

Climate-Smart Villages

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



In the south of Madagascar, clean water is not a given. Only 19% of people have access to it, and the climate crisis is making that situation worse. Children pay the highest price.

With the Climate-Smart Villages project, we work together with 21 villages toward a future where children can grow up healthy, go to school, and simply be children. Thanks in part to your support from the Netherlands, all 21 villages now have basic infrastructure in place. But we go beyond water alone: local communities are building green enterprises and sustainable habits that will last for generations.

4 results we aim to achieve:

1. In 21 villages, we provide climate-smart infrastructure: clean water, sustainable electricity, and ecological sanitation. By the end of 2028, at least 15,000 jerry cans of clean drinking water will be sold, with each jerry can supplying ten children with safe drinking water.
2. Planting 4,000 trees (around 200 per village) to improve soil quality, water management, and the living environment. Children actively participate, so that from an early age they learn to care for their surroundings.
3. Residents (with extra attention for women and young people) receive training in green entrepreneurship. By 2028, at least 250 sustainable products will have been developed and sold by people from the villages themselves.
4. We organize 200 village meetings to share knowledge about climate change, connect communities, and work together toward solutions for a sustainable future.

MADAGASCAR

COUNTRY INFO



Population:
28 MILLION



57%
of the population
has no basic
access to clean
drinking water



**14 MILLION
CHILDREN**
under 18,
representing 50%
of the total
population



42%
of children under
the age of 5 are
malnourished



4 results we have achieved:

1. Access to clean water: all villages now have basic infrastructure in place, including water supply facilities. Over **30.000 jerrycans (20 L)** of water have been sold to date, demonstrating that the new facilities are being well utilized.
2. Greening: 70 trees have been planted as a first step toward a greener, more resilient living environment.
3. Green entrepreneurship: over 1,330 sustainable products have been developed and over 800 products have been sold, demonstrating the growth of local economic activity.
4. Knowledge and awareness: in 75 village meetings, communities shared knowledge, connected with one another, and worked together on solutions to the challenges that climate change brings.

What have we achieved?

Green facilities

In all 21 villages, climate-smart infrastructure is now in place: clean water, street lighting, and ecological sanitation. That may sound practical, but the impact goes far beyond that. Children no longer have to walk kilometers for water. They can move safely through the streets. They do their homework by light. And they grow up in an environment that is healthier than the one their parents knew.

More than fourteen schools and health centres now run on solar energy. Education and healthcare have become more reliable as a result, and fossil fuels are no longer needed for them. What makes us most proud: in ten villages, over 100 trained residents manage the infrastructure themselves. They are the owners of their own progress. We provided the means — they make sure it lasts.

Responsible entrepreneurship

Thanks in part to your support from the Netherlands, green entrepreneurship in the villages received a concrete boost in recent months. We supported communities in developing initiatives that suit their environment and needs — not imposed from the outside, but shaped together with the people who live there.

A great example: in twenty villages, worm composting systems have been set up. Organic waste is converted into nutritious compost — good for the soil, good for the harvest, and a source of income for families. 60 residents received training in ecological waste management, learning not only to improve their living environment, but also to seize economic opportunities that were always there, but are only now becoming visible.

Knowledge

A sustainable future begins with knowledge. That is why green school programmes have been introduced in 13 villages, with lessons on water, nutrition, energy, and climate — tailored to the reality in which children in Madagascar grow up. Beyond the classroom, children also learn outdoors: school and community gardens give them the opportunity to discover with their own hands how to live in harmony with nature. They grow food, learn to care for the soil, and eat more healthily.

In four villages, Life Skills lessons have been added to this. Young people learn not only about sustainability, but also about resilience — how to cope with setbacks, how to make decisions, and how to contribute to their community. Skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.



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'It feels good to do something that truly matters for the village.'

Metrine starts every morning at the water pump, less than two doors from her home in Terabovo, a climate-smart village in southern Madagascar. As a single mother, she manages one of the water points that have been installed — a responsibility she has embraced wholeheartedly. But Metrine did not stand still. Through the village savings and credit association, she set up a small pasta business. Step by step, she is building a more stable future — for herself and for her children.

With your support, we make it possible for women like Metrine to gain access not only to clean water, but also to the opportunities that come with it.

The challenges

Honesty is part of the process. Working in the remote villages of Anosy and Androy requires patience and flexibility — and we needed plenty of both in 2025. Extreme weather, seasonal agriculture, and the difficult accessibility of villages sometimes made planning complex. Tree planting in particular proved highly dependent on the season, something we will take better into account in future planning.

We also noticed that change takes time. Some communities needed more guidance before they could take on new initiatives independently. That is not a shortcoming — it is a reality we take seriously. Because sustainable change does not happen overnight. It is built together, step by step.

Future plans

The foundation is in place. Now we build further on the people who carry it.

In 2026, we will focus on strengthening skills, with special attention for young people and women. We will train communities in climate adaptation and leadership, and support young people in setting up their own environmental projects. Because the next generation of leaders for a green Madagascar is growing up in these villages — we help them on their way.

Parents and community leaders are actively involved, so that changes are not imposed from the outside but are carried from within. Sustainable change only works when people believe in it themselves.

All of this we do together with you. Because without your support, it remains a plan. With your support, it becomes reality — for Metrine, for her children, and for thousands of others in the villages of southern Madagascar.



Charlys, originally from Tsivory, is learning to make soap. With support from UNICEF, she received practical training to improve her skills. In the photo, she carefully weighs and measures each ingredient under the guidance of her trainer, as she focuses on the process of learning how to make soap.

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