



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

 inter aide



- | **03** ABOUT INTER AIDE
- | **04** AREAS OF INTERVENTION
- | **05** GENERAL BALANCE SHEET
- | **06** ACCESS TO WATER, HYGIENE, AND SANITATION & SERVICES OF MAINTENANCE
- | **15** FAMILY FARMING
- | **22** COMMUNITY HEALTH
- | **28** EDUCATION
- | **31** CAPITALISATION
- | **32** TOWARDS 2024

OUR ASSOCIATION: EVOLVING METHODS, ENDURING PRINCIPLES

Since 1980, Inter Aide has specialised in **the design and implementation of concrete development programmes aimed at the most disadvantaged populations, in order to give them the desire and the ability to take charge of their vital needs and to give them access to development.**

The projects are based on a common, concrete, and progressive approach, that aims at :

- **Always trying to reach the most disadvantaged families.**
- **Targeting areas** with very high levels of need, combining socio-economic insecurity and high population density, where effective responses to vital needs are possible.
- **Concentrating efforts** in a limited number of countries.
- **Combining the need for time**, which is necessary to acquire a detailed knowledge of the contexts, with precise cycles support, in order to make the most of latent capacity for initiative to generate local momentum.
- **Developing specific methods** based on the close involvement of all the players and the close relationship between the teams in the field and the beneficiaries, with a focus on empowerment.
- **Guaranteeing the effectiveness of actions**, the reproducibility of methods, the measurement of results and the control of cost by ensuring a high level of quality, reliability and transparency.
- **Encouraging**, as far as possible, **interfaces and initiatives between public actors, private actors and civil society** with a view to extending and sustaining actions.
- **Capitalising on and sharing** the most significant experiences published by the "**Réseau Pratiques**" exchange network: reseau-pratiques.org.

In this way, **the project teams aim to reproduce the most effective actions** and then, when the context is favourable, **to define or test the methodologies that will enable them to be scaled up** with the support of institutional players and civil society.

OVERVIEW OF INTER AIDE PROGRAMMES

7 countries
49 programmes
190,017 beneficiary families in 2023

HAITI

10,629 beneficiary families
7 programmes
1,291 k € budget

GUINEA

6,821 beneficiary families
2 programmes
401k € budget

ETHIOPIA

38,860 beneficiary families
12 programmes
3,157 k € budget

SIERRA LEONE

40,332 beneficiary families
4 programmes
951 k € budget

MOZAMBIQUE

9,406 beneficiary families
5 programmes
791 k € budget

MALAWI

51,828 beneficiary families
8 programmes
1 856 k € budget

MADAGASCAR

32,143 beneficiary families
11 programmes
2,056 k € budget

2022

51 programmes

198,000 beneficiary families directly supported for a total cost of **€ 11,106,000**, approximately **€ 56 per family**

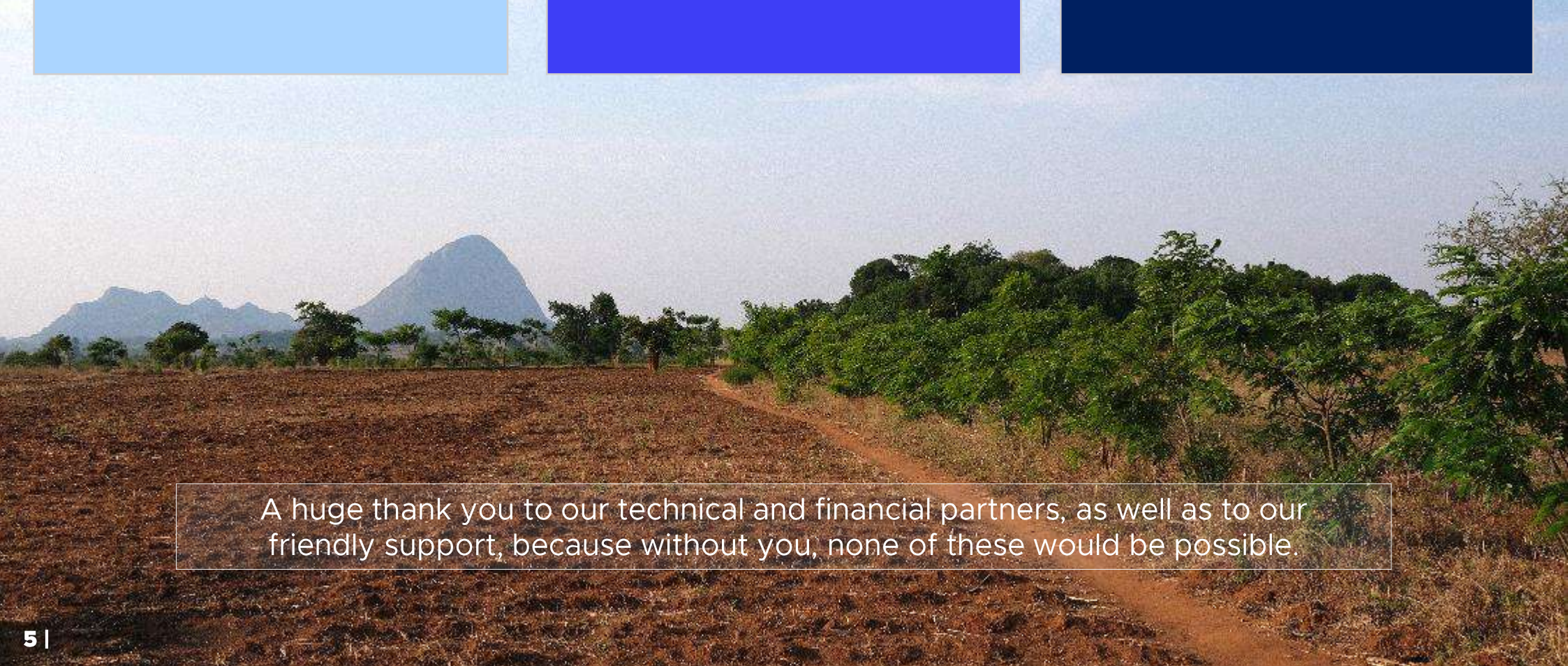
2023

49 programmes

190,017 beneficiary families directly supported for a total cost of **€ 10,503,000**, approximately **€ 55 per family**

