



Feedback Madagascar – Ny Tanintsika – TASC

Report 2

“MIVOATSE” Project:

“Multi-Initiatives for the Vulnerable Of Ampasambazaha Towards Sustainable Employment”

24-10-2016

Introduction

The ‘MIVOATSE’ project works towards the autonomy or independence of the target group (initially people of the Star compound, but potentially expanding to other nearby areas in Fianarantsoa where homeless people are concentrated), so that they are empowered and capable of improving their own lives. This ultimately involves catalysing a change in their attitudes and behaviour, alongside skills training and other actions. The name ‘MIVOATSE’ was chosen for the project because it is a Malagasy word meaning a positive change or evolution, which is inspiring in itself.

This progress report follows the first report sent the 27th July 2016 and covers the period from August to the 20th October 2016. It includes progress with regards to the first round of livelihoods support provided to individuals and families in need, and related to the birth certificate and identity card action plan developed.

Specific initial objectives:

1. Improve the health of the people of the Star compound through education, facilitating access to services and provision of medical treatment where possible.
2. Ensure access to clean and potable water so that waterborne disease is not continuing to be spread. (ie. through filter initially until negotiations are carried out with the landowner).
3. Start a number of skills courses and information sessions so that they become independent and able to fend for themselves, and provide key start-up support to committed households.
4. Look at the immediate schooling needs of the children and get them the resources, books, etc. to go to school.

Following eviction from the STAR compound, five households moved to housing provided by the Catholic congregation of nuns ‘*Soeurs Filles de Charité Tambohobe*’ in their Ampopoka site. The move has been both exciting yet challenging for many – particularly integration into an established community and giving up past habits.

In general, we can say that a positive progression is evident with the majority of project beneficiaries, who are increasingly motivated to improve their situation – illustrated by their readiness to look for a room to live, their diligence in attending educational sessions and following advice, and a visible decrease in alcohol consumption.

Achievements

A. Various

- **Submitting a proposal to STAR:** We have had no feedback from the STAR Company since submitting a proposal for funding to help the homeless evicted from their land.
- **Health checks:** 5 tuberculosis tests have been carried out (out of 20 planned). Of these, 1 person was tested positive for TB, 1 was found to have pneumonia and another was identified as having a different respiratory condition. Treatment has been provided and monitoring carried out. The remainder of TB tests are planned shortly.
- **Educational & motivational sessions** (twice weekly, 1.5 hour sessions) to build self-esteem & motivation to change. These have been progressing nicely, with themes covered including; life in society and 'the family', water-sanitation-hygiene, preparation for livelihoods project launch, entrepreneurship, birth certificates and national identity cards, time management, simplified financial management, and urban agriculture.
- **Schooling children from the target group:** 23 children of project beneficiaries are schooled at the Lapan'ny Ankizy School in Ambalapaiso (where educational sessions and meetings are also held). 100% of the children of beneficiaries who have signed contracts are schooled.
- Although action plans for 7 beneficiary households were included in our 1st report, contracts / commitment letters have been signed with 12 initial beneficiaries setting individual targets. Beneficiaries of this first round of support were carefully selected. However, for varying reasons explained later, 2 of the 12 projects have not yet been launched. A summary is below:

Family	Name	Contract signed?	Project	Address	Project launched?
1	VOAHANGY Lalao Soaritiana Bernadette.	Yes	Charcoal-selling	Ambalavato	Yes, partly
2	ANDRIAMIFIDY HECTOR Etienne & ZAVASOA Lyna	Yes	Agriculture (& setting up a small grocery store)	Antsahasoa	Yes, partly (not yet grocery store)
3	RAZAFIMANDIMBY Laurent & RAOLIARISOA Clara	Yes	Wooden cart "Varamba" & vegetable-selling	Ambalavato	Yes, partly (not yet vegetable selling)
4	RAMERINA & RASOANIRNA Georgette	Yes	Cobbler & Fruit-selling	Antsahasoa	Yes
5	RANJALININA Voahangy [& Martin (Dadah)]	Yes	Raphia craft fabrication	Antananarivo	Yes (support focused on Voahangy)
6	RANDRIANANDRASANA Tina Fagot	Yes	Driving lessons / Mechanical training	Ambalavato	No (TB treatment underway)
7	RAMAMONJISOA Jean Louis Marie D & Harilalao	Yes	Selling household tools, & farming	Antsahasoa	Yes, partly
8	RAMAHARIMAFY Zafihova L. Tsara & R. Larissa Marie	Yes	Selling bread and patisserie, & selling household tools	Andavale/ Isaha	Yes
9	R. Natacha (Larissa's twin sister)	Yes	Selling second-hand clothes	Isaha	Yes
10	R. Clarisse	Yes	Agriculture & animal husbandry	Ambalavato	No (due to bad behaviour)
11	Faramalala Sylvia	Yes	Selling second-hand clothes	Ambatomena	Yes
12	NIVOARIMALALA & R. Pierre Robin	Yes	Selling hot soup. Wood-working workshop	Ambatomena/ Complexe	Yes, partly

- Opening savings accounts for each beneficiary of livelihoods support: The required paperwork for this is currently being prepared (residency certificates) for those people who have identity cards. As a temporary measure, beneficiaries' savings are being kept safe by FBM/NT.
- Provision of daily multivitamins to all target population: distributed at Saturday educational sessions for project beneficiaries.



