

## What is Project Malio achieving?

*Progress made during Year One: May 2014 – April 2015*

Azafady UK's Project Malio is working in the remote town of Fort Dauphin, south east Madagascar, to reduce open defecation and improve sanitation and hygiene practices. The project started in May 2014 and will run until April 2017 with funding from the UK's Big Lottery Fund and Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission. After a three month planning period to recruit and train the new team, timetable activities and liaise with local authorities, Malio was officially launched in August 2014 and the main activities kicked off in September. Here's an overview of what we at Azafady UK think the project's biggest achievements during the first year were and an update on the main activities we implemented to get there.

Achievements...

- **18% decrease in incidence of self-reported under-five diarrhoea amongst Malio latrine beneficiaries**  
At the start and end of Year One, parents were asked how many times any of their children under five years old had had diarrhoea in the last month. Prior to project activities, 21% of parents reported having at least one child under-five who had had diarrhoea four or more times in the last month, compared with just 3% of parents who had received a Malio latrine and 5% of parents randomly selected from the general population at the end of Year One.
- **18% decrease in the number of people using established open defecation sites**  
At the start and end of Year One, the Malio team counted the number of people using common open defecation sites at key times of day over a number of days. At the start of the project, 346 people on average were using the sites observed every day, compared with 289 at the end of Year One.
- **6% increase in the number of people who believe that using a latrine is healthier than open defecation**  
Before Project Malio began, 94% of the population reported believing that using a latrine is a better and healthier option than open defecation. At the end of Year One, this rose to 100% amongst people who had received a latrine through the project and 96% amongst a random sample from the general population.
- **85 households pro-actively approached Azafady staff requesting support to build their own latrine**  
One of the targets of Project Malio was to ensure project messages spread beyond those who were receiving the most direct form of project support: the latrine recipients. The fact that during Year One 85 households sought out Malio staff to ask advice about building a latrine outside project activities is an encouraging start!

Whilst these achievements are a promising start, we know that continued monitoring and refinement will enable us to increase its impact even further. Feedback from community evaluations conducted at the end of Year One suggested that the thing people like most about Project Malio is getting a latrine, and the thing they like least is having to pay for one. Whilst Azafady UK believes that it's important that people who can afford to contribute to latrine costs do so, we're now investigating ways we can identify and exempt those who really can't afford to. People also said the Malio latrines were poor quality so we're also revisiting the design to make sure they're as durable as possible whilst remaining cost-effective, and that fines for people defecating in the open need to be better enforced so we're looking into ways that we can support that too.

The Malio team have benefitted from learning shared by other project teams and we hope that our experiences will be interesting and useful for others too. The full baseline and Year One reports for Project Malio as well as a range of other project documentation are available upon request so if you'd like to know more about Project Malio **please get in touch with us at [info@azafady.org](mailto:info@azafady.org)**.

Project Malio's main activities run during Year One and some of the key results they've contributed to...

