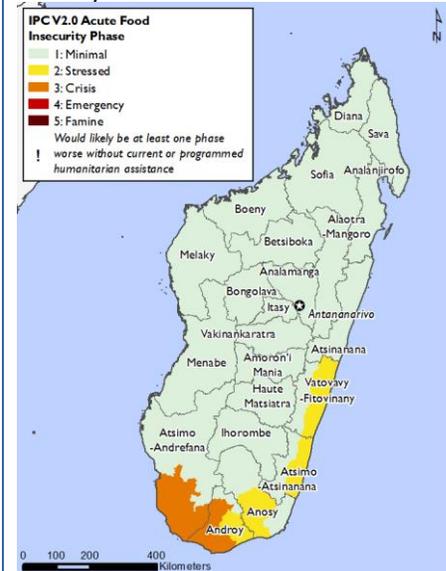


*Rainfall deficits in southwestern Madagascar and flooding in southeastern Madagascar disrupt agriculture*

**KEY MESSAGES**

- The northern half of Madagascar received above average rainfall during the 2017/2018 rainy season 2017/2018 but the southern half received below average rainfall. A deficit was particularly seen in the southwest, including the Tsiribihini Delta production area that is a major food supplier to southern Madagascar, which received only 55 percent of average rainfall between October 2017 and February 2018.
- The southwest was also the first area infested by Fall Army Worm (FAW) in November 2017. According to the Plant Protection Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, FAW is currently detected in 18 regions out of 22, and is infesting approximately 5 percent of maize fields in Madagascar. A joint assessment will be conducted by FAO and this Department to assess the extent of infested fields and damages to crops in late February 2018.
- In the highlands, farmers were affected by floods caused by Cyclone Ava at the beginning of 2018 and are still in the recovery process after the loss of much of their main season crops. They are trying to transplant rice again, but availability of young plants is limited following the low production last year.
- In recent months, prices of rice stabilized at the highest level ever seen in Madagascar, due to low market supply despite the December-January harvest period and the continued depreciation of the Malagasy Ariary. In January 2018, prices of local rice were near 50 percent above the 5-year average which made access difficult for poor and middle-income households in Madagascar. Poor households switched to less preferred staple foods like dried cassava or imported rice, whereas middle income households reduced non-food expenditures to meet their food needs.
- The Southwest is experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes as below normal rainfall compromised poor farmers' livelihoods and reduced their tuber production. The Southeast was hit by Cyclone Ava in January and is still recovering from last season's unusual dryness and is currently experiencing Stressed (IPC Phase 2). In the Extreme South, although the eastern part of the zone received near normal rainfall, the western part received below normal rainfall and agricultural planting was affected; a situation worse than in 2017 but better than during the El-Nino episodes in previous years. Some households in this zone will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and others in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from February to May 2018.

Current food security outcomes for February 2018



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

## NATIONAL OVERVIEW

### Current Situation

### Seasonal progress

**Progression of the rainy season:** The northern half of Madagascar received above average rainfall during the 2017/2018 rainy season. This was favorable for agriculture, but the occurrence of floods was also high. Even before Cyclone Ava, which hit the island in January 2018, the Southeast (Farafangana and Vangaindrano) was already experienced flooding. However, the southern half of the country received below average rainfall. The Southwest (Morondava and Morombe) received only 55 percent of normal rainfall between October 2017 and February 2018, even though flooding from heavy rainfall was also reported there in mid-February.

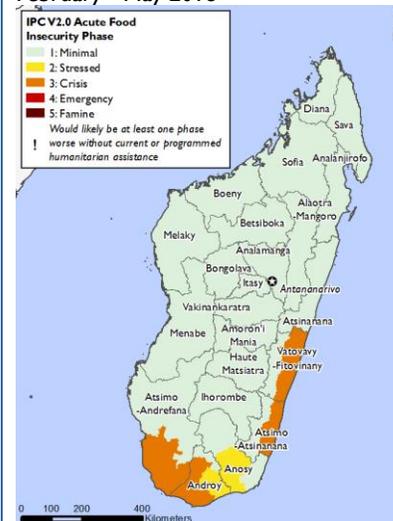
**Cropped areas:** Above average rainfall in recent months was favorable to the increase in cropped areas in the Highlands. Rice fields were increased compared to the previous year with the promotion of rainfed technics. According to Ministry of Agriculture figures, Vakinankaratra and Itasy Regions are now the main rice granaries of Madagascar, producing in total about 40 percent of the national production. Moreover, rainfed rice as well as cassava and maize fields were less affected by floods caused by Cyclone Ava in January 2018, which mainly damaged lowland crops. Farmers affected by this flooding are still recovering from the loss of their main season crops and are trying to transplant rice again, but the supply of young plants is limited following the bad production last year.

**Export cash crops:** Coffee and Vanilla production was reduced last year because of dryness in the southeast and eastern part of Madagascar and Cyclone ENAWO in the northeast. Coffee exports decreased, and domestic supply could not meet the external demand, which drove local prices four times above average. Vanilla prices also peaked last year reaching 700 US Dollars per kilogram in June/July 2017. This year, the cropping season for vanilla seems to be good: rainfall was favorable, and no cyclone has hit MG 02, where vanilla is mainly produced. Currently, one kilogram of vanilla costs around 340 US Dollars farmgate. Farmers sold their vanilla crops early this year because they were afraid of a price crash since many invested in this crop after the high prices in recent years. Some clove producing areas in eastern Madagascar were damaged by Cyclone Ava, however this will likely not have an impact on national production this year because the number of clove plants have increased in the past years and the new plants will begin bearing fruit this year.

**Crop production:** The harvest of first season rice took place from November 2017 until January 2018. Globally, production was better than last year and near normal in the Central Highlands and other main producing areas thanks to the good rain, land access, and the availability of seeds and labor. However, first season rice in Southeastern was compromised by the low availability of seeds after the dryness conditions experienced last year and the week of flooding caused by Cyclone Ava. According to the post-cyclone assessment undertaken by the Food Security and Livelihood in end-January, less than 20 percent of first production rice was damaged in affected areas.

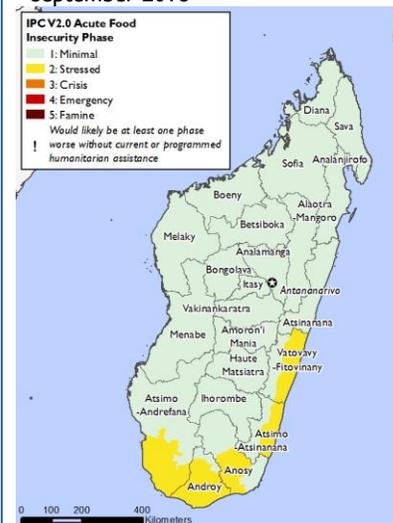
**Livestock herds and prices:** Livestock herds are slightly reduced in Southern Madagascar because of increasing livestock sales since January. Prices decreased by 20 percent compared to the end of 2017.

Projected food security outcomes, February - May 2018



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, June - September 2018



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

## Markets and trade

**Rice imports:** In 2017, rice production decreased by 700,000 MT compared to 2016 whereas rice imports increased by 320,000 MT. The 570,000 MT expected to be imported at the beginning of 2018 was reached as traders were able to find sufficient quantities in the global market as global production also increased in 2017 and global prices were stable. The weakness of the Ariary against the US Dollar drove local prices of imported rice to above average levels.

**Market supply:** Road washouts following Cyclone Ava along RN7, that connects Antananarivo to the South, and RN12, that links Fianarantsoa and the Southeast, as well as on smaller roads, disrupted market supply routes for about one week. As a result, fresh meat from the Ambalavao market in the south was missing from Antananarivo markets for two weeks. Additionally, imported rice, dried cassava, and other necessary products from Fianarantsoa could not reach the Southeast. Recently- harvested local rice from rural communes could not reach the main market in this district throughout this period. Therefore, markets in the southeast were functioning but food availability was strained. Once roads were repaired, supply levels returned to normal.

**Prices:** The average price of imported rice (OdR) in 15 markets in mid-January 2018, was similar to December 2017 prices. Prices increased 16 percent compared to last year and are 33 percent above the 5-year average. Price decreases were noted in January in the South, while in most of the country prices remained stable, except for Vangaindrano market where road washouts led to price increases.

