



The Feedback Trust
Scottish Charity No. SC023568

**Construction of a new school building for the
Ambalavolo Primary School in Madagascar
(FF 17002)**

Final report

November 2017

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

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Introduction

The Eagle Foundation agreed to fund a total of £20,546 for the project to construct a new school building for Ambalavolo Primary School in Ambinanindranotelo neighbourhood, Ambiabe rural municipality ('commune'), Ifanadiana district, Vatovavy Fitovinany region, SE Madagascar, Africa. This involved the construction of three furnished classrooms, a sanitation block comprising latrines/urinal, and a rainwater harvesting system linked to a hand-washing unit. This village is located 21km south of Ifanadiana town (6km after the central village of Ambiabe) and a total of 106km from Feedback Madagascar-Ny Tanintsika's Fianarantsoa office. Classrooms were previously in a very poor and precarious state, which led the community to request help for the building of additional classrooms (letter dated 19/2/2016).

The funding agreement with the Eagle Foundation, dated 9th April 2017, was signed by the FBM UK administrator and the funds were received in the UK bank account on the 18th April 2017. This amounted to 82,994,008 MGA after transfer to Madagascar. The expected period of the project was from May to October 2017.

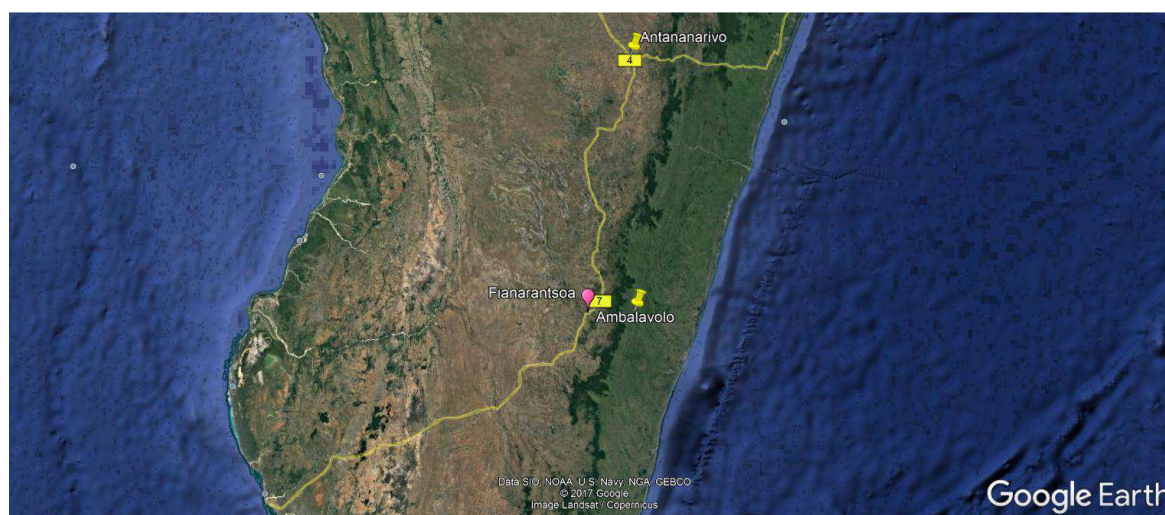


Figure 1: Map locating Ambalavolo Primary School in relation to the capital city Antananarivo & FBM/NT's regional office in Fianarantsoa.

