

## Climate smart villages

An investment in resilient, sustainable villages and a green, opportunity-rich future for children.

### MADAGASCAR

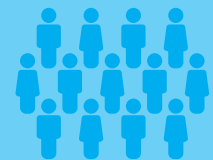
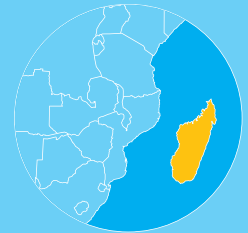


Off the east coast of Africa lies one of the largest islands in the world: Madagascar. This stunning island, known for its unique biodiversity, is increasingly affected by the impacts of climate change, with children bearing the brunt of these consequences. Through the innovative project “Climate-Smart Villages,” UNICEF aims to alleviate this burden by making vulnerable villages in Madagascar more resilient and sustainable.

#### Doelen

1. UNICEF Madagascar aims to make 20 vulnerable villages climate-smart between 2022 and 2025. This involves providing access to water systems, ecological toilets, sustainable electricity, and internet. UNICEF also seeks to increase climate change awareness in these villages, particularly among children.
2. The project aims to reach approximately 50,000 people, including 25,000 children, ensuring they live in a climate-resilient and sustainable environment. This, in turn, will improve their access to education and healthcare services.
3. To ensure the project's sustainability and foster a local circular economy, UNICEF plans to provide small grants to local businesses and train them in the construction and maintenance of new facilities, such as water infrastructure and composting toilets.
4. UNICEF Netherlands has set a goal to implement Climate-Smart Interventions in at least 2 of the 20 villages, impacting around 1,700 people, including 850 children.

#### DATA



Inhabitants

**28 MILLION**

Madagascar is among the top four countries most severely impacted by the effects of climate change.



**14 MILLION  
< AGE OF 18**

42% of children under the age of five are malnourished.

## Why More Help is Needed

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world. Seventy-eight percent of the population lives in poverty, 42% of children under five are malnourished, and access to clean water is extremely limited. Additionally, Madagascar is among the top four countries hardest hit by climate change. In the south, increasing extreme droughts are causing already vulnerable crops to fail and worsening food insecurity.

Children are disproportionately affected by this situation, both now—through hunger, disease, and poverty—and in the long term—through poor health, developmental delays, and a threatened environment. Yet, it is crucial to foster a strong generation of children to build a more sustainable and better future.

## What UNICEF Is Doing

With the innovative 'Climate-Smart Villages' project, UNICEF aims to mitigate the impact of climate change on children by making 20 vulnerable villages in southern Madagascar more resilient and sustainable. UNICEF and its partners plan to achieve this by providing the following:

**Access to Clean Water:** Each village will receive water pumps, reservoirs, pipelines, irrigation systems, and/or purification facilities. Local entrepreneurs will be trained to maintain these systems. The water will be available for households, schools, and health centers, and farmers will use it for irrigation, making agriculture less vulnerable to drought.

**Eco-Toilets:** Each village will be equipped with eco-toilets that operate without water, composting waste into agricultural fertilizer. This not only improves sanitation—helping to prevent the spread of diseases and keeping children and families healthier—but also benefits local farmers by providing compost for better crop yields.

**Sustainable Utilities for (Solar) Electricity and Internet**  
Both solar electricity and internet access are essential for effective local water management. Additionally, electricity and internet provide developmental opportunities—improving business operations for farmers and local entrepreneurs, enhancing educational outcomes in schools, and advancing healthcare services in health centers.



Vollandinandraza, a 13-year-old lives in the Ehavo village in southern Madagascar, she now benefits from a new water system installed by UNICEF in collaboration with the regional authorities. Thanks to solar-powered water pumps, the entire village has access to clean water and sanitation facilities.

The system is powered by eighteen solar panels, generating a total capacity of 2.25 kilowatts. As a result, nearly 500 people in the village can access clean water every day.

### Raising Awareness Among Adults and Children

It is crucial for both adults and children to understand the problem and its solutions. Knowledge about climate change and adaptation fosters support for the project. Ultimately, this will nurture a new generation of resilient children who are equipped to create a more sustainable environment and build a better future.

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