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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ADRA MADAGASCAR

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2

MOBILE CLINIC
IN MORONDAVA

3

VISITOR FROM
THE NETHERLANDS

3

RALOUIS'S
TRANSFORMATION

4

INTERN PROFILE

4

ADRA INFO

ALL-STAFF TEAM BUILDING



(Left) The winning team proudly poses with their spaghetti tower. (Center) The health group discusses how to integrate ADRA's core values into their work. (Right) During the beach day, the staff participated in a trust exercise where they had to lead their blindfolded partners through an obstacle course.

ADRA Madagascar held its 2016 Team Building event in Tulear at the Amazone hotel and Victory hotels on April 12-14. Staff from administration, and our four regional offices, Fianarantsoa, Bekily, Betroka, and Ampanihy, stayed in these two hotels and attended daily meetings and activities in the Amazone hotel.

The theme of this team building retreat was ADRA's five core values: integrity, transparency, compassion, efficiency, and engagement. To encourage teamwork and ownership amongst the staff, each department formed a working group to discuss how to incorporate ADRA's five values into their daily responsibilities. Each group presented their ideas for each value to the entire group and explained it in further detail. Pastor Hubert Rakotoarivony facilitated the discussions.

There were also demonstrations and activities to help build teamwork. One challenge was to build a tower using only dry spaghetti noodles and tape. This activity required every team member to contribute effort and ideas in order to make tallest free-standing tower that could support a marshmallow on top. Though all the teams worked hard, only a few were able to successfully build a tower in the amount of time given. That winning team illustrated the importance of working not only in unison but also swiftly to accomplish given tasks.

The team building also included social activities. One night, ADRA held a special dinner at Victory Hotel. Staff from each office wore cultural attire and performed traditional songs and dances from the region where they worked. On the last day of the program, the whole group went to a beautiful beach north of Tulear where they participated in team building activities and

See **TEAM BUILDING**, p. 4



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Mobile Clinic News



Left: The dental health week in Morondava attracted many people who did not have access to dental care. Right: Jaona, driver of the mobile clinic, was also in charge of sterilizing the tools.



A LONG JOURNEY FOR THE MOBILE CLINIC!



Anny, ADRA's maintenance agent, was responsible for registering the patients served by our mobile dental clinic.

In the month of April, ADRA's mobile dental clinic held its second campaign of the year. Our truck went on a two-day journey to Morondava, 700 km south-west of the capital, where the Dental health week took place, from April 25 to 28th.

Dental Health Week is a national annual event organized by the Ministry of Health, during which dentists from private and public clinics over the country gather to offer free dental care and oral health education. ADRA's mobile clinic was invited to provide free dental extractions during that week.

Three members of our staff went down with the truck: Jean-Baptiste Tahianarijaona, who drove the truck; Herimanjato Randriamiarintsoa, from the program department, and Anny Solondrabefazy, who is in charge of maintenance. For this occasion, ADRA provided the equipment and the supplies for the extractions, and the Ministry of Health assigned the dentists who carried out the work.

It took the truck two days to reach the Malaimbandy commune, where the first day of the campaign was conducted, 176 km before Morondava. The population of that commune was in great need of dental care because there is only one dentist in the area, and he is not always available. That day alone, 134 people were

treated by our clinic.

The next day, the team headed to Morondava, where the official ceremony of the dental health week took place on April 27th. After the opening speeches, about 80 dentists scattered throughout a school where hundreds of people had been waiting for the extractions. On that day, our truck received 53 people.

Our team spent the last day in the Analaiava commune, about 25 km from Morondava. No dental service is available in that commune. As a result, people have to travel to town to get dental care, which is an expense very few can afford. Forty-six people received free extractions that day.

Anny, who was in charge of maintaining the truck and registering the patients during the campaign, particularly enjoyed serving the patients. "I enjoyed this experience because I could see firsthand the benefit we brought to these people. They were in pain, and we removed what hurt them," he said.

- Mirville Ravoninjatovo



Project news

ADRA Netherlands: 20 Years of Partnership in Madagascar!



Communication and Fundraising Officer from ADRA ECF, Joanne de Vletter meets with staff and parents at EPA Avaratezana, one of the three Adventist schools that have students sponsored by ADRA Netherlands.

The year 2016 marks twenty years of collaboration between ADRA Madagascar and ADRA Netherlands to help Malagasy students complete their primary education through the ADRA Eijkelenboom Children's Fund (ECF).

In April, Joanne de Vletter, Communication and Fundraising Officer for ADRA ECF came to Madagascar to visit the three schools where ECF

sponsors students. She visited the schools, and even the homes of several sponsored children. She met with their families and learned about their lives.

The ADRA Eijkelenboom Children's Fund began more than 25 years ago as "Action Pakistan," a student sponsorship program started by Miny and Wim Eijkelenboom. While working in Pakistan, they witnessed the extreme

poverty and realized that education was a key factor to ensuring a better future for the children. When they returned to the Netherlands, they started "Action Pakistan" and sponsored six students.

After a few years, the fund had grown beyond the capacity of the Eijkelenbooms to manage, so they asked ADRA Netherlands for help. As an official ADRA project, the fund was renamed "Eijkelenboom Children's Fund." Not long after, ADRA Madagascar began a partnership with ADRA Netherlands, and several Malagasy students were sponsored through Eijkelenboom Children. Twenty years later, there are now 97 students from three Adventist schools in Madagascar, who receive funding for school fees and supplies.

