



A proposal for

**Project Fanaka:**  
provision of classroom furniture to primary and middle schools in Fort  
Dauphin Urban Commune, Anosy Region, Madagascar

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AZAFADY

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## 1: Project Summary

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**Project Title:** Project Fanaka: provision of classroom furniture to primary and middle schools in Fort Dauphin Urban Commune, Anosy Region, Madagascar

**Project Aim:** To enhance access to formal education for all children 6-14 years old in the urban commune of Fort Dauphin, in order to alleviate poverty and enhance the quality of life for children in the Anosy region.

**Project Goal:** To contribute towards the achievement of Madagascar Action Plan (MAP) commitment 3, 'Educational Transformation', and towards the Millennium Development Goal 2, 'Achieving Universal Primary Education'.

**Location:** Fort Dauphin Urban Commune, Anosy Region, SE Madagascar

**Project Duration:** 3 months

**Amount Requested:** £ 2,253.02

### Executive Summary:



There is a demonstrable need for resources at all levels of the Malagasy educational system. In both urban and rural areas the majority of the population has little or no access to even basic levels of formal education. One of the challenges of the government's Madagascar Action Plan (MAP) 2007-2012 is to create a successful primary education system by *"increasing school capacities especially in vulnerable zones, through the development of school infrastructures, the training and the recruitment of new teachers."*

In this project Azafady aim to address high demand for education in the urban commune of Fort Dauphin (Tolagnaro) through provision of school benches in response to requests received from the local community and the education authority CISCO. Project Fanaka is part of an ongoing process of provision of benches for high priority schools and will supply 96 Benches to those schools most in need

Azafady are well placed to deliver this project, having previously implemented similar projects in 12 communities in SE Madagascar; since 2006 Azafady have worked in partnership with communities in rural *fokontanies*<sup>1</sup> in the provision of fully-furnished school buildings, complete with school latrines, a closed water source and accommodation for the government-provided teachers as required. However, within the urban commune of Fort Dauphin, there remains a high demand for school furniture, in particular tables and benches for the children to sit at. Available resources do not meet current need, with many children sitting on the floor in order to learn. The provision of benches and tables to children within priority schools in the urban commune is expected to significantly increase attendance and improve quality of education, benefiting over 2,000 children in each school over the next 10 years.

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<sup>1</sup> A *fokontany* represents the smallest administrative unit in the Malagasy political system.

## 2: Project Rationale

### 2.1 Background

Madagascar remains one of the most impoverished and least developed countries in the world, ranking 145/182 countries in the 2009 Human Development Report. Almost 90% of the population live below the 2\$-a-day international poverty line and the majority live in isolated rural communities, working traditionally in subsistence agriculture and fishing. Isolation of communities and lack of state capacity mean service delivery is extremely poor, and government educational services, extremely limited as they are across the island, do not reach grassroots communities. Poor education is recognised by the government as being one of the key challenges to Madagascar's future development in the Madagascar Action Plan 2007-2012.

Anosy Region, where Azafady work, is situated in South East Madagascar; the region is one of the most impoverished due to almost 40 years of no intervention or investment by the state or other service providers: no upkeep of existing – or provision of new - transportation/communications infrastructure; no provision of services. Whilst the government has adopted a detailed strategy paper for poverty reduction (PRSP), Anosy's isolation means that little has changed, and the region's population suffers one of the lowest per capita incomes and highest rates of disease, infant mortality (34% in some communities) and illiteracy (over 80%).

*'I started working for Azafady in 2001 as a guide on the international volunteering programme 'Pioneer', and became a Team Leader in 2005. I currently work as Project Manager for Tanana Meva, Azafady's urban sanitation project, but over the years one of the main activities I've been involved with is the school building projects.*

*The conditions in the schools where we work are really terrible. Often there will be no tables or benches for the children to sit at, and often half the wall will be missing, and the roof leaking. Most children don't even go to school when it rains because their classroom will flood and they have nowhere to sit.*

*That's why this project is so important. Providing benches and table for the children will triple the number of children attending school – I remember in one village we built some benches because the school had no furniture, and when the children found out the school had benches to sit on, so many children started going to school that we had to go back and build a bigger one!'*

Lomba, Azafady Project Manager, Madagascar



Fort Dauphin Urban Commune (or Tolagnaro), where ONG Azafady is based, is the urban centre of Anosy Region., The population in this small town has exploded in recent years as a result of immigration from rural areas as impoverished people look for some form of employment. It is also part of the Project 'Poles Integres de Croissance', making it an area designated by the government for rapid and sustainable economic development on account of its unique location and natural beauty. However, Fort Dauphin remains one of the most impoverished and least developed areas in Madagascar, and unemployment is a huge problem in the Commune. With the end of the initial construction phase of a huge mining development in the area, the job opportunities associated with its construction are gone, while the effects of global recession have seen tourism in the area drop

substantially. Only a small proportion of the workforce receives regular monetary wages, impacting negatively on both the local population and the regional economy. As levels of poverty and unemployment increase, a growing number of children are being withdrawn from school in order to support their family in income generating activities (street vending, home and agricultural help). There also exists under the current educational system a process

