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# **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

## **SCHOOL DESKS PROJECT**

FF 564-49

# **PROGRESS REPORT**

**11<sup>th</sup> July 2021**



*Transporting school desks in Ambiabe.*

- a. Donor name: Fondation Eagle**
- b. Name of Charity and Project: Feedback Madagascar / Madagascar Coronavirus Emergency Response – 2 (School Desks Project)**
- c. Foundation Eagle reference number: FF 564-49**
- d. Date of grant accepted: 10/12/2020**
- e. Amount: GBP 30,204**
- f. Number of beneficiaries: 4,000 direct beneficiaries**
- g. Name and exact location of the project: SE Madagascar: Vohitsaoka, Ambiabe & Andefapony (list of all beneficiary schools will be included in final report)**
- h. Period of Project: December 2020- April 2021 (planned)**
- i. Conversion rate, date & amount in local currency: Conversion rate £1 = 5,079.5 MGA, 7/1/2021, Amount in local currency = 153,419,796 MGA**

## CONTEXT

This 'School Desks' project was conceived in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim of reducing transmission and the spread of Coronavirus due a lack / insufficiency of school desks in overcrowded classrooms in Madagascar's schools. This project targets schools already benefiting from FBM's school feeding programme, in collaboration with Mary's Meals, in 3 rural municipalities of two regions in southeast Madagascar, as follows:

REGION	DISTRICT	MUNICIPALITY
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Ifanadiana	Ambiabe
	Ikongo	Andefampony
Haute Matsiatra	Ambalavao	Vohitsaoka

**Expected results:** 2,000 desks provided to the neediest amongst 77 primary schools (PS) within these 3 target municipalities.

Summary of project previsions:

Region	District	Municipalities	Number of schools	Number of pupils	Desk needs	Project desk allocation
Haute Matsiatra	Ambalavao	Vohitsaoka	46	5,346	1,929	1,000
Vatovavy Fitovinany	Ifanadiana	Ambiabe	24	3,510	1,222	702
	Ikongo	Andefapony	07	677	298	298
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>77</b>	<b>9,533</b>	<b>3,448</b>	<b>2,000</b>



*The situation at Ambohimirina PS in Ambiabe in March 2021 (left) and (right) at Andefampony PS before desk delivery.*



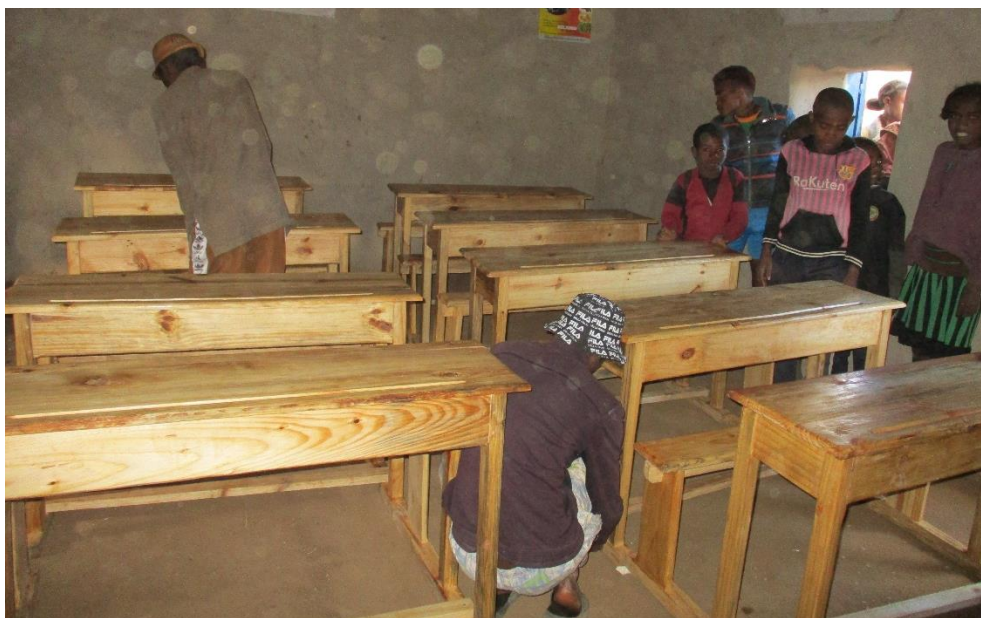
## PROJECT APPROACH

In order to achieve the project's objectives, our methodology can be summarised as follows :

