

Madagascar – Drought & Tropical Cyclone

MAY 12, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

29.6 MILLION	3.9 MILLION	1.5 MILLION	226,000	85,000
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 Cyclone Freddy	Estimated Number of People Temporarily Displaced by Cyclones in 2023
<i>UN – October 2022</i>	<i>UN – March 2023</i>	<i>IPC – January 2023</i>	<i>UN – March 2023</i>	<i>BNGRC – February 2023</i>

- The UN issued a revised flash appeal for southern and southeastern Madagascar in March, aiming to provide critical humanitarian assistance to approximately 1.9 million people with the most severe needs resulting from drought and cyclones.
- Tropical Cyclone Cheneso and Tropical Cyclone Freddy in early 2023 have resulted in more than 1.5 million people experiencing acute food insecurity due to agricultural and infrastructural damage.
- Cyclone effects have resulted in elevated health and nutrition needs, particularly in southern Madagascar where damage to health facilities has limited access to medical services.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Madagascar Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA¹

\$24,518,020

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

Total

\$24,518,020

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Nearly 3.9 Million People in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est Require Humanitarian Assistance in 2023

The UN estimates that 3.9 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—require humanitarian assistance in 2023 due to the compounding effects of cyclones and drought. In March, the UN launched a revised flash appeal for the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est to reach approximately 1.9 million of the most severely affected populations with humanitarian assistance in 2023. In 2022 and 2023, cyclones in the Grand Sud-Est and drought in the Grand Sud have resulted in elevated needs for food, health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support.

The combined effects of cyclones and drought have caused crop loss and reduced food availability, resulting in nearly 2.2 million people in need of food and livelihood assistance, according to the appeal. In February 2023, Tropical Cyclone Freddy damaged or destroyed several health facilities, particularly in the Grand Sud-Est, which left many vulnerable people without access to health care. The lack of access to food and health services has resulted in approximately 919,000 people—including children and pregnant and lactating women—in need of nutrition assistance. Relatedly, WASH needs remain high due to limited access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities across both areas. Furthermore, the cumulative impacts of climatic shocks and food insecurity have increased women and girls’ exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) and elevated risks for protection violations. Relief actors highlight concern regarding increases in child labor, domestic violence, early marriage, and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est.

Cyclones in Early 2023 Exacerbate Food Insecurity and Livelihood Loss

Two consecutive cyclones in Madagascar in early 2023—Tropical Cyclone Cheneso in January and Tropical Cyclone Freddy from February to March—exacerbated food insecurity across the south, resulting in more than 1.5 million people facing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between April and July.² Recurrent climatic shocks in Madagascar have caused cyclical flooding resulting in agricultural and infrastructural damage, undermining efforts to reduce acute food insecurity due to extended drought, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Tropical Cyclone Cheneso damaged or destroyed nearly 350,000 acres of cropland—largely in northern and western Madagascar—and destroyed approximately 1,400 rice fields, according to the Government of Madagascar (GoM) National Bureau of Risk and Disaster Management (BNGRC). Additionally, Tropical Cyclone Freddy damaged or destroyed nearly 150,000 acres of cropland in southern Madagascar, according to relief actors. The two cyclones also damaged or destroyed stored food and seeds, jeopardizing resources to improve food security and household livelihoods, the BNGRC reports.

However, legume and maize harvests in the Grand Sud and rice harvests in the Grand Sud-Est between March and May began to modestly alleviate food consumption gaps, according to FEWS NET. Relief actors expect food security to improve in May and June, though below-average harvests and persistent effects of drought will likely prompt recurring Crisis levels of acute food insecurity in these areas upon depletion of food stocks. Furthermore, consecutive years of drought recently prompted households in the Grand Sud to prioritize consumption, rather than building food stocks, highlighting the anticipated

² The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (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.

longevity of food insecurity in the region, FEWS NET reports. USAID/BHA continues to support partners to provide critical food assistance in response to food insecurity and other humanitarian needs exacerbated by the two cyclones.