whereby those who do not pass their end of year exams twice are expelled from public school, leaving them no educational option other than private fee-paying schools, far beyond the capacity of most families. The need for improvements to the quality of education and learning environment is therefore vital. Despite these restrictions to education opportunities, schools are heavily over capacity, such is the desire to learn. Class sizes range from 100 to 200 students, but often have only sufficient furniture for a fraction of these. One of the most pressing priorities is that of Tanambao Middle School, which currently has just 30 benches for the whole school - some 2,000 children. Such precarious conditions severely hinder children's ability to learn - it is no surprise that illiteracy rates in this area are among the highest nationally. To date, Azafady have concentrated school building activities in surrounding Rural Communes, however CISCO's current priority is for provision of furniture to 5 urban schools. This project is expected to improve rates of attendance whilst simultaneously improving learning conditions and enhancing education prospects for children in Fort Dauphin.

## 2.2 Project History



For the past ten years ONG Azafady has worked closely with local communities in Fort Dauphin urban commune and surrounding rural areas in the Anosy region. The NGO follows an integrated, multi-disciplinary intervention strategy utilizing the Sustainable Livelihoods approach to poverty alleviation as promoted by the UK Department for International Development. Activities focus on the fields of community health, livelihood diversification and natural resource management as priority areas for the region identified at grassroots level by communities themselves. In all projects within these 3 programmes, ONG Azafady work to empower communities through provision of inputs, participatory training and education through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

techniques.

In 2006 ONG Azafady received a request from the community of Hovatraha for assistance in building an extension to their village primary school. This is an isolated fishing community with no access by road. ONG Azafady entered into an agreement with the community. ONG Azafady bought the materials required for the project and provided technical expertise through the health department's construction team. The community contributed through provision of locally available materials (with women providing sand and water and the men rocks for the foundation). Construction involved Azafady's technical specialists, members of ONG Azafady's overseas volunteer programme and the community working together, not only meaning the project was extremely cost effective but also providing opportunity for cross-cultural exchanges and for the village children to learn some English.

Azafady has since been inundated with requests from other villages across Mahatalaky commune. Azafady entered discussions with the Mayor of Mahatalaky and the education authority CISCO, since several communities also lacked teaching staff. The authorities were extremely enthusiastic because one of the challenges of the government's Madagascar Action Plan (MAP) 2007-2012 is to create a successful primary education system by *"increasing school capacities especially in vulnerable zones, through the development of school infrastructures, the training and the recruitment of new teachers"*. A list was drawn up of priority villages in the commune; it was agreed that for each community Azafady assisted with building a school, CISCO would source a qualified teacher.

Azafady has received a request from CISCO for the provision of furniture for 3 primary schools and 2 middle schools in Fort Dauphin, with a combined total requirement of over 500 benches. Funding from this project will allow Azafady to respond to requests for the first 96 benches from the highest priority schools. The intervention, as well as being of direct benefit to children currently attending each of the schools, will indirectly benefit the entire population of Fort Dauphin commune, some 40,000 people, as the advantages of increased access to education spread through families.

### 3: Project Approach

#### 3.1 Cost summary

School tables/benches built by ONG Azafady are made of locally available pine-wood sourced from Fort Dauphin, a widely used and sustainable source of timber in this region. Each bench is 1.5 meters long and 65 cm wide, and can seat 3 children. Funding provided for this project will be used for purchase of equipment, materials and technical staff necessary to implement the project.

#### 3.2 Project process

The project is expected to take 3 months.

##### Preparation:

- Meeting with CISCO
- Source materials

##### Implementation:

- Transport materials to project site
- Construction of school furniture

##### Follow-up:

- Hand-over to the community
- Monitoring and Evaluation

#### 3.3 Project stakeholders

- *Community:* This project has been evolved as a result of direct requests from the community
- *ONG Azafady:* ONG Azafady will source technical staff to manage the project. The project coordinator will be responsible for liaising with and motivating the community; the technical staff will be responsible for technical details of construction
- *Officials:* The education authority CISCO has identified the priority schools for Azafady intervention.

### 4: Azafady Background

#### 4.1 Aims and project areas

Azafady Ltd was established as a Scottish Charity in 1994 and registered in England & Wales in 1999. Their aim is to alleviate human poverty for marginalised communities in southeast Madagascar whilst protecting a biologically rich but greatly endangered environment, by building the capacity of and empowering the poorest people to meet their basic needs and establish sustainable livelihoods, in line with and contributing to fulfillment of regional and national development strategies. Azafady Ltd is run by a full time Managing Director and an active board of trustees.

ONG Azafady Madagascar was established as the partner organisation to Azafady Ltd in 1996. They are an independent registered Malagasy NGO with 70 Malagasy staff. ONG Azafady has been responsible for the implementation/evaluation of all Azafady projects since 1996. They are recognised regional specialists in capacity-building at community level (empowerment, information, education and training, service delivery, association/business management, advocacy). It is estimated over 100,000 people have benefited from one or more projects implemented by the NGO in the last 10 years.