Average prices of local rice have also stabilized throughout the country, though compared to last year they have increased by 38 percent and are 48 percent above the 5-year average.

Prices for maize are also stable but are still 19 percent higher than last year and 26 percent higher than the 5-year average particularly in deficit areas such as Antananarivo, Beloha, Tsihombe, Tulear II, Fianarantsoa, Farafangana and Mananjary.

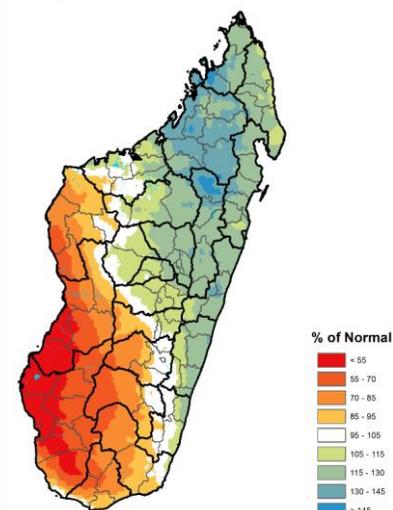
Prices for dried cassava are 5 percent higher than in December 2017 in markets where it is still sold, and prices tend to be similar to last year and the 5-year average as production is near normal in most parts of Madagascar. The number of market selling dried cassava is the same as last month and supply is still stable even though supply is beginning to decrease. Dried cassava and cassava flour from Ambalavao and Ankaramena, are still well-supplied in markets of the Southeast (MG 19) where locally produced food was in deficit this year, but demand for cassava products is decreasing with the new harvest of rice becoming available.

Sweet potatoes are found in the same number of markets as in January. However, prices increased by 9 percent compared to December 2017 as stocks exhausted. Prices particularly increased in Tsihombe, Tulear I and the Southeast where Cyclone Ava damaged crops that were still in the field. Prices decreased in Antananarivo and Fianarantsoa where small harvests have taken place, but overall, prices are near the 5-year average and 6 percent higher than last year suggesting a near average supply currently in markets.

## Other key factors

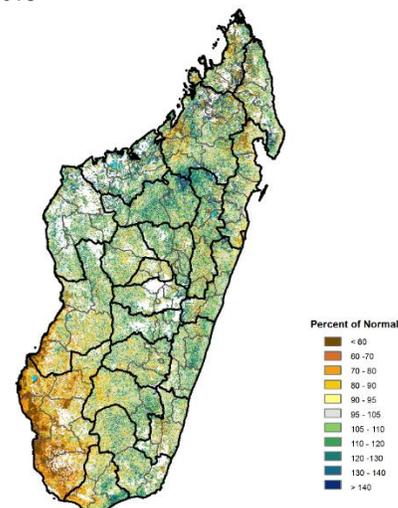
**Humanitarian assistance:** Food distribution is ongoing in communes declared to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) by the latest National IPC. CRS received 1,870 MT of sorghum in mid-February that will be distributed in Southern Madagascar via their Havelo program, targeting 6,812 Households in the district of Beloha (communes of Marolinta and Tranovaho); and Tsihombe

**Figure 1.** CHIRPS Anomaly Oct 2017 – Feb 2018



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

**Figure 2.** NDVI Anomaly Dekadal Feb-10, 2018



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

(Communes of Antaritarika, Anjampaly and Marovato), which will cover about 41 percent of the households living in those communes.

### Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the February to September 2018 period is based on the following national level assumptions:

- **Remaining rainy season:** According to NMME probabilistic forecasts the remaining rainy season is expected to be average to above-average in most of Madagascar with the exception of the west/southwest of the country that has experienced drought conditions so far in the 2017/2018 rainy season. The risk of flooding remains high in northern Madagascar within the outlook period.

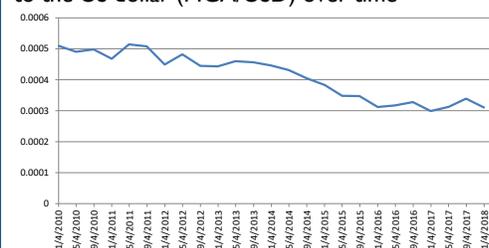
- **Agricultural Production:** Rice transplantation for main season production will likely continue until March. The main harvest is expected to begin in May and will likely be better than last year with sufficient rains in main producing areas but still below average due to cyclone impact in central and eastern parts, and due to dryness in southwestern parts. Maize grain is expected to be available in March-April. National production will likely be higher than last year and near normal, particularly in the central highlands due to the expansion of cultivated areas, but still near zero in southern areas. Fresh cassava harvest will start in April in Southern highlands, Extreme South and Southeast and production will likely be better than last year, and near normal, thanks to better weather conditions.

- **Macroeconomic context and imports:** A decrease of rice imports compared to last year is expected within the outlook period due to the depreciation of the Ariary/US Dollar exchange rate and the higher domestic rice production. Normal quantities of rice will likely be imported, about 150,000 MT of rice between January and May 2018, during the lean season in deficit areas such as the South, the Southeast and the main cities. Imports will decrease to around 53,000 MT between June and September 2018 with the coming main rice harvest.

- **Staple food prices:** According to FEWS NET price projections, prices of maize in the Extreme South of Madagascar will be near normal due to the slight increase of production. It will likely decrease in March with the coming harvests to be around 640 Ariary/kilo in June. Prices of cassava will continue increasing until February and start decreasing in April when new harvests will start. Prices of imported rice will likely be stable between February and April even during the first harvest of rice and other staple cereals. It will decrease starting in May with the coming harvest of local rice but will remain above normal at 1,500 Ariary/kg. Overall, prices of local rice will likely remain above normal. In the Southeast, imported rice prices will likely be stable at the above 1,850 Ariary/kg until May 2018 because of below normal and irregular supply in the area. In Antananarivo, the reference market of urban cities, the price of imported rice will likely decrease slowly starting February but will remain at above normal levels, over 2,250 Ariary/kg until June.

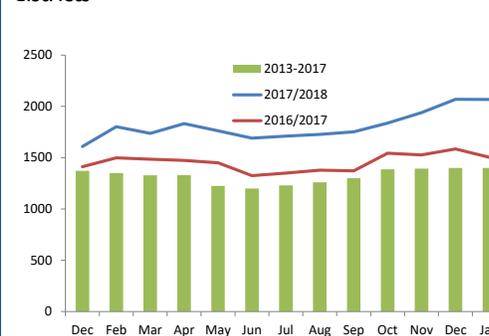
- **Wild Food consumption:** Consumption of wild foods will likely increase during from February to May 2018 which coincides with the early beginning of the lean season (March instead of April) in the Southeast, and the middle/end of the lean season in the South. Consumption of cactus fruit and green watermelon will increase in the districts of Tsihombe and Beloha where maize and pulse harvests will be late and below normal. In the Southeast, poor households will likely eat more green breadfruit and green jackfruit to compensate for the food gap created by high prices and low availability of rice, particularly due to the loss of Hosity rice during Cyclone Ava, and low incomes restricting access to dried cassava, and cassava flour imported from other regions (Haute Matsiatra), which is an unusual food specific to the 2018 lean season. Wild food consumption will likely decrease from June to September 2018, after the main harvest.

**Figure 3.** Value of the Malagasy Ariary compared to the US dollar (MGA/USD) over time



Source: Central Bank of Madagascar

**Figure 4.** Average local rice prices in 22 districts



Source: OdR and FEWSNET

- Humanitarian Assistance:** Humanitarian assistance in the South will be more concentrated in resilience activities. However, emergency assistance will be available in the Southeast which suffered from dryness last year, followed by Cyclone Ava this year. In the Southeast, communes benefiting from humanitarian assistance will likely be those affected by the floods of recent months. Mid-term assistance will cover Mananjary and Nosy Varika, the most vulnerable districts in the zone. Around 600,000 persons are in need in those districts, which is less than 25 percent of the total population.

