



**AMADEA**  
**MADAGASCAR**  
CHILDREN AND DEVELOPMENT



# AMADEA – Children and development

The AMADEA Association has been involved in Madagascar since 1986. Its sphere of activity is concentrated in 3 key areas : **child protection, global rural development and the protection of the environment.**

In terms of child protection, AMADEA is active to the north-west of Antananarivo, where it runs both reception centres and schools and also provides support to groups of small farmers.

**Two reception and training centres** have been created in Mahambo and Antsirabe with the aim of enabling youngsters, whose parents do not have the means or the capacity to meet their needs, to avoid complete abandon and be **supported over the long term.**

Also in Mahambo, a nutrition centre is preventing children from being abandoned by providing help to those families most in need.

**A dozen nursery and primary schools** now benefit from proper infrastructure via the provision of teaching materials, teacher training and even, for some, electricity via the installation of solar booths - thanks to partnerships with other associations and foundations.



**In its rural development and environmental protection activities,** AMADEA only operates in cooperation with the villagers and **in response to requests** coming from the various peasant communities wherever it is active.

Such cooperation results, in particular, in training programmes and in setting up **revenue-generating activities**, such as fruit drying and artisanal soap-making in Andranovelona, the silk sector with MadaSoie in Amberomanga, organic valleys, training in new fish farming techniques, the creation of fruit tree and vegetable seed nurseries... And much more besides.



In this way, AMADEA seeks to develop real cohesion in its activities, **to instigate the behavioral changes that are essential to achieving genuine transformation in Madagascar** and to give to each child the means to have a better future, allowing him or her to live a decent and independent life.

The association operates throughout a federation that brings together 6 committees spread through the whole of France. In Madagascar, an operational hub of 80 or so people is overseen by a Head of Mission and a Project Head, who has special responsibility for the Children's branch.



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## School and youth training

The opening of a new school always starts with a kindergarten for 3 age groups. The primary school classes are thus created over time as the children grow up.

In 2021, the schools had every primary class up to the age of 10/11 (CM2). This involves a little over 500 children in kindergarten and 320 in primary school, as well as 36 teachers and instructors.

After primary school, specific and practical courses are also offered to the « dropouts » from secondary school or college.



In its schools, AMADEA distributes snacks or opens **canteens** during the lean season. The parents take care of all tasks other than teaching and look after the schools' vegetable gardens. This enables the parents as well to be taught about hygiene, nutrition and gardening.

The teachers, approved by the Education Ministry, also benefit from extra training.

Teams comprising 2 doctors and 5 facilitators provide **medical monitoring** for the children as well as training in nutrition, hygiene and cooking for the mothers.



In Antsirabe, a **training centre** has just been set up. It allows young people from the reception centre, and from other centres in the urban area, who are not able to follow a standard curriculum, to acquire the skills needed for working life. Courses in computing, sewing and cooking are all on offer via various partnerships.



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## The NOMEMA centre in Mahambo

Situated on the east coast of Madagascar, about 45 km north of Tamatave, the Nomema centre in Mahambo comprises several units : a **reception centre**, a **nutrition centre** and **nursery and primary schools**.



The **Nomema reception centre** currently houses 8 children from 18 months to 14 years old - 3 girls and 5 boys. Without a father and/or mother, sometimes victims of abuse, the children at the reception centre are placed there by court order.

The centre also has an **emergency reception** responsibility and is certified for international adoption and placements with reception families.

The **nutrition centre** was set up to prevent children being abandoned, by giving support to those families in situations of distress. It takes in, on average, about twenty children from 0 to 3 years old. The nutrition protocol is based on medical advice and is accompanied by training for the mothers in looking after their young children covering hygiene and diet in particular. All the advice is based around products that are available locally and within the mothers' means financially.



The **Fanantenana nursery and primary school** currently comprises 220 students and 8 teachers. All teaching levels, from nursery to 10/11 years of age (CM2) are taught. The parents' association has a very important role in the running of the school by managing supplies for the canteen, meal preparation and looking after the children at lunchtime. AMADEA ensures that each child is enrolled on the Civil Registry and, if necessary, funds his or her enrolment.

A solar booth brings electricity to the school, enabling the children to become acquainted with the use of computers and the families to rent solar lights for their homes



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## The Mirana Tsiky centre in Antsirabe

In Antsirabe (on the high plateaus), AMADEA has a **welcome facility** for children and teenagers in difficult circumstances, as well as a **training centre** and a **spiruline production workshop**.

**The Mirana Tsiky centre** is a small building with about 20 places that supports those children and adolescents put into its care until adulthood. The majority are placed there by court order, as a result of the imprisonment of their parents, mistreatment, or even because they have been abandoned in the street and no one can trace their family.

A small team of 4 provides their supervision.

AMADEA covers the costs of their food, clothing and lodgings, as well as the various expenses associated with their schooling. The objective is to secure a future for each one of them as they leave the school system.



In answer to the question: “What will become of these children leaving the education system so early?”, the **training centre** was set up close to the Mirana Tsiky centre. It equips them with the skills they need for working life: sewing, cooking, baking, woodworking, gardening, bee keeping and computing.

Recently refurbished, **the spirulina growing workshop**, set up within the reception centre premises, produces up to 10 kilos a month. Spirulina is a natural dietary supplement with many beneficial properties and is administered to the occupants of the reception centre as well as to the children of Mahambo. Increasing its production enables re-nutrition programmes in schools to be carried out and any excess to be sold.



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## Small Farmer Group Projects

Across 118 groups of farmers, located in 2 districts of the Analamanga region, north of Antananarivo, AMADEA's activities directly benefit more than 7 800 individuals.

The overall objective is to help improve the locals' living conditions to enable them to provide a better future for their children. The protection of the environment is also a fundamental requirement in this commitment. All this results in specific activities across a range of areas.

