



seed **madagascar**
sustainable environment, education & development



Final Report for

PROJECT SEKOLY: RANOMAFANA HIGH SCHOOL

Promoting a safe learning environment

July - 2020

Summary

Context

Ranking 162/189 on the Human Development Index¹, Madagascar is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. Insufficient educational infrastructure is a symptom of its severe underdevelopment; there are simply not enough classrooms in Madagascar to provide education for all children, resulting in low school enrolment and completion rates². Yet, with the population growing at a rate of 2.8% a year³, education is vital for unlocking a prosperous future for the most vulnerable children.

For many households, particularly in the Anosy region, upper secondary education remains unattainable, mostly due to transportation and local accommodation costs for students who must travel long distances to their nearest high school⁴. Ranomafana High School is the only upper secondary institution within an 80-kilometre radius, and therefore presents the only prospect for obtaining high school education for children from Ranomafana and surrounding communes. Established in 2013, the high school was never provided with a designated building. Instead, the local middle school allowed one of its classrooms to be used by the high school, while the Commune authority provided one of its administrative buildings as another classroom. Currently, there are 242 students enrolled at the high school, with this number steadily rising, increasing pressure on the institution.

Project Sekoly as a Solution

SEED Madagascar's (SEED's) Project Sekoly provides schools across the Anosy region with vital classroom and sanitation infrastructure, strengthened through WASH education to promote sustainable positive practices.

This phase of Project Sekoly has addressed the above gaps by improving access to education and water, sanitation, and health (WASH) infrastructure in Ranomafana High School. Completed in March 2020, SEED has provided Ranomafana High School with three fully-furnished classrooms, an administrative office for the Head Teacher, two three-cubicle latrine blocks separated by gender, and menstrual hygiene management amenities. Additionally, the school has been connected to a water pipe with three taps, providing students and teachers access to running water. To complement this infrastructure, teachers have been trained to deliver WASH educational sessions with students.



A student washes their hands using the newly-installed taps connected to a piped water source

Activity Detail

Construction Activity

Classroom Building

Construction of the education and WASH infrastructure at Ranomafana High School, SEED's largest school build to date, was completed in March 2020, following delays caused by difficult weather conditions that limited the team's capacity to transport materials to the remote site. The roof and walls have been finished and painted, and the floors, veranda, windows, doors, and blackboard have been installed. All furniture, consisting of the 75 benches for students, five desks and chairs for teachers, four blackboards, and four locked cupboards, has been transported to the classrooms. This new infrastructure will enable the oldest year group of 52 students to attend full days of lessons, whilst creating a safe and high-quality learning environment for the school's total 242 students.

Six-Cubicle Latrine Block

Three water taps have been connected to the piped water source, providing students and teachers with reliable access to running water. Six gender-segregated latrines and a menstrual hygiene management facility have been constructed, reducing the school's latrine-to-student ratio to nearly 40:1 and thereby meeting the government standard for schools¹. SEED has also painted the latrines with an informative mural that will promote proper hygiene practices amongst students and teachers.



The new six-cubicle latrine block at Ranomafana High School

WASH Education

To complement the improved sanitation infrastructure, SEED delivered a three-day WASH sensitisation and education session to 20 teachers at Ranomafana High School and 16 teachers Ranomafana Middle School in February 2020. Teaching staff will soon begin delivering the WASH education component to students, encouraging appropriate use of WASH facilities and promoting positive hygiene behaviours. Topics covered in the sessions include handwashing, latrine use, latrine maintenance, and water treatment.

¹ Madagascar's Ministry of National Education has recommended a student-to-latrine ratio of 50:1 at schools [see Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale (2017) Guide pour la Mise en Place de l'École Amie de WASH (online). Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/madagascar/media/2691/file/Guide%20ecole%20ami%20de%20WASH.pdf>].

Community Handover

Based on recommendations from Ranomafana's mayor, SEED plans to hold a handover ceremony later this year. During this ceremony, responsibility for maintaining the school and equipment will be formally transferred to the community, who will bless the new building before it opens.

This ceremony will be particularly important for SEED and the community because it will commemorate the lives of one of SEED's staff members and a teacher at the high school, who were tragically killed in a bus accident whilst travelling to Ranomafana in December 2017. SEED is installing a framed photo of both at the school, and the wife of the teacher has also kindly offered to donate a football uniform to students, helping to preserve the legacies of these community members.

Sustainability and Monitoring

Sustainability

Project Sekoly aims to provide schools with the knowledge and tools to sustain the new infrastructure and positive WASH practices. Prepared through training from SEED, teachers will deliver the WASH education sessions to all students at the beginning of each school year, ensuring that students and staff maintain improved WASH practices. In March 2020, the 24-person WASH committee, comprised of 12 parents and 12 staff members, received training from SEED's WASH Officer in proper cleaning and maintenance of the new buildings. This committee will ensure high-quality management of WASH infrastructure, which has been designed to withstand extreme weather conditions and require minimal upkeep.

Monitoring and Follow-up Visits

Throughout the project, the progress of activities was monitored through regular visits to the school site and departmental reviews. The RAG-rating system (red-amber-green) was used to track activities and progress towards the achievement of project outputs, regularly updated and reviewed by the management team.

During follow-up visits, the ongoing maintenance of WASH infrastructure and adoption of improved WASH practices will be assessed through observational monitoring by SEED staff.

References

¹ United Nations Development Programme (2019) *Human Development Report 2019* [online] Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf>

² United Nations Children's Fund (2015) *UNICEF Annual Report 2015: Madagascar* [online] Available at: https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Madagascar_2015_COAR.pdf

³ World Bank (2015) *Madagascar: Systematic Country Diagnostic* [online] Available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/743291468188936832/pdf/99197-CAS-P151721-IDA-SecM2015-0168-IFC-SAecM2015-0123-Box393189B-OUO-9.pdf>

⁴ World Bank (2013) *Primary education in a time of crisis* [online] Available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/149501468088143978/pdf/ACS65840WPOP120Box0382105b00PUBLIC0.pdf>

