

November 2024



Operational Context

Madagascar is a low-income country facing endemic poverty, climate and economic shocks. In 2022, 75.2 percent of the national population was categorized as poor according to the [World Bank's Madagascar Poverty Assessment Report \(2024\)](#). For most of the 80 percent of the population whose main activity is agriculture, generating enough income to exit poverty is beyond their reach, due to limited market access and lagging agricultural productivity.

Climate change has exacerbated Madagascar's vulnerability to weather shocks, including cyclones, tropical storms and droughts. In less than 2 years, Madagascar has been hit by several cyclones. Tropical Cyclone Gamane is the latest weather event to have affected the country. Due to the Cyclone Gamane and the El Niño phenomenon impacts, according to the latest IPC analysis, 1.2 million people dependent on income from agricultural activities in 36 districts may be affected by high acute food insecurity between May and September 2024.

In this context, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) aims to promote an integrated, shock-responsive social protection system to ensure 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 women, adolescent girls and children. Moreover, WFP aims to help build the resilience of smallholder households and ensure that interventions to address both chronic and acute needs are supported by enhanced capacities and resources for emergency preparedness and response.



Population : 30.3 million

2022 HDI : 177/193 countries

Income level : Low

Chronic malnutrition : 39.8% children aged 6-59 months

In Numbers

7,553 mt* of food assistance distributed

US\$ 352,000* in cash transfers distributed

US\$ 54.2 million six-month net funding requirements (December 2024 – May 2025)

670,000* people assisted in November 2024, 622,000 with in-kind assistance and 48,000 with cash-based transfers

Emergency Response

Anticipatory actions: WFP provided financial and technical support to the Malagasy Government – specifically the National Office for Disaster Risk Management and the Ministry of Population and Solidarity – to facilitate a one-week training on cash transfers. The initiative certified 30 participants, including government officials, NGO representatives, and UN staff, equipping them with essential skills to implement cash-based transfer programmes. This will further integrate cash-based transfers as a key humanitarian response modality in Madagascar. In parallel, WFP prepared for the cyclone season by participating in the national Contingency Plan workshop and developing a plan for the pre-positioning of food commodities.

Cyclone Gamane response: In November, WFP distributed US\$ 352,000 in cash-based transfers to 9,890 households in 13 communes of the Sambava and Vohemar regions.

UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)

UNHAS transported 399 passengers and 1.9 mt of cargo on behalf of 33 organizations. Additionally, five special flights were conducted to support official missions for WFP and UNICEF. A user group meeting was held to reinforce essential procedures, covering topics such as the no-show and go-show process, user account renewals, and the activation of on-demand destinations. To enhance its services, UNHAS launched a satisfaction survey to gather feedback from passengers.

Nutrition

Fill the Nutrient gap: Under the leadership of the National Nutrition Office (ONN) and the National Statistical Institute (INSTAT), WFP organized the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) inception workshop in Antananarivo on 14-15 November. Multisectoral stakeholders, including government ministries, the private sector, and international cooperation partners (UNICEF, FAO, WHO GiZ, JICA, Gret, ACF), attended, providing valuable input. The Cost of the Diet analysis showed that 66 percent of Malagasy households cannot afford a nutritious diet, which is 2.2 times more expensive than an energy-based diet, with pronounced regional disparities and heightened vulnerability in the South. To address these gaps, the FNG is designing a set of interventions across various sectors and formulating actionable recommendations for national nutrition plans.

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Facebook: [Programme Alimentaire Mondial Madagascar](#)

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Photo credit: @WFP. WFP's delegation attending COP 29 in Baku, Georgia..

Madagascar Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Total requirement (in USD)	Allocated contributions (in USD)	(in)	Six-month net funding requirements (in USD)
659.2 million	179.8 million		54.2 million

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic 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

Strategic 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:

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

Strategic Result 3: Sustainable food systems

Strategic 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 4: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic 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 5: 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

Nutrition (continued)

FARNE Model: In Southeast Madagascar, WFP launched the Nutrition Learning, Rehabilitation and Care Centres (FARNE) model to manage malnutrition cases at community level. WFP provided cooperating and government partners with capacity strengthening sessions on the FARNE approach, emphasizing the use of locally enriched food processing for nutritional supplementation, leveraging the region's abundant fruit and vegetable diversity. Indigenous foods, rich in essential nutrients are valuable for the nutritional supplementation of children, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and their cultivation and processing could serve as an income-generating activity to sustain FARNE initiatives. Trainings were provided to 49 participants, highlighting simple, low-cost preservation techniques to ensure year-round food security. The next step involves disseminating these techniques and generating evidence on their effectiveness.

School Feeding

Cascade trainings: In October, WFP initiated a set of trainings across nine regions to enhance school canteen management capacities at various levels of governance – national, regional and local. The initiative targets all 1,245 schools under WFP's school meals programme. The first set of trainings, held in Antsirabe, from 21-26 October, involved a pool of trainers from the Ministry of Education, the National Nutrition Office and the Ministry of the Environment. These sessions established a pool of trainers and covered topics such as school canteen management, nutrition in schools, environmental education, and warehouse management. The second set of trainings-of-trainers took place on 11-22 November, at the regional, district and commune levels. Finally, from 25-29 November, the trainers transferred their skills at the school level. This process will continue throughout December.

Resilience

COP 29: From 13-22 November, WFP Madagascar's Deputy Country Director and Head of Resilience attended COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. WFP accompanied a delegation from the Malagasy ministries of Energy, Water, and Agriculture, as well as the General Directorate for Meteorology. In collaboration with Ministry counterparts, WFP supported side-events and contributed as panellists in nine sessions.

Anticipatory Action tropical cyclone framework: From 25 November to 5 December, a delegation from WFP's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa took part in a workshop in Antananarivo on the Anticipatory Action sudden onset. The mission aimed to support the Madagascar Country Office in implementing the CERF Anticipatory Action tropical cyclone framework for the upcoming cyclone season. The framework will target 11 regions in Eastern Madagascar.

Resource Outlook

US\$ 54.2 million are urgently required for WFP Madagascar to sustain all activities of the Country Strategic Plan between December 2024 and May 2025.

Donors

Canada, China, ECHO, France, Germany, Madagascar, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Türkiye, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA) (in alphabetical order)

* All assistance figures in this report are an initial estimate and are subject to change upon final verification.