



Pour un monde sans faim



Madagascar Needs Assessment

ShelterBox and Welthungerhilfe

February - March 2026



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Methodology

Between 27 February and 3 March ShelterBox and Welthungerhilfe staff carried out Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with affected populations and key stakeholders.

There were 6 FGDs carried out across 3 different fokontanys (communities). In each of these fokontanys one male and one female FGD was carried out. While the data collection team did try to limit the number of participants in the FGDs to ensure effective sessions, there were instances where many individuals wished to take part and so joined the group.

Date	Location	Gender	Participants	Comments
01/03/2026	Vohitrambato	Female	26	Ages 21 - 71
01/03/2026	Vohitrambato	Male	10	Ages 18 – 60
02/03/2026	Ampangarintelo	Female	6	Ages 35 - 66
02/03/2026	Ampangarintelo	Male	7	Ages 18 - 60
03/03/2026	Sahandanitra	Female	26	Ages 18 - 86
03/03/2026	Sahandanitra	Male	7	Ages 18-60

3 KIIs were carried out by the project team with different levels of authority which cover the affected areas.

Date	Location	Position
27/02/2026	Tamatave II Mayor Office	Mayor of Tamatave 2
02/03/2026	Ampangarinantelo	President of Ampangarinantelo
03/03/2026	Sahandahatra	Vice President of Sahandahatra

Transect walks were also carried out by the project team, covering two communities with observational information on access and environment, shelter damage and any reconstruction being carried out by the affected population.

Date	Location
01/03/2026	Vohitrambato
02/03/2026	Ampangarintelo - Sector 6

Findings summary

Note: The below summary is highlighting key findings from the full needs assessment report. The full report starts on Page 7.

Access and Infrastructure

- ✓ Access is extremely difficult: steep terrain, narrow winding tracks, river crossings to access communities.
- ✓ Larger vehicles unlikely to reach communities.
- ✓ Power lines down, almost no electricity, some remaining solar panels.
- ✓ No safe water sources; water towers collapsed; natural sources now contaminated.
- ✓ Health issues emerging: diarrhoea and hygiene-related conditions.

Current Shelter Conditions

- ✓ 80–90% of homes destroyed or severely damaged.
- ✓ Households remain on-site, living under fallen roofs, in leaking structures, or improvised shelters (e.g., soboko roof on ground).
- ✓ Limited reconstruction underway using degraded/salvaged materials; natural materials lost due to forest damage.
- ✓ Barriers: lack of money, food shortages → low energy, limited access to markets, scarce traditional materials, increase in labour costs.

Affected Population

- ✓ Losses include homes, assets, crops, livestock, and schools.
- ✓ Many report low morale, exhaustion, increased disease, and severe shortages of basic needs.

Worst Affected

- ✓ Most commonly affected: elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities.
- ✓ In one community 5 disability-affected households received pre-positioned tents.

Prioritisation

- ✓ Local authorities intend to prioritise fully destroyed households and vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Some community members argue all households are equally affected. Otherwise key vulnerable populations are: female headed households, PWDs, PLW, elderly.

Intentions

- ✓ Majority intend to stay and rebuild; relocation seen as either too costly unacceptable due to understandable strong attachment to ancestral land.

Concerns

- ✓ Food shortages, lack of clean water, rising health problems (diarrhoea, skin infections, malaria).
- ✓ Reduced incomes: many producing charcoal, but market oversupply has dropped prices and resources will last only a few months.
- ✓ Children's education disrupted due to destroyed schools and lost supplies.

Construction Methods

- ✓ Traditional buildings: timber frames, woven leaves, bamboo; CGI or leaf roofing.
- ✓ Foundations generally shallow; many structures failed at columns.
- ✓ Post-cyclone material costs have increased; skilled labour exists but affordability is low.
- ✓ Rebuilding a small rural home costs 400,000–1,500,000 Ar (£72 - £270) depending on materials and labour.

Priorities and Preferences

Top Priorities

- ✓ Shelter, food, WASH repeatedly identified.
- ✓ Income support, seeds, school rehabilitation also noted.

Shelter Priorities Layout

- ✓ A single secure room for sleeping/cooking is acceptable.
- ✓ External toilets and washing areas are culturally normal.

Shelter Priorities Materials

- ✓ Strong preference for durable reconstruction materials:
 - CGI sheets
 - Timber and bamboo
 - Nails and screws
- ✓ Leaf materials are unavailable due to forest destruction.
- ✓ Some households open to temporary tents while rebuilding.

