



Madagascar, South-East region – TSIRY - Education

“Now, I am able to read and write. It’s so nice to feel valued and to be considered as a full citizen!” Since 2010, 2619 adults - mainly women - and 1145 children have taken part in the literacy program run by the AIC volunteers in the south-east of Madagascar. The children are given a wholesome meal every day, which motivates them and improves their health and their academic performance. The adults receive a small amount of capital (about 107€) at the end of the training program so that they can set up an income-generating activity (such as a vegetable garden, rice cultivation, fishing, raising poultry, etc.).

Context

The south-east region of Madagascar comprises several small isolated communities suffering from droughts and frequent cyclones due to climate change. The region’s economy is mainly based on handicrafts and agriculture.

Women and girls are undervalued, have little access to education and few opportunities to speak out. Early marriages are common. Women often have to raise their children and support their families alone. The insufficient school infrastructure does not foster children’s enrolment in school and these children often start work at an early age.



Project Theme and Activities

TSIRY (which means ‘seeds’ in Malagasy) is a large literacy project for children and adults – mainly women - who are not in school, which has been run by AIC volunteers in the South-East of Madagascar since 2010. The project includes:

- School catchup classes so that children can be reintegrated into state schools, allowing them to take the primary school leaving examination (CEPE)
- Literacy classes for adults

- A school canteen for children, which motivates them and improves their health and academic performance.
- Income-generating activities (vegetable gardens, rice cultivation, fishing, raising poultry, etc.) as a result of granting the adults a small amount of capital
- Local teachers who come from the local communities

Key Figures

- 2619 adults and 1145 children have already taken part in the literacy program
- 11 literacy sites for adults – 7 sites for children
- 107€ is given to the adults to set up an income generating activity
- 30€/month in canteen costs for about 30 children



Partnerships

- Town hall and regional governors
- Ministry of National Education
- Caritas Farafangana
- Village and diocesan committees
- Asmae for teaching materials

Future Prospects and/or Impact

More literacy sites will be set up to meet the increasing demand, especially in the isolated villages. There are many people who want to learn to read and write, particularly when they notice the change in the lives of the beneficiaries of the project.