



The Feedback Trust
Scottish Charity No. SC023568

**Construction of a new school building for the
Ambongo Primary School in Madagascar
(FF 17003)**

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 £19,849 for the project to construct a new school building for Ambongo Primary School in Andranomaintso neighbourhood of Antaretra 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 near the rainforest 19km by road from Ifanadiana town, about 5km southwest of the central village of Antaretra municipality, and 109km from Fianarantsoa town. Classrooms were previously in a very poor state and insufficient in number, particularly after the school was hit by a cyclone in 2014. The community requested help for the building of additional classrooms (letter dated 13/04/2016).

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 80,178,932 MGA after transfer to Madagascar. The expected period of the project was from May to September 2017.



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

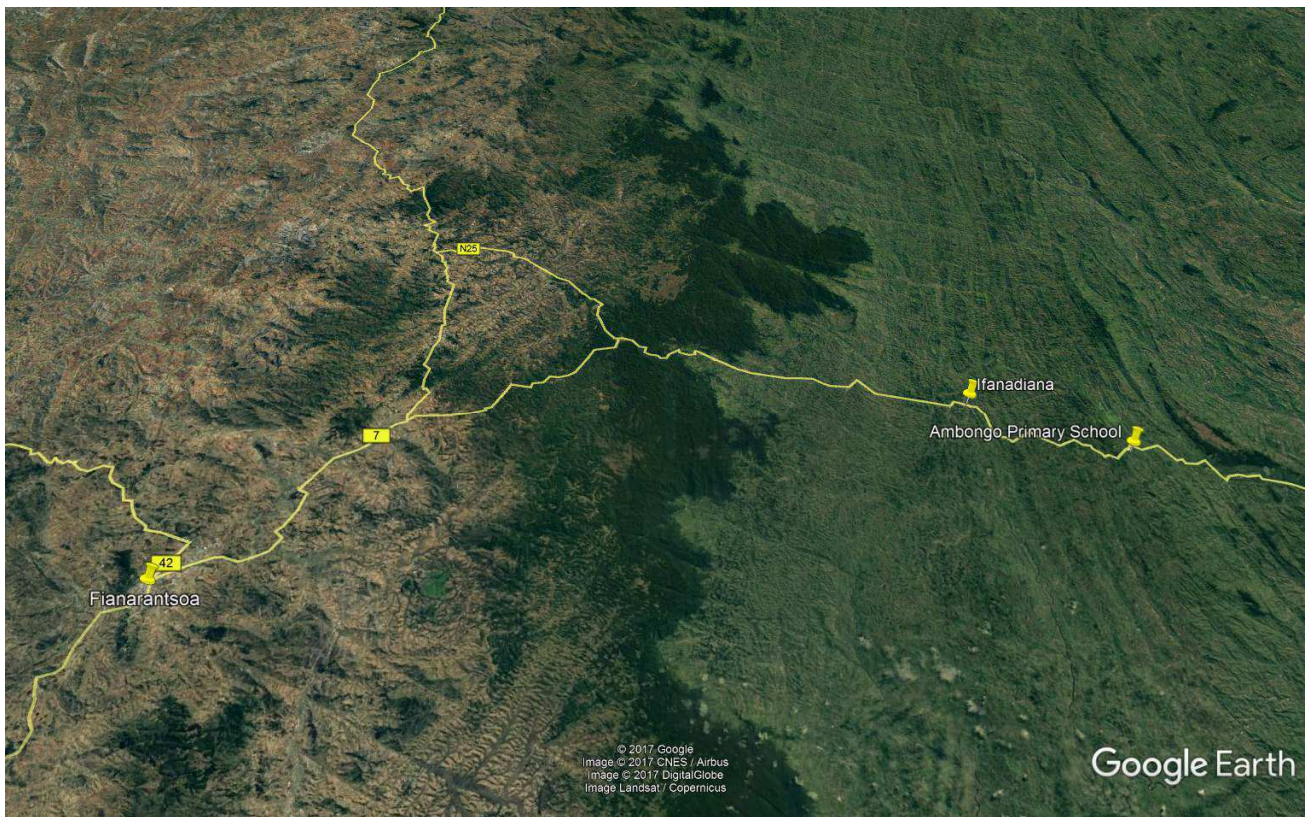


Figure 2: Map showing where the road is from Fianarantsoa via Ifanadiana to Ambongo Primary School.

