



seed **madagascar**

sustainable environment, education & development

## SEED Madagascar's statement on adapting to the needs of the communities of the Anosy region during the COVID-19 global crisis

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### Activity Summary: 17<sup>th</sup> March – 9<sup>th</sup> October:

Dissemination of COVID-19 prevention messages	2,183 community members reached through informal COVID-19 information sessions
	7,742 community members received handwashing information and demonstrations
	753 mothers and pregnant women received information about COVID-19 prevention for new mothers and young children
	2,665 informational posters & flyers distributed throughout Anosy and Androy
	517 radio broadcasts across three radio stations
	Ongoing COVID-19 awareness social media campaign including production of 2 videos on physical distancing and mask wearing
Provision of essential equipment	15,836 masks distributed
	8 infrared thermometers purchased
	137 handwashing stations provided
	95 boxes of soap distributed
COVID-19 prevention training sessions	23 health centres receiving on-going COVID-19 prevention training sessions
	120 health workers trained in COVID-19 prevention
	16 primary school head teachers trained in COVID-19 prevention
	29 public place managers trained in disinfection of markets, schools, and other public spaces

## **SEED Madagascar's response**

SEED is taking action to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 infection alongside local government actors and other providers in three fields:

1. Widespread dissemination of clear COVID-19 prevention messages across a range of mediums
2. Provision of essential equipment, such as masks and handwashing stations
3. Capacity building training sessions for health care workers, schools, and government workers in rural and urban communities

SEED will continue to work in partnership with local partners and the '*Centre de Commandement Operationnel*' (CCO) to meet the emerging needs of communities as they face the threat of COVID-19.

### **Widespread communication of prevention messages**

SEED has printed and distributed 1,225 posters and 1,440 flyers across all three districts of Anosy and a further two districts in the neighbouring Androy region. These gave messages on preventative measures such as handwashing, physical distancing, coughing, and symptoms of COVID-19 in accessible graphics and local language. These materials were distributed to churches, schools, water points, and other key community hubs.

SEED has worked alongside the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Communication, the Inspector of Health to design and coordinate radio broadcasts in national and Anosy dialects, which covered messages on handwashing, physical distancing, COVID-19 symptoms and the measures to take if people display symptoms. A combined total of 517 radio broadcasts across three radio stations have been disseminated, reaching approximately 700,000 people across the Anosy region.

Staff of all SEED projects provide COVID-19 information sessions to their communities, covering prevention and symptoms of the virus. 2,183 people have been reached by these information sessions within all of SEED's target communities.

### **Provision of essential equipment**

SEED is continuing to distribute reusable masks to community members in need. A total of 15,835 masks have been distributed throughout 17 communes in Anosy.

137 handwashing stations stocked with soap have been provided to communities at high traffic community hubs, such as schools, markets, and community health centres. 18 of these handwashing stations were given away as prizes for competitive radio contests run by SEED to mobilize communities and provide additional information about COVID-19. 7,183 people have been trained in how to construct their own handwashing stations. SEED is also providing 16 Community Health Centres with supplies and equipment, including gloves, protective glasses, and disinfectant sprayers, to disinfect their facilities.

### **COVID-19 prevention training sessions**

SEED is currently working in 23 rural and urban health clinics, where 120 healthcare workers have received training on the prevention and control of COVID-19 infection. 72 community health workers have been trained to provide COVID-19 prevention information to patients in facility waiting areas, with specialised information available for those attending antenatal and vaccination appointments. So far, 753 women have been supported at these sessions and provided with masks.

SEED is also working to train other professionals in the prevention and control of COVID-19. 16 primary school head teachers have been trained in COVID-19 prevention and 29 public place managers have been trained in the disinfection of markets, schools, and other public spaces. These professionals have also received training in raising community awareness of the prevention and control of infection.

### COVID-19 Preparation and Response Projects

From April to July 2020, SEED conducted a 26,550,000 MGA project funded by the Rowan Trust, which focussed primarily on community preparation through radio broadcasts and the distribution of 5735 masks, 51 handwashing stations, and 175 posters to communities in the Anosy region.

Since May 2020, SEED has been collecting funds through the ‘Masks for Madagascar’ online appeal. Using this income stream, SEED has continued to fund mask making and distribution. As of 31 August 2020, 8,124,000 MGA has been spent.

From August 2020 to March 2021, SEED is implementing an 82,765,000 MGA project funded by the British Embassy. This funding will focus on training community health workers and health care staff and providing masks, cleaning products, and handwashing stations to health care facilities. The project will primarily concentrate its activities on maternal and child health.

Since June, SEED has been working with 9,000,000 MGA donated by an individual donor, to support health clinics in providing COVID-19 information at antenatal and vaccination sessions to pregnant women and new mothers. Following the award of the British Embassy grant, this funding will be refocused on any maternal health needs that emerge, but have not yet been funded.

From July to October 2020, SEED is working on a 147,098,000 MGA emergency project in partnership with UNICEF Madagascar to scale-up current COVID-19 prevention measures in 16 of Anosy’s most vulnerable communes. The project will focus on strengthening the capacity of healthcare workers and government agents to raise awareness about preventing transmission of the virus and ensuring patient safety through the distribution of masks, handwashing stations, and cleaning equipment.

From 17<sup>th</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> September, SEED has committed a total of 273,537,000 MGA for the funding of COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

### Update on Recent Activities (25 September – 9 October)

Activities	Impact/numbers
<p><b>Poster distribution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 320 informational posters distributed</li> <li>• 160 informational flyers distributed</li> </ul>	480 informational materials distributed
<p><b>Cleaning equipment distribution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protective glasses, boots, blouses, and disinfectant distributed to CSBs in Ebelo, Ifotaka, Tsivory, Betroka, and Isoanala</b></li> <li>• 4 contests run to mobilize communities</li> <li>• 16 handwashing stations and 8 boxes of soap distributed to community members as contest prizes</li> </ul>	16 handwashing stations constructed; Protective gear and disinfectant distributed to 5 CSBs

**COVID-19 prevention training**

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- 22 health workers trained in prevention and control of COVID-19 infection
- 6 disinfection sessions conducted in Community Health Centres
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22 professionals trained; 6 disinfection sessions conducted