Shelter Reconstruction – Capacities

- ✓ Some skills exist (≈40% with basic skills; ≈20% carpenters/masons).
- ✓ Major limitations: lack of materials, money, energy (due to hunger), and time.
- ✓ KIs recommend in-kind + cash/voucher support for flexibility.

NFI Priorities

- ✓ Kitchen sets, followed by mattresses, lighting, mosquito nets, clothing.
- ✓ Men also mentioned documents, solar panels, bicycles, school supplies.

Markets

Item Availability

- ✓ Items generally available but quality varies; best goods found in Toamasina.
- ✓ Local shops carry only very basic items.

Market Accessibility

- ✓ Access is difficult and costly: distances of 12–19 km, river crossings, multiple transport modes.
- ✓ Transport for goods adds significant extra cost, limiting purchases.

Purchasing Priorities

- ✓ Food is the dominant purchase (rice, oil, sugar, coffee).
- ✓ If funds remain, households may purchase small shelter items.

Accountability

Information Sharing

- ✓ Preferred communication: community leaders, megaphones, or phone calls.
- ✓ Communities request notice 2 days to 1 week prior to activities.

Feedback & Complaints

- ✓ Most commonly preferred: phone-based mechanisms.
- ✓ Some also willing to give feedback via the Fokontany President or Mayor.

Humanitarian Interventions

- ✓ No evidence of other humanitarian actors in visited communities.
- ✓ Some support from local authorities (e.g., rice distribution, a few tents).

Current situation

Access and infrastructure

Transect Walk

Access to the visited affected areas was reported as extremely challenging. Communities are in valleys, on the side of hills or on the top of hills which often have steep sides. There are poor road conditions, with narrow, winding tracks that make it challenging for vehicles and likely impassable for larger vehicles to reach affected areas. For another visited fokontany the journey requires crossing a river in a boat, further complicating access. These would likely cause challenges for either communities reaching larger markets, which are generally not present in smaller communities, or for any last-mile logistics.

In communities there is a large amount of debris, both natural and manmade (such as metal water tower or structures). Visually there is reportedly limited signs of clearance.

Power lines are down and there is no sign of generators being used to provide electricity in the affected areas. There is however signs of solar panel use where they have not been destroyed.

There is no sign of safe water sources. In one community a water tower had collapsed into the road. People were reportedly using natural sources of water before however these are no longer clean. Health issues, including diarrhoea is being reported in the communities.



Current shelter conditions

Transect Walk

Of the two locations visited, 80% to 90% of residential buildings are totally destroyed or severely damaged. Homes with minor damage are few but have reportedly had some efforts to fix them. The buildings look like they were built sometime before and have lacked upkeep, for example homes with CGI roofs have reportedly rusted. Loss of roof is commonly seen and there has been the failure of timber columns due to the shallow depth of foundations. Public buildings such as schools or fokontany offices are destroyed or damaged.

Observations of visited affected areas suggest that while residential buildings are overall not habitable, households are staying in them and are staying under whatever cover they can find. This includes staying under roofs which are intact but on the ground. Schools and other public buildings are also damaged or destroyed.

There are signs, albeit limited, of reconstruction activities ongoing. This reconstruction is reportedly being carried out by either carpenters or the households themselves. Many of these activities are reportedly starting from scratch, building a new smaller structure next to their home or on the old concrete pad where their house was destroyed. Much of the material being used for this reconstruction is salvaged, which looks both old and affected by rot in the case of timber. The forests which provided natural materials (leaves and wood) for structures have been destroyed and timber from felled trees is instead being used as a livelihood source with them being turned into charcoal.

KII

Since the cyclone KIIs indicate that households have remained in the affected areas, either living with friends or family or are living in their damaged shelters. Where households will carry out reconstruction they will often work together to rebuild one house before building another. However, the materials currently being used in any reconstruction efforts are salvaged, with timber for example being old and “*not really reusable*”. Furthermore KIIs state that often affected individuals lack food and so lack the energy to do reconstruction activities.

FGD

In all FGDs, participants reported that their houses were either destroyed or rendered uninhabitable, with roofs blown off, walls collapsed, and timber frames severely damaged. FGD respondents stated that households currently reside in damaged houses or self-built temporary shelter. They highlighted that there is often overcrowding in these temporary shelters. In multiple locations, people described living “*in what is left*” of their houses, often under a fallen roof without walls, in leaking structures, or in improvised shelters built from partially salvaged materials. This includes households residing in soboko houses, a structure where only the roof is placed on the ground and used as a shelter.

