



The Feedback Trust
Scottish Charity No. SC023568

**Construction of a new school building for the
Ambodilazabe Primary School in Madagascar
(FF 00387)**

Final report

January 2017

**Feedback Madagascar/Ny Tanintsika (FBM/NT) –
The Eagle Foundation**

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Introduction

The Eagle Foundation agreed to fund a total of £16,621 for the project to construct three new school classrooms for Ambodilazabe Primary School in Ambodilazabe village, Ambolomadinika rural municipality ('commune'), Ikongo district, Vatovavy Fitovinany region, SE Madagascar. This involved the construction of a new school building comprising three classrooms; plus latrines/urinal and hand-washing unit and the purchase of school furniture. This village is 8 km south of the centre of the district Ikongo, 7km north of the centre of Ambolomadinika municipality and 188 km by road from Fianarantsoa town. The expected period of the project was from July to December 2016.

The funding agreement, dated 29th June 2016, was signed by the FBM UK administrator and the funds were received in the UK bank account on the 21st July 2016. This amounted to 64,000,556 MGA after transfer to Madagascar.



Figure 1: Map locating Ambodilazabe in relation to the capital city Antananarivo & FBM/NT's regional office in Fianarantsoa.



Figure 2: Map showing where the road is from Fianarantsoa via Ifanadiana and Ikongo to Ambodilazabe.



Figure 3: Map showing Ambodilazabe village.

Calendar of achievements

Activity	2016					
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Information letter sent to the local authorities and partners concerned with the project.	X					
Recruiting of storekeeper in Manampatrana (half-way to site, along the railway line) & negotiation of a storeroom.		X				
Contracting of transporter to transport materials from Manampatrana to Ambodilazabe.		X				
Initial meeting in Ambodilazabe to sign the agreement setting out each stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in the project, to identify members of the local committee to oversee & monitor work ('COST'), to identify the storeroom & to develop an action plan regarding local materials.		X				
Contracting of team to make the cement breezeblocks and to break stones.		X				
Ordering and procurement of materials & equipment required, including doors & windows, furniture, etc.	X	X	X			
Recruiting of storekeeper & community mobilisation agent in Ambodilazabe.		X				
Fabrication of 142 cements breezeblocks and preparation of building stones.		X	X			
Meetings in Ambodilazabe with the community & local authorities.			X	X	X	
Contracting of builders for the project.			X			
Training of the local committee to oversee & monitor work ('COST').			X			
Foundations ceremony on the 2 nd September 2016.			X			
Building work (school and sanitation block).			X	X		
Transporting cement for breezeblocks (by train to Manampatrana & then truck from Manampatrana to Ambodilazabe).		X	X			
Transporting other materials.		X	X	X		
Regular monitoring of work and achievement of community contributions.		X	X	X		
Delivery of school furniture (48 desks, 3 tables & 3 chairs).				X		
Installation of guttering.				X		
Technical acceptance of the work on the 23/10/2016.				X		
Election & training of members of the school maintenance & repairs committee ('CER'), & provision of tool kit.						X

Details on the new school building

Building work was very rapid, beginning on the 2nd September 2016 and ending on the 22nd October 2016. The official verification of work was carried out on the 23rd October 2016 in the presence of the COST committee, builders, the head of education in the municipality, the teachers and headmistress, the parents association, the traditional authorities, the local community, pupils and the local authorities - led by the mayor of Ambolomadinika.

After inspection of the building and accompanying infrastructure, everybody was satisfied with the work and only minor recommendations were made (related to the size of the blackboard and 5 desks which were not quite straight). A simple ceremony for the handing over of the keys was held, involving thank-you speeches.



Figure 4: Pupils outside the new Ambodilazabe Primary School building.

Features of the new school building are as follows:

- One building of 3 classrooms, measuring 21.88m x 7.94m x 4.4m in total.
- Stone foundations and cement breezeblock walls with a reinforced concrete structure.
- Cement rendering on inside and outside walls.
- Cyclone-proof tin roofing.
- Double metal doors with hooks to hold them open on the outside.
- Each classroom with 3 windows. Windows with glass panes, opening to the inside with protection grill on the outside.
- Front and back guttering linking to a 7m³ water tank serving as a hand-washing station to the side of the building, connected to 3 taps. This is located between the latrines and the school to promote hand-washing at key moments. The tank is equipped with a manhole cover on the top and steps (between the tank and the school building) to be able to reach and refill during the dry season.
- Two-tone colouring (interior and exterior); oil paint at the base to protect from dirt and water-based paint higher-up.
- Wooden pine ceiling (of classrooms and veranda) painted with oil paint.
- Concrete blackboard with concrete chalkboard and raised stage for the teacher and their desk.
- Concrete flooring.
- In-built shelving in each classroom made of cement breezeblocks, lockable with a wooden door to store books / materials or supplies.
- A sanitation block composed of three-compartment washable and 'fly-proof' latrines (long-drop toilets 7 metres deep) with separate girls/boys urinal behind. The urinals will be roofed to prevent rainwater from entering the toilets (risk of damage in the cyclone season) as urine will be channelled directly into the latrine pit.
- 48 school desks with integrated benches (16 in each classroom), 3 tables and 3 chairs for teachers.
- Provision of a tools kit for the school maintenance and repairs committee, who are a new structure put-in-place to improve maintenance of the infrastructure.
- In addition, a sign for the school was built about 50m from the building, visible from the main 'road' to Ambolomadinika.
- Remaining materials were also used to build a school office for the head-teacher, measuring 3m by 3m.



