



Final Report for

PROJECT SEKOLY: TSAGNORIHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Improving health and education in rural Madagascar

October 2021

Summary

Context

Ranking 164/189 on the Human Development Index, **Madagascar remains one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world.**¹ Children bear the brunt of this burden, with over 70% of Malagasy children living in poverty.² **Over 800,000 children and adolescents are not enrolled in school,** and only 32% of children graduate from primary school.³ These issues are amplified in rural schools across Madagascar's under-resourced Anosy region, where 51.5% of six to ten year olds have never attended school.⁴

Moreover, **6,900 Malagasy children die annually from water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) related diseases.**⁵ 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.⁶ Insufficient or even non-existent water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure in schools contributes to the transmission of diseases, whilst impeding academic achievement.⁷ Female students are further disadvantaged due to a lack of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities, which prevents them from safely managing menstruation in school, contributing to school absenteeism.⁸

Project Sekoly as a Solution

SEED Madagascar's (SEED) Project Sekoly has provided 188 students (aged 3-15) and seven teachers at Tsagnoriha Primary School with vital WASH facilities and high-quality education infrastructure. To complement this infrastructure, SEED delivered WASH education sessions to teachers to promote sustainable hygiene and sanitation practices, such as handwashing and MHM.

Completed in August 2021, SEED constructed four latrines, two handwashing stations, and one MHM facility in the school. Additionally, a 10,000-litre rainwater harvesting system has been installed to provide students, teachers, and the local community with access to clean drinking water. To enable students to attend full days of school, SEED built a new school building with two classrooms and repaired one of the school's existing classrooms. A three-room teachers' house was built to reduce teacher absenteeism. Empowering the local community to independently sustain improvements, all seven teachers have been trained to lead WASH education and WASH management committees have been established.



The new latrine block with four gender-segregated latrines.

Activity Detail

Construction Activity

Classroom Building

The construction of the two-classroom school building at was completed in August 2021. The foundations of the new buildings were excavated and filled with concrete, with structural support installed. Once the floors and walls were constructed, wooden beams were built to support the tin roofs. The windows and doors were then made on site and fitted before painting commenced. SEED repaired the existing classroom and its roof, whilst equipping all classrooms with a total of 50 desks and benches for the students. Each classroom is furnished with blackboards, lockable cupboard, and teacher's chair and table. This new infrastructure will enable the schools' 188 students to attend full days of lessons, in a safe and high-quality learning environment.

Teacher Housing

The construction of the three-room teachers' house was completed in August 2021. This housing will provide the Headmaster, his family, and two additional teachers with reliable housing to minimise staff absenteeism, enhance school management and security, attract high-quality teachers, and support their livelihoods.

WASH Facilities

Four gender-segregated ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines¹ and one MHM facility have been constructed. This has reduced the student-to-latrine ratio to 47:1, substantially improving sanitation, and thus reducing disease transmission, for the school's 188 students and seven teachers. SEED has built two handwashing stations, equipped with WASH behavioural 'nudges',² prompting students and teachers to practice good hygiene.



One of the handwashing stations and MHM facilities with a WASH mural indicating behaviour change surrounding open defecation.

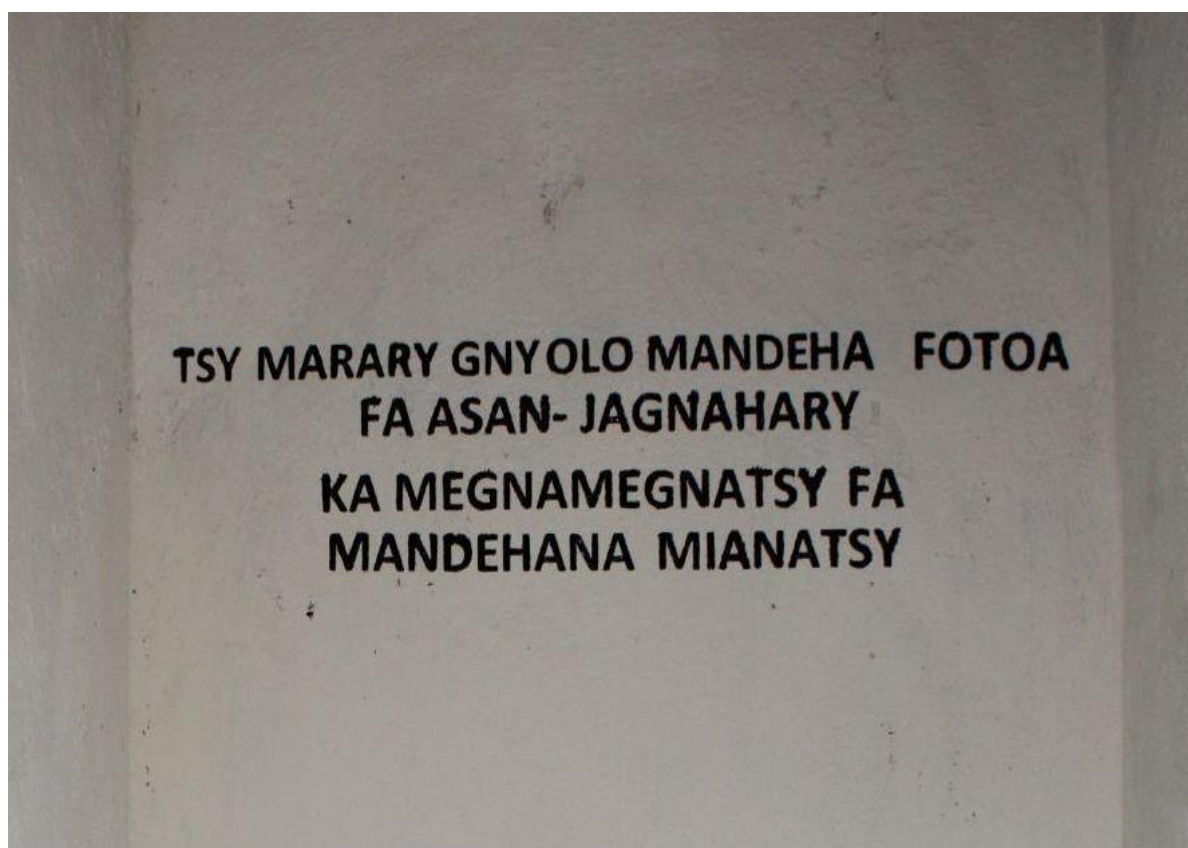
¹ Ventilated improved pit latrines are designed to increase air circulation, minimising smell and disease-transmitting flies.

