



World Food Programme

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Emergency Preparedness and Response in Madagascar

In **emergencies**, WFP provides **unconditional food and cash assistance** to affected people, combined with **anticipatory actions, capacity-building, rapid response** and **nutritional supplementation** for pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, as well as children.



2024 Key Figures



1,306,250 people received unconditional assistance



USD 3.7 million of cash assistance and 16,226 MT of food were distributed to beneficiaries



Country context

Madagascar ranks among the countries most exposed to extreme weather events.

Droughts, cyclones, and economic challenges continue to fuel food insecurity, especially in the **vulnerable regions of the Great South and South-East**.

Since 2024, **irregular rainfall** during the agricultural planting season, coupled with the **impact of five tropical storms and cyclones during the first semester of 2025**, further **strained an already fragile humanitarian context**.

The **El Niño phenomenon** has intensified these challenges, **severely affecting crop yields** and leading to **worsening food insecurity**.

Additionally, **flooding during the harvest period** in the Greater South-East caused **substantial crop losses**, amplifying the effects of the early lean season. **Climate change** is expected to increase both the frequency and severity of these events over time.

According to the **latest IPC analysis**, **1.2 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)** between May and September 2025. For the first time since Cyclone Freddy in 2023, emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) have been recorded among 29,000 people. **Conditions are expected to deteriorate** during the peak of the **lean season (February-April 2026)**, with **110,000 people expected to face IPC Phase 4**.

In Madagascar, WFP implements an **integrated approach to disaster preparedness and response**. This includes:

Emergency Preparedness: Building capacities of government and humanitarian partners, pre-positioning food and logistics supplies and updating contingency plans in close coordination with national institutions (BNGRC, CPGU, DGM).

Anticipatory Actions: Early-warning messages are disseminated, and pre-arranged funding for anticipatory cash transfers near high-risk areas can be rapidly released when trigger thresholds for droughts or cyclones are reached.

Rapid Response: Delivering hot meals or high-energy biscuits within 72 hours of a disaster.

Emergency Food Assistance: Unconditional food and cash assistance are distributed to people affected by droughts or cyclones, typically between October and April.

Prevention of Malnutrition (PREVMA) and Nutritional Supplementation (MAM): Additional food rations or specialized nutritious foods are distributed to children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, in collaboration with the Regional Nutrition Office (ORN).

WFP Emergency Response

Unconditional food and cash assistance for people affected by drought and cyclones

During the lean season, between October and March, WFP provides unconditional food assistance to populations experiencing acute food insecurity, particularly in the Great South and Southeast where prolonged droughts in recent years have significantly worsened living conditions.

Support is also extended to households in areas affected by cyclones and tropical storms, usually in the coastal regions of the Great South-East, including Vatovavy, Fitovinany, and Atsimo Atsinanana, and occasionally in the North, as was the case for cyclone Gamane in 2024.

The standard food basket includes:

- Rice or sorghum
- Pulses
- Vegetable oil

For cash-based assistance, WFP provides 140,000 Ariary (approx. USD 27) per household per month.

Prevention of Malnutrition (PREVMA) and Supplementation for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM):

WFP combines unconditional food assistance with preventive nutrition and supplementation efforts, aligned with WHO guidelines for the treatment of wasting. The programme targets pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG), as well as children aged 6–23 months and 6–59 months suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), due to their heightened vulnerability.

During the lean season, **PREVMA** support is delivered through additional rations and specialized nutritious foods to women and children aged 6-23 months who are already receiving unconditional food assistance.

Throughout the year, **nutrition supplementation for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)** is delivered in cycles of specialized nutritious foods for children aged 6-59 months. Anthropometric screenings are conducted during unconditional distributions to identify children with signs of malnutrition. Severe cases are referred to community health facilities for appropriate treatment and care.

Nutrition assistance is **coupled with social and behavior change communication (SBCC)** activities and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling, targeting both men and women to foster inclusive engagement in child nutrition.

In 2024

- **43,116 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls (PBWG)** and **58,907 children aged 6-23 months** were assisted with PREVMA assistance
- **184,986 children aged 6-59 months** reached with MAM supplementation

Anticipatory Actions

Anticipatory actions are **defined as the anticipation of foreseeable risks to act days, weeks and sometimes even months before a climate shock occurs**, mitigating the impact on food security, lives and livelihoods, and reducing acute humanitarian impacts before they develop.

Anticipatory actions are **delivered in the form of early warning messages, pre-positioned food, and cash that are ready to be distributed once a certain threshold is reached**. Given the predictable and recurrent nature of certain weather hazards in Madagascar, WFP is taking a proactive approach to protect lives and livelihoods more effectively, while reducing the long-term costs of emergency response.

In 2024 - 2025

- **20,003 households** received cash transfers and early warning messages
- **USD 1.5 million** have been disbursed
- **Drought coverage** in 11 communes across 2 districts and cyclone coverage nationwide



United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

UNHAS has **solidified its position as a key partner in delivering humanitarian assistance to Madagascar's most remote regions**, by providing **safe and reliable air transport services to 52 organizations across 22 destinations**. Its **user base includes** UN agencies (55%), NGOs (40%), diplomatic and donor missions (3%), and Red Cross/Red Crescent societies (2%).

In 2025, **UNHAS launched an innovative pilot initiative in humanitarian logistics, utilizing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)** — commonly known as drones — **to deliver small cargo** such as high-energy biscuits, vaccines, medical supplies and shelter kits to hard-to-reach areas.

In 2024

- **3,563 passengers** transported
- **25,988 kg of humanitarian cargo** transported
- **58 special flights and 6 medical evacuations** conducted



Supply Chain, the backbone of WFP's emergency response in Madagascar

The Supply Chain unit is instrumental in enabling WFP to deliver humanitarian assistance across Madagascar, where efficient management of goods and services is crucial to meet the needs of vulnerable communities.

Supply chain operations encompass the planning, procurement, transportation, storage, and distribution of food and humanitarian items to some of the country's most inaccessible and remote areas.

In 2024

The Supply Chain unit handled **a total volume of over 60,000 metric tons**, successfully delivering **nearly 29,000 MT of food commodities** — including rice, pulses, fortified oil, and specialized nutritious products.



Thank you to our partners and donors for their continued support



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