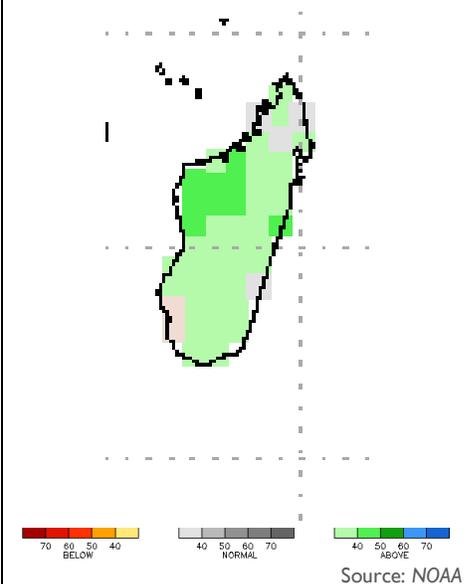
### Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Households throughout Madagascar, despite high prices of local rice, households will continue to have relatively normal access to food but with preference for cheaper foods. As a result, most of the country will continue to experience **Minimal (IPC Phase 1)** acute food insecurity throughout the outlook period with some pocket of **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** in urban areas due to the high prices of rice and the lean season.

In the Southeast: coffee, litchis, cassava (MG 19), Many households are currently accessing staple food direct from their own harvests since they have recently harvested rice and sweet potatoes and some are still harvesting production not damaged by the floods. Nonetheless, some very poor households have depleted their stocks and are now relying on the markets. Prices of rice are also above normal this year. Cyclone Ava passed through the southeast in early January and aggravated the situation, provoking a second series of floods more severe than those at the end of 2017. The area is in **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity in February 2018**. Between March and May, food consumption will deteriorate as very poor will be depleting their remaining own stocks. During the same period, some very poor will be already facing food consumption gaps. Consumption of wild foods will be intensified. Incomes will slowly deteriorate as after the rice transplanting and coffee weeding; labor opportunities will decrease and by May very poor households will have limited incomes. Very poor households will employ coping strategies like intensifying basketry or relying on borrowing food/remittances between March and May. Thus, people will likely not easily meet their food needs and will likely face **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between March and May 2018**. From June onwards, very poor and poor households will begin to face fewer food consumption gaps with the coming harvests. Low staple prices and more income from rice, coffee and cassava harvesting and cassava planting in August will result in better purchasing power thereby tightening the food consumption gap. Coffee production, expected in June, will likely be near normal due to favorable rainfall, which in turn will provide near normal incomes to households. Therefore, most households in this livelihood zone will experience **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes again between June and September 2018**.

In the Mahafaly Plain: Cassava, Goats and Cattle (MG 23), the reduced consumption of own produced tubers supplemented by expensive purchased foods made it difficult for poor household to meet their food needs. They are coping by consuming more wild foods. Some migration was also noticed despite the rainy season normally keeping farmers at home to tend to agricultural activities. The prevalence of GAM was below emergency levels in the area with some pockets of severe undernutrition in Itampolo (Ampanihy Districts) and Andranomangatsiaka (District of Betioky), according to the UNICEF and MoH. Therefore, poor and very poor households in MG23 will likely experience **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity in February 2018**. Between March and May, food consumption will improve as the very poor will be able to access green maize and pulses from the new harvest. Consumption of wild foods will reduce but will still provide an important food source for poor households. Sales of wild foods will also reduce but will still likely contribute significantly to income for poor households. But below average agricultural production is expected, which will also reduce cash income for poor households to meet non-food needs. GAM prevalence will likely remain between 7 and 8 percent according to past reference years so the zone may remain in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between March and May 2018**. From June onwards, staple consumption will improve with the availability of stocks from harvests and the resulting lower market prices. Food gaps will be reduced but will remain present because of the expected below average harvests and lower than usual household income. For poor households, activities related to agricultural will be intensified. Most households in this livelihood zone will experience **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes between June and September 2018**.

**Figure 5.** NMME Forecast March to May 2018



In [Androy Semi-Arid Cassava, Maize and Livestock \(MG 24\)](#), the eastern part of the zone received near normal rainfall and farmers there were able to plant maize and sweet potatoes. However, the western part of the zone received below normal rainfall and was not able to plant normally, leading to a situation worse than in 2017 but better than during the El-Nino episodes of previous years. Therefore, households in the western part of this zone will be in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** and the eastern part in **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity from February to May 2018**, and then will be in **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from June to September 2018** with the coming harvest.

## AREAS OF CONCERN

### **Southeast: Coffee, Litchi, Cassava (MG 19)**

This area covers the southeastern littoral fringe of Madagascar with steep slope mountains. It covers 6 districts: Vangaindrano, Farafangana, Manakara, Vohipeno, Mananjary and Nosy Varika. The area is rich in fish resources, precious wood and mineral resources (gold, precious stones, and ilmenite). Rainfall varies from 1700 to 3500 mm per year with humidity of 80 per cent between November and March. The area is characterized by two seasons: a warmer season called Vatomandry or Tsipala from December to May and a Hosy drier season from June to November. Agricultural plots are relatively small but geographically dispersed because of the topography and the availability of water. Main cash crops are coffee, cloves, litchi, vanilla and pepper meant to export to other regions or to Indonesia.

#### *Current Situation*

**Staple crop production:** Own crop production is contributing to food availability for households in the zone. There are two seasons of rice in LHZ 19. The first is “Hosy rice”, planted upland in August and harvested in December. Limited areas are allocated for that season and production only contributes to 20 percent of total production in the agricultural year. The second one “Vatomandry rice”, is planted in January and harvested in June. Households harvested first season of rice (vary hosy) in December 2017. It was below normal because of lack of seeds after the bad main season last year due to dryness in the beginning of 2017. However, it was slightly better than last year thanks to good rainfall since April 2017. By February 2018, many households had depleted their rice stores. Total rice production in the area was estimated at near 54,000 MT in 2016/2017. It was 65 percent lower than last year and 70 percent below five-year average.

Cassava is the second most popular staple grown in the area, planted in September and harvested between April and next September. Cassava crops suffered from the lack of rain at the early stages of their development at the end of 2016. As a result, household stocks depleted earlier than usual and currently households have no stocks of cassava remaining from the harvest. Sweet potatoes are the third most popular staple in the zone. There are also two seasons of sweet potatoes in LHZ 19: the first is planted in April and harvested in August, and the second is planted in August and harvested in December. Stocks from both harvests have depleted. Maize is marginal in the zone.

**Prices of staple foods:** In an average year, prices are lowest in June at the time of the main harvest (*vatomandry rice*), with peaks twice in a year (September and March) and a slight decrease in December during the secondary harvest (*hosy rice*). Prices for fresh cassava are usually stable throughout most the year.

Currently, prices of rice are 20 to 30 percent higher than last year and 20 to 40 above 5-year average due to decreased harvests and increased prices of coffee and clove. This is restricting poor households’ economic access to preferred foods from the market. Prices of dried cassava, which is normally the preferred substitute of rice, are also 16 percent higher than last year and 26 percent above normal. Therefore, many poor households are relying more on cassava flour imported from Ambalavao which has become the new popular substitute because its price is lower than the dried cassava: 600 Ariary/kg.

**Figure 6.** Location of Livelihood Zone 19: Southeast: coffee, litchi, cassava



Source: FEWS NET

**Market supply:** Food is currently available at markets, but food supplies were very reduced after Cyclone Ava, particularly for sweet potatoes, vegetables and pulses. Many roads, such as the RN25 from Fianarantsoa the key reference market for the southeast marketing basin, were cut for one week due to landslides or floods. Less local rice was able to reach markets due to temporary disruptions of supplies and due to stock retention by farmers. Due to the low supply from usual sources, staples foods were brought to LHZ 19 markets from atypical sources. Local rice came from Ihosy (Ihorombe Region) and an unusually large quantity of dried cassava and cassava flour came from Ambalavao (See: Supply and Market Outlook, January 2018). Stocks from Ambalavao are currently sufficient and available. Imported rice is also available but at higher prices. Markets in communes far away from the National Roads do not function well and people often walk up to 7km along to reach larger markets along the National Roads to buy food and sell products because of the more advantageous prices.