**Food self-sufficiency** is achieved by crop diversification (vegetable growing alongside rice production and off-season crop production), through seed distribution and by mastering efficient farming techniques. Support is provided to the farmers by technicians who are chosen from among them and trained by AMADEA.

**Cookery training** is organized to learn how to use the new crops that are important for a balanced diet.



**The creation of 11 organic valleys** has allowed the development of sustainable farming, without pesticides or other chemical inputs, in support of biodiversity. The results are an increase in productivity and a reduction in the effects of brush fires and soil erosion.

**The development of revenue-generating activities** brings additional income to those who are emerging from subsistence farming. This is the case with the development of fish farming and the rearing of fry, or again through the creation of nurseries to provide the farmers with the seeds and plants they need to diversify their output.

Every year, **fairs** are organized to enable trade, behavioral change and the sharing of knowledge between groups.

As far as the **protection of the environment** is concerned, AMADEA offers agro-ecology training, supports reforestation and encourages the planting of herbs for use in soap-making and the production of essential oils.





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## The Tsinjo cooperative and small artisanal zone

Opened in 2016, the Tsinjo cooperative's processing unit is responding to the need of certain peasant groups to offer a new outlet and add value to the local farmers' crops. Located on a huge plot at the entrance to Andranovelona, 44 kms from the capital, this innovative structure has progressively developed and diversified its activities and now enjoys real visibility on the important Antananarivo – Mahajanga road axis.

Eleven young people work in **the drying plant processing fruit**, vegetables and spices, according to the seasons. The process means that the farmers avoid the price falls that are associated with periods of high production.

Fruit and vegetables include physalis (cape gooseberry), pineapple, litchi, banana, persimmon and spilanthus (toothache plant) and the spices are ginger and turmeric. They are processed into dry products but also into juices, jams and fruit pastes. It is significant that the dried physalis production is currently going through the process of accreditation for organic certification with the Ecocert label.



**Sales premises** are located close to the Tsinjo cooperative to improve the marketing of its own products, and also those from the other workshops that AMADEA supports (silk and spirulina).

A restaurant space as well as public toilets complete the visitor welcome project.

The “Savoniko” (meaning “My Soap”) **soap-making unit** also represents a new revenue-generating activity, both for the soap makers and for the families who grow the plants needed to make it, thus preserving the local flora.

An **essential oil production workshop** is being set up on the cooperative's premises. These oils, which are needed for soap making, will offer a new outlet to the peasant families who traditionally grow medicinal and aromatic plants.



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## Silk with MadaSoie

Situated in the isolated village of Amberomanga, **the MadaSoie workshop**, opened in 2001, has enabled the revival of an ancient sector that had previously disappeared.

To begin with, cuttings of mulberry trees had to be increased, planted in level contour lines to protect the soil, and silk moths sourced from Lyon.

After that, the local people had to be trained in rearing the worms, then taught how to spin, dye and weave the silk to make high quality scarves.

The initial training sessions, given within the ONUDI framework, were undertaken by a volunteer artisan who has subsequently been able to improve the quality of the silk that is produced.



Before the silk can be made however, the eggs are handed over to farmers who are responsible for feeding the larvae from the mulberry leaves that they have grown.

This lucrative work does not need particular training and can therefore be carried out by everyone.

When they reach maturity, the cocoons are bought by MadaSoie to be processed, spun and dyed in the workshop.

The resulting silk threads are then either spun in situ or sold in skeins.



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## Varied and Complementary Activities

AMADEA is committed to sustainable and integrated development and is interested in all aspects of the villagers' lives. The diversity of its activities has meant that AMADEA relies on partner organisations.

Since 2020, AMADEA is involved with the **VAHATRA (roots) Programme** via its partner UEPLM (A Child by the Hand). The programme involves the sponsorship of children whilst supporting their educational or family communities in revenue-generating activities.

The programme currently involves 1300 pupils and 60 teachers from 12 schools (including the AMADEA schools in rural areas).

The revenue-generating activities cover the development of silk production, rabbit breeding as well as specific training given to the farmers for those crops that are destined for the school canteens.



Over time, AMADEA has had to construct various premises and furnish them with tables, chairs, benches etc. The development of a **carpentry workshop** has allowed the association to make substantial savings and also offer training for young people.

Other activities in progress include the setting up of small livestock farms, support for milk production, promoting more efficient ovens, developing capacity in management, organisation, marketing, and lots of other areas too...



# AMADEA – Children and development

## An active Presence in France

An important activity stream for AMADEA takes place in France to raise awareness and seek funding, via more than 50 volunteers and numerous sympathizers spread across 6 regional committees, all members of the AMADEA federation.

When requested by teachers, AMADEA works with primary, secondary and high schools to raise awareness of international solidarity and sustainable development among pupils. Real life experiences really bring this to life.



As an extension to the awareness-raising activity, trainees and groups of young people are hosted in France and/or Madagascar.

AMADEA also has the necessary approvals to host 3 Civil Service volunteers per year and 2 from Universal National Service (SNU).



Various events are organized throughout the year, with the aim of raising funds to finance activities in Madagascar, whilst increasing awareness about the country and its difficulties.

Most often, it is via exhibiting and selling spices and handicrafts but also via events that underline social cohesion in the local area. These events are very varied: shows, films followed by discussion, musical evenings, meals, markets, dictation, discovery trails, bric-a-brac sales, and others, depending on the different opportunities that arise.





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## Activities in France for actions in Madagascar



RA-PACA Committee



Lot-et-Garonne Committee



Gironde Committee



Franche Comté Committee



RA-PACA (Nice) Committee



Landes Committee



Centre Ouest Atlantique Committee