Signing contracts with beneficiaries (left) & training on money management (right)

B. Achievements related to individual action plans:

1. Beneficiary 1: Voahangy Lalao

46 years old, 4 children.

Voahangy Lalao has returned to live in her mother's home in Ambalavato, Fianarantsoa. Since earning money from farming and animal husbandry take time, it was decided better that project support start by helping her with a small business to sell charcoal. After discussion with TASC in August, it was also decided unwise to remove the metal rod inserted in her left arm after it was fractured. However, health tests showed that she had pneumonia, reason for her hoarse voice, and this is being treated.

Help has also been provided to her daughter SEHENONIAINA Sylvie Valerie, 14 years old, who was sent to study at a Catholic boarding school in Ambatofinandrahana with project support. She is in class "6ème" now.



Valerie with her mother (left) and (right) in Ambatofinandrahana

2. **Beneficiary 2: Etienne**

39 years old, partner, 1 child. Ex-President of the Star complex. Suspected tuberculosis was diagnosed as being another respirator condition, and has been treated. He is now able to start farming activities near his new home in Ampopoka. Whilst waiting for the nuns to decide on which large parcel of land he can farm, he is starting by farming near to his home. Farming tools have been given as well as seed, and training is underway on a regular basis.



Zavaso, Hector's wife, in their house in Antsahasoa (Ampopoka) with equipment provided



Agricultural training held in Antsahasoa, Ampopoka in collaboration with the association FITEA



Practical training on compost-making.

3. **Beneficiary 3: RAZAFIMANDIMBY Laurent and RAOLIARISOA Clara**

Laurent (24 years old) and Clara (25 years old) have 1 child. They now rent a room in Ambalavato. They have been provided with a 'varamba' (wooden cart to transport materials) in order to earn money. Clara is keen to start selling vegetables in Ambalavao, support for which is planned soon. They are very motivated and dynamic.



Laurent with his new 'varamba'

4. **Beneficiary 4: Ramerina & Georgette**

Ramerina, 53, and Georgette, 42 have three children together. Support has been provided to help Ramerina improve his cobbler business to increase income generation. A kiosk was made. Although Ramerina's initial request for installation of the kiosk outside the EKAR Talatamaty wood-mill had been accepted, it was later refused and so the site of installation is still being negotiated.



Ramerina and Georgette signing the contract (left), and with a start-up kit of cobbler materials (right)

A few remaining materials (such as rubber, beeswax) have yet to be provided as suppliers are being identified.



Ramerina installing his new kiosk

Support has been given regarding his foot infection (ex-leprosy sufferer); provision of bandages, iodine and new shoes. It is planned to carry out a Doctor's consultation and hopefully a bone analysis to identify whether the infection has spread to his bone. It is also planned to provide him with a bicycle in order to make travel easier between his kiosk in Talatamaty and their new house in Ampopoka (to reduce pressure on his foot).

After much discussion about the best income-generation activity suited to Georgette that would reduce her temptation to drink alcohol, start-up funds have been provided for her to sell fruit near to her husband's kiosk in Talatamaty.

5. Beneficiary 5: Martin (« Dadah ») and Voahangy

Dadah and his partner Voahangy finally decided to return to Voahangy's home village on the outskirts of Antananarivo. Travel costs were provided as well as initial funds for Voahangy to start making crafts for income-generation. Examples of her raphia-woven products are here:



6. Beneficiary 6: RANDRIANAMBININA Tinah Fabio ("Philippe")

Philippe, 24 years old, is the brother-in-law of Voahangy Lalao and his mother, Marthe, lives in Ambalavato. Philippe was diagnosed with tuberculosis and has been undergoing treatment. However, other project support has yet to be provided because he has failed to keep to agreements about living in their family home in Ambalavato during his treatment. It was planned that, once cured, he would enrol in driving school. However this is dependent on his behaviour.

7. Beneficiary 7: RAMAMONJISOA Jean Louis Marie David & Harilalao

David and Ihary now live in Ampopoka with their three children (8, 5 and 3 years old). They have been provided with start-up funds to start selling various household goods as mobile street sellers, and Ihary is keen to farm near their new home. Ihary is starting to follow agricultural training with other beneficiaries from the village. They are making efforts to improve their lives, starting by sending their 3 children to school in Lapan'ny Ankizy Ambalapaiso.



David signing the appendix of his contract, & with Ihary receiving the goods.



David now a street-seller, and Ihary (next to Etienne) at an agricultural training in Antsahasoa.

8. Beneficiary 8: RAMAHARIMAFY Zafihova L. Tsara and his wife R. Larissa Marie

Mahary chose to sell bread, and his wife Larissa to sell tools.



Mahary and Larissa on receiving their start-up kit.



Larissa and her daughter selling daily household items in Ampasambazaha, & Mihary selling banana fritters.

