

Madagascar – Drought & Tropical Cyclone

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>30.3 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of Madagascar</p> <p><i>UN – September 2023</i></p>	<p>3.9 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population in Need of Assistance in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est</p> <p><i>UN – March 2023</i></p>	<p>1.1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population Facing Acute Food Insecurity</p> <p><i>IPC – September 2023</i></p>	<p>226,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Adversely Affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy</p> <p><i>UN – March 2023</i></p>	<p>85,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Temporarily Displaced by Cyclones in 2023</p> <p><i>BNGRC – February 2023</i></p>
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- Relief actors, including USAID/BHA partners, provided humanitarian assistance to more than 1.6 million cyclone- and drought-affected people in Madagascar between March and June, according to the UN.
- More than 1 million people are likely facing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity in Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est regions following cyclonic destruction of cash crops, drought, and reduced harvests since early 2023.
- The compounding effects of high food prices and recurrent climatic shocks—including seasonal cyclones and drought—have resulted in elevated acute malnutrition levels, 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

\$65,699,630

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

Total

\$65,699,630

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Relief Actors Deliver Humanitarian Assistance to More Than 1.6 Million People in Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est Following Flash Appeal

Humanitarian actors, including USAID/BHA partners, delivered food and livelihood assistance to more than 1.6 million cyclone-affected people in Madagascar between March and June following the UN's release of a revised flash appeal in March, according to the UN. The appeal targeted 1.9 million people in southern Madagascar's Grand Sud Region—comprising Androy and Anosy regions and parts of Atsimo-Andrefana Region—and Grand Sud-Est, comprising Atsimo-Atsinanana, Fitovinany, and Vatovavy regions. Two consecutive cyclones—Tropical Cyclone Cheneso and Tropical Cyclone Freddy—struck Madagascar in early 2023, resulting in damage to several health facilities in the Grand Sud-Est and heightened food, health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs in the area, according to the UN. Moreover, the compounding effects of drought conditions from late 2022 and cyclonic damage during early 2023 severely hampered agricultural production. In response, relief actors provided life-saving food, health, livelihood, nutrition, and WASH support to more than 614,000 people in the Grand Sud-Est and an estimated 1 million others in the Grand Sud between March and June, according to the UN. Specifically, humanitarian organizations delivered cash transfers to nearly 362,000 people and provided an estimated 311,000 children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women with nutrition services. Relief actors also assisted more than 99,600 people with accessing to safe drinking water—primarily through WASH rehabilitation efforts—and delivered more than 38,000 hygiene kits to populations in need.

Cyclone-Affected Populations Remain in Need of Food Assistance

While humanitarian assistance and emergency response efforts have contributed to improved food security outcomes in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est since November 2022, more than 1 million individuals—16 percent of the regions' population—likely faced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between June and September 2023, according to an IPC analysis for the same period.² This scale of food insecurity includes more than 50,000 people who likely experienced Emergency—IPC 4—outcomes. The most food-insecure districts—including Grand Sud's Amboasary Atsimo, Ambovombe, Androy, and Betioky Atsimo districts and Grand Sud-Est's Befotaka, Ikongo, and Nosy Varika areas—sustained heavy damage from the cyclones in early 2023, which disrupted local infrastructure and damaged crops, reducing harvests and available food supplies. Additionally, high food prices and the adverse effects of drought on agricultural production have reduced individuals' ability to meet their basic food needs; these factors, in conjunction with the spread of waterborne diseases, have hindered post-cyclone recovery in the Grand Sud-Est, according to the UN. Drought during late 2022 resulted in crop losses between 10 and 65 percent across the region, leading to a reduced harvest in early 2023, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. Furthermore, cyclones Cheneso and Freddy destroyed nearly 90 percent of southern Madagascar's remaining cash crops in early 2023, making crop yields unlikely to recover until 2024, according to the IPC analysis and the UN. As a result, more than 1.3 million people across Madagascar will likely experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity between October and December, including nearly 80,000 people projected to face Emergency—IPC 4—conditions, according to the IPC analysis. Additionally, strong El Niño effects—including lower-than-average rainfall and above-average temperatures—may affect agricultural production in southern Madagascar beginning in January 2024, further deteriorating food security conditions across the Grand-Sud and Grand Sud-Est, FEWS NET reports.

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.