Figure 5: The hand-washing station in relation to the sanitation block.



Figure 6: The 3-cubicle sanitation block.



Figure 7: The 'fly-proof' latrine compartments.



Figure 8: Steps leading up to the impluvium tank in order to refill during dry spells, or to clean inside.



Figure 9: Students inside a new classroom at the Ambodilazabe Primary School.

Project beneficiaries

The school pupils and 6 teachers are the main direct beneficiaries of this new school building. For this school year (2016-17) pupil numbers are as follows:

Year of Primary School	F	M	Total
Nursery school level	18	18	36
1: CP1 (11ème)	36	36	72
2: CP2 (10ème)	18	18	36
3: CE (9ème)	22	20	42
4: CM1 (8ème)	25	18	43
5: CM2 (7ème)	6	11	17
TOTAL:	125	121	246

Of the 6 teachers, only the headmistress is a civil servant. 2 of the teachers receive some government financial support whilst 3 teachers (including 2 nursery school teachers) are purely supported by the parents' association.

Families of these pupils as well as all of the Ambodilazabe neighbourhood, numbering 2,911 are indirect beneficiaries.

Community contributions to the project.

A committee was created to oversee and monitor work at the school, particularly in relation to the achievement of community contributions. Planning took into account the timing of the builders' requirements for different materials, to reduce the risk of delays to work.



Figure 10: The community of Ambodilazabe worked tirelessly to help the team of builders.

The following were community contributions to the project:

- Housing the builders;
- Unskilled labour. On average 10 people per day worked - fetching water required during building, helping the builders, carrying sand from the nearby river, carrying materials from the boat across the river, and other needs;
- A third of the required building stones and gravel;
- Round wood (for scaffolding), which were supplied by members of the parents association and by villages.

The Maintenance and Repairs Committee « CER » plays an important role for the sustainability of the school building, furniture and impluvium. This committee is led by 2 members of the parents association who are knowledgeable in building work, and regroups a teacher representative as well as one pupil per class. It works closely with the head-teacher and the president of the parents association. The community are hence responsible for maintenance and repairs after the handing-over of the keys to the new buildings. Pupils were

trained to report any defect to the head-teacher, who then reports this to a member of the « CER », who will plan its reparation. A tool kit was provided to the « CER » in order to make repairs.

Included in the contract signed between the school and Feedback Madagascar-Ny Tanintsika, the head-teacher is required to send annual reports of progress within the school which also includes any repairs carried out.



Figure 11: The toolbox given to the CER to ensure school maintenance.

Recommendations

For future projects, it is being assessed whether metal guttering should be replaced by reinforced concrete guttering integrated into the building work. In addition, improvements have been identified for future projects with regard to design of the 'impluvium' rainwater catchment system, with the integration of a means to prevent the first rainwater (likely to be dirty) from entering the water tank.



Figure 11: The Ambodilazabe community with the mayor (wearing a white shirt) after the technical acceptance of works.



Figure 12: A view from afar of the new Ambodilazabe School infrastructure, including the school office (on the right).



Figure 13: The team of builders jubilant on completion of their work!

Expenditure summary

Items	Budget (£)	Funds received (MGA)	Expenditure (£)	Difference with amount received (£)	Explanation for difference
Materials for the new school buildings (3 classrooms), Latrines/ urinal & Hand-washing unit	8,922	34,355,709.62	9,649.56	- 820.03	Difference is due to the significant change in exchange rates since the proposal was sent (3,891 MGA to the £ instead of 4,400 MGA budgeted).
School furniture (not including transport costs)	622	2,394,394.44	632.90	- 17.53	
Transport costs (building materials and furniture)	3,000	11,551,903.01	2,953.29	15.59	
Labour costs	2,495	9,609,082.96	2,598.30	- 128.74	
Monitoring & evaluation costs	417	1,604,430.97	484.49	- 72.14	
Administration/ overheads (7%)	1,165	4,485,035.10	1,110.20	42.47	
Total	16,621	64,000,556	17,429	- 980	



Figure 14: Members of the parents' association of Ambodilazabe Primary School after the technical acceptance of work.

