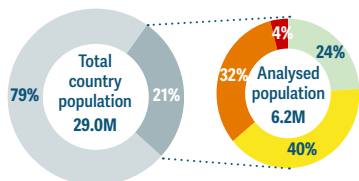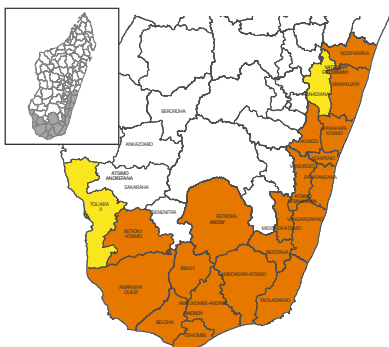# Madagascar (specific areas) ⓘ

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Clear improvement despite rainfall deficits in the Grand Sud and slow post-cyclonic recovery in the Grand Sud-Est.

PEAK 2023 (NOVEMBER 2022–MARCH 2023)

2.2M people or **36%** of the analysed population faced high levels of acute food insecurity in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est during the lean season. Of them, around 0.3M people faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

In the Grand Sud, compared with 2021, the food security situation improved, with no districts classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the 2022/23 peak period.
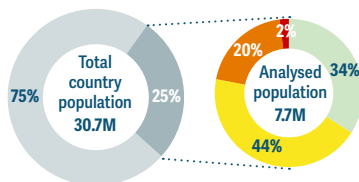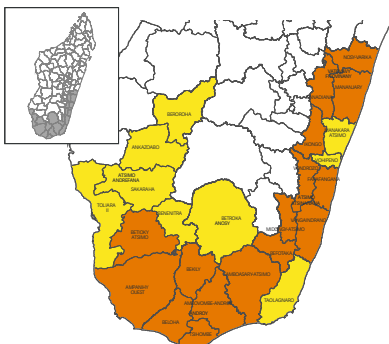

Total country population 29.0M — 79% / 21%

Analysed population 6.2M — 4% / 24% / 32% / 40%

Source: Madagascar IPC TWG, January 2023.

PROJECTION 2024 (FEBRUARY–APRIL)

1.7M people or **22%** of the analysed population are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity at the end of the lean season. Around 0.1M people are projected to face IPC Phase 4.

Prevalence of high acute food insecurity is projected to be better than in early 2023, but seasonal lack of food availability, El Niño-related rainfall deficits and the ongoing impacts of cyclone Freddy still drive a concerning food crisis.

Total country population 30.7M — 75% / 25%

Analysed population 7.7M — 2% / 20% / 34% / 44%

Source: Madagascar IPC TWG, January 2023.

1 - None/Minimal 2 - Stressed 3 - Crisis 4 - Emergency 5 - Catastrophe/Famine Population analysed Population not analysed Total population Not analysed
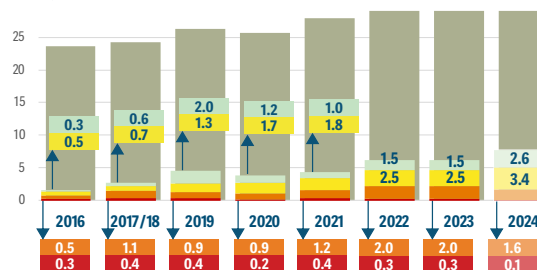
DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Weather extremes In early 2023, the Grand Sud was still recovering from the devastating impacts of multi-season droughts in 2020–22. The slight delay to the rainy season between November and December 2023 due to the strong El Niño event delayed plantings, and shortened the growing season, which could lead to lower harvests. In the Grand Sud-Est, households were still recovering from the negative agricultural impacts of cyclone Freddy in February–March 2023. Erratic and below-average rainfall is expected to cause below-average agricultural production during the 2023/24 season (FEWS NET, November 2023, December 2023 and January 2024).

Economic shocks Below-average incomes from agricultural labour and crop production after successive years of weather shocks, and the need to service debts accrued during the consecutive years of severe drought, meant that poor households reliant on market purchases for food during the lean season were unable to meet their food needs (FEWS NET, November 2023).

Peak numbers of people (in millions) by phase of acute food insecurity, 2016–2024

	2016	2017/18	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	0.3 / 0.5	0.6 / 0.7	2.0 / 1.3	1.2 / 1.7	1.0 / 1.8	1.5 / 2.5	1.5 / 2.5	2.6 / 3.4
	0.5 / 0.3	1.1 / 0.4	0.9 / 0.4	0.9 / 0.2	1.2 / 0.4	2.0 / 0.3	2.0 / 0.3	1.6 / 0.1

Source: Madagascar IPC TWG.

A protracted food crisis A low-income country, Madagascar has been included as a major food crisis in all eight editions of the GRFC. The analyses have always focused on the most food-insecure areas – the Grand Sud affected by prolonged drought and the Grand Sud-Est affected by tropical cyclones, which severely impact agricultural production and infrastructure. The drought of 2020–2022 – the worst in more than 40 years – brought populations to the brink of famine. The projection of a Risk of Famine and nearly 28 000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) from late October 2021 (IPC, July 2021) was avoided largely thanks to humanitarian assistance (IPC, December 2021).

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.5M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in March–May 2023

0.4M MAM   0.1M SAM

Source: Madagascar IPC TWG, October 2022.

0.03M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition, June 2023–April 2024

Source: Madagascar IPC TWG, August 2023.

A precarious acute malnutrition situation in the Grand Sud and Grand Sud-Est is expected to worsen during the January–April 2024 lean season with most areas classified in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) and some in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4).
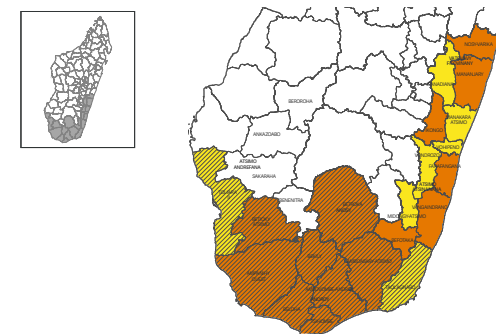
DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

Inadequate practices The percentage of children aged 6–23 months receiving a Minimum Acceptable Diet was Extremely Critical in the Grand Sud (0–3.7 percent) and Grand Sud-Est (0–6.3 percent). At 54.4 percent nationally, exclusive breastfeeding rates of infants under 6 months were classified as Alert (IPC AMN, August 2023).

Lack of food Acute food insecurity was identified as a major contributing factor to acute malnutrition in most analysed districts (IPC AMN, August 2023).

Inadequate services Limited access to health and nutrition services, poor sanitation and low use of improved water sources (only 34.8 percent of households in analysed regions have safe drinking water) contributed to high disease prevalence, including diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria (IPC AMN, August 2023). More than 40 percent of WASH infrastructure was destroyed or contaminated by cyclones in the Grand Sud-Est. Coverage of measles vaccinations and vitamin A supplementation remained low (OCHA, October 2023).

PEAK 2023 (JANUARY–APRIL)

Source: Madagascar IPC TWG, October 2022.

1 - Acceptable 2 - Alert 3 - Serious 4 - Critical 5 - Extremely Critical Not analysed Inadequate evidence MUAC