

MADAGASCAR

Concerns over rising food prices and low rainfall, particularly in the south

KEY MESSAGES:



People use more coping strategies in the drought-stricken provinces of Toliara and Fianarantsoa, indicating a stressed food security situation in the south.

Toliara Province faces relatively high food prices (cassava, rice and vegetable oil) and heightened food-related coping.



While the prices of vegetable oil are highest in Antananarivo and Fianarantsoa, there were no variations seen between the prices of both local and imported rice in all provinces.



Across Madagascar, households are concerned about rising food prices, a lack of food access and low rainfall.

SEASONAL UPDATE

Due to the effect of El Niño, Madagascar is facing two major risks: cyclones/tropical storms, especially in the northern and eastern parts and the central highlands; and drought in the south. A joint qualitative analysis conducted by the southern chapter of the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster in February 2016 estimated that less than 20 percent of the planted crops will be harvested in the southern regions.

According to FSNWG, 1.9 million people are food insecure in Madagascar. In seven southern districts, it is estimated that 80 percent of the population are food insecure — 1.14 million people. Around 665 000 people are severely food insecure and in need of urgent emergency food security support until the end of the 2016/17 lean season. A further 475 000 are moderately food insecure and will require support as the lean season approaches (ECHO, March 2016).





HIGH COPING LEVELS IN THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN SOUTH

mVAM data indicates a national mean reduced coping strategies index (rCSI) of 16.6 in March. Nationally, over 60 percent of households reported buying less expensive food, limiting portion sizes and eating fewer meals a day. The mean rCSI is slightly lower than the national average in the central provinces of Antananarivo and Toamasina (15.2) but much higher in the southern provinces of Toliara and Fianarantsoa (21.8) – indicating a stressed food security situation for households in drought-affected areas.. In Antananarivo province, a higher mean rCSI was observed for the two regions of Bongolava and Vakinankaratra.

Households headed by women have a mean rCSI of 18.7 and are therefore resorting more frequently to negative food-related coping strategies than households headed by men (median rCSI of 16.1 — in line with the national average).



FOOD PRICES ACROSS PROVINCES

CASSAVA (1KG)



The highest price of cassava was reported in Toliara and Mahajanga provinces, where one kilo costs MGA 800. Prices were lower in the provinces of Fianarantsoa (MGA 400) and Antananarivo (MGA 500).

RICE Local and Imported (1KG)



The highest price of rice was reported in Toliara and Mahajanga provinces, where one kilo costs MGA 1460. Prices were lower in the provinces of Fianarantsoa (MGA 1200) and Antananarivo (MGA 1400).

MAIZE (1KG)



In Antananarivo, Toliara, Toamasina, Fianarantsoa and Mahajanga, the price of a kilo of maize was in the price range of MGA 1000-1100.

VEGETABLE OIL (1L)



The most expensive vegetable oil was in Antananarivo and Fianarantsoa (MGA 4800/litre), followed by Mahajanga, Toamasina and Toliara (MGA 4000/litre). Prices were also high near Antananarivo, in the region of Alaotra Mangoro, Toamasina province (MGA 4600/litre). In Fianarantsoa, the most expensive vegetable oil was in the regions of Haute Matsiatra (MGA 5000) and Amoron'i Mania (MGA 4800).

Provinces	Unit	Price in MGA	
CASSAVA			
Antananarivo	1 KG	500	
Fianarantsoa	1 KG	400	
Mahajanga	1 KG	800	
Toamasina	1 KG	700	
Toliara	1 KG	800	
RICE			
		Local	Imported
Antananarivo	1 KG	1400	1400
Fianarantsoa	1 KG	1200	1300
Mahajanga	1 KG	1300	1200
Toamasina	1 KG	1400	1300
Toliara	1 KG	1460	1400
MAIZE			
Antananarivo	1 KG	1100	
Fianarantsoa	1 KG	1000	
Mahajanga	1 KG	1000	
Toamasina	1 KG	1100	
Toliara	1 KG	1100	
VEGETABLE OIL			
Antananarivo	1 L	4800	
Fianarantsoa	1 L	4800	
Mahajanga	1 L	4000	
Toamasina	1 L	4000	
Toliara	1 L	4000	



CONCERNS OVER HIGH FOOD PRICES AND RAINFALL SHORTAGES

Across Madagascar, survey respondents were concerned about food security. The most frequent worries are inflation and high food prices, restricted access to food and low rainfall. While households almost everywhere reported rising prices, those in the centre-south (Bongolava, Amoron'i Mania, Haute Matsiatra, Ihorombe, Atsimo Andrefana, Androy and Anosy) attributed food insecurity particularly to low levels of rainfall. In some parts of Fianarantsoa, Toamasina and Antananarivo, respondents mentioned that rice prices were rising because of low production and less rainfall.

Figure 1: Word cloud for Madagascar



Source: WFP mVAM, March 2016

METHODOLOGY - mVAM REMOTE DATA COLLECTION

The first mVAM survey for Madagascar was conducted in March 2016 using text messaging (SMS), reaching 820 households. Respondents were asked questions on household demographics, coping behaviour and prices of food commodities. Respondents could also report in their own words about the food security situation in their communities. Mobile phone surveys tend to be biased towards households who live in urban areas; 50 percent of responses to this survey came from Antananarivo province. Responses to the mVAM survey from some areas of Madagascar were low owing to limited mobile phone penetration rates and low literacy levels. Results do not cover Antsiranana due to inadequate number of completed surveys from the province.



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mVAM resources:

Website http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/
 Blog mVAM.org
 Toolkit <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>



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