



The Feedback Trust  
Scottish Charity No. SC023568

**Construction of a new school building for the  
Maromena Primary School in Madagascar**

**(FF 00358)**

**Final report**

**May 2016**

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

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## Introduction

The Eagle Foundation agreed to fund a total of £22,074 for the project to construct two new school buildings for Maromena Primary School in Maromena, Ifanadiana 'commune', Ifanadiana district, Vatovavy Fitovinany region, SE Madagascar. This involves the construction of 2 new school buildings; one comprising three classrooms and the second comprising 2 classrooms; latrines/urinal and hand-washing unit and the purchase of school furniture. This village is 4 km from the town of Ifanadiana, which is 92 km east of Fianarantsoa. The expected period of the project was from October 2015 to January 2016.

The funding agreement, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015, was signed by the FBM UK administrator and the funds were received in the UK bank account on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015. This amounted to 104,235,618 MGA after transfer to Madagascar.



*Figure 1: Pupils at Maromena Primary School in their new classroom.*

## Calendar of achievements

Activity	2015		2016					
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Information letter sent to the local authorities and partners concerned with the project.	X							
Contracting of builders for the project.	X							
Creation and training of the local committee to oversee and monitor work ('COST').	X							
Initial meeting in Maromena to sign the agreement setting out each stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in the project.	X							
Meetings in Maromena with the community & local authorities.	X	X	X	X			X	
Foundations ceremony on the 23/11/2015.	X							
Building work (school and sanitation block).	X	X	X	X	X			
Transporting materials.	X	X	X	X	X			
Regular monitoring of work and achievement of community contributions.	X	X	X	X	X			
Delivery of school furniture (80 desks, 5 tables & 5 chairs).					X			
Completion of work (15/03/16).					X			
Technical acceptance of the work on the 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2016.					X			
Training of maintenance and repairs committee, and provision of tool kit.							X	
Inauguration (exact date to be confirmed)								X



Figure 2: Traditional 'Antanala' ethnic group dance (left) & women's association members perform after the official acceptance of the building works.

## Details on the new school building

Building work began on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 and ended on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The official verification of work was carried out on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016. This was in the presence of the mayor of Ifanadiana municipality, head of the district education authorities in Ifanadiana, the head of education in the municipality, the head-teacher and teachers, representatives from FBM-NT, members of the parents' association, the committee to oversee and monitor work, the builders and students. After inspection of the building and accompanying infrastructure, everybody was entirely satisfied with the work and no complaints or recommendations were made. A simple ceremony for the handing over of the keys was held, involving thank-you speeches.





Figure 3: Technical acceptance ceremony for the new school, with handing over of the keys from the head of education in Ifanadiana district to the headmistress.



Features of the new school building are as follows:

- Building two buildings: One building of 3 classrooms, measuring 21.88m x 7.94m x 4.4m, and one building of 2 classrooms measuring 14.66m x 7.94m x 4,4m.
- 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 on both buildings with an additional downpipe in the middle of the 3-classroom building due to heavy rainfall in this area (to prevent damage).



Figure 4: Additional downpipe on the school building.

- Building guttering linking to a 3.6m<sup>3</sup> water tank for rainwater (smaller than the expected 8 m<sup>3</sup> due to a change in the design adopted by the school) serving as a hand-washing station to the side of the building, connected to 3 taps. The system is raised-up to be at a convenient height for hand-washing. 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 to enable cleaning as well as refill during the dry season. However, due to the school's safety worries about potential accidents to pupils, no permanent steps (with banister) were built up to the top of the water tank.



*Figure 5: Washing hands at the rain-water tank.*

- 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 bricks, lockable with a door to store books / materials or supplies.



*Figure 6: Lockable cupboard in each classroom.*



- A sanitation block composed of three-compartment washable and ‘fly-proof’ latrines (long-drop toilets with an 8m-deep hole) with separate girls/boys urinal behind. The urinals are 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.
- 80 school desks with integrated benches (16 in each new classroom), 5 tables and 5 chairs for teachers.



*Figure 7: One of the classrooms at Maromena Primary School.*

Following recommendations from the last round of schools built, the main improvements to design were the following:

- Installation of doors on the shelves in each classroom, so as to prevent theft of chalk, books and other materials.
- Integrating a chalk-holder shelf under the blackboard.
- Installation of guttering behind the sanitation block.
- Adding an additional concrete channel to drain water around the veranda.
- 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.

The document with building specifications / guidelines was updated with these changes.



*Figure 8: Maromena Primary School.*



Figure 9: Maromena School sanitation block; latrines & urinals (above & below).



## Project beneficiaries

This project benefits all inhabitants of the Maromena neighbourhood, numbering 1,027. Information on pupil numbers for this school year 2015-2016

	School year 2014-2015	School year 2015-2016	Remarks
Number of pupils	174	150	The number of pupils fell between school years 2014-15 and 2015-16 due to high drop-out rates largely caused by the lack of school classrooms. Numbers are expected to rise again as from the next school year 2016-2017.
Number of teachers	05	05	
Number of pupils per class:			
CP1	60	59	
CP2	49	33	
CE	40	29	
CM1	18	20	
CM2	07	09	



## Community contributions to the project.

All of the local population of the Maromena neighbourhood contributed to this project.

