

Challenges Facing Girls

- Higher school drop-out rates
- Lack of quality education
- Inadequate school facilities, including lack of gender-separated latrines
- Lack of menstrual hygiene management guidance, information and facilities
- High prevalence of violence, abuse and exploitation in the home and school
- High prevalence of child marriage



Progress

The project has seen the following results since Zonta International started supporting it in 2016:

- About 700 girls who had dropped out of school participated in catch-up classes.
- 573 students benefited from literacy classes.
- 13,185 girls in both regions are benefiting from pedagogical kits and materials, and teachers receiving training.
- More than 3,000 children were reached through interpersonal communication activities.

An integrated program for adolescent girls

2018-2020 Funding: US\$1,000,000 to UNICEF USA

Background

Let Us Learn is an integrated education program that is creating opportunities for vulnerable and excluded children, particularly girls, in Madagascar. The interventions included in this project are designed to help girls realize their right to an education in a secure and protective environment. The program will be implemented in two target regions—Androy and Atsimo Andrefana—supporting girls' transition from primary to lower secondary school and ultimately reducing poverty.

Investing in lower secondary school education is an entry point to addressing barriers to equity and a means to improving the overall social sector performances of the country. Let Us Learn's integrated approach engages several sectors—education, social protection, child protection and sanitation in order to address the broader challenges faced by adolescents, particularly girls.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Address education and gender inequity in Madagascar through approaches targeted toward adolescent girls.

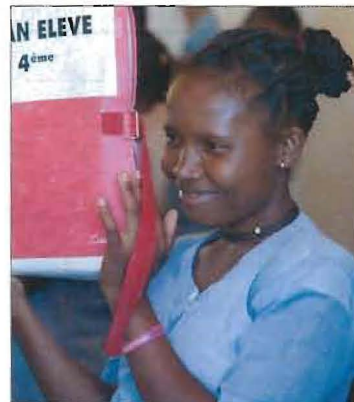
Specific objectives:

- Ensure that more children, particularly girls (who drop out at higher levels in the post-primary level) have access to post-primary education and stay in school.
- Ensure that Madagascar's education system has the capacity to offer quality teaching for enhanced learning outcomes.

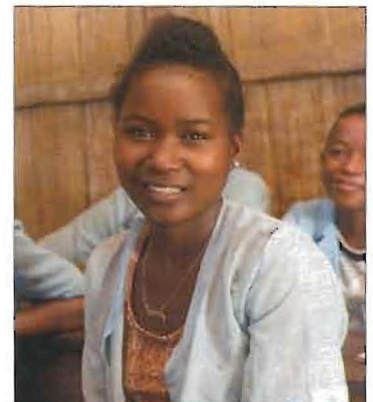
Project Beneficiaries



Over 20,000 girls will be reached by the program.



600 children will benefit from catch-up classes to ensure their reintegration into the formal school system.



200 students will benefit from four new classrooms with water points, latrines and school equipment.

Specific Strategies

- Construct classrooms with latrines, water points and equipment.
- Identify out-of-school children and provide them with alternative schooling so they are able to catch up with their peers and reintegrate into the formal school system.
- Support additional activities to encourage lower-secondary age students' reintegration into the formal school system, including raising parents' and communities' awareness of the importance of educating their children, training local supervisors and teachers on the catch-up program, providing school supplies and self-learning guides for students taking catch-up classes, reintegrating students in class at the end of the catch-up classes and organizing tutoring for students with learning difficulties.
- Extreme poverty is a major barrier for children's access to education, often forcing families to pull children out of school or marry their daughters at a young age. A cash transfer will be provided to improve families' access to food and water, thereby reducing multiple deprivations and freeing up other household income to support education costs and reduce malnutrition, which hinders the learning process. Payments of approx. 10,000 Ariary per child (approx. US\$3.40) will be provided to the mother every two months on the condition that children in the household are enrolled in school.
- Train 25 "mother leaders" on essential family practices and accompanying measures.
- 135 school directors will be trained on child rights and protection to ensure schools are better prepared to address violence.
- Conduct awareness-raising sessions in 50 percent of schools in targeted districts to improve staff knowledge on children's rights.
- Provide girls and staff with practical information, sanitary products and private and safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities.
- Decrease student absenteeism and help girls manage menstruation in a healthy, safe and dignified manner.
- Train 100 percent of school principals and provide 100 percent of lower secondary schools with pedagogical materials.
- 1,600 at risk children/victims of violence will benefit from medical, legal, or social support.



Madagascar by the numbers (from The World Bank's World DataBank)

Population	24.8 million
2015 Human Development Index Rank	154 (Scale 1-188, where 1 is highest)
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	N/A
Population below \$1.90 (PPP) per day	78.5 percent
Maternal Mortality Ratio	353 deaths per 100,000 births
Infant Mortality Rate	46.4 deaths per 1,000 live births
Births attended by skilled health workers	44 percent
Contraceptive prevalence rate	40 percent
Female enrollment in primary education	unknown
Violence against women (ever experienced)	unknown
Seats held by women in Parliament	20.5 percent
Internet Users	4.7 percent of population



Expected Outcomes

1. Around **200 children** will benefit from newly constructed and equipped classrooms.
2. **500 households** will be reached with Conditional Cash Transfers.
3. **300 girls** will be reintegrated into school after attending catch-up classes.
4. Girls will benefit from Menstrual Hygiene Management services.
5. **960 at-risk girls** and victims of violence and exploitation in schools and communities will benefit from either medical, legal or social support through a referral mechanism.
6. **135 school directors** will be trained, benefitting 41,516 children (**21,006 girls**).

Photos: UNICEF Madagascar/2017/ Abela Ralaivita