



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Madagascar Country Brief August 2020



Operational Context

Madagascar is a low-income country with an estimated population of 25.5 million. With a gross domestic product per capita of USD 422, the country is ranked 161 out of 189 on the Human Development Index. Almost 76 percent of the population lives on less than USD 1.90 a day. Five million people are affected by recurring natural disasters, including cyclones, floods and droughts. The 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey showed that the rate of acute malnutrition is 6 percent and the rate of chronic malnutrition is 42 percent, placing Madagascar as the 10th worst country affected by stunting in the world.

Due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the economic growth in 2020 is expected to slow from the forecast of 5.3 percent to 0.17 percent. An increase in the poverty rate is also anticipated, from 70.5 percent (estimated for 2020 in a scenario without COVID-19) to 72.1 percent (UNDP, 2020). This equates to nearly 18 million people living in poverty.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan in Madagascar (CSP) aims to promote an integrated, shock-responsive social protection system for ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to nutritious food before, during and after crises. It also aims to provide children in vulnerable communities with access to nutritious foods while at school, and extend integrated approaches for the prevention of malnutrition among vulnerable women, adolescent girls and children. Moreover, WFP helps build the resilience of vulnerable smallholder households and communities, and ensure that interventions for addressing both chronic and acute needs are supported by enhanced capacities and resources for emergency preparedness and response.



Population: **25 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **161 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers

162 mt food distributed in August 2020 for **30,706 people** in the southern regions

US\$ 29 million emergency net funding requirements for the drought and COVID-19 responses (September 2020 – August 2021)

73,249 people registered for urban cash assistance in August 2020 as part of the COVID-19 response

Operational Update

COVID-19 update: As of 30 August, the COVID-19 report indicated 13,832 cases and 192 deaths. On 6 September, following the decrease of the reported cases, the President announced the progressive return to normal life in the Antananarivo region, following the decrease of the reported COVID-19 cases. However, the health emergency is maintained in Madagascar.

Urban cash assistance: In support to the national social protection strategy, WFP is providing cash assistance to 84,000 poor urban households (nearly 420,000 people) economically affected by the lockdown measures. WFP assistance is implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of the Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women, and the National Office for Risks and Disasters Management. This work is done with funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and WFP and is implemented in collaboration with the cash working group.

Support to vulnerable children: Since July 2020, WFP, in support to the Ministry of Population and in collaboration with the NGO *SOS Village d'Enfants*, has been assisting 10,000 orphans and vulnerable children in social centres in the capital Antananarivo and Tamatave, in the east of the country.

Food security and drought update: Findings from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) of April 2020 estimates that nearly 554,000 people in the drought-affected southern regions of Madagascar face acute food insecurity and need urgent food assistance. This is due to the lack of rain that affected the harvest as well as the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and market disruptions. The most severely affected districts are Ampanihy and Bekily where people have not been able to plant or harvest, water is scarce and market prices are on the rise. Without support, the population is at risk of falling into Emergency (IPC phase 4).

WFP emergency response: Based on lessons learnt from the 2019-2020 lean season responses, WFP is developing its drought response strategy targeting 300,000 people out of the 554,000 in need of assistance. Emergency assistance will start in October 2020 in the 11 districts in IPC 3 (crisis phase) and IPC 4 (emergency phase) in the south and south-east of the country.

Emergency food assistance, through unconditional cash and in-kind transfers, will be combined with nutritional support for the prevention of acute malnutrition. The lean season response is funded by ECHO, Germany, and USAID.

WFP supports malnourished tuberculosis patients who receive treatment in diagnosis and treatment centers in the south. Cash transfer for patients and their family will start in September for five months as a safety net during the lean season.

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Country Strategic Plan (July 2019 – June 2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
297.4 million	64.7 million	67.2 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: Government and humanitarian partners in Madagascar are supported by effective emergency preparedness and response arrangements before, during and after crises.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

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

School-feeding programme: WFP targets 200,000 primary school children in 800 schools in the southern regions. This includes 12,000 beneficiaries assisted under cash-based transfers. In case the schools remain closed due to COVID-19, WFP will distribute take-home rations.

Nutrition

Stunting prevention: WFP implements a stunting prevention approach called "Miaro" in the districts of Amboasary and Ampanihy, targeting more than 45,000 pregnant and lactating women and children under two.

Resilience

Purchase for Progress (P4P): WFP contributes in improving smallholder farmers' access to market by helping to improve the quality of their production and purchasing their surplus of production. WFP's objective in Madagascar is to procure 4,000 tons of food commodities locally either from farmers organizations or local suppliers.

Food assistance for assets (FFA): WFP reinforces community resilience through FFA activities in three communes in southern and south-eastern Madagascar (Faux-cap, Vohilava and Fotadrevo). Nearly 2,245 representatives (representing nearly 11,000 people) participate in activities such as reforestation, community gardens, dunes protection or rehabilitation of agricultural areas and receive food assistance from WFP.

Challenges

Funding challenges: WFP activities face funding shortfalls over the next 12 months.

The drought and COVID-19 responses suffer a funding shortfall of USD 29 million (September 2020 – August 2021). Drought has led the populations to adopt coping strategies such as the consumption of cactus fruit, tubers, spoiled manioc, consuming the seeds stock, harvesting food crops early or selling productive assets such as cattle etc. These strategies hinder communities' production capacity and make them more vulnerable to drought. In the absence of adequate assistance due to funding limitations, the already precarious situation of these communities will further deteriorate.

School feeding faces a funding shortfall of USD 1.5 million for the 2020–2021 school year. For the most vulnerable children in southern Madagascar, school meals may be the only nutritious meal they will receive each day. A disruption of the programme due to lack of resources might increase school dropouts, decrease learning abilities and deteriorate children's nutritional status.

For stunting prevention, the 12-month funding shortfall is USD 4.9 million. Rations have been halved since May and beneficiaries will no longer receive assistance starting from September. This will jeopardise the efforts made so far, deteriorating the nutritional situation of the most vulnerable groups of the population.

Donors

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education (through World Bank), Government of Japan, Japan (JICA), KOICA, Monaco, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, UNICEF/Norway, UN CERF, USAID