



# WFP Madagascar Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

WFP in Madagascar implements two main programmes: The Country Programme (development) and the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO).

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200733 (March 2015- June 2019)	38.3 m	25.4 m (43%)	0.7 m (10%)

\*October 2017 – March 2018

The Country Programme (CP) is implemented in the southern areas of Madagascar and in vulnerable urban areas of Antananarivo, Tamatave (east) and Tulear (south-west). The CP has three components: school feeding to encourage access to primary education; nutrition support to vulnerable groups; and enhancing local farmers' access to agricultural markets.

**School feeding programme:** WFP supports school children in the south and marginalized urban areas of Madagascar. This programme aims to improve children's access to education in food insecure areas with low educational indicators. In the south of the country, the school feeding programme acts as a safety net, transferring income in the form of food to communities and helping to reduce the adoption of negative coping strategies. During school vacations, a stock inventory exercise was conducted in all WFP-supported schools, and food was transported to the targeted schools. Children resumed classes at the beginning of October 2017.

**Nutrition:** WFP is providing supplementary feeding to 15,000 beneficiaries for the prevention of Moderate Acute Malnutrition during the lean season. A partnership has been set up with National Officer for Nutrition and NGOs for the implementation of the MAM prevention activity. The second phase of the stunting prevention joint project (WHO, UNFPA, FAO and WFP) was recently initiated with the training of community and health workers. This project contributes to one of the objectives of the National Nutrition Plan (reduce chronic malnutrition from 47.3% to 38% by 2021).

**Support to market access:** Based on the "Purchase for Progress initiative" (P4P), this programme supports farmers' access to agricultural markets by purchasing their surplus production. Farmer organizations receive technical assistance from IFAD and are provided with high quality and drought-resistant seeds by FAO. 4,000 farmers benefit from P4P in the south of Madagascar.

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Martine Uzamugura  
Caption: A cash distribution site in the district of Amboasary, Southern Madagascar. Participants of Food Assistance for Assets schemes receive cash rations after each work cycle.

## Highlights

- Certain urban areas of Madagascar (districts of Antananarivo, Tamatave etc.) are experiencing the outbreak of a plague epidemic since August.
- WFP will implement resilience strengthening activities in the 16 targeted communes, where the food security situation has improved. These activities will be complemented by nutritional support and school feeding programmes, for higher impact.
- In food-insecure areas in southern and south-eastern regions, WFP will provide relief food assistance, accompanied by nutritional programmes for the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition.
- WFP's funding requirements for the period October 2017 to March 2018 amount to USD 23 million.

Response to Natural Disasters	Total Requirements (in USD)*	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)**
PRRO 200735* (Jan 2015- June 2019)	129.7 m	72.8 m (56%)	23.2 m (67%)

\*As per the PRRO Budget Revision 4

\*\*October 2017 – March 2018

**The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation** is implemented in the drought-affected southern areas of the country. It aims to provide relief food assistance to food insecure communities through a combination of food and cash-based modalities, supplementary feeding for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and to support populations' resilience and recovery from the impact of drought through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA).

Guided by the findings of recently conducted food security assessments, WFP Madagascar is undertaking a two-fold approach focusing on strengthening the resilience of communities in areas in which the food security situation has improved and providing emergency food assistance in pockets of severe food insecurity during the upcoming lean season (2017/2018). Contingent upon resources, WFP aims to provide conditional/unconditional food assistance (food and cash modalities) targeting food insecure populations in districts with high rates of severe food insecurity (IPC 3 and 4) in the southern and south-eastern regions.

To support livelihood recovery and strengthen the resilience of drought affected-communities, WFP has selected 16 communes which were affected by recurrent shocks and food insecurity during the past ten years. These targeted communes will benefit from other complementary programmes such as nutritional support programmes and school feeding.

## In Numbers

**112,266**  
People assisted in September through nutrition support and food assistance for assets programmes



September 2017

## Operational Updates

**Plague Epidemic:** The outbreak of plague in Madagascar which began in August continues to evolve. According to WHO, from 1 August to 8 October 2017, a total of 387 cases (suspected, probable and confirmed) including 45 deaths (case fatality rate 11.6%) have been reported (27 out of 114 districts), with a prevalence of pneumonic plague. In close collaboration with WHO and other organizations, the Government is taking measures to halt the propagation of the epidemic.

### WFP Response to the Drought in the South:

While emergency response to the El Niño induced drought ended in May, in June, beneficiaries which could not be assisted in May, received unconditional cash and food based assistance. With the start of the 2017/2018 lean season in October and in coordination with other actors present in the south and south-eastern regions, WFP plans to implement FFA activities in areas which experienced an improvement in their food security situation to strengthen the resilience of these communities and unconditional assistance will be provided in areas with high levels of food insecurity and undernutrition.

In September, nutritional support will be provided to 15,360 children under five years of age and pregnant and breastfeeding women as part of the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment component and 26,389 children under two years of age the under the MAM prevention and stunting prevention components.

**Country Programme:** *School meals programme:* In support to the Ministry of Education, WFP provides daily fortified school meals to 215,000 students in the southern regions (Anosy, Androy and Atsimo Andrefana) and marginalized urban zones of Antananarivo, Tamatave and Tulear. The delivery of food to the schools targeted as part of this programme began in September and children began attending classes in October 2017.

**WFP's response to cyclone ENAWO:** On 11 March, following widespread flooding caused by the tropical cyclone ENAWO, WFP, in coordination with the National Bureau of Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC) and in partnership with other actors, began unconditional food distributions to disaster affected populations. Following unconditional food distributions, a Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme was implemented in from May to August.

## Challenges

While WFP's El-Niño response was well funded, logistical and implementation challenges, including the poor state of roads and long commodity lead times, slowed down the pace of operations. WFP Madagascar's funding requirement for continuing its activities from October 2017 to March 2018 stands at USD 23 million.

In terms of operational challenges for the ENAWO cyclone response, an already poor infrastructure was further deteriorated by the cyclone. Despite the completion of some rehabilitation works (river ports and bridges), transportation remained a major challenge. From October to December 2017, WFP aims at purchasing 700 mt of maize and 800 mt of rice from small-holder farmers.

## Country Background & Strategy



Despite vast potential, Madagascar has experienced, over the past decades, a stagnation in per capita income coupled with a rise in poverty: 92 percent of its estimated 23 million people live below the international poverty line.

Madagascar has experienced several political crises since independence in 1960. The latest (2009-2013) negatively affected government institutional capacity, economic growth and social 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. Five million people live in areas highly prone to cyclones, floods or drought. These risks are exacerbated by climate change and the El Niño phenomenon.

In March 2017, according to the findings of the multi-cluster emergency assessment mission, 72 percent of the population in the nine affected southern districts were found to be food insecure, including 26 percent of severely food insecure. Due to the large-scale humanitarian assistance provided in collaboration with the Government, by WFP and other actors, the situation of severely food insecure populations in drought-affected southern regions improved in 2017.

WFP's Country Strategy for 2015-2019 focuses on:

- 1) Providing emergency assistance to disaster affected communities and increasing their resilience to shocks;
- 2) Improving access to basic social services and safety nets; and
- 3) Strengthening access to markets for small farmers.

Strengthening national capacity and supporting the development of national programmes, policies and action plans are WFP priorities in Madagascar.

WFP has been present in Madagascar since 1968.

Population: **23 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **158 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **47.3 % of children between 6-59 months**

**Donors:** African Development Bank, Andorra, Australia, Canada, European Union, Estonia, Finland, France, Global Partnership for Education (through the World Bank), Japan, Monaco, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, UK and USAID