



## WFP MADAGASCAR

### COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026



**554,709<sup>1</sup>** people assisted in March 2026  
(52% female)



**2.179 mt** food distributed in March 2026



**USD 1.22 M** cash transferred in March 2026



**USD 28.4M** required in the next six months  
(April – September 2026)

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In March, WFP's lean season response faced a pipeline break, forcing a reduction in unconditional assistance. Despite this, prevention of acute malnutrition continued, reaching 38,593 children under 23 months and 32,159 pregnant and lactating women, with activities planned until the end of June.
- Following cyclones Gezani in the northeast and Fytia in the northwest, in March, WFP's cyclone emergency response reached over 160,000 people with multipurpose cash transfers to support recovery and strengthen food security in affected regions.
- To sustain lean season distributions and scale up cyclone recovery assistance, WFP requires USD 28.4 million (April–September 2026), as current resources remain insufficient to meet escalating humanitarian needs.

<sup>1</sup> Figures as of 30/04 recorded in the system

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Madagascar remains a low-income country grappling with structural vulnerabilities and recurrent climate shocks, including droughts and cyclones. About 80 percent of the population lives below the international poverty line, according to the [World Bank's Macro Poverty Outlook \(2025\)](#). With more than three quarters of households dependent on agriculture, limited market access and low productivity continue to trap families in poverty and heighten their exposure to climatic and economic shocks.
- The latest IPC analysis [projected](#) 1.8 million people in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3+) by April 2026, while the capital Antananarivo faced 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 continues to promote 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

Reporting Period: March 2026

**Photo Caption & Credit:** Awareness and guidance for cash transfer beneficiaries in Antetetzambaro, Toamasina WFP/ Jerry Andrianaivoarivony

integrated malnutrition prevention for women, adolescent girls, and children, and strengthening the resilience of smallholder households. These efforts are underpinned by strengthened emergency preparedness and response capacities, aligning with the [WFP Madagascar Country Strategic Plan](#) and contributing to national priorities for food security and resilience.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### General Food Assistance

- In March, WFP significantly reduced its interventions due to a pipeline break affecting lean season unconditional assistance. Despite this constraint, prevention of acute malnutrition was maintained in lean season areas, reaching 38,593 children under 23 months and 32,159 pregnant and breastfeeding women, with activities planned to continue until the end of June to safeguard the most vulnerable groups.
- At the same time, WFP is continuing the emergency response to cyclones. To date, 103,125 people in the northeastern region affected by cyclone Gezani (Toamasina II and Brickaville, Atsinanana region) and 58,285 people in the northwestern region affected by cyclone Fytia (Mampikony District, Sofia region) have been reached with multipurpose cash transfers and malnutrition prevention support. These interventions aim to help households recover from shocks and strengthen food security, while ensuring continuity of nutrition support in areas most at risk.

### Nutrition

- In March, WFP contributed to the annual review of the United Nations Cooperation Framework under Strategic Priority 2: *Ensuring the development of human capital*. The outcomes will guide the 2026 focus, ensuring nutrition interventions remain aligned with national priorities and UN commitments.
- Together with UNICEF, WFP advanced key initiatives. The Magnvasoa project, a large-scale nutrition and resilience programme, held its mid-term review, generating recommendations to improve technical quality, strengthen coordination, and guide the next phase.

Meanwhile, the Joint Action to Stop Wasting (JASW) pilot, co-led with the Ministry of Health and the National Office of Nutrition (ONN), convened stakeholders to assess progress, identify corrective measures, and reinforce coordination mechanisms — helping services reach vulnerable populations, particularly children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women, more effectively through health facilities and community platforms.

- The month also marked the closure workshop of PARN II, a national program to improve nutrition outcomes funded by the World Bank. The event shared lessons learned and highlighted innovations implemented by WFP, such as solar hubs linked to Community Nutrition and Rehabilitation Learning Centres (FARNE), strengthening resilience by positioning beneficiaries as active partners in tackling malnutrition locally.

