

‘Mother leaders’ receive kits to continue financing children’s education

As part of a holistic education strategy, UNICEF’s Let Us Learn program provides cash transfers to some of Madagascar’s most vulnerable children. Throughout its more than five years of implementation, more than 13,919 families, including 17,136 children, have benefited from cash transfers in seven districts of Madagascar.

In late 2021, UNICEF spoke to “mother leaders” who are key to making this program component a success. The “mother leaders” are community stakeholders at the head of beneficiary households. Mothers participating in the program distributed household kits to the beneficiary families. The kits included tools, watering cans, spades, rakes, and other items to support their cultivation activities.

Jeanine (pictured above), 62, wasted no time and immediately made good use of the kit she had received. In fact, in recent years, she has regularly made time to water her bean plants. She will sell them at the market once the seeds can be picked.

Jeanine was able to set up this small business thanks to the Let us Learn cash transfers that she had obtained successively for three of her six children.

Living with a sick husband who cannot work, Jeanine had to



properly manage the money she had received regularly from the program. Part of the allowance financed her business and another part funded the various fees and school stationeries for her children in college. Currently, she even has some money put aside for extra accessories, like a rechargeable solar light.

Mamiharisoa (pictured right), a mother of two children, has benefited from the cash transfer program for the past five years.

Her eldest is currently in high school thanks to the allowances she received. Now she can afford to rent her a small house in the Mahanoro district capital, where she spends her week studying.

Twice a week, she buys a bunch of bananas which she sells after cooking them. With the kits she received, Mamiharisoa will be able to expand her activities and

expects to be able to finance her children’s education until the end of high school.

She is confident about their future thanks to the cash transfer program.

UNICEF has been able to implement this social protection program thanks to donors like Zonta International.

