



Madagascar, Fianarantsoa 'Education, school canteens and training centre' - Education

The AIC volunteers from Fianarantsoa have been working to help vulnerable children since 1990. They have always focused their projects on empowerment through education. They are convinced that to educate a child is to promote change in the community.

Alongside their school support, the volunteers have opened a canteen because “you can't learn on an empty stomach”. The children receive a meal, often their only meal of the day, which motivates them, improving both their health and their school results.

Since 2015, their actions have been made possible thanks to the partnership with the French association MADIA.

Context

In Fianarantsoa, children often arrive at the Foyer Sainte Louise, with an empty stomach. The volunteers have noticed that the poorest and most malnourished children need longer to learn, which demonstrates the importance of canteens during their school years.



Project theme and activities

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After the French association MADIA visited the project in July 2014, a partnership started with the group of AIC volunteers to support 2 major activities, namely: financing the canteen and the construction of a centre for young people who have not been attending school.

MADIA, an association founded in Cachan, France, two years ago, aims to contribute to the development of Madagascar in the fields of education, health, and the welcoming and integration of disadvantaged people, especially single parent families and children.

Key figures

- Every lunchtime 200 meals are served at the Foyer Sainte Louise 5 times a week for all the children (5 to 18-20 year olds) whom AIC is looking after and during the school year.
- Inauguration in May 2017 of a new building for teenagers who have fallen out of the school system. Opening in September 2017. Remedial classes and vocational training will help these young people enter the job market.

Future prospects and impact

The children achieve better academic results, as evidenced by the reports at the end of each term.

The canteen provides a great service to mothers (who are usually raising their children on their own) because they can be sure that their children have enough to eat and are thus able to have a normal education.

The new training centre for young people who have not been attending school will "rescue" children who otherwise would become potential offenders with no future prospects.