2024

Continuing to develop activities with **48 programmes** targeting nearly **210,000 beneficiary families**, for a total cost of **€ 12,000,000** approximately **€ 57 per family**



A huge thank you to our technical and financial partners, as well as to our friendly support, because without you, none of these would be possible.



**ACCESS TO WATER, HYGIENE
AND SANITATION &
MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

112 023

beneficiary families

EHA and maintenance activities
in 2023 in **7 countries**



Co-construction of a protected well,
Sierra Leone



METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

1. **Develop monitoring-management-maintenance services for water supply facilities** to ensure a water service adapted to each context in rural areas by :

- Structuring and strengthening user groups.
- Supporting decentralised governmental departments.
- Setting up networks of private repairers and spare parts dealers.
- Delegation of monitoring, management and maintenance services to professionals.

2. **Respond to needs by co-building or rehabilitating facilities** in the areas involved in maintenance, systematically strengthening families' knowledge and practices.

ETHIOPIA



8 Water programmes
in 4 zones:

Goma, Wolayita,
Dawro, Kembata

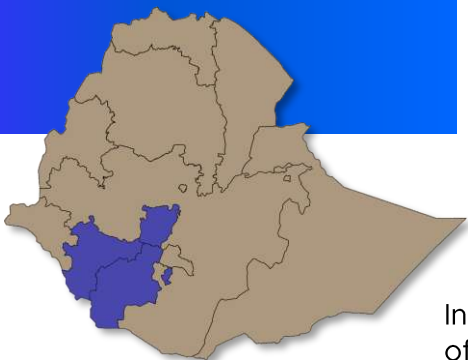
20 883
beneficiary families

= 4,154 + 3,190 x 15% + 65,000 x 25%.



1 local partner :

RCBDIA (Rural
Community Based
Development Initiative
Association)



Inter Aide and its local partner RCBDIA are working in 16 mountainous districts in the South-West, Central and South Regions of Ethiopia, newly created following the split-up of the former SNNPR region. Access to drinking water is still limited and the users' federations responsible for maintenance are poorly trained. The aim is therefore to support these Federations through the involvement of the various levels of government and to support construction of new facilities in municipalities where a strong water service has been set up.

Improving access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation

Inter Aide and RCBDIA have supported communities in the construction of **88 fountains**, supplying **4,154 families** (25,800 users) and 6 schools (**3,190 pupils**). 17 new springs have been tapped and almost 80 km of pipes installed to bring the water to the communities.

At 16 of these water points, built in 2 semi-rural areas, a volume-based sales system has been set up under the responsibility of small vendors already established in these towns. Water meters are installed to track consumption, and user federations are authorized to charge a set fee per cubic meter. Additionally, the prices of water cans are controlled to incentivize vendors to maintain efficient management of the water points and minimize water loss due to leaks after the meter. The sanitation awareness campaigns run by government health workers have helped to increase the number of families with latrines from 72% to 99%.

Improved access to maintenance services

Inter Aide and RCBDIA, in partnership with the Water Offices of the 16 Districts, support **175 Federations**, which, thanks to the recruitment of a Water Agent, ensure the water service in their rural commune and the maintenance of **1,475 functional water points**, serving almost **65,000 families** (390,000 users).

The Federations operate on the basis of annual contributions per waterpoint: for the second year running, more than **€100,000 was collected from users!** As a result, the Federations were able to carry out the maintenance operations within their reach at the start of 2023, with 977 functional water points assessed as being in very good condition in June 2023. The training courses are continuing, so that the Federations that now have the funds can undertake more extensive repairs and rehabilitate the water points that are in the worst condition.



Assessing the condition of a water body - Boreda district



Mengeda waterhole, Kucha District

GUINEA



1 programme in the communes of Koumban and Moribaya

1 936 beneficiary families

= 631 x 50% + 3,550 x 20%



The programme has been running since 2021 in the Prefecture of Kankan, in Upper Guinea. Very few other actors are involved in the water and sanitation sector in this area, despite the needs and high vulnerability of rural families, due to a high failure rate and seasonal drying up of water points. Inter Aide has given priority to the commune of Koumban (25 villages with a population of 29,000) and is gradually expanding into the commune of Moribaya (42 villages with a population of 17,000).

Raising awareness and building water points

In Koumban, the project team continued to raise families' awareness of good hygiene practices through a number of participatory events (for adults and children) and regular home visits to the commune's **3,550 households**. More than 200 awareness-raising sessions and visits were carried out in 2023. Access to chlorine, which enables water to be treated at home, has also been facilitated in the 25 villages.

The communities have continued their commitment to improving their sanitation and **631 families** have been equipped with a latrine, without any material support from the project: 83% of families in Koumban now own and use latrines, compared with 43% at the start of the project.