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

In collaboration with Tatirano Social Enterprise, SEED installed a 10,000-litre rainwater harvesting system that will provide the school and community with a five-month supply of clean water without replenishment. Additionally, a pipe connecting the rainwater harvesting system directly to the tap in the MHM facility has been installed, enabling female students to manage their menstruation at school with privacy and dignity.

WASH Education and Capacity-Building

To complement the improved WASH infrastructure, SEED has trained all teachers to deliver WASH education sessions to students annually. Topics covered in the sessions include water treatment, handwashing, and latrine use and maintenance. To ensure the sustainable management of the new WASH facilities, SEED has established a WASH Management and Maintenance Committee. This committee, consisting of school staff and community leaders, will oversee the management and maintenance of WASH and education facilities.



Translation of the message shown inside the MHM facilities 'Menstruation is not sickness, it is natural. Don't be shy and go to school'.

Community Handover

The handover ceremony for Tsagnoriha Primary School was held on the 14 September 2021, when the school keys were given to the school's headmaster and responsibility for maintaining the school and equipment was formally transferred to the community, who blessed the new building before it opened. Speeches were made by various community leaders and SEED's Head of Construction to welcome the children and local community. The students started school on the 15 September 2021, making use of the new and improved education and WASH infrastructure.

Sustainability and Monitoring

Sustainability

Project Sekoly aims to provide schools with the knowledge and resources to sustain new school infrastructure and positive WASH practices. The school buildings and WASH facilities have been designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, such as cyclones, and are intended to require minimal maintenance. Furthermore, the rainwater harvesting systems were built to have larger water-storage capacity than the schools would require. Surplus water can be sold to the community, with proceeds going towards maintenance of the rainwater harvesting system.

An integrated train-the-trainer approach was used to build the capacity of teachers to deliver interactive WASH education sessions and to encourage the sustainable use of new WASH infrastructure. Functioning independently from SEED, the education sessions will be delivered by the teachers to the students annually.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

Regular monitoring and evaluation visits were conducted over the duration of the project, until Government restrictions prevented their continuation. School closures and travel restrictions due to COVID-19 impeded the collection of baseline monitoring and evaluation data. Midline surveys were conducted in June 2021, when the Government lifted restrictions and schools re-opened. Surveys were carried out in line with national COVID-19 protocol. Endline surveys will be conducted six months after project completion, allowing for comprehensive insight into how students' knowledge and behaviours adapt after prolonged access to WASH education and facilities. The RAG-system (red-amber-green) used to track activities and 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 to assess the ongoing maintenance of WASH infrastructure and adoption of improved WASH practices among teachers and students.



Students of Tsagnoriha Primary School celebrate the opening of their new school and WASH facilities.

Financial Report

102% of the total budget for Project Sekoly: Tsagnoriha Primary School was spent. Construction materials were purchased in bulk and used across multiple budget lines, resulting in overall savings for certain project lines. When possible, SEED reused tools and materials for WASH trainings that had been purchased during past construction projects, leading to underspend in some budget lines.

Prevention measures implemented in response to COVID-19 and poor weather conditions increased the duration of construction and consequent staffing needs, resulting in overspend on certain staffing lines and the overall spend of the project. This overspend will be absorbed by SEED.

References

¹ UNDP (2020). *Human Development Report 2020*. Available at <http://hdr.undp.org/>

² UNICEF (2018). *Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era*. Available at <https://data.unicef.org/resources/progress-every-child-country-profiles/>

³ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2021). *Madagascar*. Available at <http://uis.unesco.org/country/mg>

⁴ World Bank (2018). *The Deep South*. Available at <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/587761530803052116/pdf/127982-WP-REVISED-deep-south-V27-07-2018-web.pdf>

⁵ UNICEF (2018). *Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools: Global baseline report 2018*. Available at <https://data.unicef.org/resources/wash-in-schools/>

⁶ UNICEF (2021). WASH and COVID-19. *Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene by country, 2000-2020*. Available at <https://data.unicef.org/topic/water-and-sanitation/covid-19/>; UNICEF (2021). WASH and COVID-19. *Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools*. <https://data.unicef.org/topic/water-and-sanitation/covid-19/>

⁷ WHO and UNICEF (2015). *25 years progress on sanitation and drinking water*. Available at http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf

⁸ SEED Madagascar (2021). *A Rapid Needs Assessment Report for Project Mahampy - MHM*. Available at <https://madagascar.co.uk/application/files/1916/1614/0794/2021.03.16-Mahampy-MHM-RapidAssessment-Report.pdf>