



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Madagascar Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est

Response overview | July 2022



In numbers



1.95 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est (September–November 2022)



USD 61 million worth of food crops, USD 78 million of cash crops and USD 1.47 million of livestock lost due to the cyclones in the Grand Sud-Est

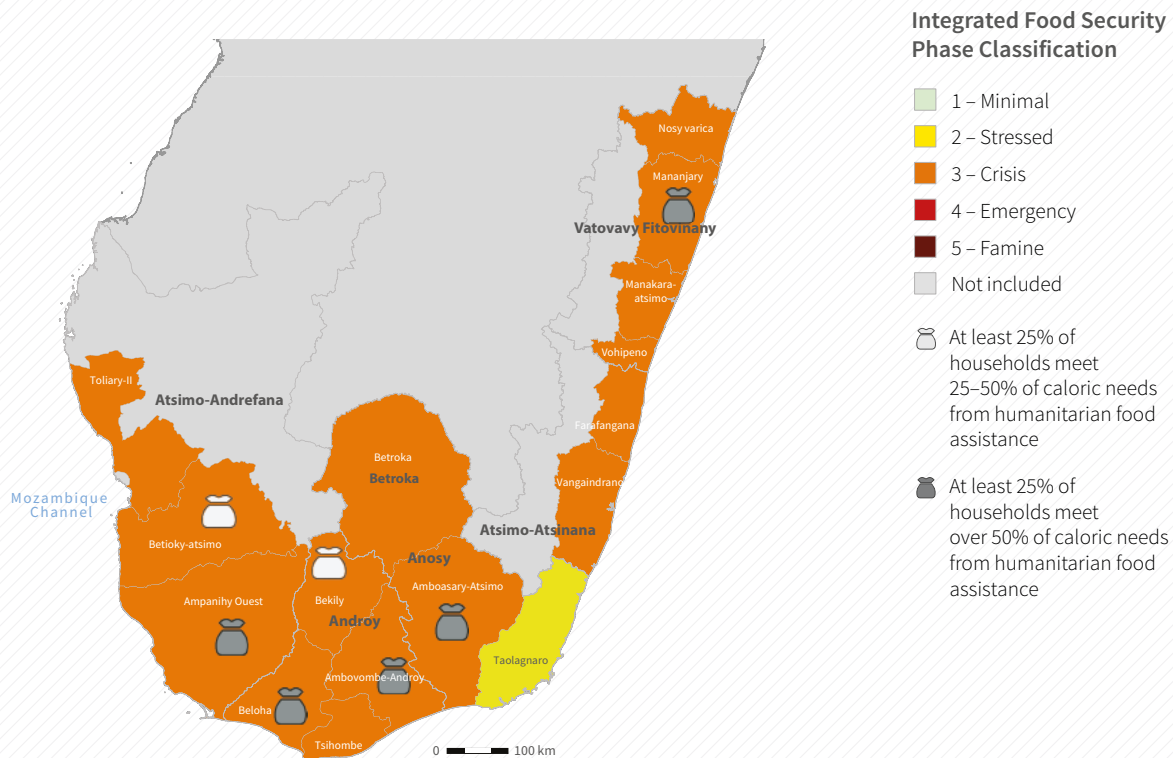


USD 27.15 million still needed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan

Key points

- Three consecutive years of severe drought in the Grand Sud of Madagascar have led to the country's worst food crisis in the last 20 years, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of already poor populations.
- Despite humanitarian interventions, the outcome of the main agricultural season in 2021 was low due to reduced cultivated areas linked to limited access to agricultural inputs and the delayed onset of rains. Subsequently, sowing for 60 percent of households took place in January 2022 instead of November 2021.
- The passage of cyclones Batsirai and Emnati in February 2022 devastated the livelihoods of populations in the Grand Sud-Est, damaging rice, cassava and cash crops, leading to higher levels of acute food insecurity.
- The situation was exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, such as market supply disruptions, rising commodity prices (rice, maize, vegetables, pesticides, fertilizers and fuel) compared with previous years, and the general decline in income and employment opportunities.
- Armyworm attacks have also been reported in the Grand Sud on most crops of the previous agricultural season resulting in significant losses for households whose fields hadn't been treated with pesticides.