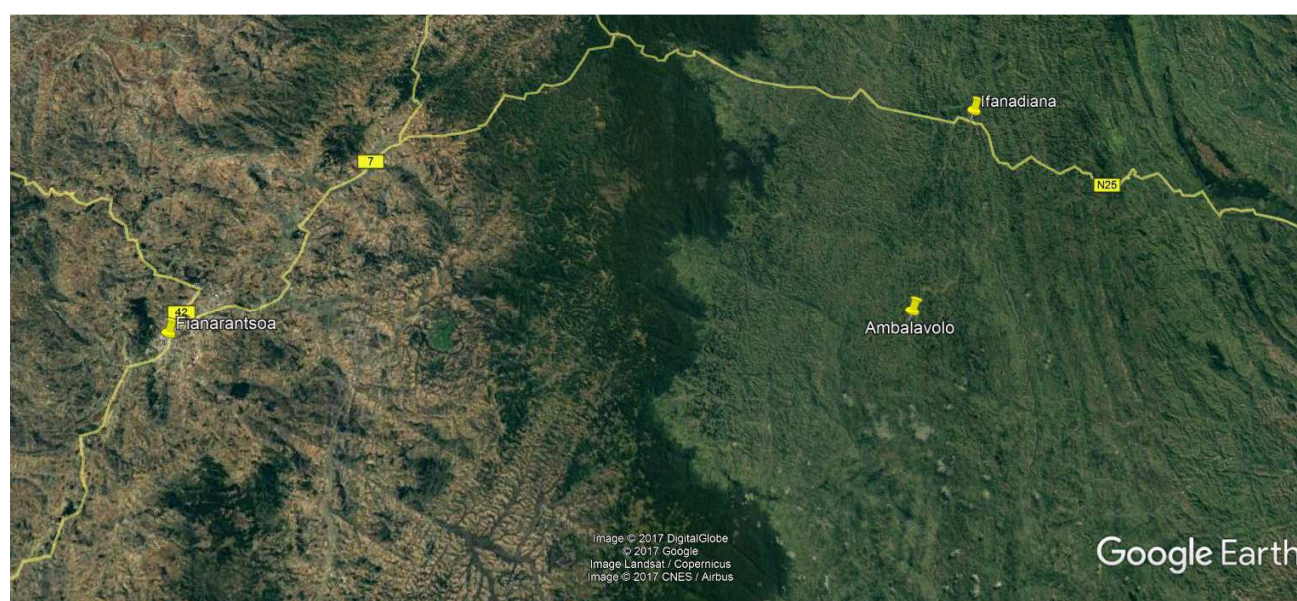


Figure 2: Map showing where the road is from Fianarantsoa via Ifanadiana to Ambalavolo Primary School.

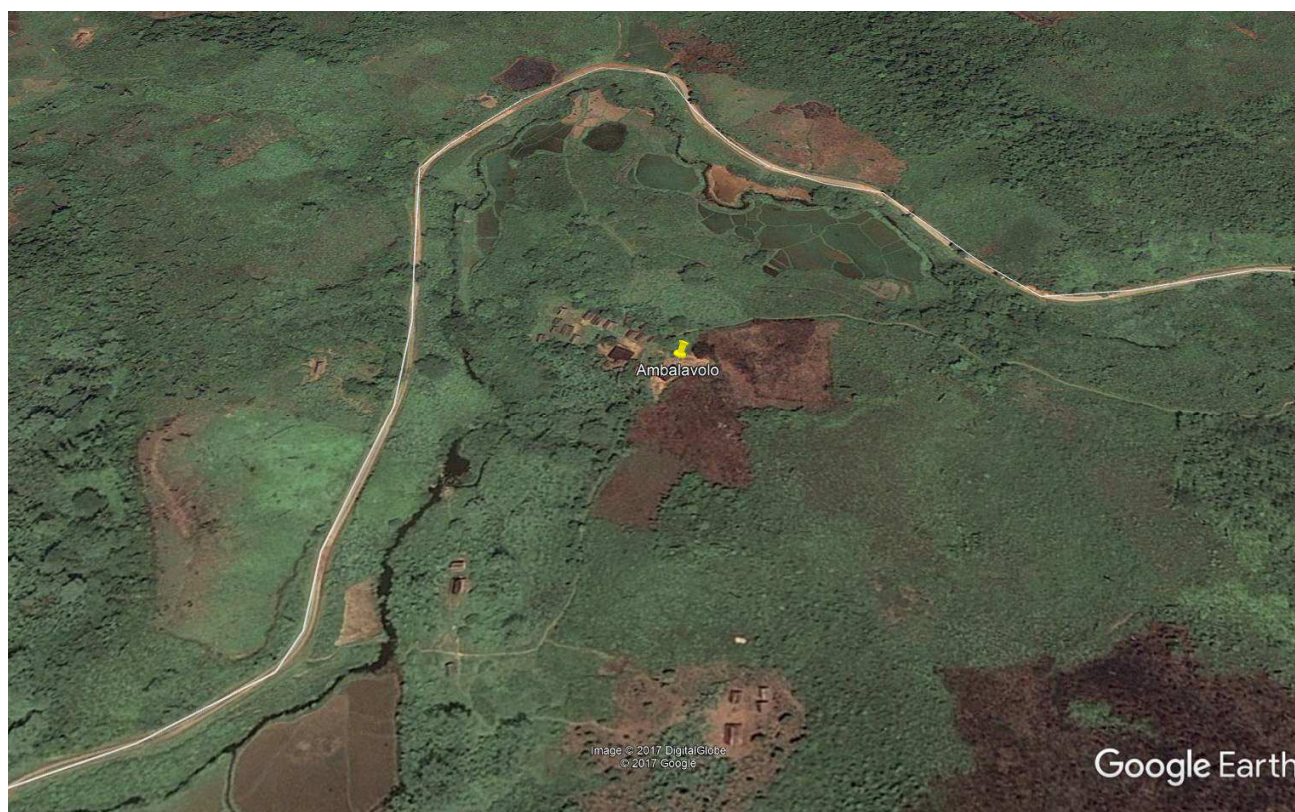


Figure 3: Map showing the site of Ambalavolo Primary School (Google Earth imagery date 12/2/2009).

