



# COVID-19 Response Factsheet

**WaterAid's vision** is "A world where everyone everywhere has access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) by 2030." Our **mission** is "Transforming the lives of the poorest and most marginalized people by improving their access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene."

## The WASH situation in Madagascar

The situation in Madagascar remains precarious, with very low rates of access. **Over half** of the population (**57%**) do not yet have access to safe drinking water, and around **40%** still practice open defecation. Madagascar also continues to rank among the worst countries for health indicators which are directly linked to lack of access to sanitation and hygiene (**77%** do not have appropriate hand washing facilities).<sup>1</sup>

The **current pandemic** highlights the urgent need for greater attention to be given to WASH in Madagascar, given the vital role the sector plays in preventing the spread of COVID-19. The government's commitment to WASH provision starkly contrasts with urgency of the situation:

- The WASH sector receives only **2%** of the country's total budget [2020 = 9,143,308,486 Ar; 145,002,444 Ar allocated to WASH]
- At least **62%** of schools in Madagascar do not have drinking water
- At least **38%** of schools lack toilets<sup>2</sup>



► **A boy washing his hands at a contactless handwashing station during the delivery of handwashing facilities for examination centres, Manjakandriana commune, Analamanga region.**



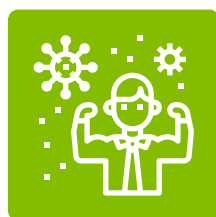
## Country data on COVID-19<sup>3</sup>

13 October **2020**  
M A D A G A S C A R



Confirmed cases

**16,754**



Recovered

**16,124**



Serious condition

**15**



Deaths

**237**

<sup>1</sup> MICS 2018. [mics.unicef.org/surveys](https://mics.unicef.org/surveys) | <sup>2</sup> WHO/UNICEF. Joint Monitory Programme 2019 [washdata.org/data/school#/mdg](https://washdata.org/data/school#/mdg)  
<sup>3</sup> Centre de Commandement Operationnel COVID-19. <http://cco-COVID-19.gov.mg/fr/statistique-02/> (accessed 16 September 2020)

## Overview of national response to COVID-19

The Malagasy government's response to COVID-19 has been characterised by the following measures:

- The government declared a health emergency on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and placed restrictions on the Analamanga region, as well as the port city of Toamasina – these included banning public transport and public gatherings, closing schools and markets, and imposing a curfew
- Quarantining of new arrivals outside the airport; later closing airspace altogether
- Establishment of the CCO (Operation Command Centre) to coordinate the fight against COVID-19
- Establishment of a COVID-19 screening centre
- Coordination of hospitals and healthcare centres to care for confirmed patients at the peak of infections
- Promotion of “**CVO organics herbal tea**”, the product of research on the Artemisia plant carried out by the IMRA (Malagasy Institute of Applied Research) – produced and distributed free of charge to patients
- Food and financial handouts called “**Tosika Fameno and Vatsy Tsinjo**”
- Dedication of a new functional laboratory and pharmaceutical company to fight against COVID-19
- Daily updates on the COVID-19 situation through requisitioned radio and TV channels
- Continuous promotion of sanitary measures such as social distancing/disinfection over TV and radio

## WaterAid Madagascar's response

The country programme, supported by UK office, has allocated 350 million Ar to activities including:



- **Support for local authorities** in our intervention areas through the distribution of **contactless handwashing facilities** placed in public locations such as markets, health centres, and public schools hosting delayed exams
- A **media plan**, including posters and TV broadcasts, calling for everyone to adopt handwashing as the first barrier to the spread of COVID-19



- **Confronting senators**; supported by the WaterAid team, Arsène Raveloson, President of the Civil Society Organisation OSCEAH, recently made a strong appeal to 16 senators
- Advocacy for an **increased WASH national budget**; the WaterAid Governance and Advocacy team, accompanied by WASH CSO, conducted a successful advocacy session with 20 Parliamentarians (members of the Water and Energy Commission)



- **6 TV broadcasts** with WASH CSO, aiming to strengthen WASH sector advocacy at national and regional levels, on both national and private channels
- **Advocacy** in the Alaotra Mangoro region, alongside local WASH CSO, with respect to the implementation of WASH activities
- WaterAid staff and partners **leading by example** with respect to **barrier gestures** – including face masks, handwashing and social distancing



- **Supporting the Ministry of WASH** to improve **coordination and exchange** between all stakeholders responding to the crisis (with virtual conferences, internet connection, smartphones, computers)
- Adopting **new ways of working** through virtual meeting/training and remote work

## Promotion of hygiene as the first shield against the spread of COVID-19

**Hand Washing Facilities allowing daily hygiene promoted as a shield for the whole population**

The situation remains dangerous as the pandemic is not yet under control. Despite the slight drop in the figures over these last few weeks, the risk of contamination remains high, particularly with progressive deconfinement measures. Washing hands with water and soap remains the best barrier to coronavirus propagation. Teaching families to prioritise good hygiene practices, as well as prioritising access to WASH through inclusive policy and actions at the community level, therefore remains both a priority and a recommendation of WaterAid.

### Top tips to promote hygiene

- Good hygiene protects your body from contamination
- Good hygiene helps protect your family
- Good hygiene protects the whole neighbourhood, and by extension the country
- Good hygiene keeps you strong and healthy, and therefore productive and efficient in your work
- Investing in hygiene brings invaluable benefits to all those who apply it correctly
- Good hygiene practices are easy and very cheap