Health and Nutrition Needs Persist for Cyclone- and Drought-Affected Communities

Cumulative effects of cyclones and droughts have compounded health and nutrition emergencies in southern Madagascar. The effects of Tropical Cyclone Freddy have hindered health care access for an estimated 865,000 people, according to the GoM. The cyclone and subsequent flooding resulted in damage to approximately 50 health facilities, as well as roads enabling access to such services, prompting elevated concern for a potential resurgence in communicable diseases. Low immunization rates—less than 70 percent—increase the risk of outbreaks of transmissible diseases, such as measles and polio, according to the GoM. Furthermore, damage to WASH systems exposed communities to heightened risks of waterborne illness, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Additionally, prevalence of global acute malnutrition exceeded WHO’s emergency threshold of 15 percent in two cyclone-affected districts in the Grand Sud-Est as of March, reflecting further deterioration in areas already facing high levels of malnutrition, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports.

KEY FIGURES



2.5 Million

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



\$12.4 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for agriculture programming

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. USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) delivers large-scale food assistance to address pervasive food insecurity and malnutrition. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP reached at least 2.5 million food insecure people in Madagascar with food assistance and nutrition activities in 2022, including nearly 1.5 million people in drought-affected southern districts and nearly 590,000 people in cyclone- and flood-affected southeastern districts with food assistance and cash-based transfers.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

USAID/BHA is funding partners to strengthen agricultural recovery, as well as the rehabilitation of livelihoods in the wake of climate shocks, among drought- and storm-affected communities in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est. USAID/BHA partners Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provide agricultural assistance to vulnerable households in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est by providing crop seeds, farming tools, and training to improve agricultural production. With USAID/BHA support, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is building technical capacity in climate-smart agriculture, in addition to providing farming tools, small livestock production support, and vegetable seeds. FAO additionally aids the rehabilitation of livelihoods for vulnerable

households affected by drought in Grand Sud by improving access to seeds of drought-tolerant crops.



\$2.2 Million

In dedicated
USAID/BHA support for
WASH programming

WASH

USAID/BHA continues to support Action contre la Faim (ACF), Doctors of the World, and UNICEF in implementing 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 improve drought-affected populations' access to safe drinking water across southern Madagascar. USAID/BHA partner CARE also redirected resources to deliver emergency relief supplies and WASH items to cyclone-affected communities, reaching 1,990 households as of mid-April. In addition to supporting GoM authorities in registering cyclone-affected individuals for assistance, CARE shared GBV prevention and WASH promotion messaging at distribution sites. Furthermore, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF provided lifesaving WASH assistance in southern Madagascar to mitigate the impact of drought, including through reconversion of existing water points for expanded utility and delivery of WASH kits, comprising items such as soap and water containers.



\$1.4 Million

In dedicated
USAID/BHA support for
protection activities

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA partners with CRS, Doctors of the World, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to implement critical protection activities, including GBV-related prevention and response services and protection awareness campaigns among humanitarian response partners and stakeholders in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est. USAID/BHA-supported UNFPA programming improves vulnerable populations' access to information on preventing GBV and SEA and supporting individual rights, as well as access to protection mechanisms, including complaint procedures and psychosocial support.



\$1 Million

In dedicated
USAID/BHA support for
logistics programming

LOGISTICS

As recurrent climatic impacts frequently impede logistical access to populations in need, USAID/BHA funds logistics support programming to ensure consistent humanitarian access to cyclone- and drought-affected communities. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP facilitates humanitarian access to hard-to-reach areas of Madagascar by managing UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights. UNHAS transportation enables relief workers to reach remote project implementation sites and transport light humanitarian cargo, such as medical supplies, high energy foods, and information and communications technology equipment.

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 regions, 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 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
ADRA	Agriculture	Atsimo-Atsinanana	\$1,855,400
CRS	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Food Assistance, Nutrition, Protection	Androy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$10,664,026
Doctors of the World	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Androy, Anosy	\$1,500,000
FAO	Agriculture	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$2,500,000
International Potato Center	Agriculture	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$4,000,000
UNFPA	Protection	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana, Atsimo-Atsinanana, Fitovinany, Vatovavy	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	WASH	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$1,998,594
WFP	Logistics	Analamanga	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$24,518,020

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 12, 2023.

² 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

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