



# Madagascar Food Security Monitoring System Quarterly Bulletin



1st Quarter 2012

Avril 2012

## Updates

- Cyclone GIOVANNA entered Madagascar land on February 14 through the Eastern coast and after crossing the country, it left through the West coast on February 15.
- MTS IRINA entered Madagascar land on February 26 through the Northeastern coast then left the country through the Northwest coast leaving the West region under intense rain storms.
- An in-depth assessment is currently undertaken by the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster in 19 districts affected by the cyclones.

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## Summary for 1st Quarter 2012

- The outlook for political stability slightly improved at the end of 2011. However, some conditions of the implementation of the roadmap process have not been fulfilled yet. Therefore, the international community's position remains divided, economic sanctions continue and aid to the country has been reduced.
- Malagasy economic growth rate was one percent in 2011 according to IMF whereas The Economist Intelligent Unit reported 3.5 percent. And according to the National Office of Statistics (INSTAT), the consumer price index has risen by seven percent in December 2011 compared with December 2010.
- In 2011, The food balance sheet showed an overall deficit of 311,000 MT of cereal equivalent. This year, rainfall was temporally and spatially sufficient in almost rice producing areas but hazards of these last months might have compromised the yields.
- At the end of February 2012, severe cyclones and floods had seriously deteriorating food insecurity of more than 50,000 people mainly located in the Eastern and Southeastern parts of the country. Yet, those people were facing lean season since late December.
- Following the decline in rice production last year, increasing prices of rice were noticed during the lean season 2011/2012. Average price of rice remained as high as in the first quarter 2011.
- While the effects of cyclones on nutritional status will not be seen before six to eight weeks in affected areas, the nutritional situation in the South-western zone seems to deteriorating following poor food production due to insufficient rainfall in the area.

## Political and Economic Crisis

- The outlook for political stability slightly improved at the end of 2011 following the signature of the roadmap by the Country's main political groups on 17 September 2011 and the appointment of a "government of national unity" and of a transition parliament. However, some conditions of the implementation of the roadmap process have not been fulfilled yet. Therefore, the international community's position remains divided and economic sanction continues.
- Since 40 percent of Madagascar's financing budget depend on international contributions, the diagnosis on the current budgetary situation is not resolved. On one hand, the World Bank cheer up the severe adjustment of public expenditure of 20 percent in real terms between 2008 and 2011. It helped to stabilize macroeconomic and financial variables. On the other hand, the Malagasy State currently provide only 8-9 percent of GDP, while the economic literature and the international standard suggest an optimal size around 25-30 percent.
- As a result, most of social and economic investments have been significantly cut, degrading living conditions of the population. The decline in public spending has only been very partially offset by limited additional donor aid. Indeed, the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) has become an increasingly remote target.
- Relative share of social protection in total expenditures has also dramatically declined. Therefore, aid disbursement for social protection has increased from US\$26 million in 2008 to US\$37 million in 2010 due in part to increased aid for labor intensive public works programs. The vulnerability of the population has substantially increasing since 2009.
- As for private sector, investments and activities have generally shown resilience to the crisis even if this came through a rebound of the informal sector due to resurgence of illegal trade and coping strategies.

