



# Madagascar

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 8



Reporting Period: 1 January to 31 December 2021

### Highlights

- In 2021, Madagascar saw multiple humanitarian crises affecting 9 million people including 4.3 million children. Acute drought left 1.5 million people food insecure in southern Madagascar.
- Children were also vulnerable to other disasters including flooding, cyclones, and COVID 19.
- In July 2021, a corporate L2 Emergency Response was declared. UNICEF together with its partners stepped up to respond to the critical needs of 2.6 million people including 1.3 million children struggling from drought and other humanitarian crises.
- UNICEF provided lifesaving immediate services including the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and emergency water delivery.
- Nearly 60,343 SAM children were admitted into therapeutic care of whom 90% were cured.
- UNICEF's WASH interventions have reached a total of 415,000 people affected by drought. This is 83% (500,000) of the planned target within UNICEF, and 67% of the target planned by WASH cluster. Healthcare facilities and mobile clinics reached 282,500 people, composed of 257,900 children under five and 24,600 pregnant women.
- About 37,500 people (22,500 children) benefited from humanitarian cash transfers.
- Around 1,400 child protection actors were trained to better prevent and respond to child protection violations. Action on GBV and PSEA was intensified through training of 700 stakeholders.

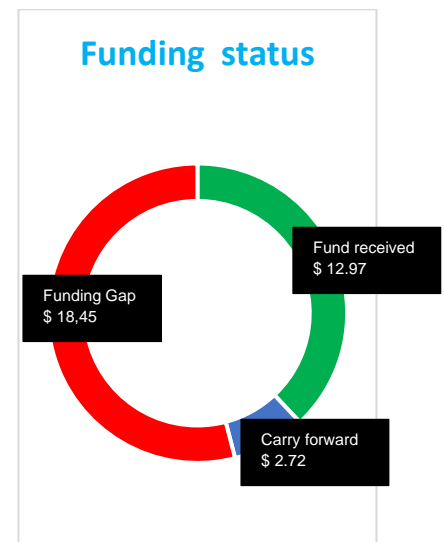
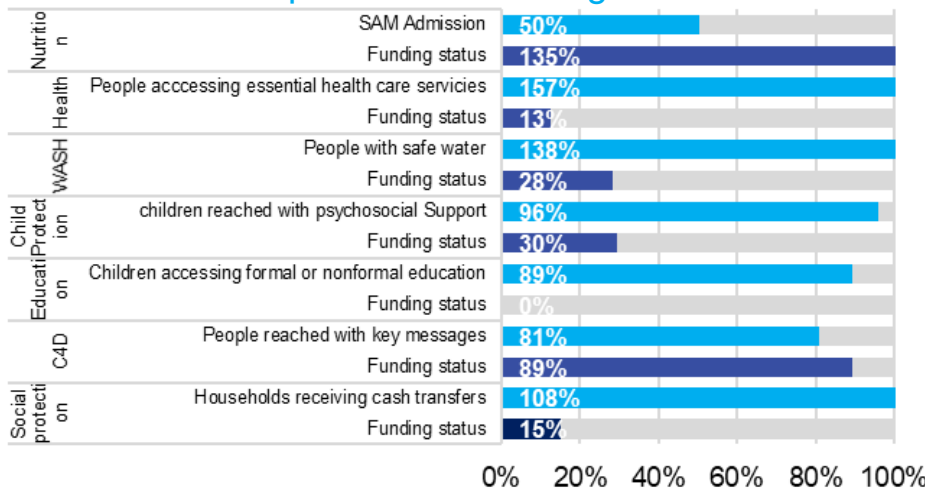
### Situation in Numbers

- 4.3 million** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 1,285,000** People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4)
- 28,000** people critically food insecure (IPC Phase 5)

### UNICEF Appeal 2021

## US\$34.2 million

### UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



\*Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors.

## Funding Overview and Partnerships

To immediately respond to exponential increased humanitarian needs around drought and to continue response to COVID 19, UNICEF revised HAC in June, and increased the funding request to USD 34.2 million. As of 31 December 2021, US\$12,97 million was received from the World Bank, the European Commission/ European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Joint Fund, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), the Government of Japan, and National Committee partners. Another US\$2.72 was carried over from funds mobilized from partners in 2020.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

There was a pronounced and prolonged drought in the arid south of Madagascar in 2021 brought on by a rainy season which came late, finished early, and disrupted harvests significantly. Local populations suffered greatly, and the situation, aggravated by COVID, was not helped by a hesitant government response, infrastructural fragility, and poor logistics.

Exhaustive SMART surveys were undertaken in April-May and again in October. Results in May showed that 12% of all children were GAM and 2.2% SAM, which is alarmingly high. Some improvement was found in October with GAM at 7.6% and SAM 1.5%, showing the extent to which UNICEF and partners had been able to bring the situation somewhat under control.