- Involvement and integration of local authorities in target areas through the forming of a committee in each beneficiary municipality. Included in their role is the monitoring of deliveries of materials to the central storeroom.
- Securing beneficiaries' appropriation (sense of ownership of the project) through their signature of a letter of commitment regarding their contributions. Priority was given to schools with the most highly motivated associations of parents.
- Mobilisation of a maximum of community contributions to the project, notably with regards to the transport of the desks from the central storeroom to each school.
- Monitoring and community support through our existing network of field agents ('School Feeding Officers').
- Monitoring of the assembling of the desks at each school by members of associations of parents of pupils.




*Applying varnish to assembled desks (above) & their installation in classrooms at Fenoarivo PS, Vohitsaoka*



The following steps were crucial in the project process:

- Preparation.
- Information sessions.
- Mobilisation of community requests and the signature of letters of commitment regarding beneficiary contributions.
- Procurement process and delivery of school desks in different rounds, grouped per zone, depending on completion by the carpenters.
- Assembling of the desks at each school by the team of carpenters, and applying varnish.
- Monitoring of desk assemblage.

The following table presents the details of each stage:

Stage	Principal activities	Remarks
Preparation (office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing project information with the team.</li> <li>- Development of necessary tools to be used for project delivery.</li> <li>- Drawing-up of a letter of information for local/district/ regional authorities.</li> </ul>	December 2020
Informing authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribution of letters of information for authorities and for beneficiary municipalities, visits and discussion.</li> </ul>	January 2021
Identifying the number of desks per school / area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our project technicians (School Feeding Officers with our school feeding programme) drafting the suggested repartition for each zone, according to instructions provided (according to number of school classrooms and pupil numbers).</li> <li>- Concertation between the project team to finalise the decision on repartition, checking on data available for each school.</li> </ul>	January – February 2021
Community preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Putting-in-place a structure for the monitoring of progress in each municipality that includes representatives from the municipality authorities, education authorities (ZAP), traditional authorities (Ampanjaka), neighbourhood chiefs, association of parents of pupils or school feeding committees, school representatives.</li> </ul>	
Procurement process and delivery of materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement process, contracting with the carpenters to make the 2,000 desks and drawing-up a delivery plan.</li> </ul>	February -April 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of deliveries and information to SFO.</li> </ul>	March 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivery of the first rounds of desks destined for Vohitsaoka and Ambiabe.</li> </ul>  <p><i>Loading desks into the truck in Fianarantsoa for delivery, April 2021.</i></p>	March - April 2021



	- Delivery of the second round of desks for the 3 municipalities (Vohitsaoka, Ambiabé and Andefampony).	June 2021
	- Start of assembling desks per municipality.	June 2021



*Delivery of school desks in front of Vohitsaoka PS in March 2021, & transport by representatives from different schools (below).*







*Storing desks in a central warehouse in Ambiaabe (above) before distribution to schools (below) in April 2021.*







