



1.14 million people in high acute food insecurity, of whom nearly 14 000 in Phase 5 (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC], April–September 2021)



95% of the population in southern Madagascar live on agriculture, livestock and fishing

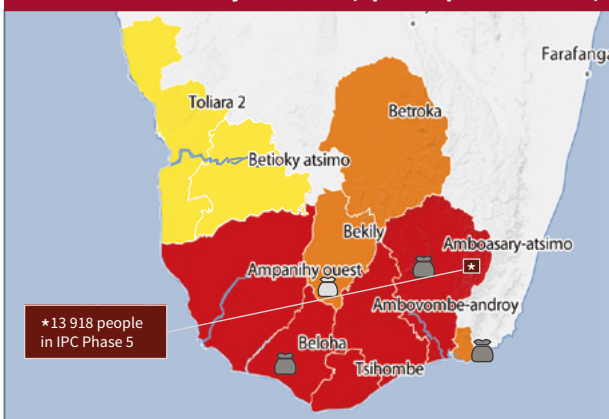


USD 40.4 million required by FAO for 2021

Providing vulnerable families with urgent livelihoods support will quickly increase availability of and access to food.

- Southern regions of the Republic of Madagascar are currently facing a severe food insecurity and malnutrition crisis due to multiple shocks.
- Since October 2019, southern Madagascar has experienced an exceptionally prolonged drought affecting agricultural productivity, with reduced cultivated land area.
- Due to the semi-arid context of southern Madagascar and high levels of environmental devastation caused by the depletion of soils through erosion and deforestation, sandstorms (Tiokamena) have covered croplands and pasture with deposits of sand. Driven in part by climate change, this phenomenon has occurred during the main agricultural campaign, transforming arable land into wasteland across large areas and rendering agriculture-based livelihoods extremely precarious.
- Since May 2020, the prices of basic products (rice, oil, etc.) have significantly increased as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) containment measures, which have disrupted market functioning. A new round of restrictions put in place by the Government are likely to further affect households' livelihoods and purchasing power, and curtail their already strained coping capacities.

Acute food insecurity situation (April–September 2021)



IPC phase classification

- 1 – Minimal
- 2 – Stressed
- 3 – Crisis
- 4 – Emergency
- 5 – Famine
- Areas not analysed

At least 25% of households meet 25%–50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

At least 25% of households meet over 50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

Source: IPC. 2021. Madagascar (Grand South): *Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Snapshot, April – December 2021* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 10 May 2021]. http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Madagascar_Acute_Food_Insecurity_2021AprDec_Snapshot_English.pdf

Challenges facing food security and agriculture

Madagascar is the country most exposed to cyclones in Africa and one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. Since the start of 2020, Madagascar has faced three major disasters, namely floods that affected seven northern regions (January–February), the COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged drought, significantly impacting eight southern districts. In southern Madagascar, the 2019/20 agricultural season was affected by the worst drought in the last decade lasting about two years, with a dramatic decrease in production. The 2021 harvest is expected to be 50 percent below the five-year average. This is the fifth below-average rainy season reported in southern Madagascar in the last six years, adding to the region's below-average harvest following several consecutive years of poor harvests due to recurrent drought since 2014, triggering high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. The humanitarian situation was exacerbated by the adverse socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 containment measures, leading to the disruption of the market supply chain, and the price increases of basic foodstuffs. As a result, many vulnerable families had to sell their productive assets to buy food and were forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms. Insecurity in parts of the deep south, as well as the resurgence of various crop and animal pests and diseases – a new outbreak of Rift Valley fever (RVF) and a looming threat of migratory locusts – have also led to worse levels of food insecurity in the region.

These conditions are severely affecting access to food and income for vulnerable populations, who are forced to reduce the quantity, frequency and quality of their diets, with some communities resorting to consuming almost exclusively wild foods. The latest IPC analysis indicated that 42 percent of the population is facing crisis or worse levels of food insecurity, of whom nearly 14 000 in Phase 5. This figure is expected to double reaching a total of 1.31 million people in October–December 2021, if appropriate humanitarian action is not taken. Given the significant loss of livelihoods and reduced access to food for vulnerable households, providing them with seeds, tools and other essential inputs is key to recover agricultural activities to quickly produce food, generate income and strengthen their resilience.

Priority activities



livestock restocking (goats and poultry) | feed | vaccinations including against RVF



provision of inputs for cereal and vegetable production | micro-irrigation | cash-based transfers during the off-season (June–August 2021) and high season (September–December 2021) | technical guidance



provision of fishing inputs and processing equipment | cash-based transfers | technical guidance



climate-smart agriculture | capacity building



promotion of plant protection



leading IPC analysis | anticipatory actions and early warning systems | promote large-scale quality seed multiplication at community level | pre-position seed stocks | control and eradicate RVF and other animal diseases | control locust invasion, fall armyworm and other crop pests and diseases

Funding



FAO requires
USD 40.4 million



to assist
**224 700 households
(1 123 500 people)**



Amount received
USD 400 000

Resource partners

the Government of Belgium through
the Special Fund for Emergencies and
Rehabilitation Activities

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on the map(s) in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Contact

FAO Representation in Madagascar

FAO-MG@fao.org | Antananarivo, Madagascar

Office of Emergencies and Resilience

OER-Director@fao.org | Rome, Italy

www.fao.org/emergencies

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Some rights reserved. This work is available
under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence