

Project Malio: Summary of Year Two

Aim: To reduce the practice of open defecation and facilitate sustained behaviour change with regard to latrine use and improved hygiene practices in the urban commune of Fort Dauphin.

Project Life: May 2014 – April 2017

Year Two: May 2015-April 2016

Project Outcomes

1. **Town-wide uptake of community action plans** to reduce the practice of open defecation and institutionalise positive hygiene practices, leading to improved health across the community.
2. **Increased number of household latrines and motivation** regarding their use and maintenance, leading to a reduction in the practice of open defecation and subsequent diarrhoeal disease at the household level.
3. **Increased number of school latrines and motivation** regarding their use and maintenance among the town's children, reducing the practice of open defecation and subsequent diarrhoeal disease in those most vulnerable to hygiene related illnesses.
4. **A communal latrine is operational** with sustainable cleaning and maintenance mechanisms, thereby increasing latrine access for overcrowded households, reducing contamination of local water sources and improving health among the most disadvantaged.

Summary of Year Two Activities

Household Latrine Support

409 of the most vulnerable households within our target area received construction support in year two, providing a total of 4571 beneficiaries with improved sanitation. To ensure motivation, buy-in and an understanding of latrine emptying procedures, beneficiaries have been involved with the preparations and building of their latrines. To support sustained behavioural change, 162 support sessions discussing topics such as maintenance advice, latrine emptying and hand hygiene were completed with the 409 beneficiary households. In addition, a total of 1597 household support visits over a period of four months were completed by our community liaison officers. Residents not receiving latrine subsidies but who were still motivated to take action on sanitation issues in their communities were invited to attend group action-planning sessions and provided with advice for improvements to their existing latrines. With the support of community liaison officers, groups of motivated residents within each suburb have developed community action plans and monitor the implementation of these on a regular basis; providing a gauge on the motivation and actions of each area.

Training and Support for Associations

Five local associations have benefitted from professional training sessions aimed at increasing their capacity to operate as implementing partners and enabling them to run key project activities. In addition, the project's Partner Association Mentor conducted 55 weekly support sessions throughout the year to ensure information and skills gained during training workshops were being used in the local community. Local partners have also been given a small amount of funding to implement their own activities within their local suburbs; enabling practical implementation of taught skills such as project planning, budget creation and monitoring and evaluation. Throughout this year, SEED have also continued to provide local partner Avotry with additional support to manage a public latrine within a busy area of town. This helps provide improved sanitation for many residents who remain unable to access their own household latrine.

An evaluation of partner's participation and understanding of training was conducted at the end of the year to decide which partners would benefit from an extension to a partnership agreement. As a

result, ASAF will not be renewing their contract with SEED. Avotry Association will have a limited contract which provides support and advice but does not include financial assistance each month and participation in additional training. FISOTA, FTA and FIAMI will extend their partnership agreement into year three.

Advertising Campaign

Building on the success of year one, project campaign material such as clothing, stationary, posters and billboards have continued to be used for promoting important project messages. Over a thousand radio broadcasts such as short information slots, community interviews with doctors and local ministers and a radio drama have been aired across three stations, providing additional information on sanitation and hygiene throughout the town. Research into the reach of our advertising strategy was undertaken through 345 short interviews. Of the interviewed respondents, 61% had heard at least one radio broadcast relating to the project and 65% of people had seen project related advertising, such as billboards and posters, around the town. In cooperation with our local partnering associations, mass mobilisations have also played a major role in promoting better hygiene practices and encouraging residents to clean up local areas, especially those commonly used as open defecation sites. Mobilisations have ranged from beach clean ups, awareness raising marches and town-wide competitions involving hundreds of residents and motivating people to take action.

Educational Activities

Participatory WASH classroom education sessions relating to topics such as hand hygiene, latrine cleanliness and maintenance have been carried out in all of our 11 partnering public primary schools. In middle and secondary schools, more flexible sessions have been run to suit timetabling needs. After-school activities and sports days with WASH activities have proved popular with older students and teachers alike, resulting in increased motivation to adopt healthier hygiene practices and act as agents for change in the wider community. A total of 7048 students have received project funded WASH education sessions in year two. Rapid catch surveys have been used to gauge student's knowledge attitudes and practices (KAP) relating to hygiene practices and enjoyment of attended sessions. 89% of students reported that they had found the hygiene related educational sessions enjoyable and informative. In addition, the project has supported motivated schools to plan improvements to their sanitation facilities and facilitated and trained school WASH committees. Five schools which made considerable effort to implement sustainable plans regarding maintenance and cleaning of their facilities received latrine construction support to improve their existing facilities.

Local Malio Partners

Implementing Partner:

ONG Azafady is responsible for the implementation of project activities, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, supported by Azafady UK's in-country staff.

Local Partner Associations:

Association des Surfeurs Avenir de Fort Dauphin (ASAF)

Fikambanana Ampotatra Miray Inina (FIAMI)

Fikambananiny Tanora Ambinanikely (FTA)

Fikambanana Ara Sosicely Tanambao (FISOTA)