



Support to coordination in the drought stricken southern Madagascar through the strengthening of agriculture and food security information systems

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Target areas: National



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- Objective:** To reduce the vulnerability and strengthen the resilience of recurrent drought-affected rural population in the Great South of Madagascar.
- Key partners:** Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MPAE); Directorate of Meteorological Services; National Office for Nutrition (ONN); Producers' Associations (APs)
- Beneficiaries reached:** Center for agricultural services (CSA), APs and ONN officers.
- Activities implemented:**
- Conducted data collection missions in 38 communes of five major districts in the southeast region (flood risks) and the south (drought risk), including on prices of basic food commodities on local markets, in partnership with APs, the CSA and the ONN.
 - Trained 96 community-based nutrition agents on the collection of anthropometric data and 112 APs and CSA agents on the use of Kobo software (a free and open source toolkit used for data collection and analysis) and analysis for quality control.
 - Organized six bi-monthly cluster and sub-cluster meetings for sensitization and quality control of information, training sessions and knowledge sharing with regard to the importance of information on food security/insecurity and vulnerability.
 - Organized meetings every three month, in addition to ad hoc meetings for crisis management, allowing the Food Security Cluster to meet nine times and to inform and share their experience with the key partners (APs, ONN and CSA).
 - Published six Information System on Food Security and Vulnerability (SISAV) bulletins, three Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) – every two and six month – and 12 Early Warning bulletins, as well as 12 agro meteorology (AGMET) bulletins (every six month).
- Results:**
- Enabled the establishment of a well-informed database which serves as source of information to the SISAV, Early Warning and the National Early Warning System (SAP), as well as other food security and information analysis tools such as the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), crop and food security assessment mission (CFSAM) and the comprehensive multisector evaluation (EAM).

- Enabled beneficiary partners (APs, CSA and ONN) to switch to modern technology, hence saving time and resources, as well as improving data quality, thanks to the trainings on data collection and analysis.
- Enabled the Humanitarian Country Team to adopt the EWEA approach, to be used especially for recurring disasters.
- Contributed to the coordination of the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster and the strengthening of improved information systems (SISAV, EWEA bulletins, IPC analysis and AGROMET bulletins).
- Enabled high-level major decisions, especially regarding the 2018 drought, and contributed significantly to decision making in terms of prevention and response interventions undertaken during the 2018 agricultural season, thanks to the information produced.
- Strengthened the information systems at national level (SISAV, EWEA bulletins, IPC analysis, etc.) and expanded their use, thanks to the decision of the Government to invest in an additional eight district (from the 5 initially planned, 13 regions will be targeted for the scaling up of information systems).
- Strengthened the capacity of information service providers at grassroots levels as well as at Government level.
- Strengthened the coordination of both humanitarian and development actors in agriculture and food security with the support of information systems.