



## Catholic Relief Services Supports the National TB Control Program

### 18,692 NEW TUBERCULOSIS CASES IDENTIFIED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2021

Tuberculosis is one of the leading infectious diseases worldwide affecting 1.7 billion individuals and taking 1.5 million lives every year. Since 2018, the incidence of TB in Madagascar has increased to 238 cases per 100,000 individuals. In the first half of 2021, the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTCP) reported 18,692 new cases of TB.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in partnership with Madagascar's National Tuberculosis Control Program, the national Roman Catholic Church (EKAR), and SAF/FJK, a local development organization are working to reduce the number of new TB cases and deaths associated with the disease as part of a Global Fund program. Screening and treatment are proven control strategies to reducing the risk of infection and mortality, but in Madagascar access to healthcare and poverty make it difficult to assess the real burden of TB on the population. Even when people are diagnosed, many do not complete treatment. Treatment coverage is estimated to be at 55% percent. Studies point to stigma as a leading barrier to both screening and treatment. To better strengthened the national TB control strategy CRS is leading a study to assess how stigma affects TB control in Madagascar.

Once TB patients are diagnosed and enter care, they often lack the necessary

nutrition to fully recover from the disease. TB affects appetite and nutrient absorption resulting in wasting of TB patients. CRS received \$1.2 million USD as part of a two-year food assistance project to support tuberculosis patients through e'Pap. E'Pap, is an instant porridge high in protein, vitamins and nutrients that provides 28 nutrients and is bioavailable and bioefficient. Through this initiative, CRS will be able to support 79,000 tuberculosis patients who may lack the proper nutrients to make a full recovery.



A TB patient being carried into a TB treatment center a treatment center.

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Ambohitsimanova, Madagascar. RANO WASH water system that will be privately managed and provide water to 4,000 people. Photo by To Fy, CRS

## Private Sector Engagement

### *RANO WASH innovates with the private sector*

The RANO WASH project aims to increase equitable and sustainable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene in 250 rural communes of six regions: Alaotra Mangoro, Amoron'i Mania, Atsinanana, Haute Matsiatra, Vakinankaratra, and Vatovavy Fitovinany. To accomplish this goal, the project is developing strategic partnerships with national and regional governments, water and sanitation institutions, communities, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and program participants. The USAID-funded project is led by Care and in partnership with CRS, Water Aid, Sandandrano and Bushproof. In November, in partnership with Organe de Développement du Diocèse de Toamasina (ODDIT) a local implementing partner, RANO WASH inaugurated a water system with a hybrid dam (for irrigation and water supply) in Vakinankaratra region which will provide clean water to 4,000 people in Ambohitsimanova using private management. The system cost \$80,000 USD and included a 12.8% investment by a business with the plan to generate profits through monthly water bills. After the Minister of WASH visited a nearby water system, the government plans to adopt the public private partnership approach in several regions of Madagascar.

Marcelin Randriatsitohaina, a CRS RANO WASH engineer and manager of the Vakinankaratra RANO WASH program identified a major problem: many of the existing water systems that are community-managed break down regularly. So he came up with an initiative to transform water systems from community to private management to ensure quality maintenance. After gathering detailed information on communities and existing water systems and data on the feasibility of the approach, he worked with the government and the RANO WASH team to bring together leaders from 22 communes to meet with 27 private sector businesses. This innovative approach will likely improve water quality, increase the number of people gaining access to potable water, and functionality with almost zero cost to the project.

## Food Insecurity in the South

CRS remains active in the deep South and working with local partners and the government to monitor and respond to the ongoing drought and food crisis. Recently CRS Madagascar received \$2.5 million USD from USAID to distribute seeds in the South. **60,000 households** will receive high quality, certified sorghum, millet, maize seeds and tuber cuttings in an effort to rebuild depleted food stocks after an extended drought.

CRS Maharo, a five-year USAID funded development project completed its second year of activity, supporting 68,741 participants across all intervention areas.

### Through programming in the South CRS is:

- ◆ Providing food assistance to **240,000** people
- ◆ Treating **20,000** children for Moderate Acute Malnutrition
- ◆ **99km** of road built



NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10  
**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM**  
 AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

## CRS Raises Gender-Based Violence Awareness

To celebrate and raise awareness during the 16 days against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), CRS Madagascar organized "coffee-conversations" to discuss (1) GBV reporting and referral systems relevant for the workplace and the community; and (2) eliminating harassment. The goal was to raise staff awareness through open discussion. It was an opportunity to launch a new approach Komity Miaro Zo (Human

Rights Protection Committee) that the CRS Maharo team has designed. This is a community-based protection mechanism, designed in collaboration with local authorities and communities will increase awareness about human rights, GBV and harassment, protection of children.

# Community Consultations

## *A participatory approach to sustainable development*

CRS Madagascar and partners are currently implementing Community Consultations in the deep South, as part of the Maharo Project (a five-year USAID-funded project). This is a mechanism by which project participants select, prioritize, plan, monitor and adapt food security activities. Consultation is framed as a community event. The consultation process enables participants to situate themselves as central actors in these key stages. This is fundamental to ensuring long-lasting community responsibility for project goals. Most importantly, community consultations help build trust between project personnel and participants. Trust is the basis of mobilization; and mobilization is the basis of sustainability.

This approach was adopted to counter some of the challenges often faced by development projects: 1) the underestimation participants' ability to plan their own development pathway; 2) exclusion of the most vulnerable community members; 3) communities being accustomed to



Participants present a pictorial representation of their community's assets and strengths. Photo by Luke Freeman, CRS

passively receiving humanitarian assistance.

