



Barriers to access

- More than a quarter of Madagascar's children are excluded from formal education
- One out of three girls will become pregnant before the age of 18
- Junior secondary school enrollment fees are prohibitively expensive for families, forcing parents to select one child to continue their education, often leaving girls behind

Quality of education for children who do attend school

1. Almost two-thirds of teachers have received no formal training
2. School buildings have inadequate equipment and infrastructure and lack sufficient sanitation and water resources
3. Classroom sizes are overly large at crucial development stages

An integrated program for adolescent girls

2016-2018 Funding: US\$1,000,000 to U.S. Fund for UNICEF

Background

Currently, about 90 percent of Madagascar's population lives on less than US\$2 per day, leaving children particularly vulnerable. Aside from endemic poverty, Madagascar is prone to natural disasters, which further impede economic growth of the agricultural economy and make it even more difficult to escape poverty and prioritize education for children.

In 2013, fair and democratic elections ended a four-year-long political crisis and paved the way for a new development agenda. Let Us Learn Madagascar is the nation's only program addressing issues of gender parity in education.

Goals and Objectives

Goal: Create opportunities for vulnerable and excluded girls to realize their rights to an education in a secure and protective environment.

Partnering with the Ministry of National Education, the project will promote a common vision of investing in junior secondary education for girls as an entry point for equity.

Specific objectives:

The program is focused on three pillars:

- Reaching out-of-school children
- Expanding girls' education
- Improving quality outcomes for learners

Project Beneficiaries



1,000 girls will be supported over a two-year period



1,042 post-primary teachers will be supported over a two-year period



Junior secondary school students will benefit from the four rehabilitated classrooms

Strategies and Activities

Specific strategies:

- Ensure that families and communities are aware of child protection laws, services and harmful practices against children and that they exhibit behaviors that protect adolescent girls from sexual violence, early marriage and exploitation, all factors that reduce girls' continuing their education.
- Target girls in the 5th grade (last year of primary school) to receive peer support from girls in 7th grade (second year of junior secondary school) to facilitate their transition from primary to junior secondary school.
- Offer Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) to vulnerable girls from low-income families in their final year of primary school with conditions that include enrollment, passing grades, and minimum absenteeism from school.
- Construct four junior secondary school classrooms with water points and latrines to ensure healthy habits are taught, practiced and integrated into daily school routines and that appropriate facilities are available to students to ensure the physical and psychosocial health needed to stay in school. The construction of the classrooms will include the provision of school furniture, teaching and instructional materials and a sports field.
- Focus on violence prevention efforts at the individual, school, family and community levels to transform gender norms and attitudes that accept gender-based violence.
- Facilitate access to quality medical and psychosocial support for victims of violence within a reasonable timeframe through a coordinated community response.
- Disseminate messages on child marriage, early pregnancy and gender-based violence through local radio stations, house visits, focus groups, national communication campaigns and international days, targeting all members of the community including boys and men, in order to change behaviors, reduce violence against girls and permit young mothers to return to school.



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

Population	23.6 million
2015 Human Development Index Rank	154 (Scale 1-188, where 1 is highest)
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	N/A
Population below \$1.25 (PPP) per day	87.7 percent
Maternal Mortality Ratio	440 deaths per 100,000 births
Infant Mortality Rate	39.6 deaths per 1,000 live births
Births attended by skilled health workers	44.3 percent
Contraceptive prevalence rate	39.8 percent
Female enrollment in primary education	unknown
Violence against women (ever experienced)	unknown
Seats held by women in Parliament	20.5 percent
Internet Users	3.7 percent of population



Expected Outcomes

1,042 post-primary teachers receive training

600 students receive catch-up classes

1,000 households receive conditional cash transfers for a two-year period

Four classrooms are rehabilitated and constructed with appropriate WASH and latrine facilities

50 percent of girls in school know about protection services that are available

photos | 2015 U.S. Fund for UNICEF/
Ravelonjaka