

MANDISO WATER PUMP PROJECT

Madagascar is an impoverished nation with rich potential for development. According to the 2004 Human Development Index, the island is a middle-level developing country, ranking 66th among 103 less developed countries and 143rd among the world's 177 countries. While the country is poised for development, 85% of the population earns less than two USD a day and 71% reap annual income of 117 USD.

Two-thirds of Malagasy live in the countryside. Most of these households depend on subsistence agriculture for food and income. The country's mountainous terrain and climactic shocks, such as frequent cyclones, floods and drought, pose significant obstacles to agricultural security.



Cultural norms dictate that women are primarily responsible for cultivating these gardens and collecting the water to maintain them. These communities have natural water sources, such as rivers and lakes, but they are not piped to rural areas. During summer months due to lack of access to water these gardens perish leaving women without food or income for their families. Increased access to water can drastically change life outcomes for women in Madagascar.

In 2007, two sisters in the Mandiso municipality of Southern Madagascar approached CARE International for assistance in securing access to water in their rural community. CARE introduced these sisters to foot-powered water pumps. Realizing the great empowerment potential these pumps posed, the sisters formed a grassroots cooperative to educate women in their community on the use and maintenance of water pumps. And thus, the Mandiso Water Pump Project began.

The project consists of women inhabitants of the Mandiso municipality. The women self-select for participation. They do so understanding that consistent access to water will increase their garden's yielding. Though small in size now, the base of participants is scalable exponentially because the early adapters train new participants. CARE has generously pledged to provide any necessary technical support and training to women participants to ensure this project's success.

All proceeds from Cocktails for a Cause will go towards a grant for The Mandiso Water Pump Project. For this project, Spark has partnered with CARE and the European Union to get water pumps this women's cooperative. Each water pump costs \$60 and provides enough water for two sustainable farms. Thus, a \$60 investment can provide food and income for two families or twenty people for five years. The EU has pledged to match our Spark grant 10-to-1. A grant of \$3000 will secure approximately 500 water pumps to the women of Mandiso. Join Spark in supporting these women and helping them secure food and income for 10,000 women and their families in Mandiso.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Help support Spark in its efforts to raise funds for the Mandiso Water Pump Project by attending Spark's Cocktails for a Cause on April 24th, 2008 or by purchasing a \$60 water pump on Spark's website. Please visit www.sparksf.org for more information.