

**Impending crisis:** Food security in Madagascar is under imminent and severe threat from increasing number of swarms of migratory locust. These insects can ruin harvests and destroy livelihoods by devastating crops. Controlling an upsurge already underway can require years and hundreds of millions of US dollars.

Locusts are threatening the livelihoods of nearly half a million Malagasy households reliant on subsistence farming. Millions more people stand to be affected, since agriculture accounts for one-third of the economy and employs 80 percent of the population. Moreover, 50 percent of people live below the poverty line, and 50 percent of children under five are undernourished. The impending locust plague would further cripple the country as it struggles with malnutrition, cyclones, political instability and reduced humanitarian funding.



Migratory locust swarm  
Menabe, Madagascar  
May 2010

**Immediate action:** Swarms have already spread beyond their traditional distribution area. Beginning in October, the imminent rainy season favours rapid locust reproduction and persists through April. Control operations must begin immediately to avert the crisis. Should response be delayed, food production will falter, costs will escalate rapidly and necessary control efforts could endure for years.

## FAO response strategy

*Manage the locust upsurge and protect food security by:*

1. **Strengthening** national survey and control capacities
2. **Minimizing** human health and environmental risks
3. **Assessing** and evaluating locust impacts and control campaign

## FAO added value

- **Experience** 70+ years of locust control and plant pest management
- **Partnership** Links to national, regional and international networks and resources
- **Knowledge** Largest UN technical agency working on agriculture and food security
- **Responsibility** Mitigating public health and environmental risks

## Key facts

- Livelihoods at risk: 460 000 households
- Affected population: 2.3 million people
- Crop lands at risk: 500 000 hectares

## Funding situation

	USD million
Estimated requirements	14.5
Secured	5.2
<b>Funding gap</b>	<b>9.3</b>