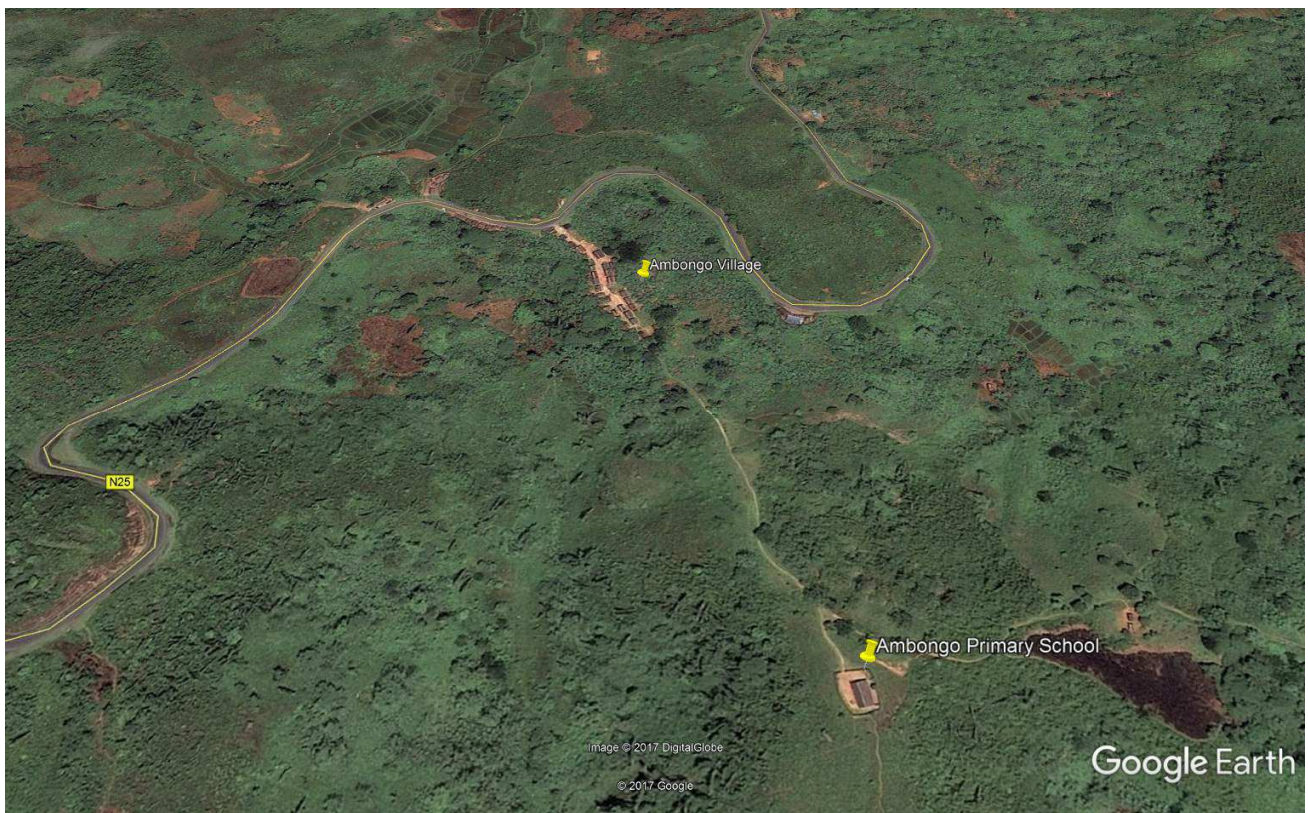


Figure 3: Map showing Ambongo Primary School and village (Google Earth imagery date 12/2/2009).