Beneficiary of a water point (Kardia pump)



Repairs by the Koumban craftsman (Vergnet pump)

In villages with poor access to water points and where the latrine coverage rate has reached 80% of families, additional support has been provided for the rehabilitation or construction of a borehole equipped with a hand pump. In 2023, **9 water points have been rehabilitated and 4 new boreholes built**, providing drinking water to **910 families** (3,900 people).

Management and maintenance of facilities

The project team has continued to **strengthen the "Unités de Gestion du Service Public de l'Eau - UGSPE"** in these villages, which manage the water points on behalf of the commune. The aim of this support is to introduce rules for community use of the facilities and a system of **user** contributions to fund pump maintenance.

At the same time, the project has helped the commune to set **up a communal water point management and maintenance service**, in particular through the work of a private craftsman attached to the commune, trained with the **Kankan regional water services (SNAPE)**. The setting up and strengthening of community players is continuing.

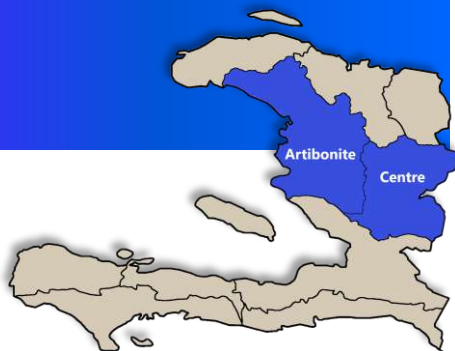
HAITI



2 programmes
in the municipalities of
Maïssade (Artibonite)
and Hinche (Centre)

2 652
beneficiary families

= 105 + 1 274 + 456
1 139 x 20% + 842 x 70% + 1 139 x 20% +
842 x 70%



The project teams are involved:

- In the densely populated rural commune of **Maïssade** (180 inhabitants/km², Black Mountain area), where there are major needs in terms of hygiene training, sanitation and access to drinking water.
- In several rural and peri-urban areas of the **Central Plateau**, to set up a range of services enabling families to improve their sanitation.

Access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation

In **Maïssade**, the expansion of the training team has enabled us to meet the growing demand from families for sanitation: **1,139 families** have completed the hygiene training cycle and **1,274 families** have built latrines.

2 new water points have been built: the **Kalmadère spring** has been tapped, and the **Tchoby catchment** has been rehabilitated, again with strong participation from the families, who provided local materials and unskilled labour. **105 new families now have access to a drinking water supply.**

Improving hygiene in schools

34 teachers and **28 members of the school committees** from the 5 partner schools took part in a two-day training course to raise awareness among their **842 pupils** of good practice and the main aspects of hygiene. Once again this year, the results of the knowledge test showed that **the pupils had made good progress in washing their hands** (91% correct answers). A test carried out with pupils from 2 schools already trained in hygiene also confirmed the very satisfactory results of previous years: after 2 years, they maintained a high success rate and showed a good knowledge of good practice (90% correct answers).

Support for the private rural sanitation sector - "ASPAR" project

This project aims to promote **the emergence of a private sanitation sector for the construction of family latrines** by stimulating supply and demand through the technical training of artisans and the identification of clients by promoters. 4 new promoters joined the team, bringing the total to 7. **6 new artisans were trained**, bringing the total to 11.

They built **456 latrines** (78% more than in 2022) for the same number of families who are financing 100% of the construction of their latrine, which is quite remarkable in the current Haitian context of insecurity and inflation. 57% of customers did not have a latrine before the intervention and 23% had a very precarious latrine (simple pit or wooden platform).

More and more localities are asking for this programme to be extended. We plan to extend this approach to the Nord department until the Mirebalais area is more secure.



Manufacture of a latrine slab by a contractor

MADAGASCAR



6 programmes in 4 regions

12 219
beneficiary families

= 4 133 + 32 342 x 25%



2 local partners :
Soakoja and Tehyna



Inter Aide and its partners Soakoja and Tehyna have taken up the challenge of professionalising a water service adapted to small rural structures in remote areas of Madagascar. After testing a number of solutions, in particular the technical services of local authorities, the approach of delegating the management, monitoring and maintenance of water facilities to specialist NGOs now seems to be the most effective, and is receiving strong support from many elected representatives, who are becoming increasingly convinced.

Management, monitoring and maintenance of facilities

The extension of the professional, not-for-profit, "water for all" management provided by local NGOs Soakoja and Tehyna therefore continued in 2023. **39 municipalities** delegated the management, monitoring and maintenance of their facilities in 2023, and a further 9 are planned for 2024.

To date, **1,143 water points** (827 public, 316 private) **servicing 32,342 families** (125,666 users) **are managed by Soakoja and Tehyna**. Whether they are public standpipes (villages), kiosks selling water per cans or private connections (small towns), each water point is regularly visited by Soakoja and Tehyna staff, who carry out the necessary maintenance and repairs to ensure that they are working properly, and collect the flat-rate or volumetric charges.

Raising awareness of hygiene, sanitation and construction/rehabilitation of water points

In the partner communes, Inter Aide has supported **the construction of 5 new water mains** and **8 rehabilitated water mains** serving 84 standpipes, the construction of **13 wells** and the **rehabilitation of 22 others**, all equipped with hand pumps, providing **4,133 families with access to drinking water**. At the same time as these projects were being carried out, these families were made aware of the key messages on preventing diarrhoeal diseases and were supported in the construction or rehabilitation of **3,681 latrines**, which considerably improved the health situation in their villages.