A committee was created to oversee and monitor work at the school, particularly in relation to the achievement of community contributions.

The following were community contributions to the project:

- Housing the builders.
- Unskilled labour: minimum of 10 workers per day (but at times 20). The community were organised into 8 teams who took it in turn to work at the school.
- Half of the required building stones and gravel. These were paid for by the Member of Parliament for Ifanadiana area, as well as the municipality. However, the community ensured the loading and unloading of these from the location where rock was broken, into the truck.
- Sand.
- Round wood (for scaffolding).

## Difficulties encountered

- Unfavourable weather conditions; frequent rain during building works. At times, building had to be suspended during heavy rain.
- The UNICEF tent previously used as a makeshift classroom was destroyed during the foundations ceremony due to heavy winds (like a mini-cyclone!).

## Recommendations

- Standardise the impluvium (rainwater collection tank and system) design and size for future schools.



Figure 10: Maromena School impluvium / handwashing point.

## Positive points

- Excellent organisation of local community: absolutely no problems encountered by the builders regarding provision of materials or water, or number of labourers.
- Highly dynamic headmistress and COST members.
- Excellent collaboration and support from the Member of Parliament for Ifanadiana area, as well as the Mayor of Ifanadiana, who also carried out regular monitoring of work.
- Co-funding was received for the putting-in-place of a borehole for this school, and the nearby village, installed with hand-pump. This is planned for June 2016.



*Figure 11: The back of Maromena Primary School.*



*Figure 12: The sides of Maromena Primary School.*

## Expenditure summary

Items	Budget (£)	Funds received (MGA)	Expenditure (£)	Difference with amount received (£)	Explanation for difference
Materials for the new school buildings (5 classrooms), Latrines/urinal & Hand-washing unit	13,317.17	62,884,978.99	13,728.47	-411.30	The cost of the building stones was higher than expected due to additional travel costs (inexistence of stones nearby).
School furniture (without transport costs)	1,036.36	4,893,789.39	943.07	141.82	
Transport costs (building materials & furniture)	1,727.26	8,156,315.65	1,587.22	140.05	
Labour costs	4,022.71	18,995,629.86	3,880.89	93.29	
Monitoring & evaluation costs	416.66	1,967,531.93	232.90	183.76	
Administration/overheads (7%)	1,553.84	7,337,372.19	1,226.83	327.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,074</b>	<b>104,235,618</b>	<b>21,599</b>	<b>475</b>	

## Current situation

	Situation pre-project	Expected situation post-project	Real situation post-project
Number of existing parent-built classrooms	1 building of 2 classrooms (local materials) built in 2015 but not very solid.	5 new classrooms will be built, which are needed for the 5 years of primary school. Based on 174 pupils, there will be on average of 35 pupils in each new classroom. One of the existing classrooms will be used for the new pre-school class.	The 5 new classrooms are used for the 5 years of primary school. The existing 2-classroom building is now used for the preschool (nursery) class. Potential future use of one of these classrooms for a school canteen (under discussion).
Number of classrooms currently borrowed/makeshift rooms	2 UNICEF tents and 1 church.	These makeshift rooms will no longer be used.	These tents are already destroyed.



	Situation pre-project	Expected situation post-project	Real situation post-project
School furniture	25 school desks/benches, many in a bad state.	80 new school desks/benches provided. The existing furniture is repaired as far as possible to ensure that there are sufficient desks/benches for the pre-school class.	New furniture provided as planned. Existing furniture repaired for use by pre-school class.
School office	None	One of the existing classrooms will be used for the school office.	The school plans to build a new building for the office.
WASH	School latrines existing (but made of local materials so not long-lasting). No hand-washing unit or clean drinking water infrastructure.	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.	3-compartment latrine built with boys/girls urinals, and hand-washing unit. Co-funding found for 2 boreholes/hand-pumps to provide clean drinking water to the primary school and nearby village (due for June 2016).



Figure 13: Pupils at Maromena Primary School.

## Conclusion

Work on this project was completed as planned, with slight delays in comparison to plans due to the date of project approval and funding release. There were also some delays to completion due to heavy rainfall during the rainy season.

The quality of the five new classrooms have been complimented by the education authorities and have led to a steam of new funding requests from needy schools in the Ifanadiana district, which are hand-delivered to the Feedback Madagascar-Ny Tanintsika office in Fianarantsoa by community members.

Maromena School is now planning to build a school office to accompany the new school buildings.

Thank you so much, the Eagle Foundation, for funding this project!



*Figure 14: A big 'thank-you' from pupils at Maromena Primary School!*

## Thank-you letter from the education authorities & school

*Translation: The construction of the 2 school buildings which you provided for Maromena Primary School, made up of 5 classrooms, have now been completed. So, in the name of the Minister of Education, we can only thank-you for your support and help for Malagasy children. We really hope that our collaboration will continue, and we remain ready to fulfil our participation to any project through beneficiary contributions. Signed by the head of the district education authorities and the president of the parents' association for Maromena School.*

