

## SEED Madagascar Mask distribution in Anosy – August 2020

SEED has distributed 10,288 masks in Madagascar as part of our COVID-19 response work. In a country like Madagascar where families are facing COVID-19 with little in the way of defences, these masks will be vital. Masks are one of the only and most effective ways that people have of protecting themselves, and SEED has been working alongside the Regional COVID-19 committee and our partners to ensure that the masks funded through our SEED Madagascar appeals are reaching those most in need.

### Food Suppliers

Fort Dauphin is already experiencing food shortages and rising food prices. The town is now heavily reliant on local producers as air, sea, and road distribution routes have been disrupted or in some cases have ceased completely. SEED has been supporting individual market sellers who need masks in order to enter the market and sell their produce. So far SEED has distributed 2,100 masks to vendors in markets around the Anosy region, including those from rural villages as they make the long walk into Fort Dauphin to sell.



### Vulnerable Groups

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world, so arguably most of the population are vulnerable. Yet there are still some particularly vulnerable groups in society. SEED has been working with the prisons, elderly groups and those in psychiatric care to ensure that people who would otherwise not have access to a mask are able to protect themselves. SEED has distributed 2,100 masks to vulnerable groups in Anosy, including 200 masks to the elderly who needed to collect a pension, 600 to the local psychiatric hospital and 1,100 to the Anosy Governor's distribution to sex workers and those with disabilities.



### Health Care

Doctors, nurses and midwives are particularly at risk to COVID-19 as they come into contact with people who may have COVID-19 in situations where social distancing may not be possible and appropriate PPE is not available. SEED made a commitment to local health care facilities to protect their staff and patients by distributing masks to those who don't have one. So far, we have distributed 1,070 masks to the staff and patients of six health care centres, with an additional 560 masks distributed to new mothers and pregnant women at antenatal and vaccination sessions.



## Rural Distribution

With government and local authorities struggling to provide citizens with COVID-19 prevention measures, efforts have been focussed in urban areas. This has left rural villages with very little. SEED has been supporting rural areas to ensure they are not left behind. More than 6,200 masks have been provided to rural communities through on-going distributions to schools, clinics, council offices, fishing communities and police posts throughout villages north of Fort Dauphin. This has included masks provided for anyone coming to meetings or trainings with SEED staff, as we try to continue with our day to day work alongside providing people with information on COVID-19.



SEED mask exchange wouldn't be possible without our makers in the UK – or our makers in Madagascar. SEED is working with a group of 15 seamstresses in Fort Dauphin who are working to make the masks ready for distribution. Many of these have lost jobs because of COVID-19, and so income from making masks is proving essential source of income for the women and their families.

