



COUNTRY PROFILE



USAID helps improve access to safe drinking water to reduce water-borne diseases in Madagascar's rural areas.

OVERVIEW

A military coup took place in Madagascar during March 2009. As a result, the U.S. Government suspended all non-humanitarian assistance as well as direct assistance to the Government of Madagascar. The United States continues to provide foreign assistance in health and food security through nongovernmental organizations, community associations, and other private groups.



USAID has been working for nearly 20 years to help the people of Madagascar accomplish their development goals in the face of ongoing challenges. There have been impressive results in assisting people living in some of Madagascar's poorest, most remote areas. However, these gains could be reversed due to the ongoing political crisis and declining economic conditions.

PROGRAMS

INVESTING IN PEOPLE: HEALTH

As the leading health donor in Madagascar, the U.S. Government has contributed substantially to improvements in a range of health indicators. USAID programs target rural, underserved, and vulnerable people throughout Madagascar. Emphasis is placed on promoting safe pregnancies and deliveries, effective malaria prevention and treatment, improved nutrition, prevention and management of common childhood illnesses, HIV prevention, access to family planning, and reduced incidence of disease arising from lack of safe water and sanitation.

Preliminary results of the 2008-09 demographic and health survey show a significant decrease in infant and child mortality over the last five years—from 92 child deaths per 1,000 live births to 72. Also much improved was the use of prenatal care and family planning, crucial to protecting lives of mothers and children. The percentage of women using family planning rose from 18 percent to 29 percent in just five years, partly due to USAID's success in making quality information and services more widely available. To combat malaria, USAID distributed over a million long-lasting insecticide-treated bednets in 2009, and protected over 1.3 million people through indoor spraying. In water and sanitation, a new project will improve access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities for 300,000 people in communities in the south and southeast.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

In 2009, USAID began a five-year food aid program with the goal of helping 82,000 food insecure households raise agricultural productivity,

MADAGASCAR SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1960
Population: 20.6 million (2009)
GDP per capita: \$1,000 (PPP)

Source: U.S. Department of State

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COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

improve income from farm production, and mobilize capital for households in need of credit. The program will serve households in 544 communities located in seven regions of Madagascar. Beneficiaries will include small-scale producers and households headed by women. Regions in southern Madagascar that are affected by severe, chronic drought are also being targeted.

The new program will build on the successes of the previous five-year food security program which assisted nearly 60,000 households, many of which survive on less than \$200 a year. These households are now better able to cope with shocks, thanks to more diversified livelihoods, access to markets via improved roads, increased yields, protected watersheds, and improved water irrigation. This program was instrumental in increasing yields of staple crops such as rice which increased from 2.8 to 4.3 tons per hectare. At the same time, household incomes increased by an average of 8-10 percent.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Madagascar is prone to natural disasters including cyclones, floods, and drought. The significant loss of life and economic assets arising from these catastrophes each year greatly undermine investments in social and economic development. Madagascar's declining economy, as well as the effects of severe rains and flooding, have also affected households in major urban centers. The U.S. Government is helping households in 544 communities develop and implement plans aimed at mitigating the effects of disasters. Measures include interventions such as food-for-work programs that rehabilitate dikes and drainage systems or reforestation efforts to control soil erosion. Some communities will receive assistance to set up savings and loans to help mobilize capital needed to rebuild assets.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Madagascar Mission Director
Rudolph Thomas
B.P. 5233
Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
Tel: 261-20-22-53920

Madagascar Desk Officer
Ashley Marcus
Tel: 1-202-712-5513
Email: amarcus@usaid.gov