



World Food
Program USA

OCTOBER 2022

MADAGASCAR

REPORT

A farmer works in a garden as part of a WFP climate adaptation program that enhances access to water in Beara, a small community in southern Madagascar.

Photo: WFP/Tsiroy Ny Aina Andriantsoarana



HUNGER AND WFP'S RESPONSE IN MADAGASCAR

It has been one year since the alarming report of severe hunger in southern Madagascar. The convergence of climate shocks, crop failures and the economic impact of COVID-19 drove the country's hunger rates. At this critical moment, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) carried out lifesaving activities in Madagascar.

This emergency food assistance helped avert catastrophe in drought-affected areas.

Today, the situation in Madagascar remains concerning. The effects of the global climate crisis have contributed to consecutive droughts, cyclones and tropical storms. Each climate shock caused extensive losses and damages to food and crops, and current forecasts predict another year of below-average rainfall. Other factors like rising food and energy prices, currency depreciation, high poverty levels and supply chain disruptions mean that food is out of reach for millions.

According to the latest figures, an estimated 1.95 million people are expected to face severe hunger in Grand Sud and southeast regions of Madagascar. While WFP will continue to provide humanitarian assistance, in the coming year we will also increase support to small-scale farmers

and invest in agricultural production and environmental rehabilitation. These programs enhance community resilience and help communities better prepare, respond and recover from climate and other shocks.

As you will read in this report, you will see how WFP's efforts have made a difference in the lives of millions in Madagascar.

Thank you for your commitment and for joining our mission to end hunger. Your partnership is central to saving and changing lives as we face a global food crisis.



DAVID MUIR REPORT

A 2021 ABC News Report on southern Madagascar, a country where famine was driven almost entirely by climate.



WHAT WE ARE SEEING IN MADAGASCAR IS EXTREME CLIMATE IMPACTS.”

A series of storms and prolonged drought affecting hundreds of thousands of people. While WFP is providing essential food in the aftermath of the storms, we need to be equally fast in thinking about how these communities are going to adapt to this new reality.”

— Brian Lander,
WFP's Deputy Director of Emergencies
in a press release on February 22, 2022.



A United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) helicopter lands in Antananarivo, as part of cyclone response.

Photo: WFP/Alice Rahmoun

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Food assistance played a central role in averting a catastrophe in drought-affected communities in Southern Madagascar last year.

WFP was able to reach more than 1.2 million individuals in ten districts in southern Madagascar.

As part of ongoing drought response, WFP has reached 721,428 individuals with food assistance and 177,035 with cash transfers this year. In 2022, six tropical storms and cyclones made

landfall and caused considerable damage to infrastructure, affecting more than 960,000 people in Madagascar. In response to these events, WFP worked with the government of Madagascar to provide 206,815 people with emergency food assistance.

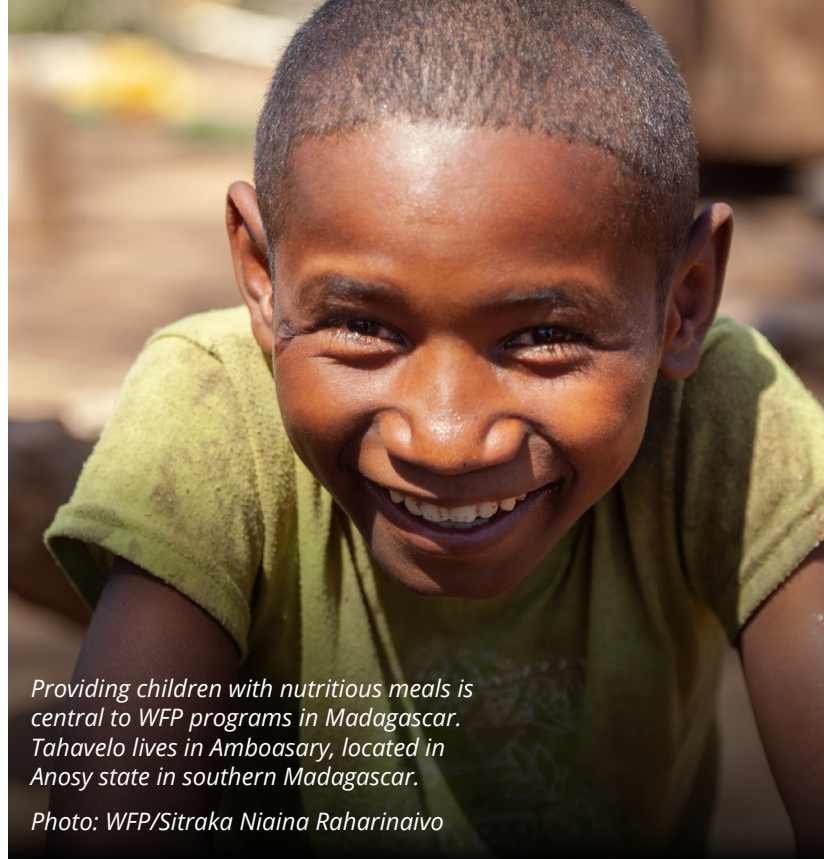
WFP also launched the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in Madagascar which serves as a leading transportation partner to deliver humanitarian assistance and aid workers to remote locations in southern Madagascar.

SCHOOL MEALS

Only one out of three Malagasy children complete their primary education.

That's why WFP has made improving children's access to education and nutritious food a central part of their programs in the country. For more than 30 years, WFP has been a key partner to the government of Madagascar and supports the government-led school meals program. In 2021, WFP was the largest provider of school meals in southern Madagascar, covering 818 public school in rural districts.

