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Context

The humanitarian situation in Madagascar remains of concern due to the negative impact of prolonged drought in the Grand Sud and consecutive tropical cyclones in the Gand Sud-Est (Batsirai and Emnati in 2022, and Freddy in 2023). Compounding the situation is the threat of El Niño-induced climate extremes.

In the Grand Sud, the outcome of the 2022/23 main agricultural season was low following reduced cultivated areas and limited access to agricultural inputs. The delayed onset of rains resulted in late planting for 60 percent of households. Furthermore, the vulnerability of drought-affected households is being exacerbated by the forecast rainfall deficit linked to El Niño. This is likely to adversely affect the agricultural production of the main season starting in November 2023. In addition, the depletion of food stocks would worsen food insecurity, prompting households to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as selling livestock and reducing the number of daily meals, as well as to migrate. In the Grand Sud-Est, the impact of multiple cyclones caused severe damage to the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sector. The main affected crops were rice, cassava and sweet potatoes, as well as cash crops such as coffee and cloves. Fishers also suffered significant losses in income as the storms destroyed boats, equipment and infrastructure, and they were unable to fish due to severe weather conditions.

The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis (August 2023) indicated that 1.32 million people were projected to face high acute food insecurity (Phase 3 and above) in October–December 2023 and this figure is expected to increase to 1.72 million in January–April 2024, if appropriate assistance isn't provided, of whom over 1 million in the Grand Sud and the rest in the Grand Sud-Est.

Vulnerable crisis-affected populations require emergency agricultural assistance for livelihood recovery to meet their food needs. Investing in anticipatory actions and risk reduction ahead of El Niño-related climate extremes helps safeguard vulnerable households' livelihoods and prevent a people from falling into worse levels of food insecurity. Providing crisis-affected farming households with agricultural inputs in time for the main planting season starting in November 2023 will enable them to resume food production and recover their livelihoods.

Madagascar

Urgent call for assistance



FAO requires
USD 39.1 million



To assist
**283 000 households
(1 415 000 people)** of whom:

- **208 000 natural disaster-affected households** in IPC Phase 3 and above with emergency agricultural assistance
- **75 000 households** in IPC Phase 2 with Anticipatory Actions to prevent a worsening of their food security situation



Period
November 2023–May 2024



Targeted areas
Androy, Anosy and Atsimo-Andrefana regions in the **Grand Sud**, and Atsimo-Atsinana, Fitovinany and Vatovavy regions in the **Grand Sud-Est**

Objectives

- ▶ Improve vulnerable households' access to diversified and nutritious food.
- ▶ Strengthen the resilience of livelihoods by diversifying their sources of income and through capacity building.
- ▶ Mitigate the impact of El Niño-induced climate extremes on the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable households.

Response

- Cash+ (climate-resilient seeds, tools and fertilizers plus cash assistance) | set up community nurseries to restore cash crop production (cloves, coffee, fruit, etc.) | capacity building to put in place agroforestry systems adapted to climate change | solar pumped irrigation systems | prevention and protection of crops against diseases and pests including locust control | support local production of climate-resilient quality seeds
- Small livestock restocking | capacity building | animal health support (vaccinations, veterinary supplies)
- Rehabilitate fishing and aquaculture activities through technical support and provision of materials and equipment
- Support for sustainable and nutrition-sensitive value chains, prioritizing women and youth groups: training/supervision, production, storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products
- Food security/vulnerability monitoring | early warning systems to trigger anticipatory actions | food security coordination to better prepare for and respond to disasters/shocks

Partnerships

FAO co-leads the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, together with the World Food Programme, coordinating livelihoods restoration interventions, and ensuring synergies and complementarities among partners and their responses.

To implement emergency and resilience interventions, FAO works in partnership with local non-governmental organizations and decentralized national services.

In numbers



1.32 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity (October–December 2023), of whom 797 838 in the Grand Sud and 525 284 in the Grand Sud-Est



458 660 children projected to experience global acute malnutrition (June 2023–April 2024) in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est, of whom **121 000** expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition



USD 147 million worth of losses in the agriculture, livestock and fishing sectors following cyclone Freddy (February 2023)



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