



A Monthly Donor Report for

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FOOD RESPONSE

**To implement the distribution of food to the most
food-insecure communities of Anosy**

February 2021

Summary

Context

With a combination of good weather and a growing tourism industry, Madagascar's economic growth reached 4.4% in 2019, the fastest growth rate it had achieved in over a decade. Yet, in 2020, this growth was catastrophically reversed with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The World Bank estimates that with the impact of global pandemic have resulted in a GDP contraction of 4.2% in 2020, triggering a sudden and deep depression in Madagascar which has levelled nearly a decade of progress¹. To further an already deteriorating situation, Madagascar has faced three consecutive droughts, with the highest burden in the south of the country. Water levels in this region are insufficient to sustain both human and animal livestock consumption, and crop production is estimated to produce a low yield. Combined with the fact that many poor households are already facing difficulty meeting non-food needs driven by the impact of the pandemic, it is expected that market functioning will likely decrease, households will have fewer income-earning opportunities, and wild food consumption will increase².

Under the combined pressures of the economic impact of COVID-19 and seasonal drought, southern Madagascar is currently experiencing extreme food shortages and rising prices. Between July and November 2020, the number of people affected increased by 86%, with over 1.5 million people in the region unable to find enough food to eat today³. Various regions in the South, such as Ambovombe and Tulear, have seen food prices spike, with cereal prices in these regions 50% higher than in other regions of the country². The impact of this food crisis is particularly felt amongst children. In Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo Andrefana, 10.7% of children under five face Global Acute Malnutrition, the second highest rate in the East and Southern African region³.

COVID-19 Emergency Food Response as a Solution

SEED Madagascar (SEED) is responding to this crisis through the implementation of a food distribution programme initially targeting seven sites in the southern region of the country where no other NGOs are currently supporting. In collaboration with local community health centres, the programme targets children under five suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In collaboration with local community health centres (CSBs), children diagnosed with MAM and SAM receive ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), which is a home-based treatment for children between six-months- and five-years-old suffering from malnutrition. Children diagnosed in the SAM who have further health complications are provided transportation to a hospital in Fort Dauphin where they receive emergency treatment. Families of all children suffering from malnutrition receive an additional 15 days' worth of unprepared food per month while children are undergoing treatment. At least 135,476 children under five are predicted to suffer from acute malnutrition in nine districts in the Grand Sud, with 27,137 predicted to be severely malnourished⁴. This is a crisis that needs to be urgently and widely addressed and SEED has the capacity and community connections to help.

¹ World Bank. "Madagascar Economic Update: Setting a Course for Recovery." *World Bank*, World Bank, 1 Dec. 2020, www.openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34935/Madagascar-Economic-Update-Setting-a-Course-for-Recovery.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

² Famine Early Warning Systems Network. "Below-Average Rainfall Expected to Negatively Affect Early Harvests in Southern Madagascar." USAID, Dec. 2020.

³ UN News. "Humanitarian Crisis Looms in Madagascar amid Drought and Pandemic." *UN News*, 12 Jan. 2021, news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1081892. Accessed 26 Feb. 2021.

⁴ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Madagascar - Grand Sud Flash Appeal (January - May 2021)*. OCHA, 18 Jan. 2021.

Activity Detail



The training of CSB staff in Ampasy Nahmpoana and Mandromoromotra to identify children with malnutrition in March 2021

Activity Update

The project is still in its early stages but is making rapid progress in facilitating the launch of food distribution across the first seven planned sites⁵. New staff have been recruited to fill the positions of Coordinator and Senior Community Liaison Officer and have begun coordinating the logistics and distribution of food packages across the seven target sites. A total of 10,170 sachets of RUTF have been ordered for the first round of food distribution, with 5,085 sachets already delivered to Fort Dauphin, which will be enough to support 42 rounds of 60-day treatments. These have been received via ground and air transportation and will soon begin distribution to the sites where they will be securely stored. A further shipment of 5,085 are currently being transported to Fort Dauphin to ensure enough supplies are available for the first phase.

Training of the chef CSBs and the community health care agents (CAs) on the preparation, distribution, and monitoring of activities commenced on March 4th, and was completed on March 9th. Two CAs were trained per village in each commune. Monitoring and evaluation forms used for screening, diagnosis of MAM or SAM, and food distribution have been created and are set to be piloted this week. Courtesy visits have been carried out with the Directory of the Region of Health, with the Medicine Inspector, the Office Regional de Nutrition and Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes to confirm the nutrient curriculum and the logistics of training.