## ACHIEVEMENTS IN NUMBERS

Indicator	Previsions	Achievement		Total	Difference	Observation
		Round 1	Round 2			
Number of beneficiary schools in Vohitsaoka	46	22	27	49	+03	Priority was given to schools without any desks and with a high number of pupils. There were several schools benefiting from the school feeding programme who were not originally on the list and yet have a real need for desks.
Number of school desks in Vohitsaoka	1,000	600	400	1,000	0	
Number of beneficiary schools in Ambiabe	24	18	08	26	+02	There were 2 schools not originally on the list but with a real need for desks.
Number of school desks in Ambiabe	702	600	150	750	+48	
Number of beneficiary schools in Andefampony	07	0	08	08	+01	
Number of school desks in Andefampony	298	0	250	250	-48	The number of pupils and number of school classrooms available impacted on the number of desks allocated in this area.
<b>Total number of school desks</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total number of beneficiary schools</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>+06</b>	





*Community members transporting desks in Vohitsaoka*





## PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

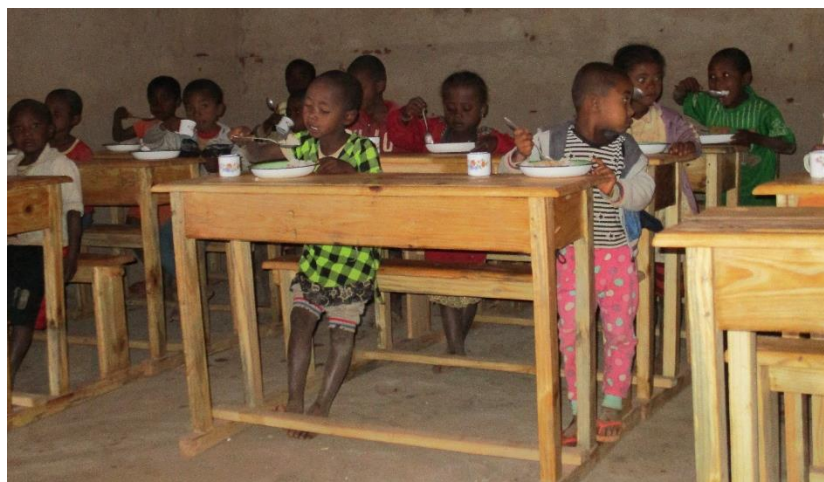
- There were delays to the carpenter's delivery of school desks as a result of their difficulty in procuring sufficient good quality, dry pinewood. So the timetable for deliveries was not respected.
- The limited number of carpenters available to carry out assembly of desks at each school, and the significant distances between schools, also led to delays in project execution.

## POSITIVE POINTS

- Schools are getting closer to meeting standards regarding number of desks per classroom.
- Provision of school desks is a key motivational factor for children to go to school.
- Motivation of the associations of parents of pupils for the transport of desks, despite them being very heavy, and often over significant distances. Despite this additional workload, it did not impact on their organisation for the transport of foodstuffs for the school canteen programme.



*Happy children eating school lunch on their new desks, at Ambohinamboarina PS.*





- Making the most of existing local groups, such as the school feeding committees, for the monitoring of work.
- Regular monitoring carried out by field agents (SFO) in each school.
- The delight of associations of parents of pupils is really visible with regards to this project; 28 thank-you letters have already been received!



*Jean Jacques, our SFO in Ambiabé, oversees distribution of desks to representatives from different schools.*

## OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES

The following table shows details of activities to follow.

Activity	Tool	Person in charge
Monitoring of desk assembly.	SFO progress reports	FBM-NT team
Taking photos of desks at each school & receiving thank-you letters.		FBM-NT team

## CONCLUSION

This project is proving to be a big success. If there are no unexpected obstacles, it is expected that work will be completed in July 2021.

Numerous schools from both the same and other municipalities, who have not yet benefitted from this project, have since requested help in order to have school desks due to their current insufficiency, and in order to respect COVID-19 protocol. Details of these schools will be provided in our final report. It shows how great the need is and how hugely appreciated this project is in order to improve the quality of education in rural Madagascar in the context of COVID-19.





*Before and after at Ambohinamboarina PS.*



*A gift delivered by representatives of beneficiaries to our Fianarantsoa office on the 11<sup>th</sup> July: "THANK-YOU Ny Tanintsika – Feedback Madagascar – Eagle Foundation"*