



A Final Report for

# **PROGRAMME SEKOLY: SAINTE LUCE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Improving health and education in rural Madagascar**

January 2023

## Summary

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### Context

Ranking 173/191 on the Human Development Index, **Madagascar remains one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world.**<sup>1</sup> Children bear the brunt of this burden, with over 70% of Malagasy children living in poverty.<sup>2</sup> **Almost 905,000 children are not attending school**, and only 63% of children complete their primary education.<sup>3</sup> These issues are amplified in rural schools across Madagascar's under-resourced Anosy region, where 51.5% of six- to 10-year-olds have never attended school.<sup>4</sup>

Moreover, it is estimated that **6,900 Malagasy children die annually from water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) related diseases.**<sup>5</sup> Almost half of the country's population do not have access to basic drinking water and 38% of schools do not have access to basic sanitation services.<sup>6</sup> Insufficient or non-existent water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure in schools contributes to the transmission of diseases, whilst impeding academic achievement.<sup>7</sup> Female students are further disadvantaged due to a lack of menstrual hygiene/health management (MHM) facilities, which prevents them from safely managing menstruation in school, exacerbating school absenteeism.<sup>8</sup>

### Programme Sekoly as a Solution

SEED Madagascar's (SEED's) Sekoly Programme aims to improve health and education in Madagascar's rural Anosy region by providing education infrastructure and WASH facilities for 405 students and 11 teachers in Sainte Luce Primary School. SEED increased safe sanitation access by repairing two existing latrines, and constructing six gender-segregated latrines, two handwashing stations, and an MHM facility in the school. The installation of a 10,000-litre rainwater harvesting system at the school provides students and teachers with access to clean drinking water. To enable students to attend full-day classes, SEED repaired two school buildings, each with two fully-furnished classrooms. SEED empowers communities to sustain improvements by establishing WASH management committees and training teachers to lead WASH education.



*New timber apex frames and metal sheet roofing has been installed on both existing school buildings at Sainte Luce Primary School.*

## Activity Detail

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### Construction Activity

#### Classroom Repair

The repairs to both school buildings were completed in December 2022. The four classrooms have been provided with a total of 60 additional student desk-benches, four lockable cupboards have been repaired, and four blackboards have been repainted. The provision of education infrastructure at Sainte Luce Primary School will

enable 405 students to attend full days of lessons in safe and high-quality learning environments, whilst accommodating for expected student population growth.

Minor delays were encountered to project delivery when the only road to the school became inaccessible by vehicles transporting materials to the site. Working alongside the community, SEED was able to transport materials via foot minimising delays to project timeline. After seven months of no classes, teachers resumed lessons once roof reparations were completed, with children now attending full days of school. As a result, SEED modified its construction schedule to be sure that activities would be conducted outside of school hours to reduce risk to teachers and students. Despite these unexpected disruptions, the project was completed according to schedule.



*Refurbishment of the roofs of both school buildings were completed in December 2022.*

## **WASH Facilities**

The reparation of two existing latrines and the construction of six additional gender-segregated ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines<sup>1</sup> with an MHM facility have been completed. Two handwashing stations with behavioural nudges<sup>2</sup> and a mural were painted on the latrines to encourage healthy hygiene practices amongst students and teachers. In collaboration with Tatirano Social Enterprise, a 10,000-litre rainwater harvesting system has been installed, providing the school and community with a two-month supply of clean water when full, before needing replenishment. The students and community now have access to clean drinking water, reducing the transmission of WASH-related illnesses. The system also provides running water to the MHM facility, empowering female students to manage their menstruation in school with privacy and dignity.

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<sup>1</sup> Ventilating improved pit latrines are designed to increase air circulation, minimising smell and disease-transmitting flies.

<sup>2</sup> Nudges are environmental features that are created to 'nudge' a person's decision-making. In this case, a concrete path with footprints painted leading from the latrines to handwashing stations are being constructed to encourage students to wash their hands.



