

The Madagascar Development Fund is an independent organisation. However, the types of projects they support are entirely in line with MfM's policy of promoting sustainable development and self-reliance and the Trustees have agreed to co-operate with them by transferring to Madagascar any of their funds that have been raised in Britain.

MADAGASCAR DEVELOPMENT FUND (previously FAP)

The President of Madagascar's Small Grants Scheme was renamed the Madagascar Development Fund in February 2008 - to broaden its appeal and attract additional funding. Much of this year has been spent on the administrative tasks associated with this change - including seeking formal recognition from the Malagasy authorities (received in June) and identifying new office accommodation. This is now all behind us, and normal work will resume shortly - following the same procedures, strict financial controls and criteria as before.

From its founding in October 2005 until the time of the name change FAP had completed 78 projects - with a value of Ariary 1,184,762,833 - equivalent at today's exchange rate of around £380,000. These projects include the construction, extension or renovation of 43 public primary schools and the installation of 15 clean water systems. The list includes the construction of a 14 meter long concrete bridge - which allows farmers to avoid the 16 kilometer diversion they previously made to cross the river and get their produce to market. The economic and social impact of this bridge, which cost less than £5,000, is inestimable.



The new grain store and skills centre at Vohitromby

Our major supporters, which include Rio Tinto, Imperial Tobacco International and the BG Group, recognise the role MDF is playing in bringing development to poor communities in Madagascar and continue to provide us with financial support. Other recent developments are the creation by a British businessman of a company ("Mafana") to sell imported Malagasy goods and generate revenue to fund additional projects; and the offer by another British subject, who has taken early retirement, to fund one small, developmental project in Madagascar each year for the foreseeable future - on condition he can get play an active part in completing the project. This year he provided funding to build two primary school near Ambatolampy, and spent six weeks in Madagascar in April/May digging trenches, mixing cement and shaping bricks.

I take this opportunity once again to thank Money for Madagascar for its invaluable help in transferring donations made to the MDF in Britain to our bank account in Antananarivo. Little of what we have been able to achieve, mostly in desperately poor and needy communities, would have been possible without your generous help and support.

Brian Donaldson Patron, Madagascar Development Fund,

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