Nearly 459,000 Children in Cyclone- and Drought-Affected Communities Likely to Face Acute Malnutrition

The cumulative effects of cyclones and droughts continue to drive acute malnutrition among at-risk populations in Madagascar, with relief actors projecting that an estimated 459,000 children younger than five years of age will experience acute malnutrition between June 2023 and April 2024, according to an August IPC analysis. Of this total, approximately 338,000 children will face moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) while the remaining 121,000 children will likely face severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Relief actors project that populations in the Grand Sud-Est will comprise approximately 196,000 of these acute malnutrition cases, or nearly 42 percent of the total, during this timeframe. Meanwhile, nearly 262,000 children—58 percent of the country’s total population projected to face acute malnutrition—in Grand Sud will likely be acute malnourished during the time period. The IPC analysis projects that acute malnutrition will most significantly affect Grand Sud-Est’s Ikongo and Nosy Varika districts and Grand Sud’s Amboasary, Beloha, Betioky, and Betroka districts.

KEY FIGURES



402,000

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



\$16.8 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for agriculture programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA-supported 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 in-kind food assistance and cash transfers to address pervasive food insecurity and malnutrition. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP reached more than 402,000 food-insecure people in Madagascar with food assistance and nutrition during June alone, delivering more than \$254,000 in cash-based transfers and nearly 1,800 metric tons of food assistance.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

USAID/BHA funds partners to strengthen agricultural recovery and rehabilitate livelihoods in the wake of climatic 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 affected households including 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 supports the rehabilitation of livelihoods for drought-affected households in the Grand Sud by improving access to drought-tolerant crop seeds. During 2023, FAO supported approximately 16,000 vulnerable households through the distribution of cash, planting materials, and seeds, as well as the installation of solar irrigation systems, and distribution of poultry and animal feed.



\$4.2 Million

In dedicated
USAID/BHA support for
WASH programming

WASH

USAID/BHA continues to support Action contre la faim (ACF), Doctors of the World (MDM), and the UN Children’s Fund (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 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, MDM, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to implement critical protection activities, including gender-based violence (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 sexual exploitation and abuse 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			
ACF	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Amboasary-Atsimo, Ambovombe-Androy, Ampanihy Ouest, Androy, Anosy, Atsimo Andrefana, Ikongo, Manakara Atsimo, Vatovavy Fitovinany	\$8,000,000
ADRA	Agriculture	Atsimo-Atsinanana, Farafangana, Vangaindrano	\$1,855,400
	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, WASH	Ampanihy Ouest	\$7,500,000
CRS	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Nutrition, Protection	Ambovombe-Androy, Ampanihy Ouest, Androy, Atsimo Andrefana, Bekily, Beloha, Tsihombe	\$2,164,026
	Food Assistance—U.S In-Kind Food Aid, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)		
	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, Nutrition, Protection	Ambovombe-Androy, Bekily, Beloha, Tsihombe	\$8,500,000
FAO	Agriculture	Ambovombe-Androy, Ampanihy Ouest, Anosy, Atsimo Andrefana	\$2,500,000
International Potato Center	Agriculture	Amboasary-Atsimo, Ambovombe-Androy, Ampanihy Ouest, Androy, Atsimo Andrefana, Bekily, Beloha, Betioky Atsimo, Betroka, Taolagnaro, Tsihombe	\$4,000,000
MDM	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amboasary-Atsimo, Androy, Anosy, Bekily	\$1,500,000
UNFPA	Protection	Amboasary-Atsimo, Ambovombe-Androy, Ampanihy Ouest, Befotaka, Bekily, Beloha, Farafangana, Ikongo, Mananjary, Nosy-Varika, Tsihombe, Vangaindrano	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	WASH	Amboasary-Atsimo, Ambovombe-Androy, Ampanihy Ouest, Androy, Anosy, Atsimo Andrefana, Bekily, Beloha, Betioky Atsimo, Betroka, Taolagnaro, Tsihombe	\$1,998,594
WFP	Food Assistance—U.S In-Kind Food Aid, LRIP; Nutrition	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo Andrefana	\$3,506,235
	Food Assistance—LRIP, Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$22,131,500
	Logistics	Antananarivo-Atsimondrano	\$1,000,000
	In-Kind Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$28,500
	Program Support		\$15,375
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$65,699,630

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2023.

² Total value of food assistance and associated costs adjusted from estimated to actual values.

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://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)