Project activities are focused on the fields of health and sanitation, livelihood diversification and natural resource management as priority intervention areas for the region identified with participation from grassroots communities:

**Livelihood Diversification:** Addressing poverty and environmental degradation through training in and development of small-scale income-generating and food security activities for marginalised communities and individuals. Achievements include:

Building capacity of over 1000 farmers to improve food security and/or

generate income

- Provision to 600 associations and individuals of instruction in association management and book keeping
- Provision of training and financial support to over 200 groups and individuals, allowing them to establish small enterprises
- Provision of new school buildings to 8 communities and repairs to a further 6

**Community Health:** Primary healthcare through establishment of community pharmacies, a mobile doctor, water and sanitation infrastructures, provision of health education (HIV/AIDS, lymphatic filariasis, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases and nutrition). ONG Azafady is the government's regional partner in the national elimination strategy for lymphatic filariasis. Achievements include:

- Provision of over 24,000 people with community-based health and sanitation infrastructures and training to manage these infrastructures
- Provision of appropriate health education to mothers, midwives, teachers and children in 5 rural communes
- Improving awareness and understanding of 10,000 young people, their parents and teachers of HIV/AIDS, transmission and preventative measures

**Sustainable Natural Resource Management:** Work focuses on the endangered littoral forest tracts in the region, zones of which were included in the government's 2005 programme for the expansion of actual protected areas in Madagascar. Achievements include:

- Support for 2 grassroots communities in the transfer of forest management process from state to local control
- Ex-situ propagation and in-situ planting of over 10,000 individuals of native, endangered tree species
- Building the capacity of households in 2 Communes to construct and operate fuel efficient stoves
- Elected government partner in the RFR2, supporting 3 communities in essential reforestation work over 80 hectares

Elected to represent interests of marginalised groups on the following regional committees/platforms:  
Coordinate WASH Madagascar

- HIV/AIDS Taskforce member responsible for supporting youth
- Represent civil society on Regional Reforestation Committee
- Coordinate Regional human rights coalition (CONGO PDH)
- Member of the regional civil society coalition (OSC)

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## 5: Budget Summary

For full budget breakdown see Appendix A

<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<i>Exchange rate</i>	2850
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL Ariary</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL GBP</b>
<b>Materials</b>	4,054,600.00	£ 1,422.67
<b>Salaries</b>	751,000.00	£ 263.51
<b>Transport</b>	288,000.00	£ 101.05
<b>Other activities</b>	1,327,500.00	£ 465.79
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,421,100.00</b>	<b>£ 2,253.02</b>



## Appendix A: Budget

TOTAL COSTS FOR 96 BENCHES				Exchange rate: 1£= 2,850 Ariary	
Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Ariary	Total GBP
<b>Materials</b>					
Planks	item	384	5,000.00	1,920,000.00	£ 673.68
Timber	item	192	7,000.00	1,344,000.00	£ 471.58
nails	kg	2	4,000.00	8,000.00	£ 2.81
saw	item	8	10,000.00	80,000.00	£ 28.07
hammer	item	4	6,000.00	24,000.00	£ 8.42
sandpaper	per sheet	384	400.00	153,600.00	£ 53.89
varnish	kg	32	12,000.00	384,000.00	£ 134.74
paint brush	item	16	3,000.00	48,000.00	£ 16.84
white spirit	litre	12	6,000.00	72,000.00	£ 25.26
Set square	item	2	5,000.00	10,000.00	£ 3.51
Tape measure	item	2	5,000.00	10,000.00	£ 3.51
Pencils	item	1	1,000.00	1,000.00	£ 0.35
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>£ 1,422.67</b>
<b>Salaries</b>					
Construction team x2	per day	19	14,000.00	266,000.00	£ 93.33
Contribution to Project Coordinator's salary	per day	10	28,500.00	285,000.00	£ 100.00
Contribution to Logistician's salary	per day	3	10,000.00	30,000.00	£ 10.53
Contribution to Accountant's salary	per day	3	25,000.00	75,000.00	£ 26.32
Guardian	per day/night	19	5,000.00	95,000.00	£ 33.33
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>£ 263.51</b>
<b>Transport</b>					
Transport of materials	item	1	80,000.00	80,000.00	£ 28.07
Transport of benches	item	2	80,000.00	160,000.00	£ 56.14
Town taxis	item	6	8,000.00	48,000.00	£ 16.84
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>£ 101.05</b>
<b>Other activities</b>					
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	item	1	50,000.00	50,000.00	£ 17.54
Liason with government ministries	item	1	50,000.00	50,000.00	£ 17.54
Rent of workshop	per day	19	20,000.00	380,000.00	£ 133.33
Reporting	item	1	427,500.00	427,500.00	£ 150.00
Project development UK	item	2	200,000.00	400,000.00	£ 140.35
Mobile phone credit	item	1	20,000.00	20,000.00	£ 7.02
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>£ 465.79</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>6,421,100.00</b>	<b>£ 2,253.02</b>