

Madagascar – Drought

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

1.6 MILLION	1.1 MILLION	500,000	14,000	880,000
Estimated Population in Need of Assistance	Estimated Acutely Food-Insecure Population	Estimated Children Five Years and Younger Projected to be Acutely Malnourished in 2021	Estimated Population Experiencing Catastrophe—IPC 5—Levels of Acute Food Insecurity	Estimated Number of People in Madagascar Receiving Humanitarian Assistance in 2021
<i>UN – September 2021</i>	<i>IPC – July 2021</i>	<i>UN – September 2021</i>	<i>IPC – May 2021</i>	<i>UN – September 2021</i>

- Extreme drought and other factors are driving widespread acute food insecurity in southern Madagascar. More than 1.1 million people experienced acute food insecurity conditions and required food assistance in early 2021, nearly double estimates from the same period in 2020.
- Conditions are likely to continue deteriorating in the coming months. Nearly 1.6 million people—approximately 60 percent of southern Madagascar’s population—will likely require humanitarian assistance from June 2021 to May 2022.
- Approximately 14,000 people experienced Catastrophe—IPC 5—acute food insecurity conditions between April and September.



TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Madagascar Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$50,068,636
	Total	\$50,068,636

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

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Extreme Drought Drives Acute Food Insecurity in Southern Madagascar

Humanitarian conditions are deteriorating quickly across southern Madagascar, as five consecutive years of below-average rainfall have culminated in the region's most extreme drought since 1981, according to the UN. Resultant poor harvests—compounded by the adverse socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, significant pest infestations, and limited demand for agricultural labor—have reduced household purchasing power, exhausted coping mechanisms, and diminished available food supplies, generating widespread food insecurity in the region. Specifically, below-average agricultural production in eastern and southern Madagascar has led to price increases in recent months of up to 30 percent for primary staple foods in urban areas. Moreover, fall armyworm and weevils have infested and destroyed staple crops in parts of the region, while migratory locusts have invaded southern Madagascar in recent months, infesting nearly 119,000 acres by late June and laying eggs that could develop into a broader infestation and threaten future harvests, according to the UN and local media. Finally, COVID-19-related restrictions on movement and economic activity have compounded the effects of the drought and exacerbated chronic vulnerabilities by limiting livelihood opportunities and restricting household access to markets.

IPC Status October - December 2021 ²	
Phase 5	27,836 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	484,020 people in Emergency
Phase 3	801,480 people in Crisis
Phase 2	915,231 people in Stress
Phase 1	463,645 people Minimally Food Insecure

As a result, more than 1.1 million people in southern Madagascar likely experienced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity and required emergency food assistance between April and September, according to an April IPC analysis.³ In addition, approximately 392,000 people across the region faced Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity, representing a more than 30 percent increase in the population experiencing Emergency conditions between January and April 2021. Finally, nearly 14,000 people in Anosy Region's Amboasary District experienced household-level Catastrophe—IPC 5—acute food insecurity conditions, marking the first time that Catastrophe acute food insecurity conditions have been recorded in Madagascar.⁴

Food security conditions are likely to continue deteriorating across southern Madagascar in the coming months. More than 1.3 million people will likely experience Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity and require emergency food assistance during the onset of the agricultural lean season—when food is scarcest—between October and December, with more than 484,000 people projected to face Emergency food insecurity conditions in the same period, according to a July IPC analysis. Without continued humanitarian assistance, the

Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects that acute food insecurity conditions in Androy Region's Ambovombe and Tsihombe districts, as well as Atsimo-Andrefana Region's Ampanihy District, will deteriorate from Crisis to Emergency levels between October 2021 and January 2022. Similarly, food security outcomes in other drought-affected areas of southern Madagascar will likely worsen from Stressed—IPC 2—levels to Crisis levels during the same period, while the population experiencing Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity in Amboasary will double to nearly 28,000.

² Estimates based on the July 2021 IPC analysis.

³ 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.

⁴ A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) is scaling up emergency food assistance operations across southern Madagascar to meet increased food needs in the lead-up to the December-to-February lean season. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, WFP plans to provide full food assistance rations to approximately 687,000 people in southern Madagascar in September and October, including 370,000 people facing Emergency and Catastrophe outcomes. Overall, WFP intends to reach over 1 million of the more than 1.3 million people expected to experience Crisis or worse outcomes during the lean season. However, movement restrictions associated with COVID-19 lockdown measures and security constraints in some isolated localities due to cattle raiders are likely to limit humanitarian access to many vulnerable communities.