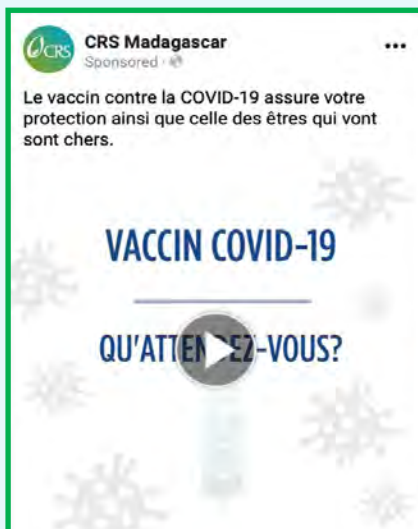
In facilitating the community consultations, the Social and Behavior Change (SBC) team abandons the common interview-based approach where participants' views are collected and analyzed by external consultants who determine the development priorities. Instead, the team has created highly interactive and inclusive Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) activities that ensured that all community members are able to participate regardless of age, social status, (dis)ability or literacy level.

Community consultations have proved that, given the opportunity and appropriate tools, communities can easily and with enjoyment envision and plan their development path. So far CRS has conducted 60 of these community consultations across Madagascar.



Participants celebrate completing this collaborative planning by producing a banner decorated with the handprints of all participants, partners and personnel. This is their contract, a symbol of our shared effort and mutual accountability. Photo by Luke Freeman, CRS

## COVID-19 Update: Using Facebook to overcome vaccine hesitancy



CRS continues to be a leader in the ongoing fight against the spread of COVID-19 in Madagascar through awareness campaign, webinars, and mobile vaccine clinics. In addition to these efforts CRS has launched a Facebook Ad campaign, a promising approach to overcome hesitancy and promote vaccination. Through its first iteration the campaign was able to reach **467, 598** individuals across Madagascar and in just the first three weeks, CRS was able to see a lift in the number of people who think COVID-19 vaccines are effective and increased the number of people who know where to get a COVID-19 vaccine. CRS just received \$500,000 USD to work in three regions to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates in Androy, Vakinankaratra and Atsinanana regions.

### Upcoming CRS Madagascar COVID-19 Webinars

Every Thursday in January @ 11:00 AM (UTC+3:00) [JOIN HERE](#)

# Vision 2030: Transforming Youth Livelihoods

The CRS *Vision 2030* strategy lays out bold goals to achieve transformational change at scale. One of these goals prioritizes youth livelihoods and employment. CRS Madagascar is working towards this goal by leading and supporting activities that foster opportunities for Madagascar's youth.

## Sustainable economic opportunities for youth

Jose Arthur Faralahy, is one of five young entrepreneurs working to bring affordable and sustainable electricity to his community as part of the Securing and Protecting Investments and Capacities for Environmental Sustainability (SPICES) program. The program aims to improve the well-being and resilience of local farmers most affected by climate change by engaging government, businesses, and communities to improve the management of the environment, increasing opportunities for young people and improving the education and health of farmers.



Jose Arthur Faralahy, Jiro Ve franchisee. Mananjary Madagascar.

CRS has partnered with Jiro Ve, a solar light franchise-based company to provide economic opportunities to young people while bringing clean energy to communities. Most rural families (which constitutes 80% of the population) in Madagascar use kerosene lamps or candles, which are dangerous, expensive and negatively affect people's health while polluting their environment. Solar energy, like that provided by Jiro Ve, reduces the amount of traditional fuels (fossil fuels/wood) needed to support household lighting (creating both cost savings and lower

environmental impact) and enables more children to meet their school needs.

Arthur graduated from high school in 2019 and currently lives in a rural town about 320 miles south of the capital, Antananarivo. Last year, he became a Jiro Ve franchisee, renting solar lights to people in his community. He started with 82 lamps and currently rents to 169 families - he plans to expand the business to support his family and help children in his community complete their homework with the improved lighting system. In addition to his entrepreneurial efforts, he is also a farmer and a member of a local savings group. During his free time, Arthur supports his community as a health volunteer.

*80% of the population in Madagascar does not have access to electricity*



Arthur's Jiro Ve solar lights. Each morning he collects and charges the lights and then redistributes them to his customers before sunset.

## YouthConnekt Madagascar



YouthConnekt is a program initiated by the Government of Rwanda in 2012 with support from UNDP that aims to build the capacity of youth and connect them to opportunities in the public, private or civil society sectors. The YouthConnekt initiative has grown significantly since its inception, followed by the launch of the YouthConnekt Africa summit that happens every year. Madagascar is one of 23 African countries to implement the initiative with the leadership of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MJS) and the commitment of the Presidential Program for the promotion of entrepreneurship, FIHARIANA. CRS Madagascar along with a youth delegation from Madagascar attended this year's Africa summit and brought back lessons learned to help lead the national summit.

This year Madagascar held a three-day event sponsored by UNDP, CRS, and Fihariana, to further capitalize on the achievements of this year's Africa summit. *"Tanora mandrafitra ny hoavy"* (Young people carve the future), purpose was to create a framework to further inspire young people to entrepreneurship and to promote the mobilization of resources in favor of youth empowerment in Madagascar.



CRS Ghana & Madagascar team with Dep. Minister of Youth for Madagascar Development and UNDP Country Rep.