Calendar of achievements

Activity	2017							
	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Updating the technical project specifications document.	X							
Information letter sent to the school, the local authorities and partners concerned with the project.	X							
Initial meeting in Ambalavolo to sign the agreement setting out each stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in the project, to identify the storeroom & to develop an action plan regarding local materials.		X						
Negotiation & contracting of team to break building stones & gravel, to make the cement breezeblocks & to transport materials from Fianarantsoa to site.		X						
Meeting with the association of pupils' parents to elect members of the local committee to oversee & monitor work ('COST'), and their training.		X						
Ordering of equipment required, including doors & windows, furniture, etc.	X	X						
Recruiting of storekeeper & community mobilisation agent to work in Ambalavolo.		X						
Procurement and transport of materials & equipment to site.		X	X	X				
Contracting of builders for the project.		X						

Activity	2017							
	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Community preparation of the land for the building (removal of vegetation, levelling).		X						
Installation of the builder's team at site.		X						
Traditional ceremony on the 19 th May.		X						
Foundations ceremony on the 26 th May and start of laying foundations.		X						
Building work (school, impluvium and sanitation block).			X	X				
Regular monitoring of work and achievement of community contributions.		X	X	X	X			
Delivery of school furniture (48 desks for students, 3 tables & 3 chairs for teachers).					X			
Provisional technical acceptance of works on the.					X			
A few finishing touches.					X			
Technical acceptance of works.					X			
Election of members of the school maintenance & repairs committee ('CER').							X	
Training of members of the school maintenance & repairs committee ('CER') & provision of tool kit.								X



Figure 4: The community unloading materials (cement & re-bars) transported to Ambalavolo.

Details on the project

Whilst a traditional ceremony before the start of work was led by the king of the area on the 19th May 2017 to ask for the ancestors' blessing of the project, the official foundations ceremony was held on the 26th May 2017 led by a religious leader. Starting with prayers, different speeches were then made before the laying of the first stone. It was attended by the head of education for Ifanadiana district, the head of education for Ambiabe municipality, the mayor and deputy mayor of Ambiabe, the king, the chief of the neighbourhood, teachers, pupils and the local population of Ambalavolo. The community showed their solidarity and

motivation by their dynamism in carrying materials on foot from the road and helping the builders with the foundations.



Figure 5: Opening ceremony (left) and « Fafi-rano » or blessing of the foundations (right) using local rum



Figure 6: Levelling the land (left) and marking out the ground before starting digging the foundations (right).

The 'COST' committee was created to oversee and monitor work at the school, particularly in relation to the achievement of community contributions, monitoring the stock situation (together with the storekeeper) and managing the local labourers from day-to-day. Planning took into account the timing of the builders' requirements for different materials, to reduce the risk of delays to work.

The following were community contributions to the project:

- Housing the builders;
- Transporting the materials on foot from the road to the school (around 200 metres);
- Ensuring the security of the materials / storeroom;
- Unskilled labour. On average 20 people per day worked - fetching water required during building, helping the builders, carrying sand and materials, and other needs;
- A third of the required building stones and gravel, which the parents' association paid for and transported on foot.
- Round wood (for scaffolding).



Figure 7: Carrying materials on foot (left), across the precarious bridge near the road (middle) and sieving sand (right) were community contributions to the project.

The project went well without any major incidents. However, as a result of the unsatisfactory quality of the sand available locally, it was decided prudent to add four pillars to the veranda design to provide greater support the additional weight of the new cement gutter system.

Other problems encountered were related to water supply during work, and delays to the supply of the community's share of building stones, sand and gravel as a result of insufficient implication by many of the COST members, with often just the President COST and President of the parents' association regularly turning up to help. These problems combined with bad weather (rain for long periods) led to some delays to work, with building work terminated on the 17th August 2017.