Hand-washing pump, Analamanga region

Once users have paid the fixed price (300 Ar per year for the standpipes; 50 Ar per can at the kiosks, including 25 Ar for the manager with a "social" rate to include the most vulnerable), **the delegated NGOs have an obligation to provide a continuous water service.**

In accordance with the Malagasy Water Code, **7% of the funds collected are returned to the communes**. Work is also underway to improve the representation of users, with greater involvement of women, in order to have a countervailing power to assess user satisfaction with the services provided by the delegating NGOs.



Microbe road event in Ambalaroaka, Fitovinany region

MALAWI



2 maintenance programmes in 7 districts in the Centre and South regions

30 420 beneficiary families

= 420 + 120 000 x 25%



1 local partner : ESS-ESS company

The main challenge in terms of access to drinking water in Malawi lies in the management and maintenance of the many existing water points in rural areas. For several years, this has been the core of Inter Aide's activities in the Central and Southern regions. The autonomy of the maintenance services and the growing involvement of other local players means that we are gradually withdrawing from certain areas. This was the case at the beginning of 2023 in 10 districts, with the parallel extension of the network of artisan-repairers and pump parts resellers in the districts of Balaka and Mangochi. In these areas, an exhaustive inventory of the facilities identified 11,400 pumps, only 37% of which were working without fault.



Repair of a faulty pump by two area mechanics in the Balaka district (Central region)

Water point maintenance networks

In 2023, the project provided active support for maintenance services in **7 districts in the Central and Southern regions**, home to 5.5 million people served by around 22,000 pumps. The network now has 296 area mechanics, including **136 trained** (44 women) this year in the districts of Balaka and Mangochi. At the same time, **34 new partner retailers** were trained in Balaka and Mangochi, bringing to 94 the number of retailers offering local access to pump spare parts.

The performance and autonomy of the services set up have been enhanced by a variety of measures: qualitative assessments, user satisfaction surveys, specific initiatives to support female repairers, the involvement of national spare parts suppliers, and the mobilisation of local institutions and leaders to promote and officially recognise the services.

Partner mechanics have been involved in the maintenance or repair of almost 2,000 pumps, serving **120,000 families** (500,000 users), but the impact of the services is much wider, with **mechanics now working independently and many works repaired by users themselves** thanks to local access to spare parts.

Strengthening water point committees and rehabilitating facilities

In the Mangochi and Balaka districts, the Inter Aide teams raised awareness among **57 water point committees** of the importance of preventive maintenance and trained them in the proper management of their facilities. This support is continuing in many villages, in response to strong demand from families.

Following this training, 7 committees embarked on a sustainable maintenance programme for their water points. As a result, these committees have benefited from the rehabilitation of their facilities, which could not have been carried out without external support: **420 families** (1,750 users) **have regained access to drinking water**, while strengthening the role of pump mechanics in the same areas.



MOZAMBIQUE



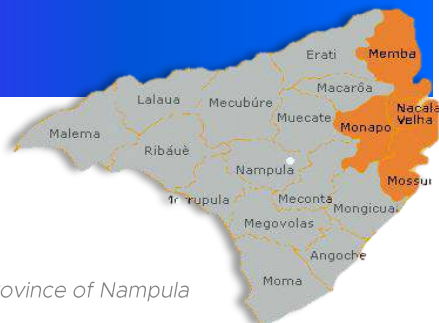
2 WASH programmes and 1 maintenance programme in the districts of Memba, Monapo, Mossuril and Nacala

5 952
beneficiary families

= 640 + 788 x 50% + 2,713 x 20%
+ 17 500 x 25%



1 local private partner :
Skytech



Province of Nampula

The activities are implemented in several rural districts of Nampula province, where many families lack access to a protected water point. The deteriorating security situation in the north of the province since the end of 2022 has interrupted or reduced activities in the districts of Memba and Nacala-a-Velha, before redeploying them to areas further south in the districts of Monapo, Mossuril and Mogincual.

Raising awareness and building water points

Awareness-raising and construction/rehabilitation activities are now concentrated in the **south of the Monapo district**. The teams have maintained a high level of commitment despite the change of area, enabling them to continue working with the communities. In 10 villages, **2,713 people, including 886 women and 1,168 children** (aged over 6), took part in participatory workshops on good hygiene practices, with sessions adapted for children. **70% of people of training age took part in the awareness-raising sessions**, demonstrating excellent community mobilisation.

Following the awareness-raising campaigns, **788 families built a latrine**, with additional support for 151 very vulnerable households.

In villages with no water supply, **7 mechanical boreholes and 1 protected hand dug well were built**. They provide **640 families (2,400 people) with drinking water**.

The village committees have been trained in the proper management and preventive maintenance of their facilities, with a strong emphasis on women.



Protected water point and its users, Monapo district

Water point maintenance network

Water point maintenance services were extended to **Mogincual** district, completing a network already covering **Monapo, Mossuril, Memba and Nacala-a-Velha**. In the latter two districts, lighter monitoring was put in place because of the insecurity.

The strengthening of services has been pursued in collaboration with the district administration and Skytech, the company that supplies the resellers with pump spare parts. By 2023, the 53 artisan-repairers and traders accredited by the district water departments and paid by family contributions had repaired 250 pumps, guaranteeing access to water for **17,500 families** (75,000 users).

Community stakeholders continued to be strengthened in the management and maintenance of water points. **120 village committees received support** through technical training in financial management, internal organisation and relations with users, tailored to each situation. **Awareness-raising sessions were organised for community leaders** to better define their role in improving the management of water points.