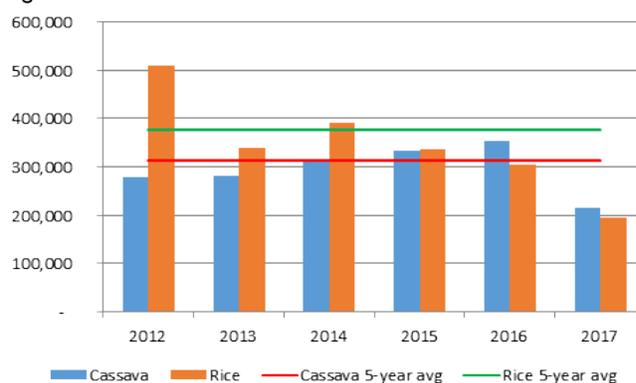
**Cash crop prices:** Most households in LHZ 19 plant cash crops such as coffee, clove, litchi or vanilla but the size of the plots and the number of trees owned differs between wealth groups. Income for wealthier farmers come from large cash crop sales to middlemen from big export companies such as Ramanandraibe, TAF, etc. or from urban city traders from Antananarivo, Fianarantsoa or Antsirabe. Poor and very poor households sell their cash crops at local markets because the quantities they harvest do not allow for larger sales. They therefore earn very little from their cash crops. Between September 2016 and February 2017, cash crops in LHZ 19 experienced bad weather conditions which resulted in lower harvests and non-exportable fruits because of their small size or bad quality. This reduced income levels for poor households even though prices were above normal.

Cloves are the main driver of the economy in LHZ 19. The price of cloves varied between 15,000 and 16,000 Ariary/kg over the last 2 years. Prices rose unusually in November 2016 because of decreased production and increased demand. It reached a peak of 30,000 Ariary/kg in June 2017, and then suddenly fell during the second half of 2017 due to poor product quality from intermittent rain that affected the spice drying process.

Coffee is the second most important cash crop in the area. The price of coffee varied between 3,500 and 5,000 Ariary per kilo over the last 2 years in LHZ 19. Prices rose unusually in January 2017 and reached a record-breaking peak of 8,000 ariary in June 2017. The price is currently stabilizing at this above normal price because of its scarcity at the markets. Litchi is also an important source of income in the area in December, but the harvest was also below normal in 2017.

**Labor availability and prices:** Agricultural labour opportunity is typically high in January/February to help with rice transplanting. However, opportunity is reduced when there is flooding, as was the case this year, and employers waited after the flooding to hire the most of their labourers. Cash crop weeding also peaks between November and January and workers earn more than during the rice transplanting (4,000 Ariary per day instead of 2,000 Ariary in Farafangana). Labor wages have not changed significantly between years, the varying by only 500 Ariary in the past few years, but the differential between districts in the area are huge due to the localized types of labor available. Wages in Vangaindrano can reach a peak of 4,000 Ariary at peak demand from September to December during cash crop harvests, but Farafangana shows the lowest wages as labor opportunities there are only for rice transplanting which pays at a lower rate.

**Figure 7.** Staple production in Vatovavy Fitovinany and Southeast Regions since 2012



Source: FEWS NET/CFSAM data

**Figure 8.** Staple food price variation 2016/2017

Items	Average (January 2013-2017)	January 2017	January 2018
Local rice (cup)	390	460	550
Imported rice (cup)	475	465	600
Dried cassava (kg)	700	760	880
Sweet potato (kg)	640	660	NA

Source: SISAV, OdR and Field Assessment

**Other sources of income:** Basketry, mainly made by women, is the second most important income source for households in this zone. Poor households usually earn around 6,000 Ariary per week by making sisal mats and baskets whereas better off can earn up to 36,000 Ariary per week. People living near the National Roads earn more than those in the deep bush by selling at higher price to taxi-brousse passengers and other road users, and more highly skilled weavers can earn up to three times as much as others. The floods caused by Cyclone Ava damaged some sisal fields so affected people lost their income sources. Poor basket makers also have low terms of trade compared to the increasing prices of staple foods in the area.

Petty trade of green vegetables, fruits, and cooked foods is the third most important income source for poor households in this zone and is also mainly practiced by women. Petty traders earn between 14,000 and 70,000 Ariary per week. This activity was less affected by the last cyclone as the wind was not strong and vegetables were harvested in December. The next season will start in March.

Some coastal villages are also depending on fishing as an income source. Inland fishing is also quite important near Matitanana, Manapatra and Pangalanes rivers but is mainly done for consumption rather than selling.

Chicken and pig sales are also an income source for households in the zone. Poultry was affected by the floods after Cyclone Ava, reducing income available from their sales, but pig were not affected.

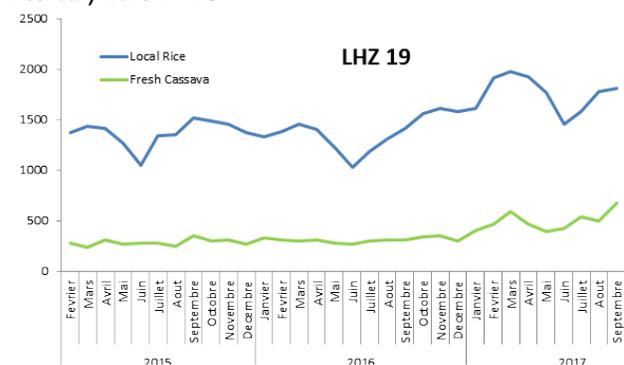
**Current food consumption:** Most households currently are consuming rice from recent harvests daily for dinner, but for lunch, they are eating dried cassava from the market instead of preferred rice. They also frequently eat fruits such as mangos, bananas or jackfruits 4 times per week on average. Pulses are rarely consumed in the area because of their high prices. Fish is also not common even in some communities located at seacoast or along rivers. Meat is only consumed during festivities, milk every two weeks and eggs every two months.

Surveys conducted during a Field Assessment by the FEWSNET team in late January 2018 showed that that the food consumption situation is similar to just after Cyclone ENAWO in March 2017. Although households have access to food, people are not able to access the quantities they would prefer, particularly for rice. As of January, poor households have already started consuming wild foods as a coping strategy, and some households have begun to reduce the size of their meals to preserve food. While food consumption is still stable for many households, conditions are likely to worsen as the lean season progresses.

**Wild food consumption:** Wild food consumption normally increases during the lean season which runs from January to March. While most wild foods are being consumed as normal such as mature *tavolo*, jackfruit and breadfruit, consuming them when they are still green or as a substitute for a main meal, like some poor households have already done in January, is considered a coping strategy. Consumption of *bodoa* and via or its roots is also considered a coping strategy.

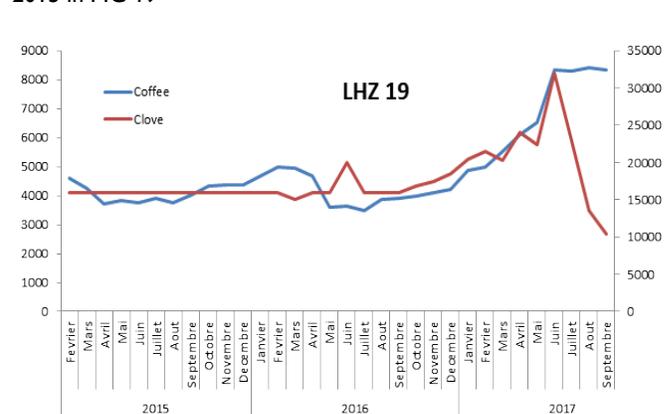
**Humanitarian assistance:** Humanitarian assistance in the Southeast is limited to post-cyclonic responses. After Cyclone Ava, WFP via their implementing partner WHH distributed 24,000 MT of food (21,000 MT of rice and 3,000 MT of legumes) to 1,500 households hosted in shelters in 2 Communes of Farafangana. Moreover, 300 vulnerable households in Farafangana received 4,830 MT of food, of which 4,300 MT of rice and 630 MT of legumes were given in kind for sanitation works across the city. In mid-January, FID assisted more than 150 households for 10 days with cash for work in Vohipeno and Mananjary. CRS also carried

**Figure 9.** Evolution of local rice and dried cassava prices since February 2015 in MG I9



Source: SISAV Data

**Figure 10.** Evolution of coffee and clove prices since February 2015 in MG I9



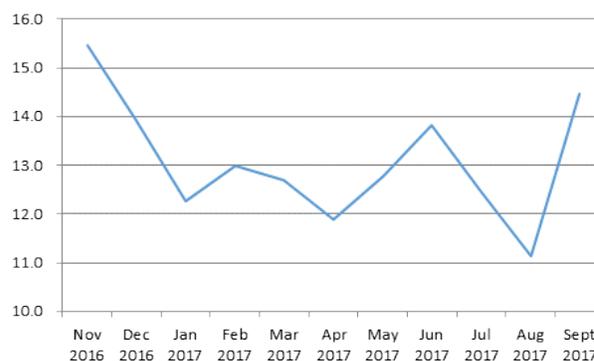
Source: SISAV Data

out food distribution in Mananjary and provided agricultural technical support. In total, less than 3 percent of population of LHZ 19 received assistance for about 10-14 days after the cyclone.

