

Let Us Learn Madagascar

Empowering Girls Through Education: Phase III



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US\$500,000 to UNICEF USA

Goal:

Address education and gender inequity in Madagascar through approaches targeted toward adolescent girls.

Specific objectives:

- Ensure that more children, particularly girls (who drop out at higher levels in the post-primary level) have access to post-primary education and stay in school.
- Ensure that Madagascar's education system has the capacity to offer quality teaching for enhanced learning outcomes.

Let Us Learn is an integrated education program that is creating opportunities for vulnerable and excluded children, particularly girls, in Madagascar.

The program will be implemented in the Androy and Atsimo Andrefana regions and will support children as they transition from primary to lower secondary school.

Nationwide, one in four children aged 6–10 does not attend primary school and one in three children aged 11–14 does not attend lower secondary school. By providing vulnerable girls with opportunities to realize their right to an education in a secure and protective environment, Let Us Learn aims to reduce poverty and ultimately

empower Madagascar's next generation of female leaders.

Let Us Learn's comprehensive approach engages multiple sectors—including education, social protection, child protection and sanitation—to address the systemic challenges faced by adolescents, particularly girls, in the two targeted regions.

A total of 45,214 children (52 percent girls) will benefit from the program over the next two years.

From 2016–2020, Zonta International contributed US\$2 million to the Let Us Learn project, financing the program in the regions of Anosy, Androy and Atsimo Andrefana. Following is a snapshot of some key results.

Results to date

- **1,564 households**, caring for 4,793 children under 18, received a conditional cash transfer.
- **72,000 students** (36,585 girls) learned in classes facilitated by more than 3,000 teachers supported through trainings or teaching materials.
- **200 children** benefited from four new classrooms.
- Approximately **16,800 community members** were engaged on the importance of post-primary education, the risks and disadvantages related to early marriage and other child protection issues.
- **88 children's clubs** were established to promote children's rights in lower secondary schools.
- **937 out-of-school children** benefited from catch-up classes and returned to school.
- **396 teachers** in 109 lower secondary schools in Atsimo Andrefana had their teaching practices strengthened during visits by 27 pedagogical support providers.



for every child

Strategies

- Construct two classrooms—complete with latrines, a water point and equipment—to improve the learning environment and increase access to post-secondary education.
- Identify out-of-school children at the lower secondary level and provide them with alternative schooling so they can catch up with their peers and reintegrate into the formal school system.
- Provide monthly or bi-monthly cash transfers to the female head of the household to allow families to meet basic needs like food, water and medicines, thereby reducing the multiple deprivations they face, as well as freeing up other household income to support education costs.
- Address the issue of violence in schools and the interlinkages between violence in communities and violence in schools through child protection activities.
- Continue training support for teachers and school personnel on child rights.
- Establish one children's club per school and train club leaders to implement action plans for awareness sessions on child rights/child protection in schools and communities.
- Support the adoption of a code of conduct against violence at the region level.
- Strengthen the referral and intake services for children who are victims of violence, both in schools and in the community.
- Train pedagogical advisers, trainers and school principals so they can provide efficient and result-based pedagogical support to teachers.
- Distribute learning and teaching materials in schools that are in line with curriculum reform.
- Provide local training and formative supervision of teachers by trained trainers and educational staff, including on sexual and reproductive health and life skills.
- Support effective application of annual work plans and the production of regional statistical yearbooks, essential monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms via UNICEF's regional technical assistants (field-based officers).
- Support Life Skills Sessions that guide adolescents in discussions to help them adopt practices to prevent violence, protect themselves and their peers, and succeed in school.

Expected Outcomes



Around **100 children** will learn in two new classrooms, which will be complete with latrines, a water point, and equipment.

100 schools will receive pedagogical materials annually.

100 school principals will be trained.



100 follow-up monitoring visits and activities will be conducted by the pedagogical support officers.

750 households will benefit from conditional cash transfers.

700 children (at least 50 percent girls) will be reintegrated into school after attending catch-up classes.



3,500 children will have increased knowledge of life skills that support their well-being and healthy development.

Eight school districts will be supported to implement a code of conduct against violence in schools and to develop a functional intake and referral mechanism for child victims of violence and exploitation.

114 children's clubs will be established to implement plans of action to raise awareness in their schools and communities about the issue of violence.



1,600 children at risk and victims of violence and exploitation in schools and communities will benefit from medical, legal, or social support.