An inventory of 1,800 structures (out of a total of 2,000 structures serving 600,000 users) revealed **an operating rate of 91%**, highlighting the good capacity of communities to mobilise for maintenance services.



Repair of a structure by a village committee (Mogincual district)

SIERRA LEONE



2 WASH programmes and 1 maintenance programme in the Bombali, Karene, Port Loko and Tonkolili districts

37 963
beneficiary families

= 1 474 + (151 850 + 8 000) x 25%



Inter Aide and its partners have taken up the challenge of setting up a professionalised rural water service to enable continuous access to a protected water point, which necessarily involves regular maintenance of the hand pumps equipping the existing wells or boreholes. The central players in the water service are the District Water Departments, the official maintenance technicians and the project team, the latter gradually withdrawing from the front line to provide support and advice.

India Mark manual pump repairs by an accredited technician



Preventive maintenance of manual pumps

The **Water Directorates** of the 4 districts must play a central role in the organisation of the water service in rural areas. By entrusting them with realistic and concrete objectives and supporting them on the basis of results achieved, the project has succeeded this year in getting them more involved in the preparation and monitoring of the technicians responsible for the annual preventive maintenance of the pumps. **The maintenance technicians** (46 accredited and 16 apprentices) trained by the project and accredited by the water authorities offer an annual pump maintenance service within their geographical area, at an agreed price, guaranteeing a very low risk of breakdown.

During the 2023 campaign, the **technicians carried out 3,037 preventive maintenance operations** (i.e. 67% of "eligible" pumps: not private, known and in operation), enabling around **151,850 families to maintain their access to drinking water throughout the year**. The team also supported the **repair of 202 pumps out of service**, serving **8,000 families**, who are now committed to annual preventive maintenance.

Construction and rehabilitation of water points

The construction of new wells remains a challenge in some remote areas, with families always actively participating in the construction of the well by providing labour and local materials. By 2023, with the support of the project, **30 communities** had built 25 wells and rehabilitated 5, providing **1,474 families** (7,368 users) with **access to drinking water**.

Hygiene and sanitation awareness-raising activities have helped to improve the knowledge and practices of **26,265 people in 52 communities**, including 19 in the Tonkolili district, classified as particularly vulnerable by national indicators and where the project has so far only supported the implementation of water services. As a result of the training courses, 23 communities have achieved a full level of equipment of family latrines and will receive priority support for the construction of a new facility.

Home water treatment

In villages with a population of less than 150, it is often difficult to envisage setting up a water point (isolation, size of village, temporary installation, etc.). In addition, small families often do not have the means to finance the future maintenance of their facility. Home water treatment is therefore an appropriate alternative.

By the end of 2023, **182 communities are treating their drinking water** in this way, thanks to the training received and the chlorine distribution network set up in small rural shops.



**FAMILY
FARMING**

42 310**beneficiary families****activities to support family farming
in 2023 in 5 countries of operation**

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH



1. Maintain favourable conditions for family farming in densely populated areas by preserving the environment and natural resources, in particular through reforestation and soil conservation.

2. Support families to improve their food security through new crops and improved farming practices, enabling rapid and significant change.

3. Develop income-generating sectors and appropriate agricultural services such as advice, access to seeds, veterinary care, etc. to increase family incomes.



Farmer in a groundnuts' field, Malawi

ETHIOPIA



4 programmes in the Wolayta, Kembatta-Tembaro and Hadiya areas

17 977
beneficiary families

= 17 208 + 431 + 338



1 local NGO partner :
**Rural Community
Based Development
Initiative Association
(RCBDIA)**



Inter Aide and RCBDIA are helping to disseminate practices in mountainous areas that help to control soil erosion and promote water infiltration, while at the same time addressing the major difficulties faced by families in feeding and maintaining their livestock. These solutions, whose results have been evaluated and confirmed, are now being transferred to local institutions so that they can be extended on a larger scale.

Improving access to fodder grasses

To facilitate access to fodder grasses, which are essential for livestock feeding, Ministry of Agriculture officials and project teams rely on women's groups. They are involved in transporting the plants, using donkey-drawn carts, from central government-run nurseries to collection points in the villages. In 68 rural communities, **17,208 women have received seedlings and set up a nursery** ($\pm 30 \text{ m}^2$), which will enable them to replant more than 200 metres of anti-erosion structures on each farm. They are also receiving advice on fodder management and diversification, fodder legume hedgerows and animal nutrition to increase milk production.



Fodder grass hedge on an erosion control structure

Soil and water conservation

Once multiplied, these grasses are used to vegetate and stabilise anti-erosion structures to limit soil erosion. The planting of fodder in the fields also requires the mobilisation of traditional structures to control the divagation of livestock in the dry season.

The project also facilitates the training of peer farmers who support around twenty farms in their neighbourhood to implement the improvements, sharing their experience by demonstrating the practices directly on the farms of the new beneficiaries.

Diversifying production and adding value to coffee

In the Wolayita region, where farms are very small (0.4 ha on average) and highly exposed to the vagaries of the weather, RCBDIA has helped **431 families to create small, highly diversified orchards around coffee trees, integrating annual crops and various agroforestry species**. This provides income from the first year, while the new coffee plants take 4-5 years to become productive. A total of **26,655 trees** have been planted.



Farmer in front of his coffee orchard

A total of 1,631 km of anti-erosion structures were built and planted this year, protecting almost 2,000 hectares of arable land.