Latitude: 21°20'814"S Longitude: 47°44'587"E Altitude 440 m

Calendar of achievements

Activity	2017							
	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Information letter sent to the local authorities and partners concerned with the project.	X							
Initial meeting in Ambongo 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 teams to break building stones & gravel, to make the 3,200 cement breezeblocks & the transporter of materials from Fianarantsoa to site.		X						
Meeting with the community and 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 Ambongo.		X						
Procurement and transport of materials & equipment to site.		X	X	X				
Contracting of builders for the project.		X						
Community preparation of the land for the building (removal of vegetation, levelling).		X						
Installation of the builder's team at site.			X					
Foundations ceremony on the 2 nd June 2017 and start of laying foundations.			X					
Building work (school, impluvium and sanitation block).			X	X	X			
Regular monitoring of work and achievement of community contributions.			X	X	X			
Delivery of school furniture (48 desks for students, 3 tables & 3 chairs for teachers).					X			
Technical acceptance of works on the 8 th August.					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



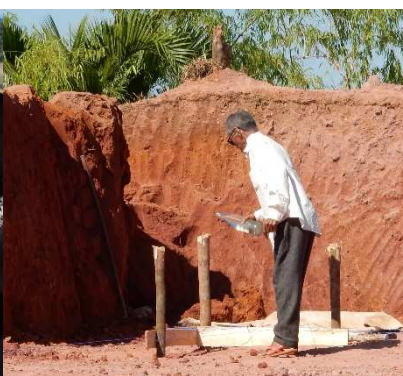
Figure 4: Sign placed at Ambongo Primary School.

Details on the project

The initial foundations ceremony on the 2nd June 2017 was attended by a large delegation of authorities from the local and district-levels; a representative from the district educational authorities, the mayor and deputy mayor of Antaretra municipality, the head of education of Antaretra municipality, the neighbourhood chief, the head-teacher of Ambongo Primary School, the king of the area, teachers, pupils and the community. Although a purely traditional ceremony had already been held a week previously led by the king of the area, the official foundations ceremony also started with the king thanking the ancestors and asking for their blessing for the project. After the community all participated in digging the channels for the foundations, a meeting was held with the President of the parents association and members of the COST committee, and a communal meal was offered.



The king of Ambongo speaks at the foundations ceremony.



« Fafi-rano » (blessing using local rum) at the corners of the foundations



Samantha, Programme Coordinator, participates in the ceremony to lay the first stones for the foundations



Start of digging the foundations and (right) cement breeze-blocks drying

Figure 5: Photos from the foundations ceremony and start of work.





Figure 6: Start of digging Ambongo School's foundations.

The 'COST' committee was created to oversee and monitor work at the school, particularly in relation to the achievement of community contributions. It was active in watching over work progress and monitoring community contributions, 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.



Figure 7: COST committee members: from left to right: The King, President of the COST, other COST members including President of parents' association (in white T-shirt) and the headmistress (lady), storekeeper and FBM-NT driver.

The following were community contributions to the project:

- Levelling the land: an incredible job was carried out by the community of Ambongo in just a 10-day period before the foundations ceremony, with the flattening of land at the school building site.



Figure 8: Photo showing the scale of the levelling of land that the community undertook by hand before the start of school-building.

- Housing the builders and providing the storeroom; the beneficiary community built two houses especially for this purpose near to the building site, and just 50 metres from Ambongo village. The community also demolished another house which had previously obstructed entrance to the school, to make it accessible to vehicles.
- Unskilled labour. In general many more than the requested 15 people per day turned up to work at the building site - fetching water required during building, helping the builders, carrying sand and materials, and other needs.
- A third of the required building stones and gravel. The Minister of Parliament for Ifanadiana area provided some help to the community for this – as well as their transport by truck from the mining site. Despite the significant distance between Kelilalina, the source of the rocks and gravel supply, and Ambongo (28km), the young people of Ambongo showed proof of huge dynamism by coming to load the truck in Kelilalina and unload it in Ambongo. Similarly, the source of sand supplies was very far (around 4km from Ambongo) in Andranomaitso. Every Thursday beneficiaries walked to collect sand when the Minister of Parliament's truck was not available.