WFP also provided cash transfers to schools directly so they could purchase nutritious food for and run school cafeterias and canteens for their students. In 2021, WFP supported 245,723 schoolchildren with school meals.



Providing children with nutritious meals is central to WFP programs in Madagascar. Tahavelo lives in Amboasary, located in Anosy state in southern Madagascar.

Photo: WFP/Sitraka Niaina Raharinaivo

NUTRITION

Malnutrition is a major public health concern in Madagascar – affecting roughly 40% of children ages 6-59 months, while anemia affects 35% of women and girls ages 15-49. This makes Madagascar one of the countries most affected by chronic malnutrition in the world.

Addressing malnutrition is central to WFP's operations in Madagascar. WFP works in areas where populations have consistently high rates of malnutrition. In 2021, WFP provided supplements and fortified cereals to 12,604 children ages 6-59 months and 18,597 mothers. Additionally, WFP works with farmers organizations to preserve, improve and fortify staple food items and provided equipment for rice fortification to support school meals programs in 13 public elementary schools. Because rice is the most consumed cereal in Madagascar, this program can reduce the prevalence of malnourishment.

Staff members like Nikaria Vonjitsara, a WFP nutrition specialist, work in southern Madagascar to coordinate nutrition response. She oversees two districts and works with teams to identify children who are at risk or experiencing malnutrition and provide them the specialized treatment they need to recover and thrive. She stated, *"I love helping people. I worked in the health sector and for UNICEF, I liked working there and taking care of children. I am continuing now with WFP. It's a vocation."*

Nikaria Vonjitsara is a WFP nutrition specialist in drought-affected areas in southern Madagascar.

Photo: WFP/Sitraka Niaina Raharinaivo

WFP


www.wfpusa.org



LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

WFP's Food for Assets program meets communities' immediate food needs through food or cash assistance, while at the same time it promotes the building or rehabilitation of assets that will improve long-term food security and resilience. In Madagascar, community members have strengthened their community's resilience by building canals, irrigation systems and roads to access markets. In 2021, 5,185 households received assistance and participated in the construction of these assets.

Increasingly, WFP works with communities to rehabilitate natural environments. These projects serve the dual purpose of boosting the resilience of communities in the face of the climate shocks while helping them address immediate food needs.



The project involves planting three kinds of flora adapted to sand and drought, with roots that sink into the sand and stop dunes from moving.

Photo: WFP/Alice Rahmoun

MEET RANOBOLEE

Ranobolee is 54-year-old woman that lives in Faux Cap, a village on the southernmost coast of Madagascar with her three grandchildren. The ocean is an important part of her life and provides her with fish for her family, which she also sells in her community. But the effects of the climate crisis have brought increased sand and wind movement, changing the ocean and surrounding landscape.

Sand has invaded homes, schools and buried agricultural land – making it difficult to grow crops, especially with the lack of rainfall due to drought. WFP is working with people in Ranobolee's community on a project to prevent sand dune movement. By planting a variety of shrubs that are resistant to sand and drought, communities are shielding farmland from sand movement and also protecting biodiversity.



Ranobolee participates in WFP's dune stabilization project in Faux Cap, Androy region, Madagascar.

Photo: WFP/Alice Rahmoun

Since 2017, WFP has helped communities stabilize more than 89,452 acres of sand dunes.

In exchange for participating in the project, Ranobolee received food from WFP, which helped her meet her family's food needs while building her community's resilience to climate shocks. She shared, *"I was planting sisal (a flowering plant) to stop the progression of sand on the houses. Now, I feel protected."*



Vandakope is a small-scale farmer that participated in WFP trainings that shared farming techniques for a changing climate.

Photo: WFP/Sitraka Niaina Raharinaivo

SMALL-SCALE FARMERS

Agriculture is the leading source of income for both men and women in Madagascar.

But frequent natural disasters including cyclones, droughts and locust infestation erode land and soil conditions with each shock disrupting agricultural production.

WFP works with small-scale farmers to provide them with the training and resources they need to adapt and respond to crises, and links them to markets where they can sell their crops.

In 2021, WFP trained 7,277 small-scale farmers on post-harvest loss reduction which helps strengthen agricultural production.

WFP also provided 3,500 small-scale farmers with resources like access to savings groups and insurance. Through this insurance, farmers receive payouts in the event of a climate shock – such as a drought or excessive rains that may destroy crops.

DENISE'S STORY

Denise is a mother of two children from Anjahamavelo, a small locality in southern Madagascar.

As a small-scale farmer, recurrent and consecutive droughts have affected her land and crops. She shared, “With the drought that has now lasted for a few years, I produce almost nothing on my field.”

WFP provided Denise and others like her with access to training and agricultural insurance. In 2021, extensive drought triggered an insurance payout of \$145, which allowed Denise to purchase foods for her family. She also opened her first rice and beans store, which helps her diversify her sources of income.



World Food
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ABOUT US

World Food Program USA (WFP USA) works to solve global hunger by raising U.S. support to advance the mission of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). By mobilizing individuals, lawmakers and businesses to end hunger, we bolster an enduring American legacy of feeding families in need around the world. WFP USA has a 4-star Exceptional rating, from Charity Navigator, the highest designation from the world's largest evaluator of nonprofits. This 4-star rating is given to charities that exceed industry standards and outperform most charities in its cause.

Jeanine and her son Julien walk to the local market to buy lunch in Bevala, Anosy state. Jeanine receives microinsurance from WFP which helps protect her crops in the event of extreme weather events.

Photo: WFP/Sitraka Niaina Raharinaivo

