



**Project Sekoly: provision of improved school infrastructure,  
including four new buildings and new facilities for Manambaro  
Lycée (high school), Anosy Region, Southeast Madagascar**

***Module 1: Provision of one two-cubicle composting latrine, one well and one  
new building***

Prepared for  
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## 1. Introduction

*'Ny fianarana no lova soa indrindra'*

*'Education is the best heritage'*

*- Local saying*

Madagascar is one of the most impoverished and least developed countries in the world, ranking 155/187 on the UNDP 2014 Human Development Index. Within the remote Anosy region in the southeast of the country, the effects of chronic poverty are seen at their most extreme. More than 80% of the local population live under the global poverty line of \$1.25/day (UNDP 2013), almost half (45%) of 6-35 year olds have never been to school and only 12% of 15-17 year olds are enrolled at a *lycée* (public or private high school; INSTAT/ENSOMD 2012-13). While the government has adopted a strategy paper for poverty reduction, the isolation of the region and a lack of government capacity mean that service delivery is extremely limited. An insufficient supply of resources, trained teachers and facilities present a widespread and ongoing problem, exacerbated following the coup in 2009, when political instability led to an 86% reduction in national investment in education (World Bank 2013), significantly impacting Madagascar's ability to provide quality education.



*The two-cubicle composting latrine*



*The new school building*



*Surface of 21m deep well*

Manambaro town is the focal point for the Manambaro Rural Commune and as such is an important regional hub. In addition to its primary school and middle school, it has one of the few high schools in the region, which opened in 2012 and serves a catchment area of 16 middle schools. The school was built by Direction Regional de l'Enseignement National (DREN, the regional education authority) in 2011, and currently only has the capacity for 200 students – 100 in each building. Consequently 400 – 500 students are turned away every year, and one entire year group is currently temporarily being taught in the town hall. Furthermore, prior to this project, students had to defecate openly in nearby bushes, or go home to use toilet facilities, as there were none on site. Combined with a lack of clean water for drinking or hand washing, this significantly impacted on students' attendance, health, and future education prospects.

Thanks to support from Trade Aid UK and others, Azafady has been able to pursue the construction of a new school building and sanitation facilities at Manambaro Lycée. The two-cubicle composting latrine and well have been completed, and the new school building is currently under construction. This update focuses on the activities involved in the construction of the school building, latrine and well, Module 1 of the project, undertaken by Azafady in Manambaro between April and November 2015.



*The construction team laying bricks*



*An international volunteer helping install the reinforced concrete pillars*



*The construction team mixing cement*

## **2. Project activities**

### **2.1 Preparation**

Preparations for the building began late in 2014 with discussions with CISCO, the district education authority. Meetings continued in March 2015 between Azafady, the Mayor of Manambaro, the head teacher of Manambaro Lycée and the president of Manambaro Lycée's FRAM (the parents' association). A traditional groundbreaking ceremony also took place in April for the latrine and was attended by the Chef of Manambaro *fokontany* (village cluster). All necessary materials were sourced and staff were recruited. Eight international volunteers have assisted with the work since April. The well has been installed, the latrine has been completed and construction work began on the school building in October.

## 2.2 Completed construction activities

The following sections detail the progress of the construction work since April:

### 2.2.1 The two-cubicle composting latrine

- Items such as cement, wire, planks, tin roof, paint, nails, were sourced in Fort Dauphin and transported to the site at Manambaro.
- Sand and water were sourced at the site.
- Gravel and scaffolding were sourced and transported from a nearby village.
- Construction work began in April and finished in October.
- An elevated latrine pit was built above ground from breezeblocks and covered with a concrete platform which formed the floor of the latrine.
- Breezeblock walls for the cubicles were built and painted.
- Concrete steps were built up to the latrine platform.
- The roof and doors were fitted and painted.

### 2.2.2 The well

- PVC piping, nylon rope, cement and wire were sourced in Fort Dauphin and transported to the site at Manambaro.
- Sand was sourced from the site.
- Gravel and fuel were sourced from nearby villages.
- Construction work began in April and finished in May.
- The shaft was drilled manually and thick PVC pipes were installed inside. This required a special technique due to the low water table and abnormal geological formations. The shaft had to go over 21 metres down to ensure an ongoing supply of high quality water.
- The well was capped with a concrete lid and Canzee pump.
- A concrete surround with a drain to conduct waste water away from the well was built.



*The new school building progressing*

- A fence was constructed around the well by the well management committee.

### 2.2.3 The school building

- Cement, wire and planks were sourced in Fort Dauphin and transported to the site at Manambaro.
- Gravel, scaffolding timber, rocks and bricks were sourced and transported from nearby villages.
- Clay and sand were sourced at the site.
- The site was cleared local volunteers, adding to the feeling of community ownership.
- The foundations were laid.
- Work began on the reinforced concrete pillars.
- The first reinforcing concrete belt was installed above the windows.
- The foundations of the floor were installed.
- Landscaping around the school has started.



*A traditional groundbreaking ceremony for the new school building*

### 2.3 Latrine management training and WASH education

A Memorandum of Understanding and a plan of action was developed between the school, the community and the parents association. Alongside construction activities, Azafady's Community Health team supported the establishment of management committees for the well and latrine, which are responsible for maintenance and cleaning. Azafady's Community Health team delivered sanitation sessions to the students.

### 2.4 Future activities

The brickwork and reinforced concrete pillars are still under construction. By mid-December the walls will be rendered and the roof will be finished. In January the floor will be completed, the door fitted and the building will be painted. By the end of February, the benches will have been built and the building will have been furnished, hopefully putting the project a month ahead of schedule, a window of flexibility that was built into the project to account for the beginning of the cyclone season in January.

Azafady's Community Health Agent will continue to deliver sanitation education activities, visit the school to run workshops to motivate students to use the latrines and well appropriately and ensure their sustained use. These visits will be conducted monthly during term time until the end of this school term, along with meetings and training sessions with the community management committees to support the future care and maintenance of the facilities. In addition, Azafady will return once the latrine is full, which is anticipated to be after several years, to assist the community with switching chambers.

### **3. Conclusion**

Project Sekoly in Manamabaro has been implemented as per its schedule, with no unforeseen delays. With construction of the latrine and well complete, Manamabaro Lycée is able to provide a safe and sanitary environment for students with potable water and sanitation facilities on site. Students now have fresh water available for hand washing and drinking and are no longer compelled to defecate openly. This will increase the amount of time students are able to spend at school, reduce the number of school days lost to diarrhoeal disease, and overall help create a positive environment for learning. As a result, students are more likely to attend school and be able to get the most out of their high school education, enhancing educational opportunity and student wellbeing.

On completing the construction of the school building, the Lycée will increase its capacity from 200 to 300. Providing 100 extra places in the, Lycée will reduce the huge number of children being turned away each year. Giving children from remote rural communities the chance to attend high school will improve their chances of securing formal employment, build community capacity and ultimately help to break the poverty cycle. Azafady is still seeking funding for the building of three more composting latrine blocks and three new classroom buildings with furniture, following which the capacity of the school will increase from 200 to 600.

Azafady's community health agent will continue to work with the school and community over the coming months to ensure the continued use and management of the latrines and well into the future. Positive impacts of the project's activities at Manamabaro are expected to continue for years to come, due to the increased capacity of the high school, as well as the improved quality of the learning environment available to students. This in turn will enhance their educational prospects, supporting the local human resource base and promoting long-term sustainable development in the region.