

Secondary school teacher uses posters provided by UNICEF to successfully teach students

Andrefandrano secondary school sits at the end of a long dirt road riddled with holes, bumps and the occasional mud swamp. As far as the eye can see, fields of aloe vera abound. As we pull into the school in the late afternoon, the students are chatting out front or in the shade of the classrooms during a break.

UNICEF has built this school, which is comprised of two large buildings with two classrooms each. UNICEF also built brand new latrines, two for girls and two for boys, each with a lock to ensure privacy and protection. Surrounding the school are 50 small trees that were planted by the students as a part of UNICEF's construction package, which seeks to ensure a greener, more eco-friendly environment.

In the classroom, the windows and doors are thrown open to let in the fresh air and light. There is a stack of brooms in the corner and the remnants of a biology lesson on the chalkboard.

That is where we meet Mr. Santiraly Ialimbola, who began teaching in 2017. Growing up, his teachers were very important in forming him as a person so now he wants to do the same for these teenagers. He has always wanted to be an educator but knows that to be a teacher is so much more than just writing with chalk on a board. Mr. Ialimbola cares for his students' learning and says the school does not have nearly enough supplies and materials for a proper education.

Then, this history and geography teacher throws open his arms to indicate all of the laminated teaching posters hanging on the classroom walls. He says that every class uses the posters.

"Using the posters helps me to help my students. It is much easier to pass on the message of the lesson with images. Before we received the posters, I had to communicate everything to the kids by talking. I talked all of the time, but they weren't as curious or interested."

He points to his favorite poster, the world map. He loves showing the students the different countries, including Madagascar.

"Right now, the 6th grade students are studying Greek history. The map allows the students to see where Greece is, how it is surrounded by the ocean. This allows them to immerse themselves more fully into the lesson. I can see the change in them; they are more open and interested in learning."

"I am thrilled that we will soon receive new posters on the environment and sustainable development. I can't wait to help students understand the effects of climate change."

The Let Us Learn program supports UNICEF's strategic priorities on secondary education, adolescents and learning outcomes in seven target regions across Madagascar. A greater emphasis on adolescents has the potential to increase access to secondary education and provide more children with a safe, supportive learning environment close to their homes and families. It is also an opportunity to reach more girls with gender-responsive life skills education and include boys/adolescents in the discussion of preventing violence and exploitation.

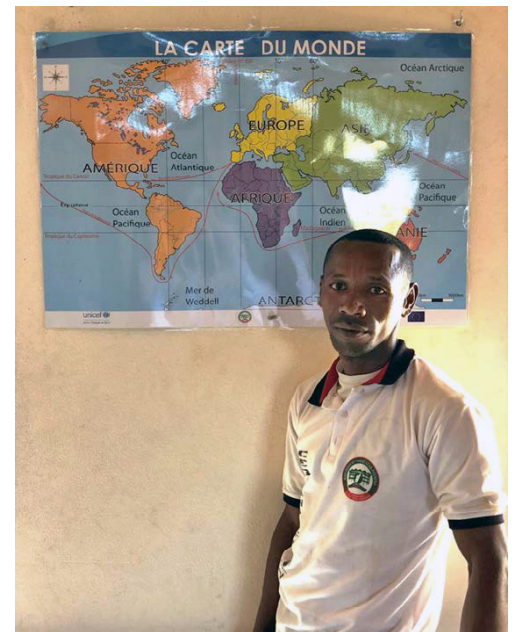


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