

## CONTEXT

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- Populations in southern Madagascar's Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo-Andrefana regions are facing the most extreme drought since 1981, the UN reports. Amid the resulting severe and rapidly deteriorating food security and nutrition crisis, approximately 1.1 million people in southern and southeastern areas of the country experienced high levels of acute food insecurity and required emergency assistance in early 2021, nearly double estimates from the same period in 2020, according to an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. Conditions in late 2021 in the same regions are likely to be more severe, IPC projects.
- Madagascar is susceptible to disasters like cyclones, drought, floods, pest infestations, and disease outbreaks that disrupt livelihoods and force households to resort to negative coping mechanisms—such as selling livestock or farming equipment—to survive, leaving them more vulnerable in the future. Lean seasons, the periods between harvests when household food stocks are low, have lasted longer in recent years, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP).
- Restrictions due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have compounded the effects of drought and chronic vulnerabilities by limiting livelihood opportunities and restricting household access to markets. The economic impacts of the pandemic have severely impacted lower-income households in urban areas, as these households are reliant on informal labor opportunities.



## ASSISTANCE

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- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is prioritizing support for continued, large-scale responses to the critical food security and nutrition crisis in southern Madagascar. Through WFP and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), USAID/BHA funding supports emergency food assistance sourced from local and U.S. markets. This is complemented by USAID/BHA-funded nutrition assistance, including support for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP to procure specialized nutritious foods for the prevention and treatment of wasting in children younger than five years of age. During the October 2020–April 2021 lean season, WFP provided approximately 450,000 people in Madagascar with in-kind food assistance and 300,000 people with monthly cash transfers for food. In addition, in FY 2020, USAID/BHA supported the procurement of more than 18,000 metric tons (MT) of in-kind commodities for emergency food and nutrition assistance.
- Recognizing the unique challenges to urban livelihoods posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, USAID/BHA also supported WFP to provide additional emergency assistance to vulnerable households in six major

cities in Madagascar. WFP provided cash transfers of approximately \$26 per month, sufficient to cover approximately one-half of a household’s essential needs, through a program designed to reach approximately 65,000 households, or nearly 324,000 individuals, over several two-month periods between July 2020 and February 2021.

- In addition to response to immediate, emergency needs, USAID/BHA also provides economic recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) assistance designed to address long-standing vulnerabilities, helping at-risk communities in Madagascar better prepare for and cope with crises. From FY 2014 to FY 2019, USAID—through the former Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)—supported the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and CRS to implement five-year programs totaling approximately \$77 million. A formal evaluation of the projects released in 2020 found that both programs resulted in meaningful change: notably, a significant reduction in indicators of child malnutrition, with the prevalence of wasting among children younger than five years of age decreasing by half, from 6 percent at the beginning of the programs to 3 percent at the conclusion.
- Building on lessons learned from the previous ER4 programs, USAID/BHA is now supporting ADRA and CRS to conduct two additional multi-year programs, which began in FY 2020. The programs aim to address the underlying causes of acute food insecurity and malnutrition, operating in four regions in southern Madagascar with multi-sector support designed to build resilience in the most vulnerable communities. ADRA intends to reach nearly 430,000 people in Atsimo-Antsinanana and Vatovavy-Fitovinany regions over the course of its programming, while CRS is aiming to provide assistance to nearly 280,000 people in Androy and Atsimo-Andrefana regions. Both programs will continue through FY 2024, with a combined total of \$90 million in funding from USAID/BHA to improve maternal and child health, increase household income, and strengthen resource management and community capacity to manage disasters and others shocks and stresses.



On December 11, 2020, 401 people received food from a USAID/BHA-funded ER4 program in southern Madagascar. USAID/BHA partners distributed 13.5 MT of sorghum, yellow split peas, and vegetable oil to households vulnerable to recurrent drought and the food security crisis occurring in the area. *Photo Credit: CRS Madagascar*

USAID/BHA Funding in Madagascar <sup>1</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>2</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$26,324,925	\$23,186,503	\$49,511,428
FY 2021	\$47,399,681	-	\$47,399,681

<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 July 16, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.