**“Madagascar is progressively sliding into greater fragility with dramatic increases in poverty levels ”**  
World Bank

## Economic Conditions

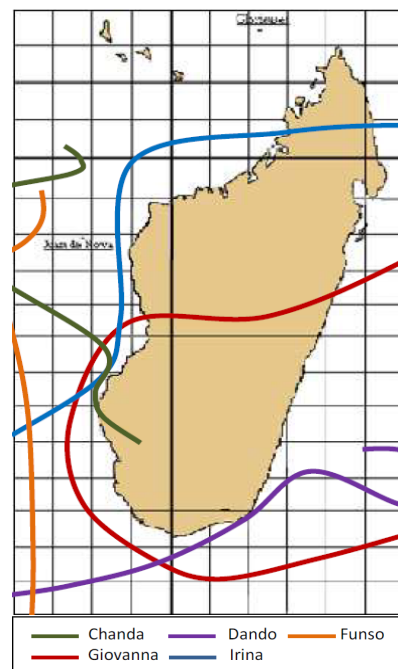
- Malagasy economic growth rate was around one percent in 2011 according to IMF. For 2012, forecasts vary between 3.2 to 4.7 percent following the starting production of large mining projects. The consumer price index has risen by seven percent in December 2011 compared with December 2010 according to the National Office of Statistics (INSTAT). Inflation was much higher for food products (nine percent) than for non-food (five percent).
- Inflation should not affect the purchasing power of households if their income had also increased by nine percent or more between 2010 and 2011 as food share expenditure covers about 66 percent of their total income. Particularly, poorest households allocate 74 percent of their total income to food (**Source: EPM 2010**). Available monitoring data (*MCRAM surveys* for urban areas and *CFSAM reports* for rural areas) estimated an average improvement of 37 percent of household incomes between 2010 and 2011. Nevertheless, improvement moved differently between regions: if a decline was noticed in the South, the increase was very exceptional in the East as a result of higher prices of exported products (gloves, vanilla and coffee) compared with previous years.
- About 76 percent of population lives below the poverty line fixed at MGA 468,800 (about USD 234) per year per person in 2010. Madagascar shares with Haiti the highest poverty headcount in the world. In Madagascar extreme poverty represents 57 percent of the population (**Source: World Bank**).
- The dramatic increase in poverty levels of the population since the beginning of the political crisis, combined with the drop in public expenditures on education for budget restriction reasons (translated into an increasing share of education costs being borne by households), has led to an increasing children drop-out rate. About one million children are currently accounted as out-of-school (**Source: UNICEF, World Bank**).

## Agricultural Production

- The 2010/2011 agricultural campaign ended up with a nine percent decrease in rice production, 16 percent increase in cassava production, four percent increase in maize production and 20 percent increase in sweet potatoes production compared with the previous campaign. The food balance sheet showed an overall deficit of 311,000 MT of cereal equivalent (**Source: CFSAM 2011 reports**).
- This year, rainfall was temporally and spatially well distributed in almost all rice producing areas. As a result, cultivated rice-fields have increased in *Alaotra Mangoro Region* the main rice granary of Madagascar from where 20 percent of the national production comes. However, the different hazards that hit the country these last months might have compromised the yields.
- In the Southwest, insufficient rainfall was reported. Around 20 percent of the maize crop that was expected to be harvested in March 2012 was lost.

### TRAJECTORY OF CYCLONES (Source: MTOTEC)

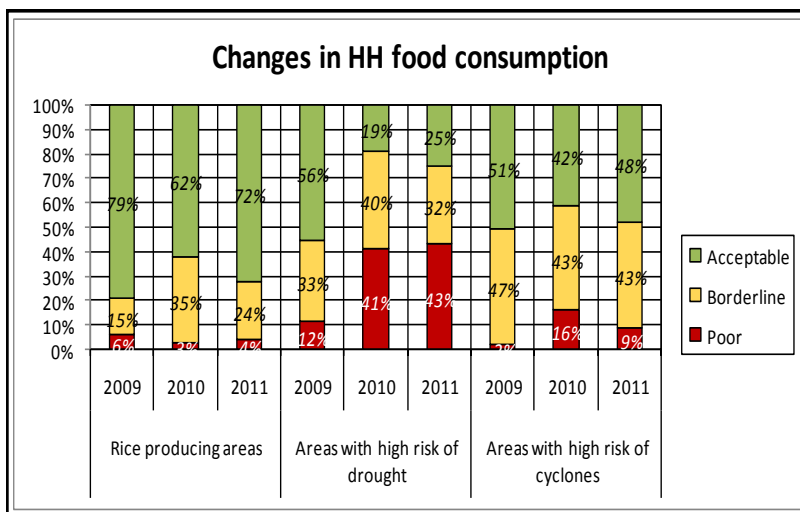
- The Big Island is very vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, droughts and plagues aggravating the food insecurity. Over the last 35 years, the country was hit by 46 natural disasters affecting around 11 million people and causing material damage estimated at \$ 1 billion.
- In January 2012, three storm systems passed through or close to Madagascar (Chanda, Dando and Funso) causing some minor localized flooding. In February, Cyclone Giovanna damaged 35 to 80 percent of agricultural crops in the eastern coasts. Marketable cash crops such as bananas, oranges, litchis have been heavily affected.
- Afterwards, severe Tropical Storm Irina (although it never became a cyclone) caused serious damages as it was immediately followed by the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), leading to localised flooding and landslides in the southeastern regions and damaging ricefields in the West, Northeast and Central parts.