3,138 families started conservation work on their land for the first time, in addition to the families who continued the work they had started previously.

MADAGASCAR



2 programmes in the south-east regions of Vatovavy-Fitovinany and Atsimo-Atsinanana

5 944
beneficiary families

= 1 464 + 2 200 + 380 + (3 800 *50%)



3 local partners:

- Fagnimbogna
- Tsimialonjafy Association
- Taninendry Association



The total collapse of the vanilla market and the reorganisation of the teams disrupted the business for a while, but the teams also demonstrated their ability to bounce back and learn lessons for the future.

Increase in family production

1,464 new families, organised into neighbourhood groups with a particular focus on women, strengthened their food security and diversified their diets through support in the form of planting materials, tools and extensive technical assistance. Support continued for **3,800 households** to consolidate the agricultural practices introduced the previous year.

The various crops (tubers, potato peas, christophine, pe-tsai, etc.) were grown by the vast majority of households. About half of the beneficiaries grew more demanding crops such as sesame or carrots, and more than 600 households tried their hand at banana or papaya production.

Despite the enthusiasm generated, the "**taninendry**" plots allocated to 267 women farmers in 2022 have not met the expectations. Social and practical difficulties (distance, crop theft) were not sufficiently anticipated in this pilot approach, which will not be scaled up until all the lessons have been learned.

Reforestation of degraded hills

214 lineage groups comprising **2,200 families** planted **608,000 trees of various species on 384 ha of common land on degraded hills**. The most experienced lineages prefer the production of pelleted seedlings to the direct sowing of pre-germinated seeds (easier to start with but requiring more work to replace seedlings that have not germinated). 507 ha of plantations dating from 2021 and 2022 were maintained by 241 lineage structures, with a particular focus on fire prevention.



A Ranomena tranobe plot planted in 2022 in the Ambohimahasina fokontany, Ambahatrazo rural district

Collective organisation of small producers and development of cash crops

The project continued to support **380 vanilla-producing families** in the Tsimialonjafy association, in the remote commune of Ambalatany, to improve the quality of their production and meet the demands of the export market. But the Madagascan vanilla market collapsed in 2023, bringing exports to a virtual standstill: with no buyers for the green vanilla, it was about to be lost. . We supported the members of the association to transform it, with the expertise of Sahanala, a recognised Madagascan player in the production of certified organic vanilla. 152 families took up the challenge of processing their production (602 kg), which was finally purchased by Sahanala. Thanks to the quality of the vanilla produced, **Tsimialonjafy has become a member of the Sahanala federation and will be able to continue to benefit from this privileged sales channel.**

SIERRA LEONE



1 agricultural programme in the Karene district

2 369 beneficiary families

= 639 + 854 + 1 752 x 50%



2 local NGO partners:

- Good Heart Farmers
- HELP Salone



The drop in onion production in Europe, particularly in the Netherlands, has led to a significant reduction in imports into Sierra Leone. This has reaffirmed the place of local quality onions on the market, with a spectacular increase in the selling price this year. Onions and associated vegetables (cucumbers, aubergines, watermelons) provide income for families at a time when household cash flow is low, enabling them to pay school fees, buy food and seeds for the rainy season.

Improving farmers' incomes in the dry season through horticulture

Within the 67 target communities, the enthusiasm is undiminished. **639 women farmers** (the vast majority of whom are women) **have joined the project, which also provides very specific support to 1,752 families** with 1 or 2 years' experience.

New members are trained to grow onions, combined with other crops such as aubergines, using a peer-training approach.

9 sales points were set up, enabling groups of women producers and buyers to meet, with specific support to increase the negotiating capacity of the groups. 122 tonnes of onions were produced (with a much higher yield than in previous years), including around 29 tonnes by groups organised within the **Good Heart Farmers** association.

Sales prices (€30-40 per 30 kg) were exceptional this year, around 3 times higher than the previous season due to an international shortage of onions, making this off-season crop even more attractive to families.



Harvesting groundnuts for one of the village groups of the HELP Salone association

Diversifying and improving technical practices during the rainy season

854 families received support for various rainy-season crops, including the supply of inputs and training in specific technical areas: improved groundnuts to be multiplied on common plots for widespread distribution, white yams and the much sought-after plantains.

In the 68 communities supported, 46% of families benefited from training and received plantain offshoots (5 on average); 59% of families took part in activities to introduce white yam and 52% took part in the introduction of the improved groundnuts variety. This high level of participation clearly reflects the interest shown by families in the crops being promoted.



Farmers have been trained for negotiating and standardising the bags of onions produced.



MALAWI

4 programmes in the Lilongwe, Phalombe and Zomba districts

14 944
beneficiary families

= 2 957 + 11 752 x 50% + 59 287 x 10% + 95



While the 22-23 growing season was promising, in March 2023 cyclone Freddy displaced 508,000 people and caused more than 1,200 deaths. Around 30,000 houses were destroyed, 1,265 km of roads damaged and more than 92,000 hectares of crops ravaged in regions where 400,000 people were already suffering from food insecurity. The District of Phalombe was particularly hard hit.

In this difficult context, obtaining additional incomes through agroforestry (production and sale of firewood and building wood), chicken rearing (vaccination of hens) and the adoption of agro-ecological techniques is becoming vital for small farming families.

Support for family farming and reforestation

2,957 families have planted trees with the support of Inter Aide: 1,259 families have had first-time support that will be for at least 3 years for food production improvement. Some 302,000 trees (7,500 fruit trees) have been planted thanks to **123 village tree nurseries**.