9. **Beneficiary 9: Natacha**

Support was provided to Natacha to start-up a business selling second-hand clothes. It has not, however, been going as well as expected – with Natacha deciding to instead sell peanuts with money earned from selling clothes in the market.



Natacha (in pink) during the blind-folded splitting of clothes provided initially between her & Fara (left), & Nonot giving key tips on selling second hand clothes (right) to Natacha and Fara



Natacha selling peanuts in the market (with the bundle of clothes behind her)

10. **Beneficiary 10: Faramalala Sylvia**

Voahangy's daughter, 16 years old, Fara was abandoned by her father and became homeless. She recently suffered from her newborn baby dying shortly after childbirth - when support was given. She now lives with her boyfriend in Ambatomena. The project she chose for income-generation was the sale of second hand clothes. She is keen to prove that she is competent, dynamic and motivated to change her life with our support.



Fara with her boyfriend Raleza on receiving the second hand clothes to sell and selling in the market.



Natacha's boyfriend Romuald, right, and Fara's boyfriend Raleza, left, completing their daily cashbook.

11. Beneficiary 11: Pierre Robin and Nivoarimalala

RAZAFINIRINA Pierre Robin, 39 and NIVOARIMALALA Hanitriniaina Elisette, 33, have five children. Robin originally came from Vatomasina, Vohipeno but, during a difficult period in his life, he was imprisoned for 4 years at the age of 27 after stealing from a shop in Ambositra. Too embarrassed to return to Vohipeno on being freed, he met his partner Nivo and, after the death of her parents in Ambositra, they moved to Fianarantsoa. Before receiving project support, Robin worked as a docker in the Anjoma market and Nivo worked washing clothes. Originally living in the Star Compound, they moved to live in the 'Complexe' area 3 years ago but continued to spend much time at the Star compound.

Two projects were identified. Nivo desired to start selling hot soups and Pierre Robin requested a woodworking workshop. Support has so far been provided for the soup mini-projects, with success to date; on average they gain 40,000 Ariary per week.



Robin & Nivo delighted on receiving start-up equipment for their new business.



Pierre Robin & Nivo signing their contract (left) & Nivo selling hot soup and cooked cassava



12. Beneficiary 12: Brillante ('Olga')

Despite talking to Stuart in early August, Olga is still reluctant to go to Vohipeno; she is still afraid of being operated on. She left the STAR Compound at the end of August, moving to the "Complex" Ambatomena (new stadium area) but then returning to sleep on the street outside the "Philips" shop when she didn't like the "Complex".

2nd round of beneficiaries

Support to a 2nd round of beneficiaries is expected to start shortly; proposals are being developed for individuals / families considering to be deserving.



Educational sessions for the homeless.

C. Birth certificate and national identity card programme:

23 of project beneficiaries were originally identified as needing help to get birth certificates and 10 for National Identity Cards. Of these, 3 have succeeded in getting national identity cards. After contacting various different institutions in order to proceed with the birth certificate/identity card campaign, including the courts and the district authorities (who have also led information sessions with the target group), it was noted that the fee demanded by the courts is the same no matter how many people were to benefit. Although there are additional costs per individual, it is believed that more people could benefit from the budget we have. For this reason, this activity was put on hold until completion of the survey of homeless people in other parts of Ambatomena.

In collaboration with two Malagasy interns, Ravo and Hary, surveys have been completed of homeless people in other parts of Ambatomena neighbourhood (near Ampasambazaha). Quantitative data was collected focusing on their history, whether they have birth certificates / national identity cards, and regarding the schooling of their children. A summary of results are as follows:

Area of Ambatomena neighbourhood	Number of people surveyed	Number without:		Number of children of school age not at school
		Birth certificate	National identity card	
"COMPLEXE"	50	48	19	40
RAILWAY LINE	6	4	3	0
"MAGRO"	38	36	25	10
"INTER-PHOTO"	5	4	0	5
ANJOMA	10	9	6	0
TOTAL	109	101	53	55

It is now planned to include these new beneficiaries in the birth certificate/identity card campaign, and the activity will start shortly.



New identity cards for Pierre Robin (above) & Ramerina (below) who had lost their previous ones.



Outstanding activities:

The principal outstanding activities that were originally planned centre around various health initiatives, including:

- Monthly health clinic service. For any sex workers, recommend regular sexual health checks – particularly for HIV, and condom distribution.
- 6 monthly deworming
- Provision of nutritional supplements for children under 5 e.g. peanut butter.
- Obtain health books for children to plot on growth charts, & ask for vaccination history – if unclear, devise a re-vaccination programme.
- Collect weight & measure height of children in target group.

Request for help:

The 'Lapan'ny Ankizy' school in Ambalapaiso, where the project's educational sessions and meetings are held, have requested help with holding educational activities for children in the afternoons – as they only have lessons in the mornings. They consider this important to prevent pupils, all of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds, from begging.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges encountered when working with such vulnerable people, 'MIVOATSE' appears well on the way to achieving our objective of sustainable livelihoods and improved living conditions/well-being for the ex-homeless of the STAR compound. It continues to seem important to be patient, prudent and to continue beneficiary support activities to ensure real and lasting impact.