Chapter 3 | Major food crises in 2022 | Madagascar

Acute food insecurity overview 2021

1.64M people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in November–December 2021

1.24M people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)
0.4M people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)

37% of the population analysed was in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

1.82M people were in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

The analysis covers the Grand Sud and Grand Sud Est, representing 16% of the country’s total population of 27.9 million people.

National population, 2020

61% Rural 39% Urban

Source: IPC, December 2021.


Acute food insecurity trends

Numbers have risen since 2020. In 2021, Madagascar’s food crisis deteriorated significantly as a result of the devastating drought in the Grand Sud.

The number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) rose from over 1 million (27 percent of the population analysed) in 13 districts in October–December 2020 to 1.6 million (37 percent) in 14 districts in November–December 2021. The population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) nearly doubled to 405,000 during the same period (IPC, December 2020 and December 2021).

In the same seven southern districts analysed since 2017, the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was the highest in November–December 2021 at 1.2 million. Before this, the highest numbers had been in November 2017–March 2018 and November 2018–March 2019, both at 0.9 million (IPC, October 2017 and October 2018). Since October 2020, the number of people in Emergency or worse (IPC Phase 4 or above) has been gradually increasing, while in April–September 2021, populations were recorded in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) for the first time in the country, with 14,000 people in this phase in one district (IPC, July and December 2021).

An April 2021 analysis projected that nearly 28,000 people would be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and nearly 0.5 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) by October 2021. The IPC also projected a Risk of Famine from October 2021 in the worst-case scenario (IPC, July 2021). However, the updated analysis for November–December 2021 showed that increased humanitarian assistance played a key role in avoiding a potential Risk of Famine, reducing the number of people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) to zero, and reducing the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) by almost 30 percent (IPC, December 2021, WFP and FAO, 2022). Despite this, the area remained classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, December 2021).