



## In numbers



**1.31 million** people projected to be in high acute food insecurity, of whom **28 000** in catastrophe (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC], October–December 2021)



**500 000** children under five at risk of acute malnutrition



**95%** of the population in southern Madagascar relies on agriculture, livestock and fishing for their livelihoods



The livelihoods, food security and nutrition of **1 million** rural people at risk due to crop and pasture damage caused by Malagasy migratory locusts



**USD 28.55 million** still required by FAO for 2021 for its emergency response in the Grand Sud and **USD 5.25 million** for its Locust control Action Plan

## Key points

- People in southern Madagascar continue to endure the worst drought in 40 years, which has adversely affected agricultural productivity, with reduced cultivated land area, driving up humanitarian needs.
- Compounded by other shocks, including plant pests, animal diseases, localized insecurity and the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, people in the region are facing a hunger crisis.
- Due to the semi-arid context of southern Madagascar and high levels of environmental devastation caused by the depletion of soils through erosion and deforestation, sandstorms (Tiokamena) have covered croplands and pasture with deposits of sand. Driven in part by climate change, this phenomenon has occurred during the main agricultural campaign, transforming arable land into wasteland across large areas and rendering agriculture-based livelihoods extremely precarious.
- Since early 2020, the prices of basic products (rice, oil, etc.) have significantly increased as a result of currency depreciation and COVID-19 containment measures, which disrupted market functioning.
- Madagascar is also facing a worrying locust situation requiring urgent large-scale survey and control operations. At the end of the 2020/21 campaign (June–July 2021), the locust populations in the Tsivory region consisted of immature, transient congregants to sub-gregarious adults, and found favourable conditions for their development.
- Based on available information, historical data and locust control experience in Madagascar, an estimated 400 000 ha of land will need to be treated during the 2021/22 locust campaign (November 2021–June 2022).

## Priority activities (October–December 2021)

- reach 67 000 households through essential inputs and cash-based transfers in time for the main agricultural season (October–December 2021) | construction of micro-irrigation systems | seed multiplication | control fall armyworm and other crop pests and diseases | technical guidance | climate-smart agriculture | plant protection
- livestock restocking (goats and poultry) benefiting 5 100 households | provision of animal feed | control of animal diseases including Rift Valley fever (RVF)
- fishing inputs and processing equipment benefiting 1 250 households | cash-based transfers | technical guidance
- integrated food security, nutrition and livelihoods assessments | Food Security Cluster planning and coordination | anticipatory action and early warning systems
- pre-position critical locust inputs and assets by November 2021 | locust survey and control operations | strengthen national response capacities



Providing farmers with urgent livelihoods support during the main agricultural season starting in October 2021, as well as in time for the next dry season, will quickly increase food production.