Projected acute food insecurity situation (September–November 2022)



Source: IPC. 2022. Madagascar (Grand South & Grand South-East): Projected food security and nutrition situation, September–November 2022. Rome, Italy. [Cited 28 July 2022]. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Madagascar_AcuteFoodSecur_22Apr23Mar_Snapshot_English.pdf

Planned response

- Provide 260 000 households with agricultural inputs (pulse and cereal seeds, planting material for cassava and sweet potatoes, tools, fertilizers, solar water pumps) for the next agricultural season (November 2022–March 2023) and increase households' capacities in terms of rational water management systems.
- Provide 40 000 vulnerable households in the Grand Sud with quality seeds (cereal, pulse and tuber) and planting material.
- Revive cash crops (breadfruit, coffee, clove) and agroforestry activities through technical support for the installation of community nurseries benefiting 20 000 cyclone-affected households in the Grand Sud.
- Diversify sources of income through storage, processing and marketing of agricultural, livestock and fisheries products benefiting 15 000 households (of whom 10 000 in the Grand Sud and 5 000 in the Grand Sud-Est).
- Carry out restocking of small livestock and provide animal health support, benefiting 55 000 households.
- Provide technical support along with fishing equipment to 20 000 households to restore maritime fishing and aquaculture.
- Strengthen monitoring of food insecurity/vulnerability situation and early warning system to trigger anticipatory actions in the event of a disaster.
- Improve coordination of food security and livelihood interventions at national and regional levels to better prepare for and respond to disasters/shocks.
- Protect crops against plant pests and diseases, and locust control.

While restoring the production of cash fruit crops destroyed by the cyclones will take at least three years, affected households urgently require short-cycle crop (bean, sweet potato and rice) and vegetable production support so that they can quickly produce their own food.



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Ongoing activities

- Implementing cash+ activities in the Grand Sud benefiting 60 000 households through the provision of a total of 796.2 kg of vegetable seeds, 88.5 tonnes of bean seeds, 5 million cassava cuttings and cash transfers (USD 23.7/household) to restore production during the current agricultural season (April–October).
- Providing goats along with technical support to 1 300 vulnerable female-headed households in the Grand Sud.
- Providing laying hens along with technical support to 6 000 vulnerable households (of whom 2 400 female-headed) in the Grand Sud.
- Providing fishing gear, equipment and technical support to 2 050 households in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est.
- Continuing the campaign against the resurgence of Malagasy migratory locusts and preparing an action plan for the following campaign starting in August 2022, should the Minister of Agriculture request technical support from FAO.
- Planning a vaccination campaign in collaboration with the Animal Health Department for around 225 000 animals.

Providing affected households with agricultural inputs in time for the main agricultural season (November 2022) is an important opportunity to improve the food security of vulnerable families and increase their self-reliance.

Response to date

- Provided vegetable and bean seeds, cassava cuttings and planting material to 22 000 households in the Grand Sud (18 500 households) and Grand Sud-Est (3 500 households) for the current agricultural season (April–October 2022).
- Provided technical support and goats to 2 500 vulnerable households of the Grand Sud.
- Treated 148 500 ha of land against the Malagasy migratory locusts from November 2021 to June 2022.



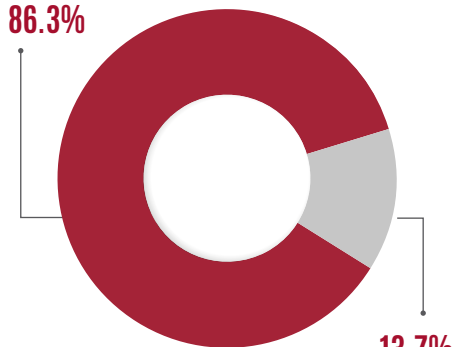
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Funding

FUNDING GAP

USD 27.15 million

86.3%



13.7%

FUNDING TO-DATE

USD 4.3 million

Resource partners

The Governments of the United States of America and Sweden, and the Central Emergency Response Fund



FAO requires

USD 31.45 million



to assist

1.3 million people

(260 000 households), of whom
900 000 in the Grand Sud and
400 000 in the Grand Sud-Est

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Contact

FAO Representation in Madagascar
FAO-MG@fao.org | @FAOMadagascar
Antananarivo, Madagascar

Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org | fao.org/emergencies
Rome, Italy

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Challenges facing food security and agriculture

Recurrent tropical storms and cyclones causing flooding in Madagascar's Grand Sud-Est have damaged the agriculture sector, resulting in significant production losses and the disruption of households' livelihoods. In the Grand Sud, three years of the worst drought in 40 years have wiped out harvests, hindering access to food. Compounding the situation is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. Households' reduced purchasing power, volatile prices and increased inflation, particularly as the country is highly dependent on food and fuel imports, will force households to adopt negative coping mechanisms in order to cover basic needs.

If appropriate livelihoods interventions are not carried out, the projected number of people in IPC Phase 3 and above in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est of Madagascar is expected to further increase, reaching 2.06 million people in December 2022–March 2023.

As the Grand Sud is regularly hit by natural hazards, improving local seed production of drought-tolerant crops, supporting fodder production and conservation, setting up solar pumping and water storage for agriculture and livestock production purposes, and fighting animal and plant pests and diseases are some of the main interventions to be carried out. On average, farmers affected by a year of drought take three years to recover their livelihoods to reach pre-crisis conditions. Providing them with the necessary means to engage in immediate food production while implementing anticipatory actions is essential to strengthen their resilience against the effects of climate change and sustainably improve their food security.



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