### School-Based Assistance

- In March, a World Bank oversight mission visited southeastern Madagascar to review WFP's home-grown school feeding activities under the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP). The mission highlighted the strong performance of women-led institutions in managing school feeding and set five priority actions to strengthen the School Meals Programme: reinforce school management through joint coaching missions with the Regional Directorate of National Education, improve nutrition with menu development and fortified flour, promote the use of improved stoves, establish a model school garden with small livestock, and formalize local partnerships with farmer groups. These measures are designed to improve school meal delivery, diversify diets, and build stronger links with local food systems, ultimately supporting children's attendance, retention, and learning outcomes.

### Social Protection

- In March, WFP supported the strengthening of Madagascar's national social protection system by facilitating complementary data collection for the Unique Social Registry (RSU). This intervention enabled the registration of an additional 17,367 households, significantly expanding geographic coverage and improving data quality. With WFP's

cumulative contributions, the RSU now includes 1,848,287 households, reinforcing the Government's and partners' capacity to better target vulnerable populations and advancing progress toward a more shock-responsive and inclusive national social protection system.

## Resilience and Livelihood Support

- In March, WFP implemented Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities in Morombe District, southwest Madagascar, supporting 2,000 beneficiaries (40 percent women). Between February and March, communities rehabilitated 57 km of irrigation canals, enabling irrigation of about 5,000 hectares of agricultural land. These works improved water management, strengthened climate resilience, and enhanced agricultural production. To ensure sustainability, a Management Committee (COGES) of 23 Water Users Association leaders was established to maintain the infrastructure, with tools handed over to support ongoing maintenance. Overall, the intervention created vital community assets and reinforced resilience, climate adaptation, and sustainable agricultural livelihoods in a highly vulnerable area.

## UN Humanitarian Air Services

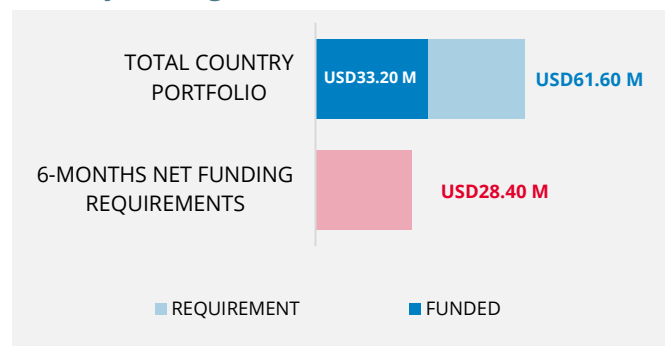
- In March, UNHAS restored air connectivity in southern Madagascar by completing the rehabilitation of the Ambovombe and Bekily airstrips. This intervention ended a two-month suspension caused by runway deterioration from adverse weather, enabling flights to safely resume and strengthening operational capacity in the region.
- To reinforce user engagement, a meeting was convened in Ambovombe on 25 March, gathering feedback, clarifying service updates, and aligning operations with local needs.
- Throughout the month, UNHAS supported 29 organizations, operated flights to 8 destinations, and transported 224 passengers alongside 3,074 kg of cargo—ensuring reliable access for humanitarian partners and critical supplies.

## Ensuring human dignity after floods in Antananarivo

- Cyclones Gezani and Fytia struck eastern and north-western Madagascar in January and February, but heavy rains also affected the capital Antananarivo, where vulnerable families in flood-prone areas had to seek refuge in temporary shelters.
- Vero Rasoanandrasana, 51, lives in the capital with her husband and two of her children. Her small food business was affected by the flooding, as the rising water damaged her business and forced her to close, leaving her without income. She continues earning a modest living as a laundress, but opportunities remain scarce. "When there is nothing to put on the table, food assistance becomes a lifeline," Vero says.
- Following the floods, WFP provided her with rice and fortified biscuits. This assistance gave her and her family a moment of peace and dignity amid hardship, as they did not have to worry about where their next meal comes from.

## 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.

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