seed madagascar
sustainable environment, education & development

TENEO
OPENING MINDS

Final Report for

PROJECT SEKOLY: ANDRAMANAKA

Facilitating a safe learning environment

December 2019

Summary

Context

Exacerbated by falling investment in education infrastructure, Madagascar suffers from low school completion and enrolment rates[1]. These challenges are amplified in Anosy, a southeast region that is particularly isolated and impoverished. Primary school enrolment in this region is severely low, with 52% of 6-10-year-olds having never attended school[2].

Moreover, 6,900 Malagasy children die annually from water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) related diseases[3]. Insufficient or even non-existent WASH infrastructure in schools[4] contributes to the transmission of these diseases, whilst impeding academic achievement.

Project Sekoly as a Solution

This phase of Project Sekoly started in May 2019 and finished in October 2019. As a result of the project, Andramanaka Primary School has three fully-furnished classrooms and 220 additional classroom spaces, enabling all students to complete full days of school. The new cement building will protect students from extreme weather conditions, creating an environment that is conducive to learning. Additionally, staff and students now have access to improved water and sanitation through the Tatirano Enterprise rainwater harvesting system and the latrine block with menstrual hygiene management facilities.

Teachers were trained to deliver WASH education sessions to students, beginning in November, encouraging proper WASH practices following project close. Students and teachers are excited to begin the school year with the new facilities at Andramanaka Primary School, which will provide children with the opportunity to gain a quality education.

Primary student at Andramanaka EPP (left) and one of the completed classrooms (right).

[1] United Nations Children's Fund, (2015). *Schools for Madagascar: close to home.* [online] Available at<https://www.unicef.org/madagascar/UNICEF_M_Dorlys_4_March.pdf>

[2] World Bank, (2018). *The Deep South (English).* Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

[3] UNICEF and Government of Madagascar: Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, (2016). *Investing in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Madagascar: The Business Case.* [online] Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/esaro/Investment-Case-for-WASH-in-Madagascar-Summary-(2016).pdf>

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

Activity Detail

Construction Activity

Three-Classroom School Building

The construction of Andramanaka Primary School, SEED's first ever three-classroom building, was completed at the end of October. Upon installation of the foundation in July, the construction team rendered the walls and built the roof, floor, doors, windows, and handwashing facilities. The classroom furniture, including benches and desks, were built in town, transported to Andramanaka, and assembled at the end of September. Although poor weather conditions inhibited access to the remote school site and consequently delayed construction by one month, the new facilities have been finalised after receiving a final layer of paint.

With the new cement building, students will no longer miss days of school due to extreme weather conditions. Additionally, the site's heavy rainfall will complement the installation of the Tatirano Enterprise rainwater harvesting system, providing year-round clean water for students and staff. Additionally, construction of the community kiosk for the rainwater harvesting system will improve the community's access to safe drinking water and reduce the amount of time spent collecting water.

"The old school closed on rainy days because it was too cold and wet inside. I'm excited for the new school because I will be able to go to more classes."

Student at Andramanaka EPP

Construction of the blackboard.

One of three fully-furnished classrooms.

Three-Cubicle Latrine Block

The construction of the two-cubicle ventilated improved pit latrine block was completed in October, providing students with access to safe sanitation. This new infrastructure is separated by gender, including menstrual hygiene management amenities for girls, providing private facilities to all staff and students to practice proper hygiene.


The latrine block with Menstrual Hygiene Management facilities.

WASH Education

To complement the new WASH infrastructure, SEED delivered WASH sensitisation and education sessions to school staff in July. With students returning from their holiday, teachers began delivering the education component to students in November, encouraging the appropriate use of WASH facilities and promoting positive hygiene behaviour change. Topics covered in the sessions include hand washing, latrine use, latrine maintenance, and water treatment.

Community Handover

The handover ceremony will be held in December, during which the community will sacrifice a chicken or zebu to bless the new building before it opens to the community. The students *(in the photo below)* of Andramanaka Primary School are excited to begin classes in the new school.

Sustainability and Monitoring

Sustainability

Project Sekoly aims to provide schools with the knowledge and tools to sustain the new infrastructure and positive WASH practices. The WASH education sessions will be delivered to all students at the beginning of each school year, ensuring that students and staff maintain improved WASH practices. The established WASH committee will ensure regular supervision, proper management, and maintenance of WASH infrastructure, which has been designed to withstand extreme weather conditions and require minimal upkeep.

Children of Andramanaka Primary School (left) and SEED Community Liaison Officers leading WASH education sessions (right).

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.

Progress toward project outcomes will be measured against on-going student attendance records each semester. WASH practices will be monitored through on-going observational on-site assessments for open defecation. The WASH knowledge and practices of students and teachers will be evaluated by the teacher's lessons logs and surveys.

Next Phase of Project Sekoly

For its next infrastructure initiative, SEED intends to improve health and education in two schools in the rural villages of Vatambe and Mahatalaky.

Vatambe Primary School has only one functional classroom, preventing over 230 students from completing full days of school. The school's two latrines do not adequately serve the WASH needs of the increasing student population. Mahatalaky Lower Secondary School only has two latrines for over 500 students, resulting in high rates of open defecation, which increases exposure to disease.

Both schools do not have access to improved water sources, impeding students and staff from adopting proper hygiene practices, such as handwashing and menstrual hygiene management. This 12-month project will improve education and WASH infrastructure in both schools, enabling all students in these schools to attend full-day classes.

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