Safety net programs are underway in LHZ 19 by FID/UNICEF and the World Bank through the *Vatsin'Ankohonana* which support households with under 5 or school-aged children to improve their nutrition, to encourage children to stay in school, and to sustain livelihood activities.

**Livelihood Change:** Incomes for many households are currently strained, particularly for very poor households who have depleted their own produced foods, and barely have enough income to access from the market. Some household members have begun to migrate to distant locations as far as Antananarivo and Diego to find casual labour opportunities. When opportunities for agricultural labour are declining, as they were in December-January because of flooding, some very poor households relied on borrowing or social networks to maintain normal food consumption. Flooding also limited land access and reduced agricultural activities, which lead to reduced incomes. Mining, practiced in Mananjary and Nosy Varika, can be a normal livelihood activity, but it is atypical for households to start mining this time of the year when they normally are preparing land for agriculture. In some extreme cases, households were reported to have sold land since the dry period of last year to obtain money to buy food.

**Figure II.** Evolution of GAM in LHZ 19 since November 2016



Source: ORN Atsimo Atsinanana and Vatovavy Fitovinany

**Nutrition:** The screening regularly done by the Regional Offices for Nutrition in LHZ 19 revealed that the GAM in the area was at the lowest in August 2017 and the highest in November 2016. The situation in January 2018 is slightly better than in January 2017 (between 11 to 12 percent of Global Acute Malnutrition) because of better access to safe water and more variety of food is available not like last year when fruits were inexistent because of the drought.

### Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the February – September 2018 period is based on the following zone level assumptions:

- **Agroclimatology:** NOAA NMME probabilistic forecasts show normal rain is possible between March and May 2018 and above-average from March to May 2018. The National Department of Meteorology in Madagascar also forecasts normal to above normal rainfall in LHZ 19 within the outlook period. The positive dipole under La Nina still favors cyclonic activity through mid-March.
- **Staple production:** Minor damage was reported on staple crops after Cyclone Ava and rainfall expectations are near normal, which should be favorable to crop development. However, farmers had low quantities of rice seeds at the beginning of the current season, due to last year's dryness and poor harvests, so many rice fields were not planted. Rice harvests in June 2018 will likely still be below normal but higher than last year. Cassava harvest will likely start in April and will be near normal since the crop has received sufficient rainfall since the end of 2017.
- **Market supplies of imported rice and dried cassava:** Supplies of imported rice from Fianarantsoa to local markets will likely be stable, and near normal quantity, during the outlook period and will follow normal trends, since roads that were damaged after Cyclone Ava have been repaired and traders have resumed their activities. Atypical imports of dried cassava will continue until April when a new harvest of cassava is expected to begin.
- **Availability of wild foods:** Wild foods such as jackfruit, breadfruit and Tavolo will be available and in abundance between March and May. Their availability is expected to remain normal throughout the outlook period. However, its consumption will likely increase until the end of the lean season in March, and possibly longer. Then, households will switch to cassava and sweet potatoes and will reduce the demand for wild food from June onwards.

- Nutrition:** Malaria is present in LHZ 19 year-round, and diarrhea cases increase during the rainy season, particularly if flooding occurs. The effects of these factors on nutritional status is not immediate, and may become evident two weeks to one month later. Following the normal trend of global malnutrition in the zone, and inferring from the most recent screening by the Regional Offices of Nutrition, the prevalence of GAM in LHZ 19 will likely be between 12 to 14 percent between February and May and between 14 to 11 percent between June and September. Malnutrition programs are underway by ORN, CRS, and others, in the districts of Mananjary, Farafanaga, Vohipeno and Nosy Varika. No data is available for mortality. No sudden deterioration of the situation is expected.

- Staple food prices:** According to FEWS NET price projections, prices of local rice in Mananjary, the reference market for the vulnerable areas of LHZ 19, are expected to remain stable and above normal through the outlook period. The maximum price will likely be near 1,850 Ariary in March/April and where it will remain until the next harvest in July. Prices of dried cassava will be stable at 880 Ariary until April when the fresh cassava harvest will start, then prices will decrease.

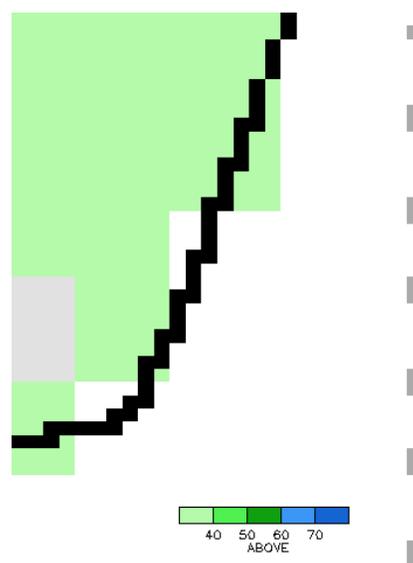
- Own produced stocks:** Household stocks from the last harvest may only last one month and will likely decline sooner than usual in March. Household stocks will be restored from April with the coming harvests of tubers and in June with the coming harvest of rice. It will likely be insufficient to last through the end of the Outlook period in September.

- Labor opportunities and wage rates:** Labor opportunity will be likely to be normal within the outlook period because of near normal rainfall during the cropping season. Rice transplanting will likely be completed by March and coffee weeding by May. From June to September, labor opportunities will concern rice, and coffee, and cassava harvesting, and cassava planting in August. No major change is expected for labor incomes.

- Other sources of income:** Cash crop and basketry sales will be seasonally low from February to May. The coffee harvest expected to begin in July, is expected to produce higher yields than last year which will provide greater income this year. Petty trade will be stable and at normal levels. Small livestock (chickens, pigs) and fish sales will be during the outlook period due to seasonal availability of fish, poultry losses during Cyclone Ava, and pig sales only spiking during feast periods.

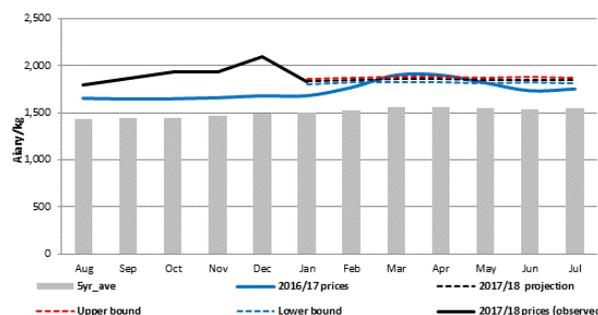
- Humanitarian Assistance:** The Food Security and Livelihood Cluster Assessment done after Cyclone Ava estimates around 38,000 households in need for the next few months, which is 10 percent of total households in the zone. Based on this figure, humanitarian stakeholders will take short actions using the pre-positioned food and non-food items in the area. CRS for instance, will distribute short cycle rice, seed and vegetable crops (cucumber, petsay, etc.) to nearly 4,300 beneficiaries in Mananjary within the next few months.

Figure 12. NMME Mar-May 2018



Source: NOAA

Figure 13. Integrated price projection of Local rice in Mananjary



Source: FEWSNET

### Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Many households are currently accessing staple food directly from their own harvests since they have recently harvested rice and sweet potatoes, and some are still harvesting production not damaged by the floods. Nonetheless, some very poor households have depleted their stocks and are now relying on the markets. For households that have depleted their own crops, market purchases have become the primary source of food, especially for dried cassava. Though the prices of rice are above normal this year, some poor households still purchase it but in reduced quantities. Meat, fish, eggs, and cooking oil are also mostly purchased. Very poor and poor households in MG19 will experience **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity situation in February 2017**.

Between March and May, food consumption will deteriorate as the very poor will deplete their remaining food stocks. During the same period, some very poor will be already facing food consumption gaps. Consumption of wild food will be intensified. Incomes will slowly deteriorate after the rice transplanting and coffee weeding seasons and labor opportunities become scarce. By May, very poor households will have limited incomes. These households will not be able to meet their basic nonfood needs and will resort to coping strategies like intensifying basketry or relying on borrowing food/remittances between March and May. People will likely not easily meet their food needs and very poor and poor households may face a **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) situation between March and May 2018**.