Currently, ADRA ECF sponsors 426 children in Pakistan, Nepal, and Madagascar. The fund is supported by private donations primarily from Adventist churches in the Netherlands, though ADRA is looking to expand the donor base both inside and outside of the church. While the fund only works with Adventist schools, the sponsored students themselves are from all different faiths. The primary determining factor in each case of sponsorship is their need.

We are proud to be part of such an initiative with ADRA Netherlands and we look forward to helping even more children have a brighter future through education!

- Renee Ceroniski

Disgrace to Inspiration: Ralouis's Transformation through FFS



Louis de Gonzague Ratsimbazafy, known as Ralouis, lives in Sahave, a small village in the south central highlands of Madagascar. He has 7 people in his household, which consists of himself and his wife, their three children, one grandchild, and his mother.

Like all of his neighbors, Ralouis is a rice farmer. However, his rice production levels were always very low compared to the other farmers.

He had the reputation of being an unlucky farmer, and his harvests had even become the mockery of the neighborhood. Last year, he harvested only 14 baskets or 364 kg of rice from his 14-are field, which is a yield of about 2MT/Ha. Thus, he struggled to feed the members of his households. The low yields were the result of climate change, his practice of traditional planting techniques, and the poor quality of soil.

The arrival of ADRA's USAID-funded ASOTRY project changed Ralouis's situation. One of the project's purposes is to increase the livelihoods of farmers like Ralouis, through improved agriculture. Technicians of the project came in his commune and encouraged the farmers to join the Farmer Field School groups, which is one of the approaches adopted by the project to disseminate improved agriculture techniques.

Eager to see improvements in his life, Ralouis decided to join the 'Akangamaro' FFS group. He even offered his rice field as a demonstration plot for the promoted techniques. Then, he thoroughly applied the practices taught by the project, which included composting, and other techniques to increase rice production.

His efforts paid off when harvest time

arrived. His production tripled compared to last year, and he harvested 46 baskets or 1196 kg of rice, an average yield of 6.5 MT/Ha. The other farmers were amazed by the difference between Ralouis's current harvest and their own rice production, especially considering all his previous low harvests.

Since then, Ralouis's life began to change. His reputation has grown, and he has gained the esteem of his peers, who have elected him as a lead farmer in his group. As his potential to produce rice has increased, he has also become a member and the treasurer of the Farmer Business Association in his commune. This group was also set up by the ASOTRY project to link the farmers to new markets for their products.

Now, Ralouis has enough rice to feed his family throughout the year, and he even has extra rice for long term projects. "I will join a cooperative, and invest the extra rice in it," he said.

Because of his success with FFS, Ralouis foresees a better future for his family. "We will not run out of rice any longer. And today, I can support with confidence the education of my two girls. One of them will start high school next year," he said."

- Mirielle Ravoninjatovo



Other News

Project Management Intern Profile: Océane Thaeder

Cont. from TEAM BUILDING, p. 1

played beach games. That day was exciting because it gave everyone a chance to partner with a colleague they might not have interacted with before. There were a few blindfold activities which allowed the staff to build trust between one another. The weather was perfect for swimming, and before each group left to return to their respective offices, they shared a picnic lunch.

Overall, the Team Building event was a great opportunity for each staff member to get to know others who share the same daily tasks and goals. It encouraged everyone to think and discuss how to make ADRA more professional and effective through its five core values. And most importantly, it gave each person a sense of belonging as an ADRA Madagascar team member.

- Shaina Magnaza



My name is Océane Thaeder. I'm 22 years old, and I'm from Paris, France. After getting a bachelor's degree in nursing, I decided to continue my studies in the area of project management. Last year, I did my Master 1 internship with ADRA East Timor. I helped the office conduct its first needs assessment, as well as write a few proposals for agriculture projects. It was a great experience, and I really wanted to do my Master 2 internship with ADRA again. Fortunately, ADRA Madagascar accepted my application. I'm eager to learn more about their projects and to participate in their interventions. During my 4-month internship, I'll work in the south of Madagascar, Ampanihy, as a project management intern in the ZINA food security project. In the future, I hope I'll have the opportunity to continue working with ADRA.

- Océane Thaeder



Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Madagascar became an officially recognized NGO by the Government of Madagascar in 1992. Since then, we have implemented a diverse portfolio of food security, health, education, and relief projects, primarily in the central, eastern and southern regions of Madagascar. ADRA Madagascar currently maintains offices in the capital city of Antananarivo, Fianarantsoa in the southern-central plateau, and Betroka, Bekily, and Ampanihy in the south of the island.

"Maki" is the Malagasy word for a ring-tailed lemur. This month's background photo was taken on the beach in Ifaty.

CURRENT PROJECTS

| Project Name | Duration | Donors | Type | Location |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---|
| ASARA | 2014-2018 | European Union | Food security | Betroka and Bekily |
| ASOTRY | 2014-2019 | USAID/FFP | Food security | Amoron'i Mania, Haute Matsiatra, and Atsimo Andrefana (implemented by ADRA's partners) |
| EAPROM | September 2015-September 2016 | USAID/OFDA | Food security | Bekily and Ampanihy |
| ZINA | 2015-2019 | BMZ | Food security | Ampanihy |
| Education Project / Stop Hunger Now | December 2013-July 2016 | Stop Hunger Now / ADRA International | Education | Analamanga |
| Education Project / TOMS Shoes | November 2013-December 2016 | TOMS Shoes / ADRA International | Education | Analamanga, Haute Matsiatra, Atsinanana, Atsimo Andrefana, Alaotra Mangoro, and Vatovavy Fitovinany |