



# MAKI MAIL



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## PROJECT ZINA HAS BEGUN!

Participants in the ZINA startup workshop (L-R) Solohery David Razafindrakoto, ZINA Agriculture Specialist; Vero Razafindraibe, ADMIN Finance Director; Kenny Fardou Desana, ZINA RAEB; Tsarafidy Rasendraharison ADRA M&E Coordinator; Jürgen Roth, ADRA Germany; Harilala Randriamaharo, ZINA Project Coordinator; Mamy Hary Tiana Razafindriaka, South Regional Coordinator; Shalom Laïson, ADMIN Programs Director; Felana Annie Ranaivomanana, ADMIN M&E Intern, Fierenantsoa Ranjaharinony, ZINA Resilience Specialist; Fidy Raharijaona, ZINA Logistics Officer

**L**ate January and early February were full of activity for our newest project, ZINA!

On January 25-27, a team from ADRA Madagascar and ADRA Germany visited Ampanihy, southwest Madagascar, where ZINA will operate. During this visit, the team met with the local authorities and several nearby villages to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges that the project will face.

The team from Germany consisted of Jürgen Roth, Country Coordinator and food security focal point, Martin Haase, Communication Director, and Fabienne Seibel, Public Relations. Martin and Fabienne gathered photos and film to promote the project back in Germany, while Jürgen spoke to leaders and communities about their food security situation.

Ampanihy has suffered from drought for nearly 10 years, but recently, conditions have taken a turn for the worse. Last year, crops failed because the rains came too little, too late. This year is expected to be similar.

During the field visits, the team observed fields of withered corn and dried bean plants. Water was so scarce that one community's sole source of drinking water was a muddy well. Cactus fruit, a common last-resort food source, was present everywhere, as cactus was one of the few plants that still grew abundantly. The team from ADRA Germany was amazed by both the hardships and the resilience of the people they met.

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During the startup workshop for ZINA, the team planned the detailed activities for the project, as well as learned about ADRA procedures.



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## Project News



(Above) The ZINA launch ceremony in Ampanihy allowed the local leaders to learn about the project and get answers to their questions. (Below) A woman in the village of Belaza draws water from the village well. Though it is muddy, it is the only source of drinking water for the village. (Bottom) Insufficient rain has taken a toll on crops.



### ZINA cont. from p. 1

On January 26, the official ZINA launch was held in Ampanihy. Approximately 100 local leaders attended the ceremony, which included speeches, time for questions and answers, and refreshments at the new ADRA Ampanihy office.

After the field visit and launch in Ampanihy, the team returned to Tana, where Jürgen led the startup workshop for the project specialists. The team worked to create a detailed implementation

plan for ZINA. Within a week after the workshop was finished, the team headed south to set up the office in Ampanihy. We look forward to publishing more updates about the project's progress!

ZINA is a 44-month food security project funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – or BMZ. It will operate in 80 villages in the District of Ampanihy, southwest Madagascar. The project will address the deteriorating food security situation in this area, through agriculture, resilience, and health activities.

- Renee Ceroniski



## ASOTRY Project:

# VSL CHANGES ONE FAMILY AT A TIME...



Zozy used her VSL loans to start raising chickens and weaving mats and baskets to sell. VSL has made it possible for Zozy to support her family of seven!

Before Robertine Razafindrahasa became involved with ADRA's USAID-funded ASOTRY project, she struggled to support her three children and the four other dependents living with her. But then the ASOTRY project came to her village and set up a Village Savings and Loan (VSL) group. Members of a VSL group contribute to a common fund by purchasing shares every week. From that fund, they can take out small loans to support their business ventures. All the repaid loans and interest are returned to the fund, which is divided among the members at the end of the year-long cycle, according to the number of shares they had purchased. VSL provides villagers with limited resources access to credit and a safe place to save their money.

