

# Madagascar – Drought & Tropical Cyclone Response

JANUARY 20, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>29.6</b> MILLION	<b>3.3</b> MILLION	<b>2.2</b> MILLION	<b>960,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>
Estimated Population of Madagascar	Estimated Population in Need of Assistance in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est	Estimated Population Facing Acute Food Insecurity	Estimated Number of People Adversely Affected by Tropical Cyclones in 2022	Estimated Number of Acutely Malnourished Children
<i>UN – October 2022</i>	<i>UN – September 2022</i>	<i>IPC – January 2023</i>	<i>WFP – April 2022</i>	<i>IPC – November 2022</i>

- Approximately 2.2 million people in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est will likely experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity or worse between November 2022 and March 2023, according to a January IPC TWG analysis. This figure includes more than 250,000 people likely to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity.
- An estimated 479,000 children younger than five years of age face acute malnutrition risks in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est, as protracted food insecurity continues to drive malnutrition, according to the IPC TWG.
- Persistent drought in the Grand Sud displaced more than 90,000 people between January 2019 and November 2022, according to IOM.



<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Madagascar Response in FY 2023	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$7,018,020
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,018,020</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5*

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Approximately 2.2 Million People in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est Expected to Face Acute Food Insecurity**

Diminished harvests, drought conditions, the protracted effects of 2022 tropical cyclones, and rising food prices continued to worsen food insecurity in southern Madagascar as of January 2023, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Technical Working Group (IPC TWG). More than 2.2 million people in the Grand Sud—the area comprising southern Madagascar’s Androy and Anosy regions and parts of Atsimo-Andrefana Region—and the Grand Sud-Est—the area comprising the Atsimo-Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy regions—will likely experience Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the November-to-March lean season, when food is most scarce, according to a January IPC TWG analysis.<sup>2</sup> This figure represents approximately 36 percent of the population in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est southern Madagascar and includes more than 250,000 individuals expected to face Emergency conditions during the period. Bekily and Ikongo districts in Androy and Fitovinany, respectively, are likely to be the most affected areas, with more than 15 percent of the population expected to experience Emergency levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season. Furthermore, the IPC TWG analysis projects Crisis levels of acute food insecurity for 50 to 65 percent of the population across four districts in the Grand Sud and one district in the Grand Sud-Est.

Continued humanitarian food and agricultural assistance and favorable climatic projections are likely to mitigate worsening food insecurity conditions in the Grand Sud, where nearly 1.4 million people are likely to experience Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the present lean season, according to the IPC TWG. Distributions of humanitarian food assistance across much of the area are likely preventing districts experiencing Stressed—IPC 2—and Crisis food insecurity outcomes from reaching Crisis and Emergency levels of acute food insecurity, respectively, according to FEWS NET. Moreover, populations’ increased access to seeds and related agricultural inputs will likely support additional crop production and livelihood opportunities in the coming months. Nonetheless, the diminished availability of cereals and legumes in the coming months and rising food prices, which were more than 10 percent higher year-over-year throughout Madagascar in November 2022, will likely contribute to the use of negative coping strategies—such as begging, engaging in risky or illegal income generating activities, relocating, and selling valuable assets—among households in the Grand Sud, according to the UN. In the Grand Sud-Est, acute food insecurity is likely to persist as the area recovers from tropical cyclones Batsirai and Emnati, which exacerbated humanitarian conditions beginning in February 2022, according to the IPC TWG.

### **An Estimated 479,000 Cases of Acute Malnutrition Likely in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est**

Illnesses, limited dietary diversity, and persistent food insecurity continue to drive malnutrition outcomes among at-risk populations in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est, the IPC TWG reports. An estimated 479,000 children younger than five years of age are expected to be acutely malnourished in the two areas through April 2023. Specifically, the IPC TWG projects approximately 355,000 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 53,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) may occur in the Grand Sud during this period. In the Grand Sud-Est, the IPC TWG anticipates that nearly 123,000 cases of MAM and 39,000 cases of SAM may occur during this timeframe. Health facility admissions for SAM and MAM increased throughout all districts of the Grand Sud-Est, apart from Atsimo-Atsinanana’s Vangaindrano district, from

<sup>2</sup> The IPC is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

January to October 2022 compared with the same period in 2021. Districts in the cyclone-affected Farafangana and Manakara regions reported admission rates approximately five times higher than in 2021 during the same period, the UN reports. As of December 2022, Grand-Sud-Est's Nosy Varika and Befotaka districts in Vatovavy and Atsimo-Atsinanana, respectively, are likely to be the most affected by malnutrition. In the Grand Sud, Bekily and Ampanihy districts in Androy and Atsimo-Andrefana, respectively, are likely to be most affected. Furthermore, malnutrition outcomes are likely to deteriorate throughout southern Madagascar during the November-to-March lean season, which historically coincides with peak levels of malnutrition.

