



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Madagascar Country Brief October 2019



Operational Context

Despite significant potential, over the past decades, Madagascar has experienced a stagnation in per capita income coupled with a rise in absolute poverty: 92 percent of its estimated 25 million people live below the international poverty line.

Madagascar has experienced several political crises since its independence in 1960. The latest political crisis (2009-2013) negatively impacted institutional capacities, economic growth, major social sectors and compromised 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.



Population: **25 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **161 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **42 % of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

82 mt food assistance distributed in September

US\$ 29 million drought and cyclone response **one-year (October 2019 - March 2020)** net funding requirements

38,847 people assisted in September 2019

Operational Updates

Food security in the south and south-east: Findings from the Government-led Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC, June 2019) indicate that 900,000 people from 13 districts in the south and south-east are in crisis (IPC 3) and emergency (IPC4) phase and need urgent humanitarian assistance. A new IPC exercise was carried out during the week of 21 October. Results are expected soon.

WFP emergency response: WFP plans to assist 229,000 people through general distributions of food or cash. This includes 27,000 children aged 6 to 23 months old and 13,500 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) who will receive supplementary feeding for acute malnutrition prevention. Assistance is planned from November 2019 to February 2020, in collaboration with the National Office for Risks and Disasters Management (BNGRC), the National Office of Nutrition (ONN), the Ministry of Population and local NGOs.

Due to funding limitations, WFP's lean season response will only reach 37 percent of the planned number of recipients. Resource mobilization is ongoing to increase the response coverage.

WFP interventions in the south and south-east in September reached 38,847 people through nutritional support for acute malnutrition prevention, for moderate acute malnutrition treatment and to malnourished tuberculosis patients.

School-feeding programme - WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, implements a school meals programme targeting 300,000 primary school children in the drought affected southern Madagascar.

The annual school feeding programme review session took place from 21 to 25 October 2019 in Tuléar, in the south. The session consisted of discussions on topical issues and the development of a programme performance improvement strategy, in line with Government priorities and WFP's Country Strategic Plan.

On 24 October 2019, WFP launched the Share the Meal campaign, which aims to raise USD 300,000 for the support of 10,000 children through the school feeding programme in southern Madagascar. The Share the Meal campaign launch took place ahead of the official start of the school year, on 28 October 2019.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – December 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
73.83 million	6.6 million	67.15 million

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected women, men, boys and girls in targeted areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs before, during and after crises.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- General food distribution and early recovery
- Prevention of acute malnutrition
- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition
- Nutritional support to tuberculosis patients

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Primary schoolchildren in targeted areas have access to adequate, healthy and nutritious food as part of a government-led social protection strategy

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- School canteens
- Home grown school feeding

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations in areas with consistently high rates of undernutrition have improved nutritional status.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Chronic malnutrition prevention
- Food fortification
- Social Behavior Change Communication

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems

Strategic Outcome 4: Women and men smallholder producers in targeted communities facing climate shocks increase their access to profitable markets and establish more inclusive, efficient and resilient food systems all year round

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Local purchase to smallholder farmers organizations
- Food assistance for assets creation
- Disasters and crisis prevention and management

Strategic Result 5: Enhance global partnerships

Strategic Outcome 5: OUTCOME 5: Government and humanitarian partners in Madagascar are supported by effective emergency preparedness and response arrangements before, during and after crises.

Focus area: Crises response

Activities:

- Support for assessment, analysis and emergency preparedness and response
- Shared logistics services and platforms
- shared emergency telecommunications services and platforms

Nutrition

Food fortification: WFP is working on a community-based fortification project funded by Monaco and Andorra, in collaboration with DEFIS - an IFAD programme - and the Government. WFP is also working on rice fortification, based on the recommendations.

Stunting prevention: WFP, in collaboration with ONN and a consortium of French NGOs, will implement an integrated stunting prevention project in two communes of the Antananarivo region which have high level of stunting. In the Ampanihy and Amboasary districts, in the south, WFP provides supplementary feeding to children under the age of two and PLW. This is part of the stunting prevention approach, "MIARO", which also includes community school gardens and social behaviour change communication activities.

Support to market access for smallholder farmers

Purchase for Progress (P4P): WFP's objective in Madagascar is to purchase 4,000 tons of food commodities locally either from farmers organizations (FO) or local suppliers. In October, a workshop between P4P stakeholders took place in Fort Dauphin, southern Madagascar, to discuss past experiences and programme improvement. The workshop also enabled linkage between FOs and WFP's local suppliers to increase market opportunities for them.

Food bank: The BNGRC, the Lions Club International and WFP are setting up a food bank benefiting to 2,000 households in the commune of Tanandava (Amboasary district). The food bank will be used to stock harvests for consumption during lean seasons, thus ensuring food availability and avoiding price fluctuation. WFP and partners are finalizing the food bank business plan.

Challenges

Funding challenges - WFP activities face funding shortfalls for the period October 2019 – March 2020. The shortfall for emergency food and nutritional assistance to populations affected by crises (drought and cyclones) is USD 29 million; USD 1 million for stunting prevention activities, USD 3 million for the support to smallholder farmers; USD 83,900 to provide support to the Government for assessments, analyses and emergency preparedness and responses; and USD 1 million to provide logistical services.

Logistical challenges – Road infrastructure is insufficiently maintained and in a poor state. During the rainy season, road conditions deteriorate further and causes severe delays in delivery. The transport capacity in the south is also a concern as the market is made up of smallholder transporters with limited capacity. Long and unpredictable lead times to Madagascar pose regular challenges to supply chain planning. Pre-positioned commodities in the region take on average 81 days but are as likely to take anywhere between 40 and 130 days.

This challenge is compounded by late financial contributions and leads to ruptures in the chain. WFP Madagascar is exploring the possibility to facilitate in-country food pre-positioning through WFP's Global Commodity Management Facility.

Donors: Andorra, Australia (multilateral), Canada (multilateral), CERF, ECHO, France, Germany (multilateral), Global Partnership for Education (through the World Bank), FEED Projects, Finland, Friends of Japan, Japan, Latter Day Saint, Monaco, Norway, South Korea, Russia, Sweden (multilateral), Switzerland, USAID, and private sector partners including Mastercard.