

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

Date of Update: 24th April 2020

### Table of activities

Date/deadline	Activities	Impact/numbers
<b>Dissemination of clear COVID-19 prevention messages</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> April	50 posters with messages on preventive measures and symptoms provided by Ministry of Communication to be distributed over the next week	50 posters to be distributed to 22 rural communes throughout Anosy
10 <sup>th</sup> April (ongoing)	Short animated videos reinforcing prevention messages aired on social media	Approximately 9,000 followers on Facebook and 3,600 followers on Twitter (international)
7 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> April	168 broadcasts have been aired in coordination with the Ministry and Inspector of Health, covering symptoms of COVID-19 and measures if people display symptoms	Approximately 700,000 people across the Anosy region
30 <sup>th</sup> March to 5 <sup>th</sup> April	84 radio broadcasts have been aired across three different radio stations covering handwashing and social distancing	Approximately 700,000 people across the Anosy region
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Distribution of posters on preventative measures and symptoms across all three Anosy districts.	160 colour posters and 100 black and white posters distributed
17 <sup>th</sup> March (ongoing)	Social media campaign with informative videos and posts, including 'myth-busters'.	Approximately 9,000 followers on Facebook and 3,600 followers on Twitter (international)
<b>Provision of masks and other essential equipment</b>		
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Masks distributed to elderly community members who needed to collect pensions	200 masks distributed
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Masks distributed to Ministry of Population staff	40 masks distributed
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Masks will be produced by Stitch Ste Luce (by 24 <sup>th</sup> April) and distributed to community of Sainte Luce (by 1 <sup>st</sup> May)	600 masks to be made and distributed
14 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> April (ongoing)	Masks to be distributed to local organisations and individuals, including local doctors, nurses, community workers, local authority staff, and patients of local clinics in a move to further protect health and social care staff.	320 masks distributed: 50 for Tatirano 50 for prison workers 20 for Pact 50 for procurer and court staff 50 for government officials 100 for staff and vulnerable patients at Centre Medical  Material available for 520 more.
10 <sup>th</sup> April (ongoing)	Masks distributed to SEED staff and	500 masks distributed

	families	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Infrared thermometers purchased, to be transported to local health facilities once transport restrictions are lifted.	8 thermometers
<b>Establishment of handwashing stations</b>		
<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	One additional handwashing station will be established in Sainte Luce (Market)	Approximate population of 4,800
	Seven additional handwashing stations will be established in Mahatalaky	Approximate population of 25,000
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Two handwashing stations have been established in Sainte Luce (Public Health Centre and Chef Fokontany Office)	Approximate population of 4,800
	Four handwashing stations have been established in Mahatalaky	Approximate population of 25,000

The Government of Madagascar declared a Health State of Emergency on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020, following the first confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country. However, in preparation, SEED Madagascar (SEED) teams began implementing emergency preparedness activities in the communities in which we work from the 17<sup>th</sup> March. Funding has been provided by UNICEF, trusts, and individual donors, ensuring that essential work could begin immediately and reflexively respond in real time.

SEED is implementing community preparedness activities alongside the local government and other providers in three fields:

1. Widespread dissemination of clear COVID-19 prevention messages across a range of mediums
2. Provision of masks to staff working directly with communities and to those most vulnerable
3. Establishment of handwashing stations in remote communities

### **Widespread communication of preparedness and prevention messages**

The 50 posters provided by the Ministry of Communication will be distributed next week to Mahatalaky and other partner communities.

SEED's social media campaign remains ongoing through its Facebook and Twitter channels, with regular posts on preventive measures, symptoms and fact-checking. SEED are publishing informative posts in both English and Malagasy, to target both international and national audiences. Messages are being tailored to each audience as appropriate. SEED is continuing progress to produce short animated videos that reinforce prevention messages. The next video, on the topic of mask-wearing is expected to be published next week.

SEED continues to work in partnership with local authorities, including the '*Centre de Commandement Operationnel*' (CCO) to meet the emerging needs of communities as they face the threat of COVID-19.

### **Increasing supply of critical resources**

SEED's partner organisation, Stitch Ste Luce, is continuing their production of 600 masks. These are anticipated to be completed by the 24<sup>th</sup> April and distributed to community members by the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

SEED has also distributed 200 masks to elderly people needing to collect their pensions within Fort Dauphin, and an additional 40 masks have been sent to the Ministry of Population.

## **Establishment of handwashing stations in remote communities**

In Sainte Luce, two handwashing stations have now been established, at the Public Health Centre and Chef Fokontany (Village Head) Office. In addition, SEED are building a third handwashing station at the market in Sainte Luce. All three stations will be managed through the Chef Fokontany and are supplied with soap.

In Mahatalaky, four handwashing stations are now in place. An additional seven stations will be built in the next week, bringing the total to 11. This will ensure handwashing stations are available at all key community locations, including the Public Health Centre, the Mayor's Office, the Chef Fokontany, the gendarmie and the market. The handwashing stations in Mahatalaky stations will be managed through the Public Health Centre.

## **The coming months**

SEED's team of staff and volunteers are committed to supporting vulnerable community members throughout the COVID-19 crisis. Alongside emergency preparation and response measures, SEED will continue essential activities for our existing programmes where safe and feasible for staff and communities to do so, while following global and national recommendations and restrictions to protect against COVID-19. SEED will act to continuously protect the community of Fort Dauphin, and the people throughout Madagascar that we work with and employ.

SEED will continue to seek additional funding to continue and expand both its activities and reach as the scale of the impact on the people of Madagascar becomes clear.