



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Madagascar

## Country Brief

### January 2025



### 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 in March 2024. According to the latest IPC analysis, 1.63 million people were affected by high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) between September and December 2024, particularly in the Great South and Great Southeast.

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

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**Facebook:** [Programme Alimentaire Mondial Madagascar](#)

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Photo credit: @WFP. Producer's field integrated into the FARNE programme.

## In Numbers

**4,661 MT\*** of food assistance distributed

**USD 1,445,431\*** in cash transfers distributed

**USD 47.5 million** six-month net funding requirements (February – July 2025)

**973,676 people\*** assisted in January 2024, of which 816,271 with in-kind assistance and 157,405 with cash-based transfers

### Operational Updates

#### Emergency Response

**Anticipatory actions.** WFP continued joint emergency preparedness missions with the Government of Madagascar in cyclone-prone areas (Atsinanana Region) to prepare for the cyclonic season.

**Lean Season Response.** WFP provided vital support through food and cash assistance to affected communities, reaching one region in the Great South-East and one district and two regions in the Great South aiming to alleviate food insecurity during the lean season.

**Cyclone Gamane Response.** Due to the strong swells caused by Cyclone Dikeledi, which passed through Northern Madagascar, a ship transporting food items had to seek shelter and arrived later than expected at its destination (Gamane-affected area). As a result, the distribution dates were postponed until February. Fortunately, this period allowed for the preparation of the final distributions for the Sava region, including the Vohémar District, which is projected to be in IPC 3+ (crisis and emergency).

#### UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)

In January, UNHAS played a crucial role in facilitating humanitarian access by transporting 198 passengers and 671 kg of cargo. Throughout the month, UNHAS operations covered 8 destinations, providing essential air transport services to 23 different organizations. In addition to scheduled flights, UNHAS conducted 3 special flights on behalf of FAO, WFP, and UNFPA, showcasing the ability to adapt swiftly to urgent humanitarian demands. These flights were instrumental in ensuring the timely delivery of personnel and critical supplies to remote areas, reinforcing UNHAS' commitment to safe, reliable, and efficient air transport solutions.

#### Nutrition

**Food processing units.** In January, the foundation-laying ceremony was held for three food processing and transformation units: a semi-industrial unit in Manakara and two artisanal units in Amboasary and Ambovombe. Construction is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025. Meanwhile, with support from KfW, Monaco, and Norway, women's smallholder farmer groups have been actively involved in identifying available raw materials in the field and designing improved nutritious products using these local resources. The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Research Platform "Mikasa" was responsible for formulating these products to ensure they meet the nutritional needs of young children, pregnant women, and school-age children. This will ensure that production lines can begin operating as soon as the processing units are functional.

## Madagascar Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Total requirement (in USD)	Allocated contributions (in USD)	Six-month net funding requirements (in USD)
659.2 million	182.2 million	47.5 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)

**Nutrition for Growth.** In the realm of nutrition governance, WFP has supported the National Office of Nutrition in evaluating the commitments made by the Malagasy government during the 2021 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit and in shaping new commitments for the upcoming N4G Summit on 27-28 March.

### School Feeding

In January, hot meals were distributed to 266,064 beneficiaries, including 147,298 girls and 118,766 boys.

**Fotadrevo Field visit.** From 3-9 January, a field visit to Fotadrevo was conducted together with KOICA for the donor to gain firsthand insights into the realities of the targeted communities and make necessary adjustments to the project proposal, which is currently being finalized.

**Meeting with Ministry of Education.** On 14 January, the first coordination meeting in 2025 with the Ministry of Education took place at their office in Anosy. The session provided an opportunity to review the progress of ongoing activities and plan key actions for the next three months.

**New schools and update to school menu.** Building on the training received by the school management committee 'Efforts to improve the effectiveness of local education' (FEFFI) in December 2025, visits to new schools were carried out throughout January to support the implementation of planned activities. Additionally, in the last week of January, a series of working sessions began with the Ministry of Education, National Office of Nutrition, and GRET to update the school menu. These sessions will continue into February.

### Resilience

**Climate Insurance.** 29 Village Savings and Loan Association groups have been established, providing communities with greater financial security and resilience against climate-related risks.

**Smallholder Support.** Training sessions were conducted to implement 70 Farmer Field Schools (CEP), equipping farmers with essential skills. Additionally, 70 lead farmers and three extension agents received specialized training in sustainable agricultural practices. To further enhance productivity, agricultural inputs and equipment were distributed to 60 farmers' organizations and 70 CEP.

**Rural Rapid Transformation (RRT):** Two vegetable cultivation sites were established around RRT sites, promoting food security and sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

**Food for Asset (FFA) activities:** Reforestation zones have been identified in Ankarimbaray and from Vohitsinjo to Vohipeno, contributing to environmental restoration.

### Resource Outlook

**USD 47.5 million** are urgently required for WFP Madagascar to sustain all activities of the Country Strategic Plan between February and July 2025.

### Donors

ECHO, Germany, Madagascar, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, 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.*