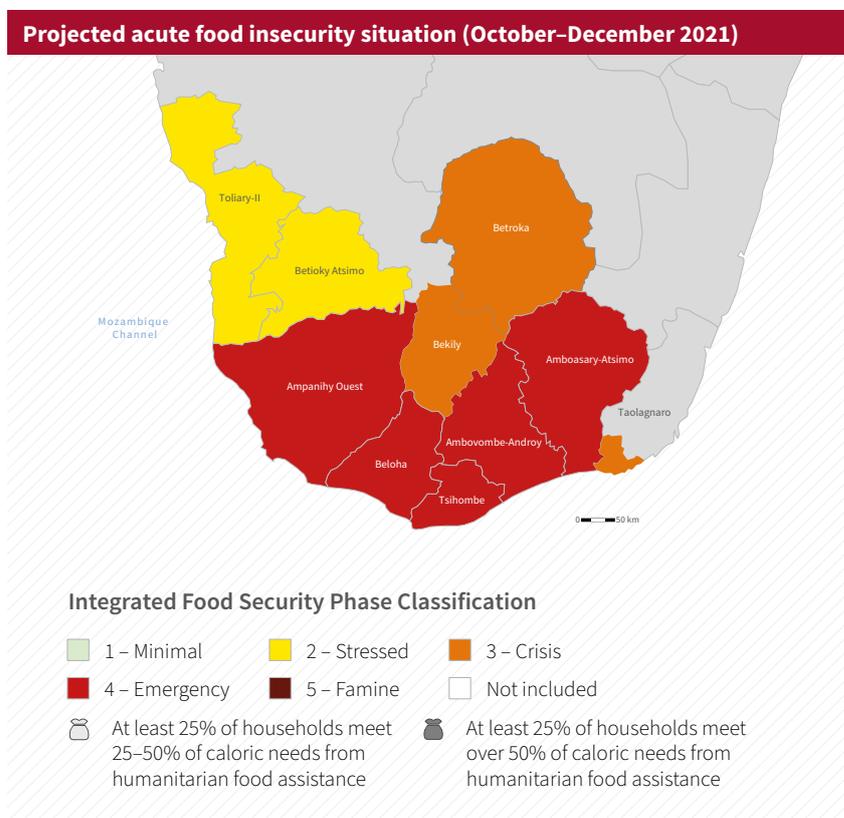
### Ongoing response

- procurement of 360 tonnes of climate-resilient crop seeds and 240 kg of vegetable seeds for 67 000 drought-affected farming households across seven districts in Anosy and Androy regions – Ambovombe, Amboasary Atsimo, Beloha, Bekily, Betroka, Toalagnaro, and Tsihombe
- procurement of vaccines and drugs for veterinary treatment of 225 000 animals
- procurement of 15 000 hens, 3 000 goats and 500 sheep for 5 100 households
- preparatory actions against locusts, including mobilization of one helicopter, procurement and triangulation of pesticides, deployment of technical expertise to the field and purchase of critical inputs to start the locust campaign in November 2021

### Response to date

- reached households with cash+ during the dry season to help meet their basic needs, some of whom received short cycle seeds to establish home gardens for enhanced food diversification and improved nutrition, and others received cash and irrigation kits
- advocacy and resource mobilization with financial and technical partners | preparation of the Action Plan for the 2021/22 locust campaign | allocation of critical funding (emergency Technical Cooperation Programme projects and the Special Fund for Emergencies and Rehabilitation Activities [SFERA] – Needs Assessment and Programme development window, and Anticipatory Action window) | technical and operational mission deployed to Madagascar

Immediate action is needed to avoid a repeat of the last locust plague in the country, which caused maize and rice production losses of more than 30 percent in affected regions.



Source: IPC. 2021. *Madagascar (Grand South): Projected food security and nutrition situation, October–December 2021* [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 20 April 2021]. [http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC\\_Madagascar\\_FoodSecurity\\_NutritionSnapshot\\_2021July\\_English.pdf](http://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Madagascar_FoodSecurity_NutritionSnapshot_2021July_English.pdf)

## Challenges facing food security and agriculture

An exceptionally prolonged drought in southern Madagascar most likely due to the effects of climate change compounded by multiple other shocks has led to a hunger crisis in the region. The long lean season and sandstorms have resulted in the second consecutive year of poor harvests, significantly affecting households' livelihoods and food security.

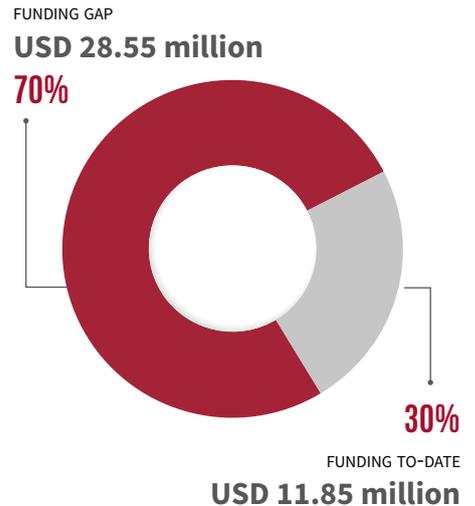
The humanitarian situation has been exacerbated by the adverse effects of COVID-19 and related containment measures, which disrupted market supply chains. Price increases of basic foodstuffs were also recorded, leaving many families who have depleted their reserves unable to buy food in the market.

Insecurity in parts of the deep south, as well as the resurgence of various crop and animal pests and diseases – a new outbreak of RVF and a looming threat of locusts – have also led to worrying levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in the region. Vulnerable households struggle to access food and income. Many are forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as selling productive assets and reducing the quantity, frequency and quality of meals, with some communities resorting to consuming almost exclusively wild foods.

Finally, if the Malagasy migratory locust outbreak is not contained, it would result in a major upsurge, threatening larger areas across the country. Unpredictable consequences would further worsen the already alarming situation in the Grand Sud, where people are experiencing high levels of food insecurity.

Curbing the spread of the locusts and scaling up livelihoods assistance to provide affected households with essential inputs during the main agricultural season is key to allow them to quickly produce food, generate income and strengthen their resilience.

## Funding



 **FAO requires USD 40.4 million**

 **to assist 1 123 500 people**  
(224 700 households)

 **Locust control Action Plan: USD 6.8 million required, of which USD 1.55 million received**

### Resource partners

The Government of Belgium through SFERA, the German Federal Foreign Office through the SFERA Anticipatory Action window, the Central Emergency Response Fund, FAO's internal funds and the World Bank

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