Figure 9: Making gravel (left) in Kelilalina and (right) a hedge planted by the community along the edge of the school grounds.

- Round wood (for scaffolding).
- Planting a hedge around the school grounds: '*Hasina*' (*Dracaena sp.*).
- Since completion of this project, the parents of pupils also built a wooden building for the nursery school classes using leftover wood from the project.



Figure 10: Community members building a new nursery school classroom (October 2017).

Building work at Ambongo Primary School was rapid, with no major problems encountered. The COST showed proof of initiative in resolving any potential issues, community organisation was very impressive, and there was sufficient support given by local leaders in the area. As mentioned earlier, beneficiaries were highly motivated to help with work. As a result, work was completed by the 6th August 2017. The project's speed was also partly due to Ambongo's relative accessibility by road, as it borders the main road RN25 (leading to Manakara on the east coast), which made the transport of materials from Fianarantsoa town much simpler than in other projects managed by Feedback Madagascar. Assistance and regular monitoring of building work was carried out to ensure the timely arrival of necessary materials to keep the work on track, to motivate beneficiaries to continue their contributions to the project, and to resolve any issues that arose. Close collaboration with the various stakeholders (suppliers of materials, storekeeper, builders, local authorities and transporters) helped ensure that work went smoothly.

The official verification of work was carried out on the 8th August 2017 in the presence of all those who attended the initial foundations ceremony, with the addition of the Member of Parliament for Ifanadiana district. After inspection of the building and accompanying infrastructure, no remarks were made. A ceremony for the handing over of the keys was held, involving thank-you speeches.

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



Figure 11: Dadah (FBM-NT) leads participants at the official verification of work on Ambongo School, in the rain!

The Maintenance and Repairs Committee « CER » plays an important role for the sustainability of the school building, furniture, impluvium and sanitary block. 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 is 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 12: Inspection of Ambongo School on completion of work.



Figure 13: Inspecting work on the new school building and (below right) the hand-washing unit and sanitary block.



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 (sheeting 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 14: The window protection grill model was changed slightly to strengthen it.

- 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, which has 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. A new system was integrated to ensure the first rainwater (which would bring the dirt from the roof) is diverted from entering the tank via two PVC downpipes with removable stopper at the bottom.



Figure 15: New piping system to divert the first rainwater from entering the tank.

- 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.



Figure 16: Lockable cupboards in each classroom (above) & testing the new blackboards (below) in the presence of the mayor of Antaretra.



- 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 might cause 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.



Figure 17: Each classroom equipped with new desks.



- Provision of a tools kit for the school maintenance and repairs committee (CER), who are a new structure put-in-place to improve maintenance of the infrastructure.



Figure 18: Inspection of the rainwater collection tank (left) & hand-washing point (right).

Project beneficiaries

The 129 school pupils and 4 teachers are the main direct beneficiaries of this new school building. For this school year (2017-18) details of pupil numbers enrolled to date (enrolment continues until the end of November as a result of school closure to the plague epidemic) are as follows:

Year of Primary School	F	M	Total
1: CP1 (11ème)	8	18	26
2: CP2 (10ème)	13	6	19
3: CE (9ème)	9	13	22
4: CM1 (8ème)	10	9	19
5: CM2 (7ème)	8	9	17
TOTAL:	48	55	103

In addition, there are 26 nursery school pupils (10 girls and 16 boys).

Of the 4 teachers, 2 are civil servants (who teach the primary school level) whilst 2 teachers are purely supported by the parents' association. 2 primary school teachers were recently assigned to other posts elsewhere, but 3 more teachers are due to be provided soon by the district education authorities.

Indirect beneficiaries include the population of Ambongo village (292), the 170 members of the parents' association and their wider families, and all of the surrounding neighbourhood (Fokontany).



Figure 19: Beneficiary meeting at the official reception of building work.



Figure 20: Community members (above) and children (below) overjoyed at their new school building.



