

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

**Date of Update: 19th June 2020**

On 21<sup>st</sup> March the Government of Madagascar declared a Health State of Emergency and on 27<sup>th</sup> April the Anosy region confirmed its first case of COVID-19. Since 17<sup>th</sup> 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, schools and food supply chains

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 1,307 masks to SEED staff and families, SEED partners, government officials, and meeting attendees.
- Provided 3,790 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, healthcare home visits, frontline health staff and community workers.
- Provided 2,280 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.
- Trained three community health workers who have attended antenatal and vaccination sessions to promote COVID-19 prevention messages around breastfeeding, handwashing and physical distancing, supporting over 600 women.
- 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
7,377	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.