## Drought Continues to Prompt Displacement in the Grand Sud

Three consecutive years of drought—the worst in Madagascar in more than 40 years—displaced more than 90,000 people in the Grand Sud between January 2019 and November 2022, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). While more than 6,800 displaced individuals had returned to their areas of origin as of September 2022, the total number of displaced people continued to rise as of mid-November 2022. While drought is considered a pre-eminent driver of displacement in the Grand Sud, individuals displaced between October and November 2022 reported diminished livelihood opportunities in their area of origin as a primary motivator of relocation, with Anosy's Amboasary and Ambovombe districts reporting the highest number of displacements. Approximately 90 percent of individuals displaced between October and November relocated within the Grand Sud, where 40 percent of the region was classified as experiencing severe drought in 2021, according to the IOM.

### KEY FIGURES



**800,000**

People who received emergency food assistance from WFP with USAID/BHA and other donor support during November 2022

### U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

#### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA food assistance and nutrition programming in southern Madagascar reaches communities experiencing acute food insecurity and wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—due to the ongoing, multi-year drought and other drivers, such as climatic shocks and high global food prices. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided in-kind food assistance and cash transfers to more than 800,000 drought-affected people in southern Madagascar during November 2022 alone. WFP's food assistance was integrated with nutrition support services that reached nearly 80,000 children ages five years and younger and more than 12,000 pregnant and lactating women during the month.

USAID/BHA also funds Action Contre la Faim (ACF), the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to provide emergency food assistance—in the form of cash transfers for food, food vouchers, local and internationally procured foods, and U.S.-sourced in-kind food commodities—to help food-insecure households in Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Atsimo-Atsinanana, Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy regions meet their basic needs. Additionally, ACF, Doctors of the World, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and WFP support the procurement of specialized nutritious foods to prevent and treat wasting in children and pregnant and lactating women.



**3,200**

Farmers in the Grand Sud-Est provided agricultural inputs by ADRA with USAID/BHA support in FY 2022

## **AGRICULTURE**

USAID/BHA is funding partners to strengthen agricultural recovery among drought- and storm-affected communities and bolster household resilience against climatic shocks in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est. USAID/BHA funds ACF, ADRA, CRS, and the International Potato Center to implement agriculture assistance activities, such as distributing seeds and tools to increase agricultural production and strengthen livelihoods. With USAID/BHA funding in FY 2022, ADRA supported communities affected by drought and cyclones in the Grand Sud-Est by providing training to approximately 160 lead farmers—including more than 80 women—on resilient agriculture practices such as improved seed selection, pest management, and storage techniques. Lead farmers then constructed nearly 220 demonstration plots and trained additional farmers in advanced techniques. Additionally, ADRA provided agricultural inputs, including seeds, to approximately 3,200 farmers throughout FY 2022 to support the replanting of fields after seasonal cyclones.



**\$2 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2023

## **WASH**

USAID/BHA supports ACF, ADRA, CARE, Doctors of the World, and UNICEF in implementing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions that help prevent the spread of communicable diseases and reduce the prevalence of wasting among southern Madagascar’s storm-affected populations. USAID/BHA supported WASH activities to increase drought-affected populations’ access to safe drinking water, including through the provision of emergency water trucking services across southern Madagascar. With USAID/BHA support, ADRA rehabilitated nine water points and constructed four new water points in the Grand Sud-Est to increase access to safe drinking water between June and September 2022.



**\$1 million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for protection programming in FY 2023

## **PROTECTION**

USAID/BHA partners with CRS, Doctors of the World, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to implement critical protection activities, including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services at mobile health clinics and protection awareness campaigns among humanitarian response partners and stakeholders in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est. USAID/BHA-supported protection activities aim to improve GBV prevention, case identification, and case management for at-risk populations, including women and children, and mainstream protection activities at the local level in eastern and southern Madagascar.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Madagascar is susceptible to numerous natural disasters and shocks—including disease outbreaks, drought, floods, pest infestations, sandstorms, and tropical cyclones—that disrupt livelihoods and force households to adopt negative coping mechanisms to survive, leaving them more susceptible to future climatic shocks. Southern Madagascar is particularly susceptible to recurrent drought conditions that lead to poor harvests and decreased livestock productivity.
- Lean seasons—the periods between harvests when household food stocks are low—have lasted longer in recent years across southern Madagascar’s Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo-Andrefana, according to WFP. Currently, populations in this area are facing the most extreme drought since 1981, resulting in rapidly deteriorating food security and nutrition conditions, the UN reports.
- On February 8, 2022, Chargé d’Affaires (CdA) Amy J. Hyatt declared a disaster in Madagascar due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Batsirai, and on February 25, 2022, CdA Hyatt declared a disaster in Madagascar due to the impact of Tropical Cyclone Emnati.
- On October 20, 2022, U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar Claire Pierangelo issued a redeclaration of humanitarian need in response to the continued effects of cyclones, ongoing drought, and persistent food insecurity.

### USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1,2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
ADRA	Agriculture	Atsimo-Atsinanana	\$1,855,400
CRS	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement, US In-Kind	Androy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$2,164,026
UNFPA	Protection	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Vatovavy	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	WASH	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$1,998,594
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$7,018,020</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR DROUGHT AND CYCLONE RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$7,018,020</b>

<sup>1</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of January 20, 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).

- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)