The underground water level continued to decrease, and the quality of water deteriorated substantially. The November WASH bulletin indicated that 62% of the 10 drought-affected districts are at Warning level, 36% at Severe level, and 1% at Emergency level. The water price has varied from US\$0.013-0.63 (MGA 50-2500)/20l jerrican across different districts.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Health

In 2021, in alignment with National Health Response Plan, UNICEF provided essential health services to children and women. During the year, UNICEF achieved 134% of the 210,000 targeted beneficiaries. In order to strengthen access to basic health services and to cover marginalized and malnourished children, 29 mobile clinics were deployed in nine drought-affected districts. Through these mobile clinics and 200 healthcare centres, a total of 96,600 received consultation, of which 64,300 children under the age of five were treated for life-threatening diseases (diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria), and other 32,300 received treatment of other disease, such as fever and skin rash. In addition, 24,600 pregnant women benefited from the minimum four prenatal visits required. More than 137,000 children aged 0-11 months were vaccinated. In addition, 24,300 children were screened for acute malnutrition.

### Nutrition

UNICEF focused on prevention and response to acute malnutrition, continuing access to treatment, strengthening system, emergency cluster coordination and supporting nutrition surveillance. The evolving nutrition crisis has been monitored and data collected through the nutrition surveillance system and SMART surveys. A total of **60,343** children (January to November 2021) with SAM were admitted into therapeutic care. This is 50% (120,000) of the number of cases that were estimated to be admitted for the treatment. The achievement is the reflection of the increased multi-sectoral emergency response from May to December 2021 thanks to the Flash Appeal and increased funding. The cure rates remained within acceptable spheres standard: at 90%, with a mortality rate of 0.3% and a defaulter rate of 4.2%. Human resources and technical capabilities were reinforced with deployment of consultants, UNVs and surge capacity to UNICEF Madagascar to strategically respond to the intensified nutrition crisis.

### WASH

Out of the **807,000** people targeted by the WASH Cluster, over 624,000 people received assistance. From the cluster results, UNICEF's direct contribution reached 415,000. Of these beneficiaries, 10,000 households with SAM children received water through water trucking operations. In addition, 100,000 households benefited from WASH kits and hygiene messaging. This is estimated to have benefited 500,000 people. Around 50,000 benefited from 58 water points construction/rehabilitation and 70 multiple use services (MUS). Additionally, 340,000 benefited from subsidized water prices. UNICEF equipped 100 healthcare facilities with WASH kits including chlorine generators. Community led total sanitation (CLTS) was also carried out in the 35 municipalities targeted by the emergency response and 95% of them are already living in open defecation free zones. In total 90,000 households (450,000 people) have stopped open defecation and use their own constructed latrines.

## Child Protection

UNICEF's response focused on strengthening the ability of the child protection system to prevent and respond to child protection violations in the emergency context. UNICEF participated actively in the Protection sectoral group, while 6 district-level and 74 municipal-level child protection networks were supported in 9 drought-affected districts to be more effective in coordinating prevention and response actions. 1,324 child protection actors have been trained on child protection in emergencies, and 33 local ("fokontany") level watch groups established to identify and report cases of violence and raise awareness. 113 members of these committees were trained, while 74 community social work volunteers were trained to provide mental health and psychosocial support. 4 Child Friendly Spaces reached 518 children (350 girls and 168 boys) from 12 fokontany. 512 children who experienced violence and exploitation received care and support and 2,272 persons have been sensitized on child rights and child protection. An estimated 38,000 people (of which at least 27,700 women and children) were reached with information on GBV response services.

## Education

UNICEF advocated for children's rights to learn and invested in continuity of learning. 89% (138,700 including 71,100 girls and 67,600 boys) of the 155,000 targeted children received learning materials. 21,762 (11,798 girls and 9,964 boys) were enrolled in catch-up class programmes, including 17,217 (9,212 girls and 8,005 boys) in primary schools and 4,545 adolescents (2,586 girls and 1,959 boys) in lower secondary schools. Support in strengthening coordination and monitoring mechanisms was also provided to the Ministry of Education, whilst school management committees were supported in areas of tracking learning outcomes, facilitating inclusion of children with disabilities and gender perspective, as well as promotion of environmental education and disaster risk reduction.

## Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Social Policy

Children and their families were provided with scaled-up social protection services in the south. During the period, a total of 37,500 people (approximately 22,500 children) benefitted from monthly humanitarian cash transfers provided by UNICEF through the national social protection implementing agency (FID, *Fond d'Intervention pour le Developpement*). UNICEF provided technical support to post-distribution monitoring activities which confirmed that cash has been mainly used by beneficiaries to meet nutrition needs. More broadly, UNICEF continued to coordinate and lead the response of the Cash Working Group to the drought in the south in coordination with the Government and the Food Security Cluster. These contributed to reduced vulnerability and increased resilience of beneficiaries.

