



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

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LIVES

New WFP Video Shows Catastrophic Hunger Due to Drought In Southern Madagascar (For the Media)

SHOTLIST:

WFP News Video

Shot: 7-17 June 2021

Madagascar

TRT: 3:26

:00-:27

GVs of drought scorched land and people trying to farm. In southern Madagascar 4 consecutive years of drought has destroyed crops and increased the number of sandstorms which cover arable ground with sand making it impossible to grow crops.

Shot: 9June2021

Amboasary district

Ambovombe district

:27-:37

Tamaria lives with her 4 children in Fandiova, one of the villages where the situation has worsened the most. People are left with nothing to eat and no means to survive, causing a spike in malnutrition. To cope with extreme hunger, people are eating survival foods like locusts cactus leaves and a plant called “faux mimosa” which is usually used to feed cattle.

Shot: 8June2021

Fandiova

Amboasary District

:37-:54

SOT Tamaria, (Malagasy):

“In the morning, I prepare this plate of insects. I clean them up as best as I can given the near total absence of water. It's been 8 months that my children and I have been eating this plant every day and exclusively because we have nothing else to eat and no rain to allow us to harvest what we have sown.”

Shot: 8June2021

Fandiova

Amboasary District



:54-1:14

GVs of severely malnourished children being tested by WFP nutrition staff. Amboasary is considered to be the epicenter of severe food insecurity.

Shot: 12June2021

**Ambiriky,
Amboasary district**

1:14-1:37

Bole, a mother of 3 from Ambiriky, is taking care of 2 orphans after their mother died from hunger. To survive they spend every day foraging for cactus leaves to eat SOT Bole, (Malagasy):

“I rely on God. Today we have absolutely nothing to eat except cactus leaves that we are trying to clean up. We have nothing left. Their mother is dead and my husband is dead. What do you want me to say? Our life is all about looking for cactus leaves again and again to survive.”

Shot: 12June2020

**Ambiriky,
Amboasary district**

1:37-1:54

GVs of people waiting and children being weighed at nutrition centre in Ankako. WFP provides screening and ready to use supplementary food to children with moderate acute malnutrition.

Shot: 17June021

**Ankako,
Ambovombe District**

1:54-2:39

SOT WFP Executive Director David Beasley (English):

“It’s 7 times worse than it was just a year ago. Seven times more children are in trouble. Why? Because of drought. We’re facing the worst drought in over 40 year, and this is an area where people depend on their own agriculture; homegrown school meals, smallholder farmers, this is how they live down here but with drought back to back to back, people can’t survive and so the government partnering with WFP and others we’re doing the best we can but it’s a terrible situation. ”

Shot: 17June2021

**Ankako,
Ambovombe District**



2:39-2:59

GVs of people receiving food at WFP distribution. WFP has been assisting around 750,000 people through general food distributions combined with distribution of supplementary food for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

Shot: 7June2021

**Toby Mahavelo,
Ambovombe District**

2:59-3:26

Tema Feline coming home from distribution with WFP food and feeding her children.

Shot: 7June2021

**Toby Mahavelo,
Ambovombe District**

ENDS

Info:

Severe hunger has hit southern Madagascar as communities witness an almost total disappearance of food sources. For the first time ever, pockets of IPC phase 5 or 'Catastrophe' have been recorded signalling deepening hunger. If we don't act now the number of people in Catastrophe will double by October 2021.

-At least 1.14 million people in the Grand Sud need emergency food and nutrition assistance and have been suffering from hunger since the start of the lean season last September.

-In Amboasary Atsimo, epicenter of the crisis, about 14,000 people are estimated to be in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe). (IPC May 2021). This number is expected to double over the next lean season.

-The lives of children are at stake as nutrition among under-fives deteriorates to alarming levels. Acute malnutrition has almost doubled over the last 4 months, from 9% to 16%.

The number of children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition in the

-Grand Sud in Q1 2021 was quadruple the five-year average. (Ministry of Health Survey, March 2021)

-Travel restrictions following the increase of COVID-19 cases have made access to Madagascar, particularly the South near impossible. Bringing in lifesaving cargo (by sea, as most commercial flights are suspended) remains challenging. Reporters are not able to bring this remote crisis to the world's attention.



-Millions of lives are at risk in Madagascar, the only place in the world right now where IPC Phase 5 conditions have been driven by climate not conflict. An almost total disappearance of food sources has pushed people to resort to desperate survival measures such as eating locusts, raw red cactus fruits or wild leaves.

-Consecutive years of drought have wiped out harvests, hampering people's access to food. At the start of the 2020 lean season families had already depleted their food supplies and eaten their vital seed stocks, leaving nothing for the November/December 2020 planting season.

-Poor rains during the planting season signal another failed harvest this year, likely to result in a more severe lean season from October 2021 to March 2022.

-Food production in 2021 is expected to be less than 50 percent of the last five-year average, another bitter blow for families on the brink of survival. (WFP survey February 2021).

-Unexpected sandstorms have buried croplands and pastures, undermining any possibility of securing a source of food. Vast swathes of arable land have been transformed into wasteland.

-Through its emergency response and resilience building activities, WFP remains a longstanding partner of the Malagasy Government and will work to ensure food security for the Malagasy people. WFP urgently needs US\$78.6 million over the next six months to provide life-saving food to the most vulnerable people in southern Madagascar.

-Since the start of the 2020 lean season in October, WFP has been progressively assisting around 750,000 people through general food distributions combined with distribution of supplementary food for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition.

-WFP has provided treatment for 43,000 children under five years of age in four of the worst affected districts in the south.

-Poor infrastructure and the COVID19 restrictions mean the lead time for the delivery of essential food has become longer (up to 3-4 months), hence funding for WFP's operations needs to be secured at the earliest.

-WFP helps build the resilience of vulnerable smallholder households ensuring they are supported with resources to be able to withstand shocks better. This includes the implementation of a microinsuranceⁱ schemes, support with planting alternative crops and training. This goes along with the Malagasy government's goal to enhance the development of agriculture and livestock farming.

Key Numbers



- Number of people in need of emergency food assistance: 1.14 million (IPC April 2021)
- Number of people in ‘Catastrophe’ or IPC 5: 14,000
- Number of people in ‘Emergency’ or IPC 4: 392,000
- Number of people in ‘Crisis’ or IPC 3: 732,000
- Number of people progressively reached by WFP in southern Madagascar until May 2021: 750,000
- WFP’s funding shortfall for the next six months: US\$ 78.6 million
- Percentage of the population experiencing poor or insufficient food consumption: Up to 75% (WFP survey February 2021)
- Percentage of the population surviving through extreme coping strategies: Up to 80% (WFP survey February 2021)
- Prevalence of acute malnutrition in under-fives in the southern districts: Over 16% (Ministry of Health Survey, February

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The United Nations World Food Programme is the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. We are the world’s largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

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