



## **Madagascar, Manakara and Vohipenko, Region: South-East “Fight against poverty and create AIC sustainable development actions”**

For many years, AIC volunteers from Manakara, mothers and older children have been growing rice, with the advice of technical staff, in order to protect the environment and achieve good yields.

The AIC Ambolosy Vohipeno group has encouraged the growing of staple foods and fruit trees. Each family also raises chickens, whose manure can be used to make organic fertilizer, among other things.

The 2 AIC groups work with the green diocese, a project by the Farafangana diocese, aimed at protecting the environment.



### **Analysis of the current situation**

Madagascar is an underdeveloped country, where most of the population lives in poverty.

Main causes of poverty found in Madagascar:

- Frequent destructive cyclones and droughts, especially in the southern areas, partly the result of climate change
- Successive political crises since 1972
- Environmental destruction
- Weak industries

These causes of poverty are made worse in the south-east by traditional customs such as:

- Early, illegitimate marriage

- Women have no right to inherit
- Wives abandoned with their children by their husbands
- Lack of education and schooling for girls, who are mainly destined to be mothers.

## Beneficiaries

Women make up almost two-thirds of people in need. The AIC Manakara group has therefore chosen as its target group women who have been abandoned with their children, as well as some orphaned children.

Beneficiaries of the AIC Vohipeno group's work are migrants, families coming from a neighbouring region. They have settled in the village of Ambolosy on land provided by the Carmelite priest in Vohipeno who is working in collaboration with this AIC group.

## Aims of the action

- Improving family life
- Improving the quality of food distributed to children in the canteens
- Training for mothers and children
- Strengthening collaboration between beneficiaries and volunteers

## Actions taken

Through collaboration with UNICEF, AIC Manakara has owned a plot of land since 1992. For many years, mothers, volunteers and older children have been growing rice there, with the advice of technical staff, in order to protect the environment and achieve good yields.

The AIC Ambolosy Vohipeno group, twinned with AIC USA, has encouraged the growing of staple foods and fruit trees. Each family also raises chickens, whose manure can be used, to make organic fertilizer, among other things.

Technical staff from the green diocese collaborate with the 2 AIC groups, giving training to volunteers and beneficiaries about agriculture and animal rearing: vaccination, composting, preparing nursery beds for fruit or forest trees.

The green diocese is a project by the Farafangana diocese, aimed at protecting the environment. Specialist, competent and capable technicians provide training around the districts on environmental protection on issues such as reforestation and composting to avoid the use of chemical products so that soil fertility can be maintained.



## Evaluation of the impact of the work on sustainable development

Previously, the AIC Ambolosy Vohipeno beneficiaries made charcoal. They are now moving into agriculture and animal-rearing, thanks to AIC and in collaboration with the green diocese. There has been a marked improvement in living conditions of these beneficiaries since the projects began.