From June onwards, very poor and poor households will begin to face fewer food consumption gaps as harvests begin. Low staple prices and more income from rice, coffee, and cassava harvesting, and cassava planting in August, will result in improved purchasing power thereby tightening the food consumption gap. Coffee production, expected in June, will be near normal due to favorable rainfall, which will lead to near normal incomes. As food availability and access improves from June, coping strategies will be reduced. Prolonged migration to towns will decrease. Most households in this livelihood zone will experience **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes again between June and September 2018**.

### Mahafaly Plain: Cassava, Goats and Cattle (MG 23)

**Context:** Located Grand Sud of Madagascar and covering the districts of Betsioky-Atsimo and Ampanihy, as well as the southern edge of the district of Toliary-II. The zone lies inland from the coast and is characterized by vast plains and savannahs in its center and eastern sections. These plains are low lying at only 300+ meters above sea level. The population density in the zone is low (approximately 7 to 10 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>). Even in a moderate rainfall year, the zone has marginal production potential with poor soil and limited natural in-ground water sources. Soils are primarily calcimorphic with limited agricultural potential due to low fertility and their sandy and rocky nature. With rainfall only 300 to 400 mm per year, the zone is the most arid zone in the country. Between 2013-2017, the zone experienced a severe and prolonged drought. The zone supports small land holdings of mixed farming, principally cassava, maize and sweet potato for consumption; and legumes and groundnuts as cash crops. The zone suffers from insufficient food production 4 out of 5 years and is recognized as a chronically food deficit zone.

#### Current Situation

**Rainy season progress:** With rainfall only 300 to 400 mm per year, the zone is already the most arid zone in the country. But this year, rain is 50 to 70 percent below 2013-2017 levels which were already unable to meet agricultural water requirements. Usually, this zone receives acceptable rainfall when cyclones pass but this year no cyclones have touched this region. Additionally, rains have arrived progressively later each year. This trend continued this year (Figure 16). Farming activities currently prioritize small ruminant rearing because of the reduction of agricultural performance in the area. Farmers already sowed in November 2017 but because of lack of rains, crops failed. They planted again this February. The meteorology

**Figure 14.** Location of the Mahafaly Plain: Cassava, Goats and Cattle livelihood zone



Source: FEWS NET

department made effort to raise awareness among farmers about the rain forecasts in the area to help them avoid losing their seeds.

**Main crop production:** Staple production in LHZ 23 has been decreasing since 2012 due to the late arrival of rains and decreased growing season. Cassava is eaten fresh from mid-June to mid-September, with the peak harvest in August. Surplus production of better-off households is dried and stored to be consumed and sold throughout the year. In 2016/2017, cassava production in the area was estimated at near 85,000 MT, 11 percent higher than last year but 50 percent of the five-year average. In January 2018, poor households had already depleted their stocks and depended more on market purchases. Maize production is even more dramatically reduced with a 20 percent decrease from 2016/2017 compared to the previous year and less than 10 percent of the five-year average. Rain began in November 2017 for the current season, which allowed farmers to plant maize on time but with insufficient seeds after many years of bad production. Production is expected to be higher than last year but still below average. Up-land sweet potatoes were planted in January and will be harvested in April.

**Market supply:** Markets are functioning normally, but food availability is much reduced due to the lean season. Nevertheless, trade flow is normal: cassava found at markets mainly came from Beroy and north Betioky, maize is from Isoanala and Bekily. First season rice (Vary aloha) reached markets from Isoanala, Bekily and Betroka in December-January and is currently over too. Imported rice may come from both Tulear or Fort Dauphin. However, cost of transportation is higher due to rainy season which worsens road conditions and leads to higher market prices. Maize from communities along the Onilahy River is already available in some markets of Betioky. Sweet potatoes are not available on markets.

**Prices of staple foods:** Rice prices have been increasing since 2012 and currently both imported and local, are also 6 to 8 percent rice higher than last year and 20 to 30 percent above five-year average. Maize prices decreased compared to last year by 32 percent because of on time or early harvests, but prices are still 14 percent above the five-year average. Cassava prices have also been rising annually and currently prices are 10 percent higher than last year due to huge exportation of cassava to other regions despite the below normal production. This is hindering poor households' economic ability to access food from markets.

**Labor availability and wages:** Currently most income comes from local agricultural labor, then sale of wild food and sales of crops. Agricultural labor normally peaks between December and February at the time of weeding. Usually, better-off households contract poor households for land preparation and weeding by land parcel of one to two hectares, and a household is paid once the full piece of land has been worked, rather than by the day. The most income is earned from weeding as this is done three times for each crop.

Figure 15. Onset of Rain Anomaly February 2018

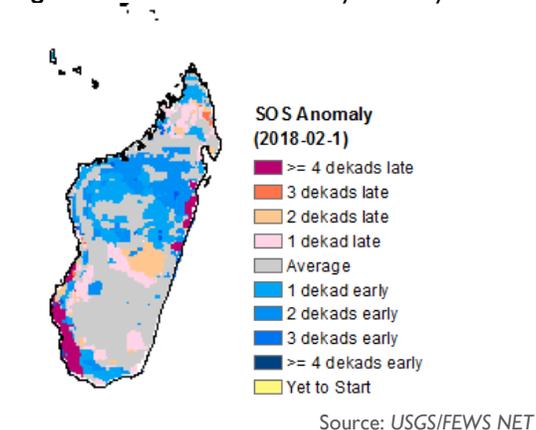


Figure 16. WRSI February 2018

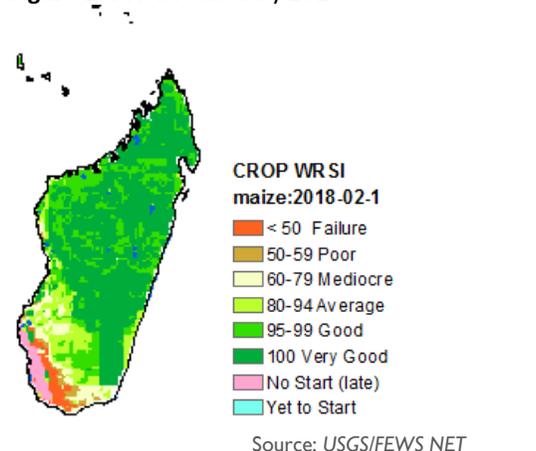
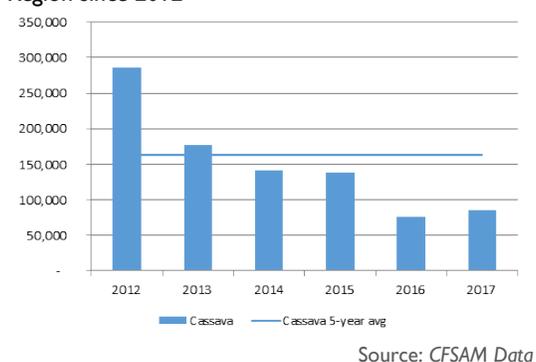
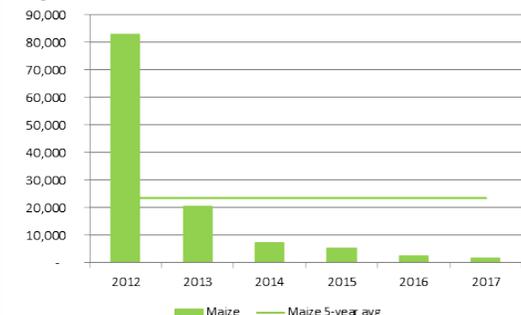


Figure 17. Cassava production in Atsimo Andrefana Region since 2012



**Livestock herding and sales:** Livestock raising is dominated by small herds of goats, and, to a lesser extent flocks of sheep. Most households also keep chickens. Large herds of cattle (zebu) are common, but these are highly concentrated in the hands of the better-off households who comprise less than 10 percent of total households. Therefore, cow sales are mainly devoted to better-off and middle households. Goats are commonly sold by all wealth groups except the very poor. On average, a poor household sold 3 goats per year. The large percentage of income from livestock, except for very poor, reflects both the shift away from agriculture to animal husbandry in the zone as well as the hardship experienced during the past years, which forced households to sell more cattle than in an average year. Goat and poultry sales contributed 16 percent to annual cash income of poor households. Livestock prices in the zone were high in 2017 compared to average 2015-2016.