Current situation

	Situation pre-project	Expected situation post-project	Real situation post-project
Number of existing parent-built classrooms	Three classrooms but only two are useable.	Five classrooms can be used.	Three new classrooms built. The 2 existing classrooms continue to be used as well, for the 'CP2' class and the nursery school pupils. The school has recently requested help for 16 additional school desks for these nursery school pupils.
Number of classrooms currently borrowed/ makeshift rooms	None for the primary school (they take it in turn to study). A room is borrowed for the nursery school classes.	None. One of the existing classrooms will be repaired by the parents' association.	None. However, one classroom is shared between the nursery school pupils (who study just in the morning) and another class (who study every afternoon).
School office	None.	The community will make an effort to build an office.	One school office (3mx3m) was built by parents and builders using extra breezeblocks made.
WASH (Water – Sanitation – Hygiene)	One latrine in a poor state.	Sanitation block of 3-compartment latrines and boys/girls urinals will be built, along with a hand-washing unit. Co-funding will be used to supply the school with water filters for drinking water, and the potential of drilling a borehole/installing a hand-pump will be investigated.	Sanitation block of 3-compartment latrines and boys/girls urinals, along with a hand-washing unit, is functional. We hope to provide the school with water filters for drinking water, and a borehole/ hand-pump for clean drinking water with co-funding.

Conclusion

This project was very rapid, with building work lasting just 51 days, due to the impressive solidarity between villagers in this community and the absence of problems. The excellent quality of sand in the area led to the cement going further than usual, and extra cement breezeblocks were made – these were used to build a head-teacher's office in collaboration with the community, which was hugely appreciated. In addition to the 10 labourers every day, many other villagers also turned up regularly to give a helping hand.

Thanks so much to the Eagle Foundation for funding this project!

Thank-you letter from the community & school

Translation: "From the community & parents of pupils, and head-teacher in Ambodilazabe. THANKS & APPRECIATION. It is our pleasure to offer our utmost thanks and appreciation to you for having responded to our desire to build a school. We attest that the project has been entirely completed along with the provision of equipment: Building 22m by 8m with 3 classrooms, with 16 desks, 1 chair, 1 table & 1 cupboard per classroom, sanitation block with 3 WC cubicles, 2 urinal cubicles & a 7,000 litre rainwater catchment tank, in addition to the head-teacher's office 3m. So we are very happy & thank you for your efforts, & you can rest assured that we will take good care of it and manage it properly. We would like to add that we hope to continue our collaboration". Signed by the head of the parents' association, head-teacher, head of education in the area and the Mayor of Ambolomadinika.

Ambodilazabe faha 23 octobre 2016.

Ny FOKONOLONA sy Ny Rayaman-dreniny
mpianatra ary ny Talen-tsikoly Ambodilazabe

Hoandr

Ramatoa Mpandrim-paritra ny ONG NY
TANINISIKA ao Fianarantsoa

FISAORANA SY FANKASITRAHANA

Vominanika ho anay voalaza ety ambony no ahazanay
manoloatra fisaorana feno sy fankasitrahana ho an'ny
tamin'ny famalianareo ny hitahitany momba ny sekoly
E.P.P eto aminay, ankehitriny anefa etia tianay ny
manambara sy manaho elana fa vita tanteraka ny asa
famambaran'ny matoa sy ny fametrahany fitaovana an'ny
rahetra toy ny: - Trano 22m ny loany 8m ny sakany
efitra telo; Izay misy dahilo 16 soga 1 lataba 1, armiro
1 sakany ny fitaovana WC. efitra telo, pisivir efitra 2 ary fanango
nambaro 7000l ary birao ny Talentsikoly 3m nambaro
na tamin'ny ambin'ny fitaovana, hafa faly izahay ka izany
no mahatonga any hiasatra sy hankasitrahana ny saka
rahetra maitso n'ny taty aminay hafa manome taty izahay
fa hitahitany sy hitantana tsara ireo fitaovana ireo.

Tianay any manambara fa mbola vonona sy mirary
izahay ny hitahitany ny fiara. miasa hitahitany.

Raiso Ramatoa ny hafa sy ny fisaorana feno atohany anao.

Ny Filohan'ny FRAH

Rafidy Jean-Pierre



More photos



Figure 15: Community party on completion of the Ambodilazabe School.



Figure 16: The new sign for Ambodilazabe Primary School.



Figure 17: Painting work and school desk assembly at Ambodilazabe School.



Figure 18: Laying the foundations for the new Ambodilazabe Primary School.



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Figure 22: Traditional leaders of Ambodilazabe offer a blessing to the ancestors before the start of work.



Figure 23: Signing of the convention with Ambodilazabe School.