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	46,630,668	11,172.17	251	The exchange rate was more favourable than expected. However, transport & material price increases led to MGA expenditure being greater than expected.
Transport costs (building materials and furniture)	1,375.00	5,554,155	1,248.60	112	
Labour costs	4,125.00	16,662,466	3,623.03	459	
School furniture (not including transport costs)	829.17	3,349,324	628.37	192	
Monitoring & evaluation costs	586.67	2,369,773	538.14	42	
Administration/ overheads	1,389.46	5,612,546	1,220.87	154	
Total	19,849.29	80,178,932	18,431.19	1,211	

Current situation

	Situation pre-project	Expected situation post-project	Real situation post-project
Number of existing parent-built classrooms	Three classrooms made out of local materials with no cement flooring.	Three new classrooms will be used in addition to the existing three classrooms. The district education authorities have agreed to provide additional teachers if this project goes ahead.	The existing classrooms were in fact demolished due to a problem with space for the new school building: an extensive levelling of the land was needed before building. The new building is currently being used for the first 3 years of primary school. The community are currently building a one-classroom building for the nursery school level.
Number of classrooms currently borrowed			The last two years of primary school are still borrowing rooms in the nearby village, as well as the nursery school class (temporarily, until their new classroom is completed).
School office	None.	The parent's association plan to build an office.	The parent's association still plan to build a school office.
WASH (Water – Sanitation – Hygiene)	No latrines. No clean drinking water.	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 complete with hand-washing unit. Installation of a borehole and hand-pump is planned for 2018 with co-funding from the Adsum Foundation. Meanwhile, we hope to provide the school with a Sawyer filter to ensure pupils have clean drinking water.

Conclusion

The Ambongo Primary School project was a huge success. The community's great motivation was illustrated by the number of people who turned up daily to help with building work. As a result, there were no builder complaints concerning supply of water, sand and materials – despite the long distances required to get them...

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

Photos showing the evolution of the building work



Figure 21: View of the building site on the morning of the foundations ceremony.

