



# WFP Madagascar Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

WFP in Madagascar implements two main programmes: the Country Programme (development) and the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO).

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200733 (Mar. 2015- Dec. 2019)	69 m	22.8m (33%)	2.8 m (34%)

\*February 2017 – July 2017

The Country Programme (CP) is implemented in the southern areas of Madagascar and in vulnerable urban areas of Antananarivo, Tamatave (east) and Tulear (south-west). The CP has three components: school feeding to encourage access to primary education; nutrition support to vulnerable groups; and enhance local farmers’ access to agricultural markets.

**School feeding programme:** As part of the School Feeding programme, WFP supports school children in the South and in urban areas of Antananarivo, Tamatave and Tulear in January. This programme aims to improve children’s access to education in food insecure areas with low educational indicators. In the South, the school feeding programme acts as a safety net, transferring income in form of food to communities, helping reduce the adoption of negative coping strategies, such as taking children out of school during the lean season.

**Nutrition:** Supporting the National Office for Nutrition, WFP provides supplementary feeding for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and the prevention of stunting. As the pilot phase of the project demonstrated significant impact on stunting prevention, in 2016, a joint UN extension of the project for three years (2017-2019) was signed by the Prime Minister. Resources are to be mobilized for the implementation of this activity.

**Support to market access:** Based on the “Purchase for Progress initiative” (P4P), this programme supports farmers’ access to agricultural markets by purchasing their surplus production. Farmers’ organizations receive technical assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and are provided with high quality and drought-resistant seeds by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In the south, 4,000 farmers benefit from P4P.

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Riana Ravoala  
Caption: Children having their meal in a WFP supported school, south of Madagascar.

# Highlights

- Madagascar’s southern regions continue to endure the effects of a prolonged drought, aggravated by the effects of El Niño.
- In January, despite operational challenges and access issues related to poor road conditions, WFP continued its drought emergency response to meet the increasing needs of disaster-affected communities through food and cash-based unconditional assistance and nutrition support.
- While the southern regions experienced rainfall in December and January, prospects for harvesting sufficient crops during the next season remain uncertain. Therefore, WFP plans to extend its emergency response in the south until the end of April 2017.
- WFP is facing a shortfall for its ongoing emergency response. Funding requirements for the period March to June 2017 stand at 15.9 million.

Response to Natural Disasters	Total Requirements (in USD)*	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200735 (Jan. 2015- June 2017)	112 m	54.4 m (48%)	33.6 m (95%)

\*As per the PRRO budget revision 2

\*February 2017 - July 2017

## The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation

(PRRO) is implemented in the drought-affected southern areas of the country. It aims to provide relief food assistance to food insecure communities through a combination of food and cash-based modalities, supplementary feeding for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and to support populations’ resilience and recovery from the impact of drought through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA). Since November 2016, WFP significantly increased the scale of its emergency response. Depending on the accessibility of markets in drought-affected areas, WFP continues to adjust its assistance to better meet the basic needs of communities, such as the provision of unconditional cash-based assistance. During the remaining months of the lean season, WFP aims to assist 1 million people in the most drought affected districts of southern Madagascar. Given the uncertainty that most households face regarding the next harvest season, WFP may extend its unconditional food and cash-based assistance until April. After the harvest season, WFP will focus on early recovery and livelihood support activities to strengthen the resilience of disaster-affected communities.

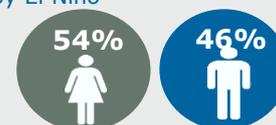
**Country Strategic Plan 2017:** Following the approval of WFP’s Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021) focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), an Integrated Road Map (IRM) has been developed to guide all WFP operations. To this end, WFP Madagascar is in the process of developing its Interim Country Strategy Plan which is due to begin in June 2017 and its Country Strategy Plan which will be implemented from January 2018 onwards.

## In Numbers

**1.2 million** People affected by El Niño

**531,023** People assisted in January

**192,759** children received school meals in January



January 2017

## Operational Updates

**WFP Response to the Drought in the South:** In January 2017, 518,313 people from the seven most severely affected districts received unconditional support from WFP through a combination of food and cash-based assistance.