Robertine, known as Zozy, became president of her 26-member VSL group and after a few months, she took out her first loan of 40,000 MGA (about \$12.65 USD). She used her loan to start raising chickens and weaving mats and baskets to sell in the market. Three months later, she was ready to take out another loan for 150,000 (about \$47.50 USD). Over time, Zozy's chicken business grew until she had 50 chickens in her house. Zozy told Ilse, ASOTRY VSL volunteer, that her next plan was to build a chicken coop.

Since Zozy started taking VSL loans and investing them in her business, her life has begun to change for the better. With the net profit from her businesses, she could repay the interest on her loans, buy more VSL shares every week, and buy food for her family.

The benefits didn't stop there. Three years ago, Zozy's son had dropped out of school so he could work in the fields to support his family. But after VSL and Zozy's businesses took off, he was able to return to school and continue his education!

- Renee Ceroniski, Ilse Ruben, and Clovis Rasolonantenaina



## ASARA News



## Renovated Dam Resolves Community Water Crisis

The village of Ankatrafay in the Betroka District is located next to the Mangoky river, a large water source for rice farming. However, farmers could not take advantage of the river, because the dam and irrigation canals connecting to the river were damaged long ago.

Arnaud is one of the rice farmers from Ankatrafay who struggled with water problems for many years. His situation changed when ADRA arrived in this village to implement the ASARA project.

ASARA is a European Union-funded food security project which ADRA has implemented in Betroka since 2014. One of its objectives is to increase agricultural production by improving basic infrastructure such as dams, and increasing the surface area of irrigated land.

The dam of Ankatrafay served about 100 nearby households and irrigates about 50 hectares of rice fields. However, the quantity of water provided by the irrigation canal was very limited, so each plot had to be irrigated by turn. Sometimes it took up to two days to irrigate one plot.

This situation caused community conflicts. "The use of the canal had to be monitored day and night, because sometimes people stole someone else's turn," said Arnaud. "Moreover, we were not treated equally because those who could afford it bribed the people in charge of the canal, causing discrimination in the way water was distributed."

When ASARA came to this area in 2015, they asked the communities about their infrastructure needs. The population asked the project to repair the dam, because despite their efforts to fix it with local materials, it was damaged every time the rain fell. The project started rehabilitating the dam and the 5 km canal in October, and by December, the farmers could fully use the river water.

Since then, rice farming has drastically improved, as well as community life in Ankatrafay. "Because there is enough water for all of the rice fields, we don't fight for water any longer," said Arnaud. "We even help each other in the field, because now there is so much work to do," he said. As irrigation improved, rice fields could be extended to 62 hectares. Today, 300 households benefit from it.

Arnaud was excited when he talked about his field, "I could increase my field by 6 acres, and my wife is very happy to help me work in my new rice field," he said. Like the other farmers, he is very optimistic about this year's yields. "We thank the ASARA project, because before we could plant rice only once a year," said Arnaud. "But thanks to this dam, we will be able to plant twice or even three times a year."

- Mireille Ravoninjatovo



(Top) The rehabilitated dam at Ankatrafay currently irrigates 62 hectares of land. (Above left and right) Arnaud and his wife are happy to work in their newly expanded rice field.

(Bottom) Now, instead of fighting over water, the farmers work together to grow more rice in the fields irrigated by the dam and canals.





## ADMIN Staff New Year Celebration!



(Top left) ADMIN staff and families at IMAHO  
 (Top middle) Hoby Tiana leads out in a group game.  
 (Top right) Proud grandfather Jhon and his granddaughter  
 (Bottom) Daniel explains the rules for the next group game.

On January 8, 2016, the ADMIN staff of ADRA Madagascar celebrated the new year. Staff members were encouraged to bring their families to IMAHO, a retreat spot on the outskirts of town. We ate lunch, played games, exchanged gifts, and swam in the swimming pool.

As we begin 2016, we hope to grow as a team and as an organization so we can more effectively serve the population of Madagascar!

- Renee Ceroniski



ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT  
AND RELIEF AGENCY  
MADAGASCAR

*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 Antananarivo, Fianarantsoa in the southern-central plateau, and Betroka in the south of the island.*

*"Maki" is the Malagasy word for a ring-tailed lemur. This month's background photo was taken above Bekily.*

### 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