**“The National Meteorology Department has forecasted a very active cyclone season this year, starting from January to April 2012.”**

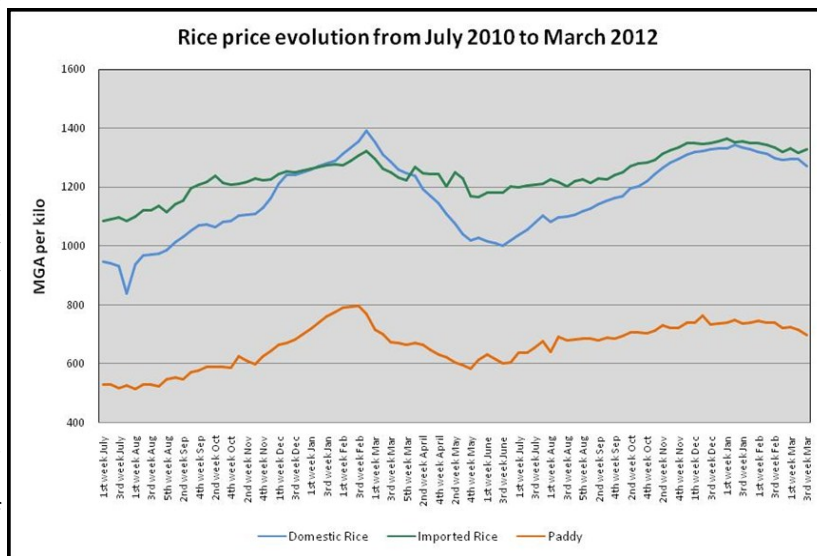
## Food Consumption

- According to the 2011 CFSAM (Crop and Food Security Analysis Mission), food consumption has improved compared to 2010 but is still worse than prior the crisis. The chart on the right shows the changes in household food consumption over the three last years in three zones.
- In rice producing areas, four percent of Households had 'poor' consumption in 2011 just like in 2010. The same as in areas with high risk of drought where it remained at 43 percent. In areas with high risk of cyclones, proportion of households with 'poor' consumption has dropped from 16 percent in 2010 to nine percent in 2011.
- Overall, Percentage of households with 'acceptable' consumption increased. A frequent consumption of maize by southern households and a frequent consumption of fruits by southeastern households contributed to this improvement.
- At the end of February 2012, severe cyclones and floods had seriously deteriorated food insecurity of more than 50,000 people mainly located in the Eastern and Southeastern parts of the country. Yet, those people were facing lean season since late December. Particularly in the district of Brickaville, where cyclone Giovanna landed, a significant decrease of the households' income is expected in the coming months. These households rely mainly on marketable cash crops. At the time when an initial assessment was conducted, some households have started adopting coping mechanisms such as the consumption of substitute (cassava and breadfruits) and wild food and the extraction of firewood (from collapsed trees) for sale. Without food assistance and agricultural rehabilitation, the current lean season might be prolonged up to July and the next lean season might start earlier, in October.



## Markets and Prices

- Following the decline in rice production last year, increasing prices of rice were noticed during the lean season 2011/2012. Despite the beginning of the early harvest in mid-February 2012, the average price of rice remained as high as in the first quarter 2011 according to OdR data (*Observatoire du Riz*). Current price of domestic rice turns around MGA1,272 (USD 0.6) a kilo.
- After the passage of Giovanna and Irina, rice prices did not reach a peak unlike in 2011 at the same period after Bingiza. However, prices of other commodities have raised just after the hazards. For instance, fuel price increased by five percent in early March, 14 percent for drinking water, 17 percent for electricity, 30 percent for urban transportation and 40 percent for telecommunications. Particularly, the price of wood charcoal, which is the main cooking fuel used by urban households, increased unexpectedly by a factor of three one week after the disasters. This rise, even ephemeral related to bad weather and landslides that blocked roads connecting the capital to the provinces, affected the poorest who buy frequently in small quantities.
- Currently, compared to the first quarter of 2011 the price of sugar decreased by five percent while that of flour rose by one percent. Increase was more important for cooking oil (six percent) and for kerosene (11 percent) the main fuel used by rural households for lightening.
- As for cassava and maize, prices have declined by half in southern Madagascar compared with the first quarter 2011, following the better food production of last year in the area.