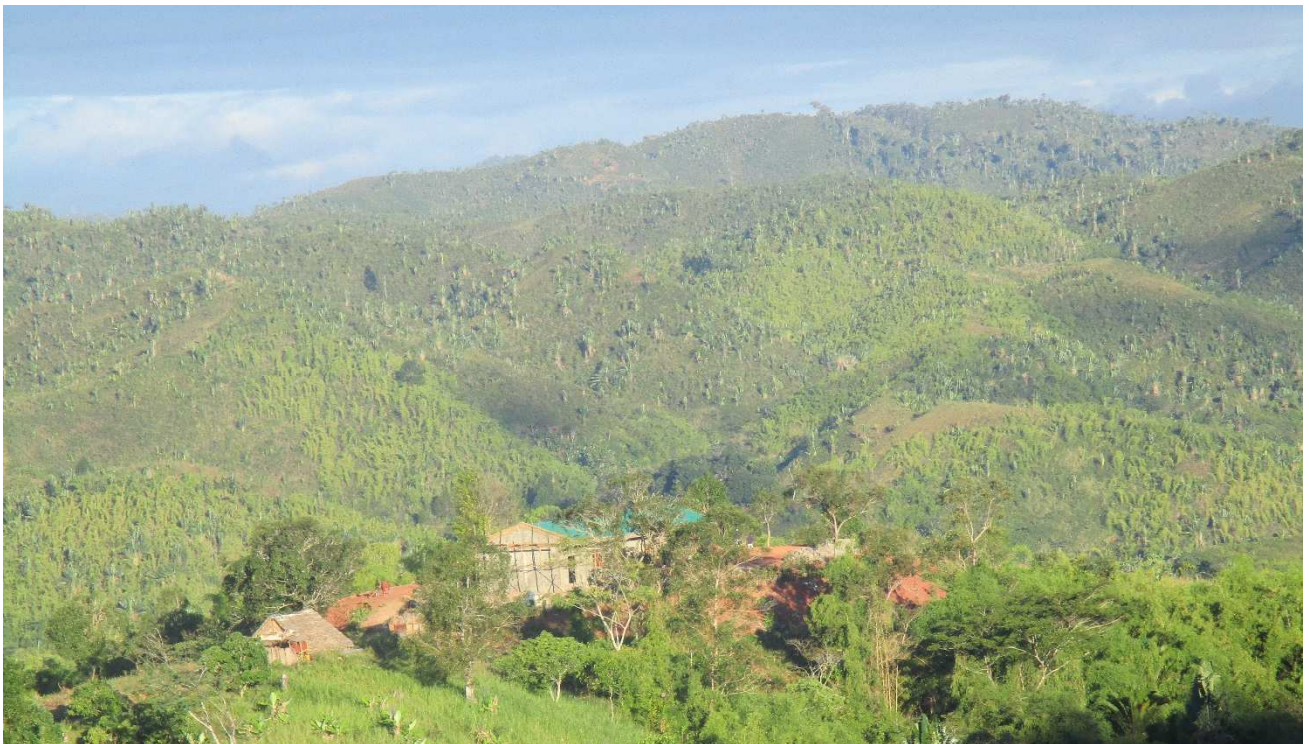


Figure 22: View of the building site in mid-July 2017.



Figure 23: View towards Ambongo Primary School in late July 2017.



Figure 24: View of the completed Ambongo Primary School on the 8th August 2017.

Other photos taken during the project



Figure 25: Building progress on the 15th June 2017.





Figure 26: Installation of the classrooms' aeration.





Figure 27: School progress on the 2nd August





Figure 28: The team of builders (above) and (below) the President of the parents' association (right) with other committee members.





Figure 29: Installation of the commemorative sign at Ambongo School which integrates awareness-raising messages about the importance of education, and of taking care of community infrastructure.



Figure 30: Sign at the entrance to Ambongo Primary School at the edge of the main road.



Figure 31: Ambongo School with the newly planted hedge visible.



Figure 32: Ambongo School in the rain (above) and during the official acceptance of works (below).



Figure 33: The official handing-over of keys (from FBM-NT to the builder on the left, and then the headmistress on the right)



Figure 34: Community members look inside.



Figure 35: Fly-proof latrine (left) and boys / girls urinals (right).

Thank-you letter from the community & school

Translation: "The head-teacher, teachers, President of the parents' association, president of the school fund, the King and traditional authorities, the elders, and the community of Ambongo, offer our complete and sincere thanks to the NGO Ny Tanintsika – Feedback Madagascar and the Eagle Foundation for our new school. In addition, you gave the school materials such as wood, spades and wheelbarrows. So we are really grateful to you. God bless you." (Letter approved by the head of education in Antaretra, the mayor and the district-level education authorities).


REPUBLIKAN'I MADAGASIKARA
Fivavahana - Tanindrazana - Fandrosoana

DIRECTION REGIONALE DE L'EDUCATION NATIONLE
VATOVAVY-FITOVINANY

CIRCONSCRIPTION SCOLAIRE IFANADIANA

ZONE ADMINISTRATIVE ET PEDAGOGIQUE
ANTARETRA

ECOLE PRIMAIRE PUBLIQUE AMBONGO

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 Ambongo, Fokontany Andranomaintso, Kaominina Antaretra, dia manolotra fisaorana feno sy mitafotafa ny ONG Ny Tanintsika/FeedBack Madagascar/Eagle Fondation.

Tsy vitan'izany ihany koa fa mbola nanome fitaovana ho an'ny Sekoly toy ny madrier (36), bois carré (20), Bande bitumen, Bidon (02), angady (02), pelle (08) ary borety (03).

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

Andriamanitra manan-karem-pahasoavana anie hamaly soa anareo.

Ny Talen-tsekoly  SAHO LINTIRINA Hanantenana Perline	Ny Filohan'ny FRAM  Valicien Alexandre	Ny Filohan'ny FEFFI  Hieual	Ny Solotenampanjakana  RABEMANANJARA Marcel
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