

Madagascar Phase 2 project – Executive Summary

To give poor people living in remote areas an opportunity to produce safe drinking water locally and sustainably, thereby improving their health and developing an economic activity: that is the purpose of 1001 fontaines.

Since 2008 we have been engaged in Madagascar, where 6 million rural people do not have access to any safe source of water. For every thousand children born in Madagascar, about 120 will die before 5 years of age (UNICEF/WHO 2012).

To fight diarrhoeal diseases, which are one of the main threats to their health, our ambition is to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water to 75,000 villagers of the East Coast region, by the end of 2016.

This will be done through an end-to-end project including the installation of small water treatment facilities run by village operators, as well as targeted support to build entrepreneurial capacities, achieve auto-financing and raise communities' awareness of water issues. Because children are the most vulnerable to water-borne diseases, the project also includes the supply of safe drinking water to primary schools in every target commune, free of charge.

42 months and a total of €900,000 represent the investment that will allow us to bring one of the most essential services to needy populations. We are looking for several partners to contribute to financing the project.



1001 fontaines' approach recognises that reaching villages with traditional piped water systems is a long-term strategy, mainly due to the investment cost. At the same time, inspired by the idea that “we drink 90% of our diseases” as the famous scientist Louis Pasteur used to say, we believe that focusing on drinking water (2L /day /person) can significantly improve people's health in the very short term.

Several installations have been implemented in Cambodia since 2005. To date, 65 communes are equipped with a water treatment station, enabling more than 110,000 people to drink safe water every day, while 170 operators have been trained and now earn a living from their activity. The technology used involves micro-filtration and UV disinfection and relies on solar energy.

Our initiative is based on sound management, qualified local teams in the countries of intervention, and strong partnerships with various institutions (including UNICEF and the French Development Agency) and private actors (e.g. Danone, Accenture). 1001 fontaines has received a number of awards, including the title of “Social Entrepreneur of the Year in Asia” awarded by the Schwab Foundation (World Economic Forum) in 2011.

In 2008, we started to pilot-test our approach in Madagascar, a country with a totally different cultural context than Cambodia. Replicating the solution in the Great Island requires a step-by-step approach, taking account of local specificities and resources, while making the most of lessons learned in Cambodia.

The *Phase 1* project consisted of installing 11 water production stations in the East Coast region of Madagascar, often called the “diseases area” because of the chronic water-borne epidemics occurring regularly. This project, implemented in partnership with a leading organisation of the local water sector – *Saint Gabriel* – has enabled 10,000 people to get sustainable and affordable access to safe drinking water.

Phase 2 will take the initiative to a higher level and significantly increase its impact by setting up a sustainable regional support platform. Despite the country's economic difficulties and unstable political context, local demand for safe water is huge, and effective partnerships can be created to address it.

Watch a 2-min presentation: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3G5XmUKHY4&feature=colike&noredirect=1>

Visit our web site: www.1001fontaines.com