The official verification of work and the handing-over of the keys was carried out on the 18th August 2017 in the presence of everyone who attended the foundations ceremony. After inspection of the building and accompanying infrastructure, the only remarks were related to paintwork due to the poor quality of sand – with the recommendation for an additional coat of interior paint made, and that there was a missing accessory linked to the toilet's aeration pipe. Action has been taken regarding both of these recommendations. A ceremony for the handing over of the keys was held, involving thank-you speeches. The COST, the parents' association and the headmistress all expressed their profound gratitude to FBM-NT and particularly the Eagle Foundation, for realising this project.

Some materials were left for the school to use, including spades and shovels, metal barrels, jerry-cans, wheelbarrow, nails and re-bars.

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 are 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 8: Ambalavolo Primary School on completion, in the rain!





Figure 9: The rainwater catchment system and hand-washing points between the sanitary block and the school.



Figure 10: The 3 toilet compartments (left) and urinals (middle and right).

Features of the new school building are as follows:

- One building of 3 classrooms, measuring 22.5m x 8m x 4.69m in total (height of the gable 1.4m).
- Stone foundations (depth 60cm, width 50cm) and cement breezeblock walls with a reinforced concrete structure. Each breezeblock measures 15 x 20 x 40cm.
- Cement rendering on inside and outside walls (2cm thick).
- Cyclone-proof tin roofing (thickness 4/10).
- Double metal doors with hooks to hold them open on the outside, and each closed with 2 padlocks.
- Each classroom with 3 windows dimensions 1.8 x 1.2m. Windows with glass panes, opening to the inside with protection grill on the outside. Awnings to protect the posterior windows from the rain. Additional aeration above windows in each classroom.



Figure 11: Window protection (left) and metal doors (right).

- Reinforced concrete front and back guttering (integrated into the building design) links to a 7m³ water tank serving as a hand-washing station to the side of the building, with 3 taps. This is located between the latrines and the school to promote hand-washing at key moments. The tank is equipped with a lockable 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. Integration of a new system to ensure the first rainwater (which would bring the dirt from the roof) is diverted from entering the tank via two PVC downpipes.
- Two-tone colouring of school and sanitary block (interior and exterior); oil paint at the base up until a height of 1.5 metres to protect from dirt and water-based paint higher-up.
- Cement ceilings (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 (1.8 x 0.6 x 0.5 metres) 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 with a hole at least 4 metres deep) with separate girls/boys urinal behind. The urinals are roofed to prevent rainwater from entering the toilets (which would increase the risk of damage in the cyclone season) as urine is 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.

Project beneficiaries

The 254 school pupils and 5 teachers are the main direct beneficiaries of the Ambalavolo new school building, an increase of 80 pupils since the last school year. For this school year (2017-18) details of pupil numbers are:

Year of Primary School	F	M	Total
1a: CP1 (11ème)	30	21	51
1b: CP1 (11ème)	22	22	44
2: CP2 (10ème)	26	31	57
3: CE (9ème)	18	14	32
4: CM1 (8ème)	8	14	22
5: CM2 (7ème)	8	4	12
TOTAL:	113	106	219

In addition, the new nursery school classes have 35 pupils in total: 17 girls and 18 boys.

Of the 5 teachers, 1 is a civil servant, 2 receive some government financial support whilst 2 teachers are purely supported by the parents' association. 3 of the teachers are primary school-level and 2 nursery-school. However, the district education authorities are currently identifying 2 additional teachers for the primary school classes.

There are 76 members of the parents' association of Ambalavolo Primary School.

Families of these pupils and all of the Ambinanindranotelo neighbourhood (1,752) are indirect beneficiaries of this project. Ambalavolo School is the only solid School building in the Ambiabe municipality, which has 13,332 inhabitants.



Figure 12: Commemorative sign erected on the school, integrating awareness-raising messages on the importance of education and of maintaining community infrastructure.

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	11,544.00	46,630,667.95	11,291.01	132.48	Due to the slope of the land at Ambalavolo, more building stones & cement were used to elevate the school foundations.
Transport costs (building materials and furniture)	2,000.00	8,078,771.30	2,155.81	- 176.69	
Labour costs	4,125.00	16,662,465.81	3,562.78	519.16	
School furniture (not including transport costs)	829.17	3,349,323.94	652.61	167.90	
Monitoring & evaluation costs	612.15	2,472,702.45	571.47	34.28	
Administration/ overheads (7%)	1,435.88	5,800,076.43	1,265.45	155.44	
Total	20,546	82,994,007.88	19,499.13	832.57	

