



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 biggest 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%

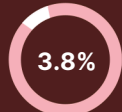
Social-economic data



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).
- We advocate to national institutions to expand the social and child protection systems to mica mining areas, which will make families less dependent on child labour for survival.

OUR APPROACH

CHILDREN AT THE CENTRE

Children's Rights

Everything we do revolves around children. We do awareness raising 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.

Child Participation

In our development projects, we always support children in the establishment of child clubs. These clubs are safe places for children to learn of their rights, to grow, and to be empowered to speak out and up 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 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 child exploitation.

Project locations

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

Number of Current projects

3 child labour projects



ACHIEVEMENTS (2023)



Children under 18: girls
2884



CSO representatives
109



Family community members
2174



Government officials
131



Law enforcement agencies
8



Children under 18: boys
2769

RESULTS

The JOFA ACTE and FAMAHA 2 projects have enabled real progress to be made close to the children. To date, 7 children's clubs have been created, more than 1250 children have been trained on their rights, and more than 560 families have benefited from training and equipment to improve their income outside the mica mines. To achieve systemic change, these grassroots activities were supported by activities at national level, with the training of nearly 20 journalists on children's rights, support for the development of a national plan to combat child labour, and advocacy training for local organisations.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands joined the National Task Forces against Child Labour in the mica in 2023, which gathers other INGOs and UN agencies. The National Task Forces pushed the government to review and update the Action Plan against child labour in the mica.

“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. ”

Project participant parent, in Tatabe, Madagascar.

“ There is significant inequality, discrimination and exploitation of children in this world! Everyone tries to contribute by addressing them according to their means! One drop at a time in this vast ocean is the beginning! ”

Jean-Louis RAULT
Country Director, 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 FAFAFI 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

Our work in Madagascar is made possible through the financial support of:

- ◆ European Union
- ◆ Private Dutch donors

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

Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Madagascar Country Office
2nd Floor Maison LAHA Ampamakiambato | 614 Taolagnaro | Madagascar

☎ +261 33 48 509 19 ✉ madagascar@tdh.nl 🌐 www.terredeshommes.nl 📠 @tdhnl_africa

📘 @TdHNLStopsChildExploitation 🌐 Terre des Hommes Netherlands in Africa

📺 Terre des Hommes Netherlands in Africa