The bocage plantation model, recommended by Inter Aide, has been adopted by 79% of the families and offers many advantages: no immobilisation of the land, soil improvement, erosion control, etc. On older plots, it has been shown that the income from trees can be higher than the income from agricultural production.

A survey of the adoption rates of the practices promoted in the villages supported from 2020 onwards revealed **a significant increase in the proportion of legumes in crop rotation, rising from 29% to 45% over a three-year period**. The proportion of families with at least one agricultural plot with ridges planted according to the recommended spacing increased from 5% before the intervention to 98%, while there was no improvement for non-beneficiaries in the control villages. The adoption rates for double-row sowing of legumes, which were virtually non-existent before the intervention, were excellent for soya (89%) and more mixed for groundnuts (45%).

Supporting village poultry farming by controlling Newcastle disease

The vaccination of hens, which is vital for preserving savings and improving the nutrition of the poorest families, has been set up in 3 districts by **458 vaccinators**, including **95 new vaccinators working in** 8 associations. This has provided easy, organised access to the vaccine.

This year, **71,213 families used vaccinators** for less than €0.10 per hen (sold for between €4 and €8 on the markets), including **11,926 families** for the first time. The vaccinators effectively protected 1.8 million poultry on the farms of small, isolated rural producers, while also enabling them to make an average profit of €190 over the year..

The main obstacle is the **limited supply of thermostable I-2 vaccine**, produced by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the absence of a government strategy for introducing these services in rural areas. This is preventing the model from being replicated in new districts. To assist the Ministry in overcoming these constraints, a four-year project **to scale up vaccine production and immunisation services** in a third of the country has been under development since the end of 2023.



Village demonstration plot, 2022-2023 season

HAITI



1 programme in the Juanaria and Balandry areas

1 077
beneficiary families

= 784 + 515 x 50%



Although isolated rural areas are not directly affected by the security problems, the impact on families is nonetheless significant: they are unable to sell their surpluses in the capital, prices are rising and inflation is high. In addition, many people, particularly young people, are fleeing the chaos of Port-au-Prince to return to these rural areas, adding to the burden on their families.

Improving food safety

Access to seed, particularly bean seed, is vital for the food security of most households, so that they do not have to resort to loan sharks to borrow. **784 families**, grouped into solidarity groups of 4 members, **benefited from at least one seed loan for one of the two annual crop cycles**. Repayments, with interest, are made to the seed bank, which is still managed by the project, so that each group's seeds are secure.

Protecting family savings

Small-scale livestock farming - chickens for the most vulnerable, pigs or cows for the better off - is the only way for families to save and anticipate hard times. Vaccination and feeding are the two main areas of support for the project:

- **525 families** regularly vaccinate their hens against **Newcastle disease** (4,885 hens vaccinated) with a vaccination service now run autonomously by the project leaders who, as development agents for the area, will continue this service well beyond Inter Aide's presence in the area.
- **17,200 linear metres of fodder** have been planted this year by new families, while families who have already practised the activity are multiplying the plants themselves.



Installing dry stone walls to reduce erosion on the plots and transform the wasteland into a productive garden

Reforestation, preserving resources and improving fertility

Reforestation is an important issue in the Haitian Mornes. The 36 private nurseries set up by Inter Aide have produced 68,700 forest seedlings, purchased by families with a subsidy from the project to be planted on their plots.

The pilot activity initiated in 2022, which consists of supporting the most vulnerable households to **transform their plots into productive gardens**, by combining the installation of dry stone anti-erosion lines and the planting of trees, banana or pineapple plants, has this year enabled **108 families** to improve their plots.

9,000 Cavendish banana plants have been distributed to 84 families (families must return plants after 2 years so that they can be distributed to other families) and 19,700 pineapple plants to 81 families. **The first banana** (January 2024) **and pineapple** (August 2024) **harvests are expected to boost family incomes** by around 6,500 gourdes a year (€50).



Combating erosion and reforestation: two vital issues in Haiti's Mornes mountains



**COMMUNITY
HEALTH**

28 784
beneficiary families
 community health activities
 in 2023 in **4 countries of operation**



METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

1. Support the adoption of better health and hygiene practices in order to :
 - Prevent major childhood illnesses: malaria, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections.
 - Encourage parents to seek early treatment for their children.
 - Improve access to family planning and maternal health: pregnancy monitoring, delivery at the health centre and post-natal care.

2. Improve healthcare provision in existing facilities and make it more accessible to families by encouraging the work of community health workers, traditional matrons and the setting up of village or mobile clinics.



Head of health post and two midwives, Guinea

MADAGASCAR



3 Health programmes in the districts of **Farafangana, Vohipeno, Vondrozo and Vangaindrano**

13 981 beneficiary families

= (5 336 + 16 176) x 5%
+ 206 000 x 6% + 72 + 473



In south-east Madagascar, Inter Aide has been supporting the posting of Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) for many years, enabling children to receive rapid basic medical care. In a context where communicable diseases are very prevalent (malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia) due to climatic and social conditions, this local care makes it possible to multiply the number of consultations for children, as health centres are often insufficient in number and located at great distances from part of the population. This strategy has resulted in a 50% reduction in children under 5 mortality rates in targeted districts.

Extension of the action to two new districts

Building on this experience, the project was extended to the districts of Vondrozo and Vangaindrano, and now targets **a population of 900,000 people**, served by 1,315 CHVs. In these new areas, where the infant mortality rate is 148 per 1,000 live births, the team has focused from the outset on involving the district health services. This is because experience has shown that they are the key players in ensuring the long-term survival of the CHVs network, which is now recognised by national policy and integrated into the health system.

