



Approximately ten thousand Malagasy children, as young as age 4, work alongside their families to extract mica in Madagascar in order to survive. They are exposed to substantial risks to their health and well-being. These vulnerable children often face chronic food insecurity. Some of them develop respiratory problems and experience back pain from carrying heavy loads. They lack basic services such as water, education and health facilities and they are exposed to risks such as sexual exploitation and early child marriage.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands in Madagascar focuses on stopping child labour in the mica mines. Protecting these children through school enrollment and Income Generating Activities (IGA) support for their families is a key element of our work. At the same time, sensitisation plays a major role in our programme. By working with communities, schools, families, community members, government officials and the private sector, we aim to raise awareness and contribute to eradicating child labour once and for all.

CHILDREN IN MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is the 4th largest island in the world where around 30.9 million people live. The country has one of the highest poverty rates in the world.

Madagascar also has the highest number of out-of-school children in the world (around 60%). Since 2011, there has been an increase in child exploitation such as Child Labour and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism. Climate change and natural disasters, lack of access to social services, restricted education as well as poverty are the push factors.

One in two children aged 5 to 17 years are already engaged in some form of work. Recent reports indicate that an estimated 10,000 children work in the mica sector in the southern region of Madagascar, including in constructing mines, extracting and sorting mica, and hoisting loads of mica out of mines.

Demographics



Population

30.9 Million



Children (up to 18 years)

40.3%



Urban - rural ratio:

40% - 60%

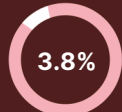
Social-economic data



Per capita income
(GNI per capita)



Percentage living below the
poverty line (of \$1.90 per day)



Annual growth (GDP
growth)



Literacy rate

2024 Budget

€ 321.431

Percentage of children in school



62% of girls finish elementary
school and 57% of boys finish
elementary school.



36% of girls attend secondary school,
and 34% of boys attend secondary
school.

OUR WORK IN MADAGASCAR

- It is a challenge to make a decent living in the impoverished south part of Madagascar. Mica mining is one of the very few options for people to earn a low but relatively steady source of income. Mica is mined by families - parents and children together - who suffer in harsh, unhealthy and unsafe working conditions and may earn just enough to afford one meal a day.
- Our work focuses on ending child labour in the mica sector in the southern part of Madagascar, specifically in the Anosy Region. We ensure that children are taken out of the mines and have access to quality education and/or life skills training. We contribute towards ensuring that families in mica communities receive a fair income through alternative and additional income-generating activities and financial literacy training. We advocate towards ensuring that supply chain actors are transparent and responsible thus along with Responsible Mica Initiative (RMI).
- Apart from mica mines, there are significant child labour in other sectors such as agriculture and livestock, tourism and crafts, domestic household. Thus, at the national level, we advocate for blanket-ban of child labour across the country. Then, we significantly support government actors in the development of a 15 years National Action Plan to Combat Child Labour (NAP CCL 2).

OUR APPROACH

CHILDREN AT THE CENTRE

Child Participation

We put children at the center of our work. We support child-led activities through the child clubs initiatives. These clubs are safe places for children to learn their rights, to grow, and to be empowered to speak out and raise awareness on the matters that are important to them. As part of our global approach, we also co-create with children, and consult them in matters that involve them.

Child Protection

One of children's rights is to be protected, and to do so, we raise awareness to convince parents to take their children out of mica mines and support them to get their right to identity and their right to education. On the other hand, we support community members through additional income-generating activities, strengthen their knowledge and awareness in regard to children's rights, and set up child protection committees to prevent, detect, and report cases of child exploitation.

Project locations

Our current projects are implemented in the Anosy Region (District of Betroka and District of Taolagnaro).

We support the villages of Ranohendry, Antanambao, Benato Sud and Antatabe for the District of Betroka and the villages of Bemahavoriky, Ambario, Anjekôva and Ankazofotsy 2 for the District of Taolagnaro.

Number of Current projects

3 child labour projects



ACHIEVEMENTS (2024)



RESULTS

Our FAMAHA projects have built 3 schools for three communities in the Betroka District. Since those were built and kept running by the project, for a sustainability approach, Terre des Hommes Netherlands advocated for the integration of these into the public system. In the last quarter of 2024, those three schools were appointed as public schools and started being taken over by the government. Next steps are to support the school management committees to be granted a school's fund from the government which will support running costs of the school as well as the recruitment of teachers as government agents.

“Because of the school the [FAMAHA] project constructed, our children are no longer illiterate and in fact, they teach us, parents, things we don't know. And that is very important as they are our future; thus, we no longer take our children to mica mines. ”

Parent, project participant, Tatabe, Madagascar.

“If we want to fight child labour, we must support parents. Parents who are very vulnerable and who do not have the means to ensure their children benefit from their rights. We call on the Government to provide sufficient support to these regions so that parents can feed their children. ”

Tsinjo Rahaingoarivelo
Programme Manager, Madagascar
Terre des Hommes Netherlands

References:

- <https://www.somo.nl/child-labour-in-madagascars-mica-sector/>
- <https://www.terredeshommes.nl/en/countries/madagascar>
- Results of MICS 6 (2018) Madagascar | UNICEF
- Madagascar | Data (worldbank.org)
- Madagascar Population (2024) - Worldometer (worldometers.info)



PARTNERSHIPS

- ◆ Terre des Hommes Netherlands is part of Joining Forces Alliance, an alliance of the six largest child-focused international NGO.
- ◆ Terre des Hommes Netherlands is also in partnership with local partners, including FAFABI Manatantely.
- ◆ Terre des Hommes Netherlands works with Civil Society Platform of Child (PFSCE: Plateforme de la Société Civile pour l'Enfance) and Malagasy Coalition on Child Rights (MCCR) to address child rights issues through advocacy and lobby initiatives.

FUNDING PARTNERS

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- ◆ Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ◆ RVO, the Dutch Agency for Enterprises
- ◆ Dutch Relief Alliance
- ◆ European Union
- ◆ Dutch Foundations that want to stay anonymous for the public

About Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Terre des Hommes Netherlands is part of the International Federation of Terre des Hommes organisations, a strategic partnership of member organisations sharing the same brand name and core values for joint lobby and advocacy around children's rights. Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) protects children by preventing and stopping child exploitation, and by empowering children to make their voices count. Our work is grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and seeks to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under our new Global Strategy (2023 - 2030), TdH NL is redefining and refining our role as a child rights organisation, with the strategic ambition that "by 2030, Terre des Hommes Netherlands is a catalyst for systemic change to stop child exploitation. We do this by empowering children and their communities, connecting them with those who have power to enact change, and utilising our knowledge and expertise to co-create sustainable, evidence-based solutions."

The values of TdH Netherlands are: **Responsible, Bold, Human-Centred and Playful.**

The organisation's core principles are: (1) Children at the Centre, (2) Intersectionality and Power Awareness, (3) Safety and Wellbeing, (4) Sustainability, and (5) Meaningful and Strategic Partnerships.

Contact Us

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