

Climate-Smart Villages

An investment in resilient, sustainable communities and a green, opportunity-filled future for children.



Madagascar is among the countries most severely affected by climate change. The south of the island frequently experiences prolonged drought, which exacerbates poverty and has serious consequences for the health, development, and well-being of the children who live there. UNICEF's Climate-Smart Villages project offers a community-based approach to strengthening the resilience and climate adaptability of villages, so that children can grow up safely and look towards a hopeful future.

Results we aim to achieve



1. Making at least 21 villages climate-smart. We aim to achieve this by providing villages with access to sustainable electricity, water supply, internet connectivity, and eco-friendly sanitation facilities. This will give children improved access to clean drinking water, nutritious food, healthcare, and higher-quality education.
2. Increasing climate knowledge in 21 villages through climate education and awareness-raising on topics such as water conservation and sustainable agriculture. This enables communities to proactively respond to climate risks and equips children with the knowledge they need to shape a greener future for themselves.
3. Training community members, including women and young people, in green entrepreneurship skills and supporting small-scale business development, thereby strengthening household resilience and promoting economic self-reliance.
4. Ensuring sustainable improvements in living conditions for approximately 50,000 people, including around 25,000 children (directly and indirectly). In addition to creating a more resilient living environment, the interventions will improve children's nutrition, health, and protection, safeguarding their future and their rights.

MADAGASCAR

COUNTRY INFO



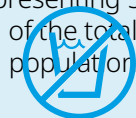
POPULATION
28 MILLION

Madagascar ranks among the countries most severely affected by climate change



14 MILLION

under 18, representing 50% of the total population



57%

of the population has no basic access to clean drinking water



42%

of children under the age of 5 are malnourished



WHY MORE HELP IS NEEDED

Madagascar is among the poorest countries in the world. Approximately 80 percent of the population must get by on less than \$2.15 per day. Only 43 percent of the population has basic access to water. In the south, this figure is as low as around 19 percent. Climate change is worsening the water crisis and leading to longer periods of drought. Deforestation is also widespread on the island, further intensifying the drought.

These challenges have a profound impact on children in Madagascar. Growing numbers of children are at risk of malnutrition due to, among other things, failed harvests, which can permanently harm their development. Children are also more vulnerable to serious illness, for example from drinking contaminated water.

Climate change affects the entire world, but hits the very poorest hardest. People and children in southern Madagascar are becoming increasingly and more frequently dependent on humanitarian aid. More than ever, the population needs sustainable solutions that provide reliable water sources, improved healthcare and education, better livelihoods, and help reduce the risks of climate change.

WHAT DOES UNICEF DO

In the Climate-Smart Villages project, UNICEF works closely with local communities to create sustainable and climate-resilient villages in three southern regions of Madagascar: Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo Andrefana. The project focuses on three components: climate-smart infrastructure, green entrepreneurship, and the expansion of knowledge. This holistic approach strengthens community resilience, improves livelihoods, and promotes the wellbeing and development of children.

Climate-smart infrastructure

The first pillar of the project is establishing access to climate-resilient, green infrastructure in the villages. This includes solar-powered water supply systems that provide both drinking water and irrigation water, solar panels for electricity in schools and health centres, ecological sanitation, and internet access. We train communities in maintaining these facilities in order to support ownership and long-term sustainability.

Promoting green entrepreneurship

A second core component of the project is fostering green entrepreneurship to strengthen the local economy and support residents — including women and young people — in generating greater income. We offer training tailored to the needs of village residents. Examples include the production of ecological charcoal, honey production, insect farming, and the making of cotton sanitary pads. We also support small-scale business development.

Knowledge

We expand knowledge about climate change in the villages by informing local authorities, adults, and children about the risks of climate change and sustainable solutions. We do this through awareness-raising and training in water conservation, sustainable agriculture, and green educational programmes in schools. Through school vegetable gardens and tree planting, among other things, children learn about where their food comes from, the role of water, and the importance of the climate.

A holistic and inclusive programme

Each village has unique needs, which means the types of interventions and the duration of implementation can vary from village to village. Encouraging local entrepreneurship may progress more quickly in a village with existing economic activity than in one where this is still absent. These differences shape our approach and planning for the implementation of activities



GIFT EXAMPLES



With €2.500 UNICEF can create a school garden (materials, teacher training) at a school, through which we can reach around 200 pupils.



With €5.000 UNICEF can plant 200 trees in a village, primarily fruit trees so that they simultaneously benefit the nutritional situation. Per village, UNICEF aims to plant around 1,000 trees.



With €10.000 UNICEF can drill one borehole in a village from which water can be pumped. The number of boreholes needed varies per village.



The cost of a complete water supply system in a village (including all necessary infrastructure for drinking water and irrigation) is around **€50.000**. With this, UNICEF can provide approximately 1,500 people, of whom around 500 are children, with clean drinking water and irrigation water.



A teacher shows her pupils how to work the soil during a green lesson. In the Climate-Smart Villages project, children take part in climate-related activities such as planting trees. In this way, attention is drawn to the importance of water and trees for the living environment. This promotes knowledge about the climate and children's nutritional health, and equips children and young people with the knowledge and tools to contribute to a more sustainable future.



© UNICEF/UN17/19728/A/Andrianantenaina

UNICEF Nederland
Bezuidenhoutseweg 74
2594 AW Den Haag
088 444 96 66
info@unicef.nl
unicef.nl

For more information, please contact:

unicef 
for every child