There are reportedly efforts by individuals to carry out some limited reconstruction or rehabilitation; however, these efforts face barriers and are constrained by:

- Lack of money is the biggest obstacle. Households have lost livelihoods, crops, and livestock, leaving them without income to purchase materials.
 - Women-headed households and elderly individuals must hire labourers, but cannot afford the cost.
- Construction materials are seemingly only available in markets far from the villages, mainly in Toamasina, and transport costs are extremely high.
- Time constraints with individuals torn between rebuilding and working to earn income.
- Many households are too hungry and exhausted to carry out labour-intensive reconstruction.
- Traditional building materials (*Ravinala, Ravimpotsy*) are scarce or destroyed, and will take at least a year to become available again, reducing the availability of low-cost local options.

Households are using available materials which have been recovered including timber, CGI and bamboo. However these items have also been reported as having been blown away, destroyed or damaged, for example households have found CGI panels to be bent.

Concerns

KII

KIIs report a lack of food with households actively searching both for food or livelihood opportunities to enable them to purchase food. There is also a lack of clean water in the villages. Health concerns are also becoming apparent with children developing skin rashes.

FGD

FGD participants reported a large number of different concerns impacting them, their families and communities:

- Health and disease: Instances of increased diarrhoea, rising malaria cases and skin infections (potentially scabies).
- Lack of clean water: Compounding some of the health challenges and potentially causing others, FGDs highlighted that there was a lack of clean water for individuals to shower or to be able to clean.
- Loss of income: Households loss of income-generating activities has led to them searching for alternative sources. Highlighted in the majority of FGDs, respondents stated they were making charcoal to sell from trees that were felled by the cyclone. However, as many households are resorting to this, the price of

charcoal has dropped “*considerably*” to 7,000 Ar (£1.26) per bag, and in one FGD they stated that there is likely only 5 months' worth of trees available.

- Loss of education: Multiple FGDs highlighted their concerns that children had lost their school materials and schools are now damaged/destroyed. FGD respondents stated they were worried that children would fall behind.



Construction

Methods and materials

Transect Walk

Observations suggest that residential buildings tend to be single story units, often built from natural materials and with CGI used for roofing.

- Roofing materials: are either Rivilana leaves or CGI sheets
- Wall construction: natural materials with timber columns and woven leaf infill for the walls.
- Foundation: some have concrete pads from which the columns are built up from. Generally any foundations are shallow, but in some cases with a cement footing. Although not at a depth enough to prevent failure.
- Windows / doors: Some timber doors observed, otherwise doors and windows are timber framed and open, with doors having a woven leaf infill.

KII

Key informants interviewed stated that residential buildings in fokontany are generally constructed with light materials including woven leaves, while also using CGI and concrete.

In urban areas construction is usually carried out by tradespeople whereas in rural areas they are often self-constructed. When looking at construction in rural areas rebuilding a house of approximately 3.5m x3.5m costs 1,500,000 Ar (£270). Labour only is approximately 800,000 Ar (£144 GBP). Reportedly following the cyclone prices have increased, with the Mayor of Tamatave 2 stating that prices had increase significantly, while the leaders of the two fokontany's stated that prices had increased slightly. All indicated that there are available tradespeople for construction.

FGD

Respondents described a range of traditional, low-cost construction methods that rely heavily on locally available natural materials. Houses are typically built using wooden frames, complemented by bamboo, *Ravimpotsy* sheets, and woven leaves from *Falafa* or *Ravinala* trees for the walls and roofing. Construction work is normally done by the household themselves, particularly among lower-income families, while wealthier households hire labourers or tradespeople. Women-headed households, elderly individuals, and those with disabilities often need to hire tradesmen because of the physical difficulty of construction, though they frequently cannot afford the cost.

Construction of building a house varies between 400,000 Ar (£72) and 1,000,000 Ar (£180) per house depending on design, material, size etc.

Affected population

Respondents to FGDs highlighted that the cyclone led to the destructions of homes, household items crops, livelihoods, the loss of livestock, habitat and the destruction of education facilities. Some highlighted how during the cyclone itself there was no refuge or places to escape to and that now they highlight that there is lower morale, an increase in diseases and a lack of access to basic necessities such as clean water.

Worst affected

KII

KIIs stated that the worst affected individuals were women, children, elderly and those with disabilities. In one community, Ampangarinantelo, there were 5 pre-positioned tents arranged by the community leader. Persons with disabilities have been provided with these tents.

FGD

When considering those worse affected three of the FGDs highlighted that everyone was affected and impacted equally. Meanwhile in other FGDs, respondents highlighted that those most impacted were the elderly, those with disabilities and women and children.