Current situation

	Situation pre-project	Expected situation post-project	Real situation post-project
Number of existing parent-built classrooms	Four classrooms made of local materials and in poor condition; no cement flooring.	Wooden structure of 2 classrooms will be demolished as it is now considered dangerous. The other existing building (mud walls) will still be used (the parent's association will do their best to repair them). This will bring the total number of usable classrooms to five. The district level education authorities have agreed to supply additional teachers for the school if funding is found for a new building.	The existing wooden structure of 2 classrooms was renovated by the parents' association rather than being demolished. (It was originally planned that the new school building would be located where this building is, but instead new land was donated for the new school building). The other existing building is also still in use. Combined with the 3 new classrooms, the total number of usable classrooms is six. The new classrooms are used by the first three years of primary school pupils. There are 2 new teachers for the nursery school level. 2 additional teachers are due to be provided by the educational authorities.
Number of classrooms currently borrowed	None.	None.	None.
School office	None.	The parent's association will endeavour to build a school office.	The parent's association still plan to build a school office, but in 2018.
WASH (Water – Sanitation – Hygiene)	No latrine or clean drinking water.	A 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.	A sanitation block of 3-compartment latrines and boys/girls urinals, along with a hand-washing unit. Co-funding from the Adsum Foundation will be used to supply the school with a borehole installed with a hand-pump in 2018. Meanwhile, we hope to provide the school with a Sawyer filter to ensure pupils have clean drinking water.

Conclusion

The community of Ambalavolo showed proof of solidarity and dedication to their school-building project, working no matter the weather and ensuring rapid unloading of materials on the arrival of trucks. The women of the area filled up all the water butts every evening ensuring that the builders' had sufficient water to work with during the day. Their conviction for the importance of educating their children is clear.

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

Photos showing the evolution of the Ambalavolo School-building project



Figure 13: Community members carrying the wooden frame for the roof (above), construction progress (below) in late June and the road to Ambalavolo (below right).





Figure 14: Building progress in late June 2017.



Figure 15: A view towards the school part-hidden to the right of the trees (above) & behind the houses (below).





Figure 16: The storeroom for Ambalavolo School project (above) and (below) scaffolding on the building.





Figure 17: Laying the roof structure.





Figure 18: New system of plastered ceilings.





Figure 19: Progress visible on the school roof (above) & work in progress (below).





Figure 20: Preparation for the foundations of the cement flooring.





Figure 21: The metal doors and window protection panels arrive on-site (above) & break from work (below).





Figure 22: Ambalavolo School walls rendered before painting.





Figure 23: First undercoat of paint (above) & cement flooring (below).



Figure 24: Installing window protection panels.



Figure 25: Making the rainwater collection tank using ferro-cement techniques.





Figure 26: Painting and installing window panes.





Figure 27: Making the verandas





Figure 28: Installing the hand-washing point (above) and finishing touches to the sanitation block (below).





Figure 29: Painting Ambalavolo School.





Figure 30: Putting the final touches to the new school building.



Thank-you letter from the Ambalavolo community & Primary School

Translation: "The head-teacher, teachers, the President of the parents' association, the President of the school fund, the King and traditional authorities, the elders and the community of Ambalavolo, Ambinanindranotelo neighbourhood of Ambiabe municipality, all offer our profound thanks to Ny Tanintsika-Feedback Madagascar and the Eagle Foundation for giving us this new modern school building comprising three fully equipped classrooms, a sanitary block, rainwater catchment tank and tool kit in order to ensure proper maintenance. We thank you with all our hearts and our minds.

May God bless you."



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FISAORANA

Ny Talen-tsekoly, ny Mpampianatra, ny Filohan'ny FRAM, ny Filohan'ny FEFFI, ny Mpanjaka, ny Tangalamena, ary ny Ray aman-dReny sy ny Fokonolona eto Ambalavolo, Fokontany Ambinanindranotelo, Kaominina Ambiabe, dia manolotra fisaorana feno sy mitafotafo ny ONG NY TANINTSIKA/FEEDBACK MADAGASCAR – EAGLE FONDATION nohon'ny fanomezany tranon-tsekoly vaovao manara-penitra misy efitra telo sy fampitaovana. Trano fidiovana sy fitehirizana ranon'orana ary kojakoja hoentimananina izay mety ho fahasimbana any aoriana any.

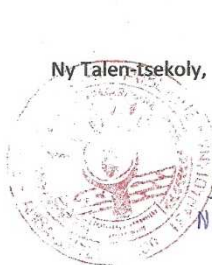
Noho izany dia mankasitraka eram-po, eran-tsaina Tompoko izahay.

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