



WFP Madagascar

COUNTRY BRIEF
March 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In February, Madagascar was struck by two successive cyclones — Fytia in the northwest and Gezani in the northeast, both reaching the capital — affecting over 681,000 people and causing widespread destruction.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP's lean season response faced a pipeline break, forcing the suspension of general food distributions for at least two months, even as cyclone impacts compounded the crisis.
- WFP requires USD 37.6 million (March–August 2026) to resume lean season distributions and scale up emergency cyclone assistance, as resources remain insufficient to meet escalating humanitarian needs.

IN NUMBERS



444,022* people assisted in February 2026



41%
Male



59%
Female



4,497 mt food distributed



USD 1,083,222 cash transferred



USD 37,6 M (March – August 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Flooded streets of Toamasina after Cyclone Gezani's landfall, showing the severe impact on homes and infrastructure / WFP/Jerry Andrianaivoarivony.

*Figures as of 26/03 recorded in the system

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Madagascar is a low-income country facing a complex combination of structural vulnerabilities and recurrent climate shocks such as droughts and cyclones. About 80 percent of the population lives below the international poverty line, according to the World Bank's Macro Poverty Outlook (2025). Over three quarters of the population relies on agriculture and generating enough income to exit poverty is beyond their reach due to limited market access and scarce agricultural productivity.
- The latest [IPC](#) analysis (January 2026) projects 1.8 million people in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3+) by April 2026, while the capital Antananarivo faces rising urban food insecurity. Alarming, severe funding shortfalls are forcing a scale-down of assistance at the peak of the lean season (Feb–Apr 2026), increasing the risk of malnutrition and irreversible negative coping strategies. Pipeline breaks have already led WFP to suspend general food distributions for at least two months, just as cyclone impacts further intensify humanitarian needs.
- In response, WFP promotes an integrated approach that links humanitarian action, climate adaptation, and development investments to ensure sustained access to nutritious food before, during, and after crises. This includes providing nutritious school meals to children in vulnerable communities, scaling integrated malnutrition prevention for women, adolescent girls, and children, and strengthening the resilience of smallholder households. Interventions addressing both chronic and acute needs are underpinned by strengthened emergency preparedness and response capacities.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Emergency Preparedness & Response

- On 9 February, Madagascar activated its first anticipatory action ahead of Cyclone Gezani on the east coast. WFP provided two months of cash assistance to 3,150 vulnerable people and sent early warning messages to 5,260 individuals, the country's first successful cash delivery before a cyclone's landfall. WFP also contributed to the annual review of the Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (GTAA), which updated the group's plan and prepared the 2026 agenda. This strengthened coordination and set the stage for an After-Action Review of the current cyclonic season.
- After landfall, under the coordination of the National Office for Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC), WFP assisted over 50,000 people, including those in shelters, through cash and in-kind distributions, with priority support for vulnerable groups.
- In the South and Southeast, WFP's operations were challenged by a pipeline break, leaving food assistance for 560,000 people on standby until stocks are replenished. Despite this, malnutrition prevention activities for 70,750 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) have continued. Regarding Food for Assets (FFA) activities under the Early Recovery programme, WFP completed final cash distributions in February for 14,000 people across four communes in the South, marking the conclusion of the intervention.

Nutrition

- In February, WFP shared with the National Nutrition Office (ONN) the results of the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis. This contribution aimed to foster national ownership and strengthen collective understanding of the nutrition context. The study produced 11 key messages that highlight major nutrition challenges in Madagascar and call for multisectoral engagement, providing a solid basis for Government advocacy and for tailoring interventions more effectively to the national context.
- Two field missions were also conducted in the South-East, both focusing on nutrition and resilience. A joint visit by WFP and UNICEF assessed progress and reinforced regional coordination, with recommendations to strengthen collaboration and local ownership. In parallel, the Ambassador of France emphasized the contribution of community platforms for malnutrition prevention and care, notably FARNE centres (community-based centres for nutrition education and support) and community vegetable gardens — as key milestones in building community resilience. The missions reinforced donor accountability, boosted local engagement, and created momentum for stronger partnerships.

School-Based Assistance

- Madagascar has finalized the 2026 National Roadmap for Home-Grown School Feeding (HGFS), led by the Ministry of Education (MEN) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MINAE). In line with it, WFP participated in the Steering Committee on Food, Nutrition, and School Health (COPILANSS), which adopted a 2026 work plan. This update renewed membership and clarified roles, fostering stronger ownership of its implementation. A decree will make these frameworks official by March.
- To strengthen accountability in HGFS, WFP and the MEN promoted the 930 toll-free hotline under the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM), a national channel for communities

to share concerns or suggestions. Two new feedback tools will also be piloted in ten schools: a confidential letter box for sensitive issues and a token-based voting system to gather opinions on school meals.

- Following the African School Feeding Day (JAAS) in Botswana, Madagascar will host its own national JAAS in the capital in March 2026, organized by the MEN to promote nutrition education and engage the private sector.

Social Protection

- In February, WFP reaffirmed its support to the Ministry of Population and Solidarity (MPS) in advancing the Unique Social Registry (RSU), Madagascar's national database of vulnerable households. In the eastern region, recently struck by Cyclone Gezani, WFP supported household data collection to expand this registry. This work directly supports government efforts to strengthen social management tools while creating stronger links between emergency interventions and national systems, ensuring that humanitarian action progressively builds on more solid and sustainable mechanisms.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

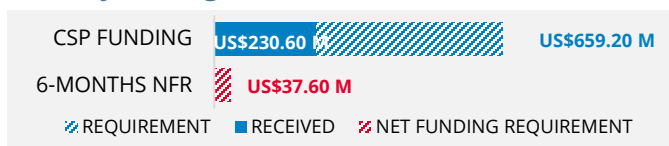
- Under the Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) programme, WFP signed the Annual Work Plan and Budget (PTBA) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and designated national focal points, reinforcing coordination and institutional anchoring.
- On the ground, over 18,000 producers and peasants received training and support on composting and good agricultural practices, with 95 composting units installed. Complementary actions included providing meteorological data to fishers in southwest Madagascar and identifying new Farmer Field Schools in the Grand Southeast, strengthening preparedness against climate shocks.

UN Humanitarian Air Services

- In February, UNHAS Madagascar enabled a swift humanitarian response to Cyclone Gezani, setting up additional flights to Toamasina to deploy multisectoral assessment teams and transport 98 passengers and 806 kg of cargo.
- Over the month, UNHAS facilitated the movement of 308 passengers and 3.6 tons of cargo for 32 organizations across Madagascar, ensuring partners could reach affected areas and deliver assistance.
- UNHAS also reinforced collaboration by convening its User Group and Steering Committee meetings, reviewing 2025 achievements, presenting the passenger satisfaction survey, and aligning partners on the 2026 action plan.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)



Donors since 2025:

EU ECHO, EU INTPA, France, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, United States of America.