Prioritisation

KII

The Mayor of Tamatave 2 stated that the local authority will provide a list of those to be targeted which itself will have been verified by the mayor. For Ampangarinantelo fokontany, the president stated that everyone is affected and fully destroyed households should be the first priority.

FGD

When asked to identify population groups to be prioritised there were two prominent themes shared. Across four FGDs they highlighted the following groups which they identified as vulnerable:

- Elderly
- Persons with disabilities
- Female headed households
- Breastfeeding women
- Single parent households

Whereas in two FGDs, respondents stressed that everyone is equally vulnerable and that any assistance should be equally distributed regardless of vulnerability characteristics. These respondents were stressing that certain groups are always prioritised meaning that the rest are “*left behind*” and “*forgotten*”.

Intentions

KII

KIIs stated that overall intentions were to return to their shelters and rebuild. While there are some households residing in evacuation centres, these are predominantly in urban areas.

FGD

Across all female FGDs respondents expressed that they intended to remain in their current location. Some reported that they have nowhere else to go, with one group stating that there is no evacuation sites near their Fokontany and that relocating to urban areas such as Toamasina would be too expensive. Another FGD highlighted their strong generational links to their area:

“Move where? This is the land of our ancestors. We would rather stay here. Cyclones do not choose their routes. If we move to another place, who knows if the cyclone which will come next will go there this time. When disaster comes, it comes no matter where you decide to live” - Female FGD in Sahandanitra

Priorities and preferences

Top priorities

KII

All KIIs reported that the top 3 priorities in the affected communities are shelter, food security and WASH. The vice president of Sahandahatra also reported that seeds for livelihoods and furniture were additional top priorities.

FGD

Food and shelter were reported in all FGD sessions by both male and female respondents. Second to these top two priorities, the most commonly reported priority need was income-related support including requests for income-generating activities, seeds (for corn, sweet potato, vegetable, eassave, beans) to support income generating activities. Other reported priority needs included:

- Clean water
- School rehabilitation
- Money

Shelter priorities – layout

FGD

Households expressed a strong preference for a functional shelter that prioritises a safe and enclosed sleeping space above all else. Respondents reported that a single multipurpose room, used as both bedroom and kitchen, is sufficient if it provides protection from the elements.

Participants noted that external toilets and wash areas are acceptable and consistent with rural practices, so internal WASH facilities are not a priority.

Shelter priorities – materials

KII

KII reported that the best solution would be reconstruction of shelters, ideally using build back-better with a preference for screws over nails, with new CGI and timber. They did highlight that there is usually a preference for leaf roofs, however due to the loss of these

natural resources then CGI is an acceptable alternative. Timber is another reported priority.

FGD

Across all communities, the dominant shelter priority is reconstruction of homes using durable materials.

This includes:

- Sheet metal (CGI) – widely reported as a sheltering need, especially because traditional roofing materials such as *Ravinala* and *Ravimpotsy* leaves have become scarce after the cyclone destroyed large areas of forest. Traditionally these are reportedly woven to create roofing and walls.
 - It was however highlighted that sheet metal is usually only purchased by those with a greater purchasing power
- Timber and bamboo – needed for structural framing, walling, and repairs. Some timber was recoverable in a few villages, and in one FGD households reported that bamboo is now being used instead of timber.
- Nails and basic hardware – repeatedly listed as needed.

One FGD group, stated that they want to stay in something better than their current location, even if it is not permanent. Specifically, they stated they would be willing to stay in a tent while constructing a new house.

Shelter reconstruction – capacities

KII

KIIs reported that there is capacity within communities for reconstruction. Reportedly where households will carry out their own reconstruction they will often work together to rebuild one house before building another. Currently they are limited by the materials they have available with the majority being salvaged from damaged or destroyed structures.

KIIs do highlight that the affected individuals do however lack food and so lack the energy to do reconstruction activities. When considering the types of support that would be most beneficial the KIIs highlight in-kind, cash and voucher support which enables them to meet or access multiple needed resources at once (food, water, household items, shelter materials etc.).

FGD

FGDs indicate that communities have some capacity to conduct shelter reconstruction, but this capacity is heavily constrained by a lack of materials, financial resources, energy, and time. One FGD group highlighted that around 40% of households possess the skills

needed to rebuild, and approximately 20% are carpenters or masons, meaning there is some technical knowledge is available locally.

However in one FGD the respondents highlighted the multi-faceted challenges, including time, finances and resources, they face when it comes to reconstruction:

“If they are going to hire tradespeople, they do not have money for that. If they had money, they would rather buy food. If they are going to repair their house themselves, they will not have time to work. If they don’t work they won’t have money.” - Female FGD in Vohitrambato

NFI priorities

KII

Kitchen sets and furniture were the only NFIs highlighted by the KIIs.