**Inputs were provided by the following sources:**

- WFP
- UNICEF
- FAO
- INSTAT
- Observatoire du Riz
- ONN
- Direction Générale de la Météorologie
- SADC Climate Services Centres
- IMF
- The World Bank

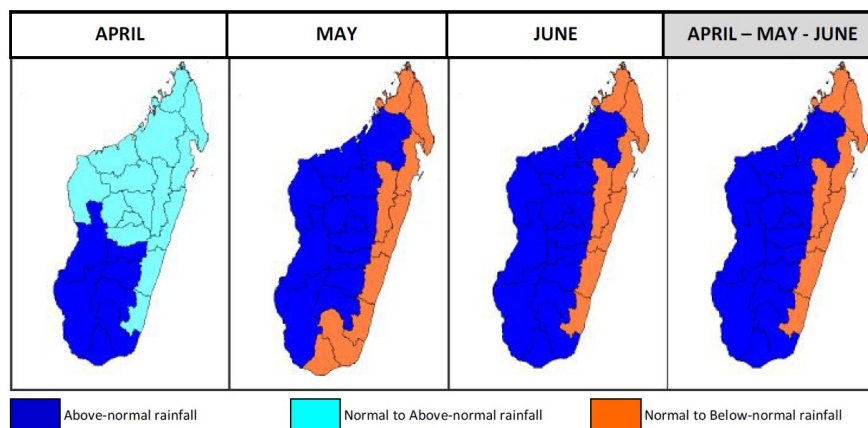
## Health and Nutrition

- According to the State of the World's Children 2010 (UNICEF), Madagascar is the sixth country in the world with highest chronic malnutrition rate (46 percent of children under 5-years affected). This situation is compounded by very limited access to health services. Furthermore, the hazards of recent months has in some areas affected the little available services. Giovanni, Irina and the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) have caused damages to 108 health facilities and destroyed seven hospitals and 19 basic health centers (BHC). In the south-eastern regions, 29 health facilities have been damaged.
- A resurgence of malaria cases has been reported in districts in the south-eastern and eastern regions. The number of reported cases is ten times higher than the number reported at the same time in 2009. It is worth noting that initial outbreak started prior to emergency situation (**Source:** Madagascar—Cyclone Giovanni & Floods—Sitrep 8, march 2012).
- Early this year, the National Office of Nutrition (ONN) reported that underweight rate has increased by 6 to 12 points in eastern coasts compared with early 2011. The effects of cyclones on nutritional status will normally not be seen before 6 to 8 weeks after the hazards.
- However, the nutritional situation in the South-western zone (especially, in the district of Tulear II) seems to deteriorating following poor food production due to insufficient rainfall in the area. Last year, a nutritional survey conducted by the Nutrition Cluster already classified this area as "poor" with a GAM of 7.4 percent after the passage of cyclone Bingiza (**Source:** Nutrition and Mortality in districts of Toliary II - Betioky - Ampanihy, Nutrition Cluster March-April 2011).

References	Indicators	Prevalence with Confidence Intervalle (95%)
NCHS	Global Acute Malnutrition P/T < -2 z and/or œdema	7.4% (5.6 - 9.7)
	Severe Acute Malnutrition P/T < -3 z and/or œdema	0.1% (0.0 - 1.0)

## Weather OUTLOOK

- La Niña has weakened across the tropical Pacific Ocean during February 2012. Current La Nina's influence on rainfall has led to predominant positive rainfall anomalies across Madagascar. According to most global climate monitoring and prediction centres, La Niña is expected to transition to ENSO-neutral conditions by the end of April 2012.
- Although the 2011/12 rainfall season is terminating (ending on 21 April), the Island will still receive rainfall mainly over the south and southwest. For May 2012 (the month of transition between the rainy season and dry season) and June 2012 (beginning of the dry season) the western part of the country will get above normal rainfall while the rainfall will be normal to below-normal in the eastern part. The temperature will begin to drop in April 2012 and normal temperatures to below-normal are expected over the entire island during the next three months. (**Sources:** Madagascar Meteorology Department, SADC Climate Services Centre)



Madagascar Country Office

Contact:

Maherisoa.Rakotonirainy@wfp.org

Isabelle.Nirina@wfp.org