**Figure 18.** Maize production in Atsimo Andrefana Region since 2012



Source: CFSAM Data

**Other sources of income:** Sales of firewood and charcoal occur throughout the year but decrease during the rainy season. It is common for women to go into the forest to collect wood and then sell it at weekly market or burn it and sell it as charcoal. But it is difficult during the rainy season. The sale of wild foods, primarily wild mangos, watermelon and cactus fruit, is an important economic activity for very poor and poor households particularly during the lean season (January to March). Around the urban cities of Betioky and Ampanihy, handcrafts and odd jobs such as water fetching, and laundry also provide income for very poor and poor households.

**Food consumption:** Poor households' stocks are currently exhausted. Green maize, milk, and fruits are available from own production but all cereals, tubers and pulses, as of the end January come from markets. Poor households supplement purchased food with wild tubers, from January-February, and mangos and cactus fruit, from February-April. As prices are high during lean season, households may have to decrease expenditures on non-staple foods and/or on non-food items to pay for these higher food purchases.

**Figure 19.** Staple food price variation 2016/2017 in MG23

Items	Average (January 2013-2017)	January 2017	January 2018
Local rice	1360	1625	1750
Imported rice	1420	1750	1850
Dried cassava	450	450	500
Maize	790	1330	900

Source: OdR

**Humanitarian assistance:** Beyond the safety net program undertaken by the World Bank, UNICEF and FID in the zone, school feeding was also offered at roughly 50 percent of primary schools. This included providing a customized high-calorie lunch of legumes, rice and a protein powder which met the full daily calorie needs of students 5 days a week for 9 months out of the year, from November to July. School feeding contributed to about 13 percent of annual food needs and emergency food aid contributed roughly 7 percent to food needs of poor and very poor households in 2017.

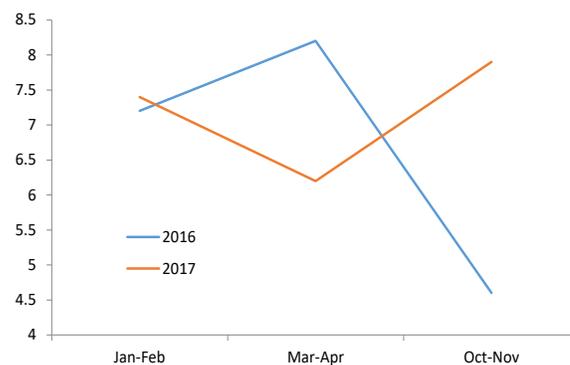
**Livelihood Change:** Increased seasonal labour migration has been noticed as food and income are insufficient villages. The household head generally migrates out of the zone in search of work. Laborers may migrate temporarily—for three to five months—to Tulear or Mahajanga in the north where growing conditions are better and agricultural labor can be found. Alternatively, they may migrate to the mining areas in the east (Sakaraha, Lazario, Ilakaka and Ambatondrazaka), particularly during the zone's long lean season, from November to January. As drought continues and economic crisis increases, periods of time away are extended and household members may remain outside the zone for up to 1-2 years, or indefinitely. Additionally, people near the coastal zone of Beheloka have changed their primary livelihood activity from agriculture to fishing.

**Water availability and pasture conditions:** Most households in the zone do not have good access to a natural water source. Water in the zone comes from seasonal rivers, the largest of which is the Onilahy River. However, riverbeds and tributaries dry up during most of the year, forcing households to travel farther to fetch water or to resort to the use of overcrowded and polluted water holes. Water availability has not improved since the last dry season as rain has only fallen twice: in November

2017 and in February 2018. Free grazing is the main method for feeding livestock in the zone. Herds can wander freely in search of pasture, which is currently in very bad conditions because of the dry season and the below normal rainfall. According to NDVI, the vegetation in the zone was in a better condition than last year in November-January, however it is deteriorating more quickly this year, particularly around Beheloka. Several species of prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia*) have become important to the subsistence of Mahafaly pastoralists both for human and for animals, as its fruit is both used for food and as a cash crop and the leaves are used as fodder for cattle. For these benefits, pastoralists sow, prune and shape prickly pear plants into enclosures around their corrals and villages holding the pastoralists at their villages and structuring the timing of their seasonal migration to pastures beyond the fokontany even though grass is missing

**Nutrition:** According to screening done by the UNICEF and MoH in 8 districts of the South, the prevalence of GAM since January 2016 does not show a clear trend. In 2016, the GAM rose in Mars-April just at the end of the lean season and then dropped in October-November at the beginning of the next lean season. Contrary to 2017 when the GAM dropped in March-April and then rose in October-November. Nevertheless, the prevalence is around 7 percent in January-February. Therefore, currently, 7.2 to 7.4 percent of children in the South may be acute malnourished as the conditions similar to last year. The pocket of most severe undernutrition in MG23 is in the communes of Itampolo (Ampanihy Districts) and Andranomangatsiaka (District of Betioky).

**Figure 20.** Evolution of GAM in Southern Madagascar since 2016



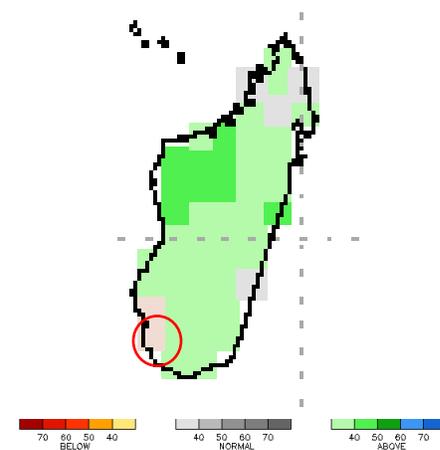
Source: UNICEF

### Assumptions

The most likely scenario for the February – September 2018 period is based on the following zone level assumptions:

- Agro climatology:** NMME probabilistic forecasts show normal rain between February and April 2018 in Ampanihy and above normal in Betioky, and the inverse between March and May. The National department of Meteorology in Madagascar forecasts normal rain between February and April 2018 and above normal rain between March and May. The positive dipole under La Nina still favours cyclonic activity around Madagascar until the end of February.
- Staple production:** No cyclones are predicted to hit the area and rainfall expectations below normal for the season may be challenging for crop development. Crop production will be below normal for maize, pulses and sweet potatoes in ML1 as well as for the main production in ML2.
- Market supplies of imported rice and dried cassava:** Supplies of imported rice will likely be stable during the outlook period and will follow normal trend as supply will be normal in Tulear port and trade flows between Tulear and MG 23 will likely be normal too. Dried cassava from surplus production in surroundings districts will likely be available in markets through April and then fresh cassava, expected to be harvested in August and September, production will be likely be below normal.
- Availability of wild foods:** Wild foods will be normally available and in abundance during ML1 because they are not as affected by drought, like cultivated crops, so both the quantity consumed and the number of months during which wild foods are foraged can be increased when there are crop shortages. The availability of wild foods is expected to reduce in the second part of the outlook period as natural production will be over.

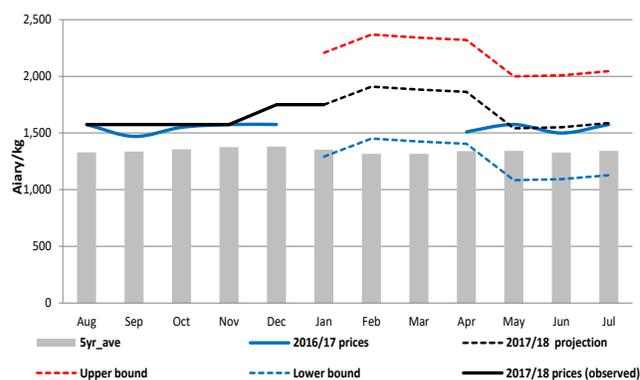
**Figure 21.** NMME Forecast March to May 2018



Source: NOAA

- **Nutrition:** Beyond food access, access to safe water is also a problem of the zone and negatively affect nutritional status of under 5 children both during dry and rainy seasons. Nevertheless, referring to the screening data, the GAM prevalence will likely vary between 7 and 8 percent within the outlook period. However, some acute malnutrition pockets (> 17 percent) will likely persist in Itampolo, Beheloka and near Betioky. No data is available for mortality. Nevertheless, no high risk of sudden deterioration of the situation has been reported.

**Figure 22.** Integrated price projection of Imported rice in Tulear



Source: FEWSNET

- **Staple food prices:** According to FEWS NET price projections, prices of imported rice in Tulear, the reference market for the vulnerable areas of LHZ 23 will be above average. It will likely increase in February and then remain stable until April, and then decrease again during ML1. The maximum price will likely be 1,900 Ariary in March/April and will remain near 1,500 Ariary up to the next rice harvest in July.
- **Own produced stocks:** Because of low crop production, household stocks for very poor and poor will likely not last until the next harvest.
- **Labor opportunities and wage rates:** Labour opportunity resulting from weeding and harvesting will likely be normal within the outlook period as a result of mostly cropped areas. In ML1, labour opportunities will likely concern maize and pulses harvesting; whereas in ML2, labour opportunities will likely concern sweet potatoes and cassava harvesting. No major change is expected for labor wages compared to normal.
- **Other sources of income:** Typically, wild food sales are intensified during ML1 and then reduce during ML2. Charcoal and wood collection and sales will likely be stable throughout the outlook period because of the rainy season even if poor households are able to increase these activities in times of economic hardship. While deforestation is a growing problem in the south of Madagascar, sufficient wood supplies remain in the zone for firewood and charcoal sales to increase. Bean crop sales are normally high during ML1 but will be below normal. Staple foods sales will also be likely be below normal in ML2 as household's store more of their production, and increase seed savings; strategies used in times of economic hardship, like this year. This however decreases food products and seeds in circulation, contributing to price hikes and overall scarcity. Animal sales (chicken, fish and pigs) will be increased and above normal in ML1 despite the reduced herds of livestock, because increasingly, people are selling livestock during the lean season to purchase younger animals and use the remaining money to purchase food, instead of keeping them for wealth savings or funeral ceremonies only.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** Safety net programs undertaken by the World Bank, UNICEF and FID in the zone will continue until September. School feeding will also be pursued up to the end of school year in October. WFP food distribution is currently planned to take place during the lean season before the main harvest in June. No food distribution is planned from June to September.

### Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

With reduced consumption of tubers, supplemented by purchased foods and wild foods, which both contribute significantly to diet and income, many households are struggling to meet their food needs. As prices are also high during the lean season, poor households may have to decrease expenditures on non-staple foods and/or on non-food items to pay for these more expensive food purchases. In January and February, wild foods became the principal food source. Increased seasonal labour migration has been noticed. The prevalence of GAM will likely be 7 percent in January-February like last year though some pockets of severe undernutrition is observed at the communes of Itampolo (Ampanihy Districts) and Andranomangatsiaka (District of Betioky). Poor and very poor households in MG23 will likely experience **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity in February 2018**.

Between March and May, food consumption will improve compared to February as the very poor will be able to access green maize and pulses from the new harvest. Consumption of wild foods will reduce but will still provide an important food source for poor households. Sales of wild foods will also reduce but will still likely contribute significantly to income for poor households. Periods of time away for seasonal migration may be extended. Wood and charcoal sales will remain at the same level as in February because of the rainy season. Sales of staple foods will likely be lower than normal with the below average production which will also reduce cash income for poor households to meet non-food needs. GAM prevalence will likely remain between 7 and 8 percent according to past reference years. People will likely not easily meet their food needs during ML1 and households may remain in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between March and May 2018**.

From June onwards, staple consumption will improve with the availability of stocks from harvests and the resulting lower market prices. Food gaps will be reduced but will remain present because of the expected below average harvests and lower than usual household income. For poor households, activities related to agricultural will be intensified during ML2 during the harvest period. Sale of wild food will disappear. Migration will slow down. Sale of staple food will slightly increase but will remain below normal. Most households in this livelihood zone will experience **Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes between June and September 2018**.

### **Other areas of concern:**

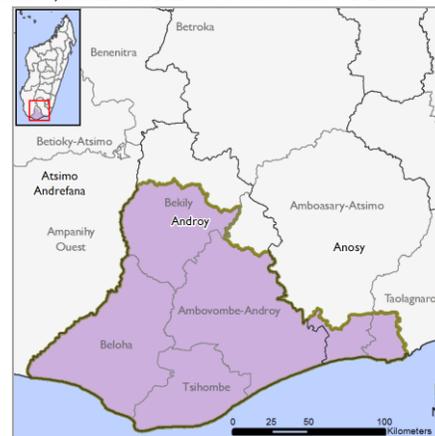
#### **Androy Semi-Arid: Cassava, Maize and Livestock (MG 24)**

The western part of MG24 (Beloha, Tsihome and Bekily) received below average rainfall in the 2017/2018 rainy season, compromising the current cropping season. However, the eastern part (Ambovombe and Amboasary) received sufficient rainfall and was able to produce some sweet potatoes and watermelons. Maize is ready for harvest but production now is very reduced compared to previous years as the climate has changed and farmers tend to plant more cassava instead of maize.

In January 2018, prices of cassava in MG 24 were lower than last year and compared to 5-year average which suggests a better supply in the markets. However, prices are higher than last month which suggests a depletion of existing stocks both for traders and for households. The price of sweet potatoes was near the five-year average and lower than last year. Prices of cereals remain above the 5-year average, which reflects lower supply compared to previous year. That means, household purchasing power improved compared to last year but remains fragile and low, particularly for the poor.

According to the livelihood baseline assessment in November 2017, poor households mainly get their income from self-employment/charcoal sales and from local casual labor. Charcoal sales reduced normally during the raining season but because of erratic rainfall this year, this activity is stable. Earnings from firewood/charcoal sales were low for the very poor because they lack the means to transport large quantities of firewood to weekly market. Instead, after cutting the wood, the very poor typically sell it to middle-income households or rent a car to bring them to markets but this reduces earnings. Casual labor peaks in January with the maize, cowpea and watermelon field weeding. This year, that activity also was near normal. Poor and very poor households also sold poultry whereas middle and better-off households sold poultry, goats, sheep and/or cattle. Migration is still very important as labor supply outstrips labor demand in the area. Men move to Tulear, to Fort Dauphin or to Ambovombe town. The most common types of casual jobs are port-based (i.e., a docker), bicycle rickshaw driver, or security guard. The very poor are reportedly less likely than the poor to engage in seasonal out-migration due to their difficulty raising the resources to pay for transportation.

**Figure 23.** Location of Androy Semi-Arid Cassava, Maize and Livestock livelihood zone



Source: FEWS NET

Overall, humanitarian assistance is lower than last year during the emergency and is currently comparable to a normal year. However, food distribution is huge in communes declared as in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) by the latest National IPC. CRS, for instance, just received 1,870 MT of sorghum in mid-February to be distributed in Southern Madagascar via their Havelo program targeting 6,812 Households in the district of Beloha (communes of Marolinta and Tranovaho); and Tsihombe (Communes of Antaritarika, Anjampaly and Marovato), about 41 percent of the households living in those communes. FAO is also supporting agriculture through its resiliency program by distributing seeds and small tools in very affected districts like Beloha, Tsihombe and Bekily. The safety nets program of FID/UNICEF/World Bank is still ongoing and contributes 8-14 percent of poor and very poor household income. These interventions were targeted (not blanket coverage) and therefore not all villages received such inputs. In the targeted villages, families with children under 5 years from very poor, poor and middle-income households, received MGA 30,000 / month for 3-8 months a year.

Therefore, households in the western part of this zone will be in **Crisis (IPC Phase 3)** and the eastern part will be in **Stressed (IPC Phase 2)** acute food insecurity from February to May 2018, and then all parts of the zone will be in Stressed (**IPC Phase 2**) from June to September 2018 with the coming harvest.

### EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

**Table 1:** Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Areas	Events	Impact on food security
National	Cyclone	Loss of production and continuation of big production gaps from last year. Loss of cash crop for exports also if the cyclone entered from Northeast.
MG 19	Since the cyclonic season does not finish before the end April, any eventual other cyclone or flood may damage rice fields, cassava crops, cash crops or wild foods and will worsen again food security in the area and could change the situation in ML2 to Crisis (IPC Phase 3).	The area may stay in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in ML2.
MG 23	A larger than expected impact of FAW in the Southwest where maize is the main staple crop.	The area may stay in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in ML2.

#### ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. [Learn more here.](#)