CSB staff in Ampasy Nahmpoana and Mandromoromotra receive information on food distribution in March 2021

⁵ The seven sites include Manambaro, Soanierana, Ampasy Nahmpoana, Mandromoromotra, Mahatalaky, Tsagnoriha, and Sainte-Luce.

Planned Work

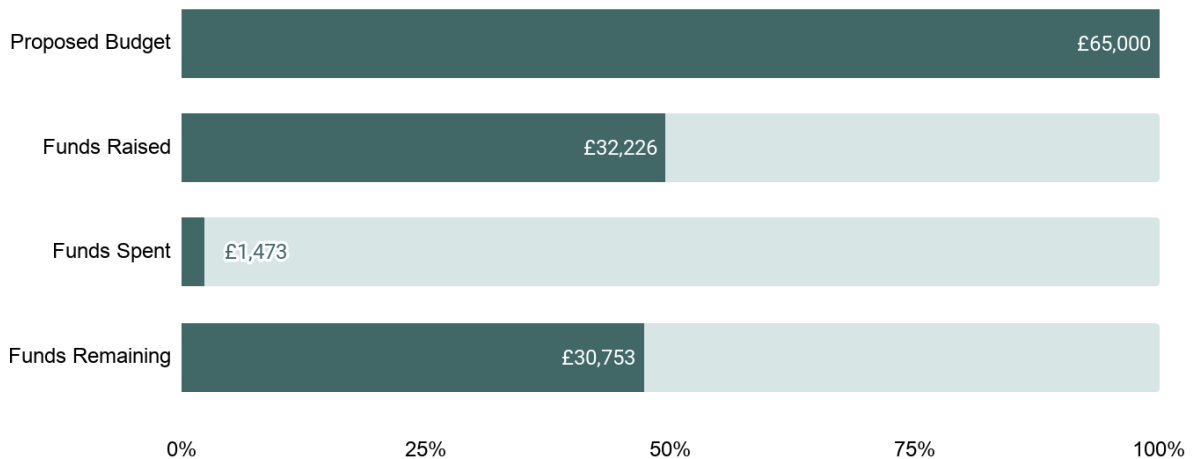
To raise awareness of malnutrition screening and treatment, two days of mass mobilisation will take place in each village. The process of screening and diagnosis will take five days, according to national guidelines. ACs have begun malnutrition screening in Manambaro and Soanierana, and children diagnosed with malnutrition will visit the local CSB for confirmation of diagnosis. Children identified as suffering from SAM with further health complications will be provided transportation to a medical facility in Fort Dauphin where they will receive emergency medical treatment. After data from the CSBs are entered in the Ministry of Health software, food distribution preparations will begin, with the first round of food distribution scheduled to commence on March 22nd. Manambaro and Soanierana will be used as a pilot to capture numbers of MAM and SAM, which will help guide our initial distribution targets for the first round of food distribution in the seven sites. Unprepared food, including rice, beans, and oil, for families of children undergoing treatment will be purchased after screening and diagnosis.



Unpacking the first shipment of ready-to-use therapeutic food

Financial Report

Project expenditure is on track, with no significant over or underspend. We have raised £32,226 to date, which is approximately 50% of our proposed budget of £65,000. So far, we have spent £1,473, or 4.6% of funds raised, and have 30,753 remaining for project funds.



Further Reading

If you would like to learn more about the challenges that Madagascar is currently facing, please see below for further reading.

1. Famine Early Warning Systems Network's outlook on the impact of climate on food security in Madagascar, December 2020:
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MG_FSOU_December2020_Final_EN.pdf
2. International Federation of Red Cross's situational analysis of the current food crisis in Madagascar, December 2020:
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MDRMG017do.pdf>
3. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs flash appeal towards the support of the South of Madagascar during the food crisis, January 2021:
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MDG_20210118_Grand_Sud_Flash_Appeal_English.pdf
4. The World Bank's comprehensive report on the economic ramifications of Covid-19 in Madagascar, December 2020: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34935/Madagascar-Economic-Update-Setting-a-Course-for-Recovery.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
5. World Food Programme country briefing on the food crisis in Madagascar, January 2021:
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP%20Madagascar%20Country%20Brief%20-%20January%202021.pdf>