Given the deteriorated nutritional status of affected populations, nutrition support (treatment and prevention of moderate acute malnutrition - MAM) was provided to 32,367 children under five years of age and pregnant and breastfeeding women as part of the MAM treatment component, and 12,710 children under 2 years of age under the preventive component.

In January, 192,759 children from 1,066 schools in the southern areas received school meals, despite delays encountered in food deliveries due to operational challenges. In February, WFP aims to continue its assistance to disaster-affected populations in form of unconditional food distributions (food and cash), nutrition support (treatment and prevention of MAM), school meals and protection rations provided to the families of children who are enrolled in the MAM treatment programme.

## Challenges

In close collaboration with the authorities, nutrition stakeholders and other humanitarian actors, WFP continues to provide support to drought-affected populations of southern Madagascar throughout the hunger peak which is expected to last until April, when communities will begin collecting their harvests. WFP is currently examining the possibility of extending its unconditional relief assistance in the south until the end of April. Food security and nutrition assessments are planned to be conducted in order to evaluate the needs of affected populations and define the extent of assistance beyond April 2017.

Since the beginning of the drought emergency, the international donor community has enhanced its support to WFP operations. While the protracted relief and recovery operation has been well funded, logistics and implementation challenges including road conditions and long commodity lead times, have slowed down the pace of operations. WFP Madagascar's 6 month net funding requirement (March – June 2017) for continuing its ongoing emergency response operation stands at USD 15.9 million.

Heavy rainfall in late December and early January has affected access and hampered food deliveries. However, with decreased rainfall during the second half of January the pace of food deliveries has slightly improved. Nevertheless, transport costs have increased due to poor road conditions.

Technical constraints faced by the service providers affected the implementation of unconditional cash-based assistance. The CO has undertaken mitigation measures such as increasing the number of service providers to ensure that beneficiaries receive assistance in a timely manner. Through the engagement of these service providers, WFP will be able to more consistently support disaster-affected populations through cash-based assistance during the period preceding the cropping season. WFP Madagascar is also in the process of establishing a beneficiary feedback hotline as well as a third-party complaint mechanism.

## Country Background & Strategy



Despite vast potential, Madagascar has experienced, over the past decades, a stagnation in per capita income coupled with a rise in poverty: 92 percent of its estimated 23 million people live below the international poverty line.

Madagascar has experienced several political crises since independence in 1960. The latest (2009-2013) negatively affected government institutional capacity, economic growth and social development efforts. It also reduced vulnerable people's access to basic services and their ability to prevent and recover from frequent shocks.

Madagascar is one of the ten countries most vulnerable to natural disasters affecting communities' food and nutrition security. Five million people live in areas highly prone to cyclones, floods or drought. These risks are exacerbated by climate change and the El Niño phenomenon.

In January 2016, the food security assessment mission indicated that 80 percent of the population in the seven most affected districts are severely food insecure. Most households have exhausted their food stocks and are dedicating their remaining resources exclusively to procuring food.

WFP's Country Strategy for 2015-2019 focuses on:

- 1) Providing emergency assistance to disaster affected communities and increasing their resilience to shocks;
- 2) Improving access to basic social services and safety nets;
- and 3) Strengthening access to markets for small farmers.

Strengthening national capacity and supporting the development of national programmes, policies and action plans are WFP priorities in Madagascar.

WFP has been present in Madagascar since 1968.

Population: **23 million**

2015 Human Development Index:  
**154 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **47.3 % of children between 6-59 months**

**Donors:** African Development Bank, Andorra, Australia, Canada, European Union, Estonia, Finland, France, Global Partnership for Education (through the World Bank), Japan, Monaco, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, UK and USAID

**Country Director:** Moumini Ouedraogo

**Contact info:** Moumini.Ouedraogo@wfp.org

**Further information:** [www.wfp.org/Countries/Madagascar](http://www.wfp.org/Countries/Madagascar)