FGD

Participants consistently prioritised kitchen sets as the most urgent need. Households reported that they had lost plates, pots, buckets and basins. Mattresses, lighting, mosquito nets, and clothing were also highlighted, particularly in female FGDs, as key items required. In addition to household items, some groups noted needs for furniture after trees fell on and destroyed tables, chairs, and beds. Male FGDs also emphasised administrative documents (birth certificates and national identity cards) as a priority, alongside solar panels, school supplies, bicycles, sheet metal, and items related to livelihoods such as materials for fish farming and small-scale breeding. Overall, communities reported having “lost everything,” and restoration of basic cooking, sleeping, and lighting capacities remains their most immediate NFI concern.

Markets

Item Availability

KII

KIIs indicated that overall there is item availability in markets, however quality is often lacking. Often items of good quality will be found in markets in Tamatave.

FGD

Overall, FGD participants reported that essential household items and shelter items are generally available in markets, particularly in the larger city of Toamasina, which offers a wider variety than local markets. While FGD respondents indicated that materials, such as wood and sheet metal, can be found, other respondents reported that there is only small shops providing basic household items (e.g. soap and biscuits). Overall

respondents seemed to indicate that most items are not accessible locally and require travel to Toamasina (Tamatave) to reach them.

Market Accessibility

KII

Market accessibility is reportedly overall challenging with KIIs highlighting that some communities require river crossings via boat and transport via 4WD vehicles.

FGD

FGD respondents reported that while essential items are generally available in nearby towns, accessing markets is challenging due to distance, transport limitations, and cost. Local village markets overall seemingly offer very less variety in regards to household items and vary on whether they stock any building materials. Instead FGD respondents reported that they must travel to larger urban areas; predominantly indicating the need to travel to the city of Toamasina (Tamatave). Distances reported range from 12 km to 19 km, often requiring multiple modes of transport (e.g., cycling followed by a bus). Transport fees vary widely depending on location of community. For example from Ampihaonana respondents reported that they can pay 5,000–15,000 Ar (£0.90 - £2.71) for a tuk-tuk, while others reported costs while respondents in Ampangarintelo indicated it can cost up to 40,000 Ar (£7.21). In addition to travel expenses, families face extra charges for transporting purchased goods. Again, respondents from Ampangarintelo reported that costs range from 3,000 Ar (£0.54) per 'Garaba' (a type of bucket which stores vegetables and fruits) to 10,000 Ar (£1.80) for a bag of goods. These costs, combined with limited household income, significantly restrict market access and make it difficult for households to purchase even basic items.

Purchasing priorities

KII

KIIs stated that items prioritised by communities when visiting markets were food, CGI and timber for reconstruction and seeds for livelihoods.

FGD

When asked what goods households prioritise when visiting markets, the most commonly reported item was food and basic necessities. In particular participants reported rice, oil, coffee, sugar and soap. In one FGD respondents stated that if they had money left they would potentially, although not sure, purchase other materials.

Accountability

Information sharing with communities

KII

All KIIs stated that project information should be communicated via a community leader.

FGD

FGD respondents indicated a variety of different mechanisms and preferences for how they are communicated with. In four of the six FGDs, respondents suggested that organisations contact the President of the Fokontany who can then disseminate information through the various sector chiefs in each community. It was also suggested that organisations utilise megaphones; this was reportedly to ensure that any messaging is announced over all fokontany sectors and due to their being houses located in forests.

"There are so many houses in the forest, so it will be easiest to transmit information this way" - Female FGD in Sahandanitra in regard to megaphone usage

Other mechanisms reported included using phones, however there was no indication on whether this was utilising specific channels e.g. WhatsApp.

Two different communities provided suggestions on the timing of any messaging prior to activities. One community, Sahandanitra, suggested informing communities a week beforehand, while in Ampangarintelo the suggested 2 days prior.

Feedback and complaint mechanisms

FGD

Mechanisms for contacting organisations was only shared in the female FGDs. The most commonly requested mechanism was using phones, although again no indication on what channel that would be (WhatsApp, Phone, Text etc.). Participants overall suggested they would like to be able to complain or provide feedback to the NGO directly.

In one FGD, as well as suggesting the use of phones, they also suggested providing feedback or complaints through the Fokontany President and the Mayor.

Humanitarian interventions

Transect Walk

There was no reported sign of other humanitarian actors. In both visited locations the mayor of the fokontany had done some work in the response (distributing rice) or prepositioning (5 chinese tents)