Relief Actors Report High Acute Malnutrition Rates in Southern Madagascar

Widespread acute food insecurity conditions are also contributing to the rapid deterioration of nutrition conditions in southern Madagascar, relief actors report. Between late 2020 and June 2021, the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate among children increased in all nine districts of southern Madagascar, with GAM prevalence exceeding the 15 percent emergency threshold in Androy's Ambovombe and Bekily districts and reaching more than 26 percent in Ambovombe, according to an IPC analysis released in July. More than 500,000 children under five years of age are likely to experience acute malnutrition conditions in 2021, representing a five-fold increase from 2020. In addition to insufficient access to nutritious food sources, poor health and sanitation infrastructure—as well as shortages of safe drinking water—are driving the malnutrition crisis, according to USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). Conditions will continue to deteriorate in the coming months, with GAM prevalence likely to pass the emergency threshold in Androy's Beloha and Tsihombe districts, Anosy's Amboasary-Atsimo District, and Atsimo-Andrefana's Ampanihy District between January and April 2022, a period that coincides with the end of the lean season in southern Madagascar.

UN, GoM Issue Flash Appeal to Respond to Food Insecurity in Madagascar

The UN and Government of Madagascar (GoM) issued a flash appeal for the crisis in southern Madagascar in January, requesting approximately \$76 million to address acute food insecurity and related humanitarian needs in the region between January and May. In response, donors provided approximately \$40 million, or 50 percent of the requested funding between January and June, which relief organizations used to provide food assistance, livelihood support, and nutrition assistance to an estimated 840,000 people. However, due to growing humanitarian needs, the UN revised and extended the flash appeal in June, requesting approximately \$155 million in additional funding to cover anticipated needs between July 2021 and May 2022. The flash appeal is designed to complement a separate, revised national response plan that the GoM released in June, which requested \$185 million to reach approximately 1.6 million people in need of emergency assistance by the second quarter of 2022. Under the flash appeal, the UN aims to provide more than 1.3 million people with emergency food assistance, as well as approximately 808,000 people with access to safe drinking water, 251,000 children with nutritional support, and 213,000 people with health care services.

As of late September, the humanitarian response to the crisis in southern Madagascar remained significantly underfunded, with donors having provided only \$106 million toward the response—less than 50 percent of the \$231 million requested by the initial and revised appeals for humanitarian response activities between January 2021 and May 2022. The U.S. Government remains the largest donor to the drought response in southern Madagascar, providing more than \$50 million in USAID/BHA funding for food assistance and multi-sector support in FY 2021.

KEY FIGURES



\$45.1 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for agriculture, food assistance, and nutrition programming in FY 2021



\$3.1 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

With more than \$45.1 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA is providing agriculture, food, and nutrition assistance in southern Madagascar, reaching communities experiencing acute food insecurity and malnutrition as a result of drought and other drivers. USAID/BHA supports WFP and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 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 U.S. in-kind food commodities, locally and internationally procured foods, cash transfers for food, and food vouchers—to help food-insecure households in Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo-Andrefana meet their basic needs. USAID/BHA also supports ACF, CRS, UNICEF, and WFP to address rising acute malnutrition rates across southern Madagascar, with funding to support the procurement of specialized nutritious foods for the prevention and treatment of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—in children and pregnant and lactating women, as well as malnutrition screening and case management services. USAID/BHA also provides funding to ACF and ADRA to conduct activities that complement food and nutrition assistance efforts, such as bolstering agricultural production and livelihoods through the distribution of tools and seeds.

WASH

USAID/BHA supports ACF, ADRA, CRS, and UNICEF with approximately \$3.1 million in FY 2021 funding to conduct water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions across southern Madagascar, preventing the spread of communicable diseases and reducing the prevalence of acute malnutrition. USAID/BHA-supported WASH activities include hygiene promotion programming, rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure, treatment of water access points, distribution of hygiene kits, and emergency water trucking to drought-affected communities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Madagascar is susceptible to numerous natural disasters—including disease outbreaks, drought, floods, pest infestations, sand storms, 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 in particular is 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, according to WFP. Currently, populations in southern Madagascar’s Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo-Andrefana regions are facing the most extreme drought since 1981, resulting in rapidly deteriorating food security and nutrition conditions, the UN reports.
- On February 3, 2021, U.S. Ambassador Michael P. Pelletier declared a disaster in Madagascar due to the drought and food insecurity crisis. USAID/BHA continues to support food-insecure communities in southern Madagascar with food assistance and other emergency interventions, including programs to improve agricultural production and revitalize livelihoods. USAID/BHA funding also supports the provision of health care, nutrition assistance, and WASH services to drought-affected communities in southern Madagascar.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021⁵

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
ACF	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$4,500,000
ADRA	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Vouchers, WASH	Atsimo-Andrefana	\$3,000,000
CRS	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, ⁶ Cash Transfers; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Nutrition; WASH	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$11,351,246
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$4,249,708
WFP	Logistics	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$500,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$15,717,683
	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition	Androy, Anosy, Atsimo-Andrefana	\$10,750,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$50,068,636
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MADAGASCAR RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$50,068,636

⁵ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

⁶ 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://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)