## Gender, GBV and PSEA

Against a context of limited national capacity on GBV prevention and response, and increased exposure of children and women in districts affected by drought, UNICEF (in collaboration with the Protection Sector Group and the joint PSEA Taskforce) intensified action on GBV and PSEA by upskilling over 700 service providers, humanitarian actors, social workers, child protection network members and security forces on identification, reporting and referral of GBV and SEA. Around 9,800 people received orientation on PSEA and available reporting and assistance services. Around 100 women's groups, community organizations and grassroot associations were mapped in 4 districts of southern Madagascar and will enable an important scale-up of awareness raising and women's participation in programme design, implementation and monitoring.

## Communication for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Populations

To prevent acute malnutrition and to reduce the impact of the drought on daily life of children and families, UNICEF used multi-approach communication to reach out to 650,000 people in the eight most affected districts. UNICEF disseminated messages promoting behaviour change and use of essential services. 5,000 community actors, 267 youth volunteers, and 24 local media channels were mobilized to support communication activities and community participation. 13,000 local actors and influencers (traditional and religious leaders, community leaders, Fokontany chiefs, mayors, women leaders) were also engaged. A C4D Regional Strategic Plan was developed and validated by regional actors. The C4D/SBC Capacity Building Plan has been implemented in Anosy and in Androy regions. Local actors including two regional C4D platforms (with multisectoral partners) led the coordination to reach out to beneficiaries.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF ensured that its interventions were in line with humanitarian leadership, whether from the Humanitarian Country Team and from government authorities. UNICEF's strategy aimed at providing with multipronged lifesaving interventions, in addition to reinforcing partners' capacity in all elements of social systems and in giving priority to

“scale up” of potentially innovative interventions. Partnership and coordination with key UN agencies, international NGOs and local NGOs is indispensable to ensure proper response and coordination of information.

UNICEF played a leadership role in coordinating partners and co-chairs sector meetings with the National Nutrition Office (ONN), the Ministry in charge of WASH, and the Ministry of Population for Social Policy, especially after the official activation of WASH and Nutrition clusters in December 2021. In addition, UNICEF is the sectoral lead for Education and Cash, and is heavily involved in Social mobilisation, PSEA, Health and Protection coordination efforts, both at central and field level. Another key element is UNICEF’s coordinated approach on Nexus, to ensure that humanitarian interventions aim at sustainable results, reinforcing systems rather than disrupting them.

The activation of the L2 also helped in giving stronger visibility to Madagascar’s situation and global mobilisation from UNICEF regional office and Headquarters. This has contributed to strategic follow ups and coordination at highest levels.

A major element that must be highlighted is the complexity of operating in Madagascar: the COVID-19 pandemic has severely restrained access to and around Madagascar. Roads to and in the south are structurally damaged, and insecurity slows logistics. UNHAS flights did serve the south of Madagascar, in addition to a biweekly flight to the two cities bordering the region (Fort Dauphin and Tulear). Electricity and internet coverage are limited making information gathering and communication complex.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

### Southern drought (L2)

The communication section produced a series of digital products including photos essays, videos, a photo library, raw, unedited video materials as well as a “Cost of Inaction” document, a press release, and key messages which were published on national, regional and global UNICEF websites and social media channels. A press visit with fifteen national media and a UNICEF National Goodwill Ambassador was organized. More than 20 international news organizations were supported remotely in reporting on the situation through interviews and digital content. Five international news organizations were supported on the ground. Two virtual field visits were produced with the participation of donors, goodwill ambassadors and national committees.

### COVID-19

UNICEF Madagascar continued to participate in global communication initiatives such as “Call for Africa” and the documentary series “Coping with COVID” to reach international audiences on themes such as prevention and vaccination. Digital content – videos, photos, selfie videos - were published on UNICEF social media channels and the country office continued to work closely with digital influencers on information campaigns. Donor vaccine contributions were highlighted through media events and press releases, photos, and social media posts. This was also the case for vaccines arriving through the COVAX initiative.

## HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

### COVID-19

7 stories produced on UNICEF's response and immunization awareness

- [Antananarivo police officers are vaccinated against COVID-19 and want to testify | UNICEF](#)
- [Living after COVID-19 is possible thanks to psychosocial support | UNICEF](#)
- [Raising awareness about COVID-19, a daily struggle | UNICEF](#)
- [A vital tool in treating COVID-19, oxygen, once in short supply, flows again in Madagascar | UNICEF](#)
- [The relentless work of journalists and their duty to inform in times of health crisis | UNICEF](#)
- [They got vaccinated. They are talking about this | UNICEF](#)
- [Oxygen cylinders to save COVID-19 patients requiring respiratory support | UNICEF](#)

### L2

6 HIS produced highlighting UNICEF's response in several sectors (social protection, education, health, WASH, protection)

- [Southern families become more resilient | UNICEF](#)
- [The Tosika Kere programme in Southern Madagascar | UNICEF](#)

- [The United Nations Fund's integrated social protection programme for sustainable development | UNICEF](#)
- [Primary health centers, the last hope for children affected with acute malnutrition | UNICEF](#)
- [Food assistance as an emergency solution for drought-affected families in Madagascar | UNICEF](#)
- [Drought in the South pushes families to flee their homes | UNICEF](#)

4 photo-essays produced highlighting the support of donors in UNICEF interventions.

- [A little goes a long way: In drought-hit southern Madagascar, cash transfers provide lifelines | UNICEF](#)
  - [In southern Madagascar, malnutrition in children soars as families struggle to feed themselves | UNICEF](#)
  - [Between Hope and Doubt in Madagascar – Recovering from Severe Malnutrition | UNICEF](#)
  - [In Madagascar, families struggle to survive in drought-hit south | UNICEF](#)
- All HIS shared on social media

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### COVID-19

Strong collaboration with DoC and Facebook allowed for a solid COVID-19 campaign plan:

- Facebook: 91 posts reaching 4,224,820 people
- Twitter: 116 posts with 213,292 impressions

### L2

Communication on the situation in the drought-affected areas in the deep south and UNICEF's interventions:

- 92 Facebook posts; 1,974,892 people reached
- 92 Tweets; 142,534 impressions

## Next SitRep: Day Month Year

UNICEF Madagascar: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/madagascar/situation-reports>

UNICEF Madagascar Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/madagascar>

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## Summary of Programme Results

Sector		Total needs	UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
			2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼
Indicator Disaggregation								
<b>Health</b>								
# people provided with access to essential and life-saving health care Services	female	225,600 (children)	180,000 children	132,200	▲	210,000	N/A	
	male			125,700	▲			
	pregnant women	56,400 (women)	30,000	24,600	▲			
<b>Nutrition</b>								
# of children under 5 with SAM admitted to therapeutic treatment sites	girls	120,000	120,000	30,172	▲	120,000	30,172	▲
	boys			30,171	▲		30,171	▲
	women							
<b>Child Protection</b>								
# of children reached with psychosocial support	girls	8,000	8,000	4046	▲	8,000	N/A	
	boys			3635	▲		N/A	
# women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	girls	30,000	2500	10,049	▲	137,000	TBD	
	boys			8935	▲			
	women			4700	7,079			▲
<b>Education</b>								
# Children Receiving learning materials	girls	155,000	155,000	71,100	No change	160,000	71,100	No change
	boys			67,600	No change		67,600	No change
<b>WASH</b>								
# of people who accessed the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	girls	300,000	300,000	106,500	▲	807,000	158,000	▲
	boys			101,000	▲		154,000	▲
	women			106,500	▲		158,000	▲
	men			101,000	▲		154,000	▲
<b>C4D</b>					▲			
# of people reached with access to	girls	800,000	800,000	69,000	No change	1,000,000		
	boys			56,400	No change			

services and behavioural change messages (through interpersonal communication activities)	women	64,000	64,000	304,000	No change	80,000		
	men			217,000	No change			
	girls							
	boys							
	women			97,500	No change			
	men			52,500	No change			
<b>Social Protection</b>								
# households receiving cash transfers		30,000 people (6500 households)	30,000 people (6500 households)	37,500	No change	900,000 people (180,000 households)	900,000 people (180,000 households)	▲

## Annex B

### Funding Status

Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal 31 December 2021)						
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over	Total	\$	%
Nutrition	7,650,000	8,635,152	1,686,085	10,321,237	-	0%
Health	7,000,000	471,145	406,069	877,214	6,122,786	87%
WASH	9,900,000	2,596,686	217,465	2,814,150	7,085,850	72%
Education	2,100,000	-	-	-	2,100,000	100%
Child Protection ,GBViE and PSEA	1,500,000	345,000	97,873	442,873	1,057,127	70%
Communication for Development	1,500,000	76,403	83,686	160,090	1,339,910	89%
Cash-based transfers	4,500,000	607,250	136,784	744,034	3,755,966	83%
Cross sectoral / Cluster coordination	0	241,802	93,633	335,435	-	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,150,000</b>	<b>12,973,438</b>	<b>2,721,595</b>	<b>15,695,033</b>	<b>18,454,967</b>	<b>54%</b>