

ENGAGING GIRLS ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN MADAGASCAR



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OVERVIEW

In Madagascar, environmental degradation from climate change has already had a profound impact. For example, deforestation has impacted nearly 95% of Madagascar's previously forested lands, and almost 40% of forest cover has disappeared since the 1950s.

Climate change in Madagascar has had adverse effects on almost all sectors, including health, nutrition and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), with impacts on drinking water resources and access to sanitation and hygiene products.

The WASH program in Madagascar is helping reduce vulnerability and improve the resilience of local communities, particularly by focusing on empowering young and adolescent girls.

To that end, UNICEF is using the lens of menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) as a human right as one of the entry points for influencing girls' self-worth, mental health and physical and socio-economic health, holistically addressing the well-being of women and girls.

41%

Population that has access to basic water services.

19%

Schools that have access to safe water.



Wash and climate brochure



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WASH PROJECT

With the generous support of Zonta International, UNICEF is implementing environmental WASH projects in schools, focusing on girls, and promoting sensitivity toward the environment.

Five pilot schools in the Ambovombe and Beloha districts in the Androy region are addressing climate change through various activities:

- Tree planting and tending to school gardens and greenhouses.
- Safely managing waste and constructing improved and resilient sanitation and hygiene infrastructure (e.g., latrines with hand washing stations).
- Emphasizing the specific needs of young and adolescent girls, including needs around menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) through a sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) program.

Capacity building activities, including on MHH, have already begun at each school. For example, key WASH messages around hand washing after using latrines and before eating are embedded into curricula, and sanitary pads are supplied at school.

Teachers from the five schools will be included in the project's training of 750 teachers in August, during which teachers will create disaster risk plans that will enable learning to continue during natural disasters.

WASH materials have been procured and will be distributed to the five pilot schools. Materials include:

- WASH and menstrual hygiene posters.
- Picture boxes for teachers.
- iKa'lio board games (right) on MHH.
- Booklets on MHH for all girls.
- Garbage bins.
- WASH in school brochures.
- Chlorine.
- Salt-water treatment boxes.
- Boxes of soap.



The 2,460 students in the five pilot schools, including 1,315 girls, received WASH education, including MHH, which is embedded into students' life and Earth sciences curriculum.

Teachers are trained on the importance of private school showers to enable girls to manage their menstruation with dignity.

NEXT STEPS

As the project continues, UNICEF expects to complete the following activities by the end of 2023:



Training for trainers conducted for 20 people in the Regional Directorate of National Education, Androy with the trainers of the Ministry of National Education.

Training of 750 teachers from 700 target schools conducted, including the five pilot schools.

Signed contract for the construction of latrines.

