



Statement on adapting to the needs of the communities of the Anosy region during the COVID-19 global crisis

Date of Update: 29th May 2020

On 21st March the Government of Madagascar declared a Health State of Emergency and on 27th April the Anosy region confirmed its first case of COVID-19. Since 17th March, SEED Madagascar has worked alongside the COVID-19 Operational Command Centre for the Anosy region with the following three objectives:

- Provision of information, materials, and personal protective equipment (PPE) to SEED staff, partners and frontline workers to keep them safe as they perform vital community outreach
- Provision of information, materials, and PPE to at risk groups in FD
- Provision of information, materials, and PPE to isolated, rural communities with a focus on health clinics and schools

To support these groups, SEED has:

- Implemented a communication campaign focussed on preparedness and prevention messages through the distribution of 310 posters across the Anosy region.
- Funded 252 radio broadcasts on the importance of handwashing, social distancing, symptoms, and measures to take if people display symptoms aired across three radio stations between them covering the whole of the Anosy region.
- Raised awareness through a social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter, including 'myth-busters' and producing short animated videos in the local dialect on social distancing and wearing masks.
- Provided 1,044 masks to SEED staff and families, SEED partners, government officials, and meeting attendees.
- Provided 2,050 masks to vulnerable communities in Fort Dauphin including the elderly when collecting pensions, prison staff, health workers, staff and patients at the psychiatric retreat and hospital, front line health staff and community workers.
- Provided 2,080 masks to the rural communities of Sainte Luce and Mahatalaky, including to local schools, health centres, town officials, rural beekeepers, market sellers travelling to Fort Dauphin and community members.
- Provided 16 hand-washing stations, soap and information sessions in the rural communities of Sainte Luce and Mahatalaky managed through the Mayor and Public Health Clinic.
- Provided 10 hand-washing stations and soap to the psychiatric retreat and hospital, a local church and other community members in Fort Dauphin.
- Purchased 8 infrared thermometers to support local health facilities.

Total numbers			
Masks	Posters	Radio broadcasts	Handwashing stations
5,174	310	252	26

SEED's team of staff and volunteers is committed to supporting vulnerable community members throughout the COVID-19 crisis. However, we also know that our existing programmes are needed, now more than ever, to ensure livelihood security, public health care, and education. Wherever we can, SEED will continue to work with communities on these programmes whilst following all Government guidelines.

Dissemination of clear COVID-19 prevention messages:

- 310 posters distributed throughout Anosy
- 252 radio broadcasts across three radio stations

Provision of masks and other essential equipment:

- 5,174 masks distributed
- 8 infrared thermometers purchased

Establishment of handwashing stations:

- 3 handwashing stations in Sainte Luce
- 13 handwashing stations in Mahatalaky
- 10 handwashing stations in Fort Dauphin