*The message above the block of three latrine cubicles (left) reads 'Everyone, it is good to be clean, stop open defecation'. The message inside the MHM facility (right) reads 'Don't be shy, don't skip class, you can be sure that your body will be healthy if you wash with water.'*

## **WASH Education and Capacity-Building**

To complement the improved WASH infrastructure, SEED has trained 11 teachers at Sainte Luce Primary School to deliver WASH education sessions to a total of 405 students. Additionally, a WASH committee of 15 school staff, teachers, and community leaders has been established to maintain the new infrastructure. SEED delivered WASH education training to WASH committee members and teachers in Sainte Luce Primary School, covering topics such as handwashing, latrine use, latrine maintenance, and water treatment. These activities promote good WASH practices amongst students and build the capacity of the community to sustainably manage the new WASH facilities.



*SEED's WASH Officer during a train-the-trainer session demonstrating effective handwashing to Sainte Luce teachers.*

## Sustainability and Monitoring

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### Sustainability

The Sekoly Programme ensures sustainability through complementing the smart, durable design of infrastructure with capacity building of the school community, enabling them to develop and sustain positive WASH behaviours. The school buildings and WASH facilities have been designed to withstand extreme weather conditions and require minimal maintenance. SEED empowers students and teachers with the knowledge and tools to sustain new infrastructure and positive WASH practices. A train-the-trainer approach is used to build the capacity of teachers so they can deliver interactive WASH education sessions. Operating independently of SEED, teachers will deliver these education sessions to the students annually.

### Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

Over the duration of the project, SEED has monitored the progress of activities at the site through regular visits and departmental reviews. A baseline assessment of WASH knowledge and behaviours was carried out before construction began, and an endline survey was conducted upon project completion. The RAG-system (red-amber-green) was used to track activities and the progress of project outputs was regularly updated and reviewed by the management team. Follow-up visits, including observational monitoring by SEED staff, will be carried out within six months of project end. During these visits, SEED staff will assess the ongoing maintenance of WASH infrastructure and the adoption of improved WASH practices among teachers and students.

## Financial Report

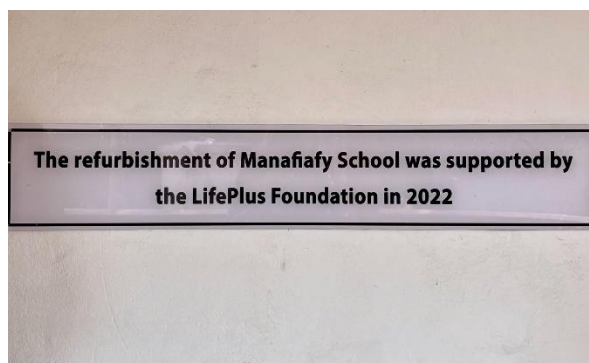
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Project expenditure has been consistently monitored throughout the project. 100.5% (£33,971.82 of £33,807.78) of the budget for Project Sekoly: Sainte Luce Primary School has been spent.

During the preparation phase of project implementation, government imposed fuel prices were introduced, increasing project fuel expenditure by 44%. This impacted transportation costs for the delivery of materials, construction staff, and programmes staff to the construction site. This challenge was mitigated through loading delivery vehicles to maximum capacity, and reducing staff site visits to a minimum.

The prices for key construction materials such as sheet metal, and timber, have also fluctuated since project inception, resulting in overspend and underspend on certain lines. These fluctuations and increases have been attributed to supply-chain bottlenecks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise in global demand for construction materials, and the increase of importation costs as a repercussion of the war in Ukraine. To accommodate for these fluctuations, construction materials were purchased in bulk and used across multiple budget lines.

On behalf of SEED, and the community of Sainte Luce, we would like to kindly thank the LifePlus Foundation for supporting the improvement of education outcomes in southeast Madagascar.



*Honorary plaque on Sainte Luce Primary School.*

## References

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