Improving health practices

One of the main thrusts of the project is to raise awareness in order to improve prevention practices in families as well as prompt healthcare seeking for sick children by parents.

Two approaches are proposed:

- On the one hand, Inter Aide's facilitators carried out 288 activities for around **5,336 people** (33,000 participants) in the districts of Vohipeno and Vangaindrano.
- On the other hand, 340 CHVs have been trained to raise public awareness on their own: they have reached **16,176** people in 2,520 mass sessions or home visits.

Support for village health workers

This year was dedicated to the organisation of essential training. This included basic training for CHVs in the new districts, as well as reinforcement of knowledge and extension of care to people over-5 years old in the old districts (Farafangana and Vohipeno). The public health services were heavily involved in the planning and rolling out of these activities, which is essential for the sustainability of the action. This process however resulted in a delay to the launch of the training courses, which only commenced at the end of the year.



2 Community Health Volunteers, in front of the house of one of them, where childcare are provided (Vondrozo)



Training on sensitization methods Community Health Volunteers (Farafangana)

A total of **72 new CHVs** have been trained and **473 have received support** in 2023. The 1,115 CHVs in Farafangana, Vohipeno and Vondrozo have carried out **206,000 child consultations this year**, an increase of 27% on the previous year. The most notable increase occurred in Vondrozo, where consultations have quadrupled since Inter Aide's arrival.

MALAWI



2 Health programmes in the Lilongwe, Mchinji, and Phalombe districts

6 664 beneficiary families

= 33 + 85 + 12 + 30 + 15
+ 2 669 + 4 600 x 50%



1 local CSO partner :
Center for Social Concern



The year 2023 was particularly difficult, with a major cholera epidemic and then the passage of cyclone Freddy, damaging many health structures and reducing the availability of care for families. The team adapted to respond to the emergency and maintain the continuity of activities in Phalombe and Mitundu. The project has also been extended to the Mchinji district, bringing to 460,000 the number of people living in rural areas, some of them very remote, where the health system is strengthened by the project.

Improving family practices

The aim is to enhance families' capacity to prevent and manage major illnesses such as malaria and diarrhoea, as well as monitor pregnancies adequately. This is done by Inter Aide staff living in the targeted communities for a period of 2 to 3 years. In **Mchinji**, based on a training manual developed in collaboration with the district health services, 57 local leaders, **33 health workers** and **85 community health volunteers** from Fanuel, Gumba and Chimwankango health centres were trained to disseminate prevention messages and provide better support for families.

Support for the healthcare system

The aim here is to strengthen the local health system so that more and better services can be delivered to families, by reinforcing the training of key staff in health centres and village clinics, and by providing appropriate material support. Close coordination with the health authorities and compliance with national health policies help to ensure the sustainability of the results.

This year, a number of training were organised to address the weaknesses identified by the district's health services: **12 nurse midwives** have been trained on site, **30 community health workers** on family planning services and **15 members of a health centre management committee** trained to improve their involvement in centre activities. Quarterly meetings in the Mitundu health area have brought together all 110 healthcare staff on a regular basis to discuss the performance of the health centres, exchange practices and learn about new protocols promoted by the Ministry of Health.

In **Phalombe**, the project facilitators have moved to a new health centre catchment area. In the old areas, lighter monitoring will help to assess the sustainability of the activities, now carried out by local community players on their own. In 2023, the village health committees carried out 32 awareness-raising sessions, reaching **2,669 people**. Almost all committee members remain active more than 2 years after the Inter Aide team's withdrawal. Thanks to the training and material support provided between 2022 and 2023, 6 new village clinics were also opened in 2023, benefiting to **4,600 families**.



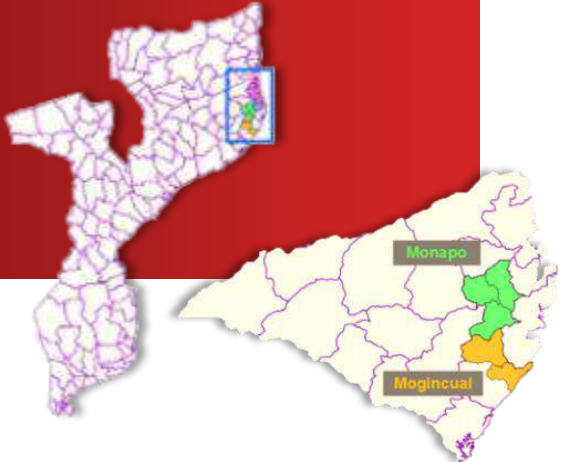
Vaccination of a child by a community health worker during a mobile clinic in Phalombe

Lastly, several supports in terms of equipment have helped to improve healthcare provision: maintenance of the running water network in 3 health centres in Mitundu, construction of an incinerator and a placenta pit for the maternity ward in Chiringa, and completion of 2 staff houses for a health centre in Mchinji, a project abandoned by another organisation 10 years ago and which will facilitate the opening of a future maternity ward planned for 2024.

MOZAMBIQUE

2 Health programmes in the Monapo and Mogincual districts

3 454 beneficiary families
= 7 + 27 + 3 420



The Nampula region, in the north of Mozambique, is the most densely populated in the country, with almost 6 million inhabitants. Living conditions there are very difficult, and access to healthcare is particularly limited for families. Following terrorist attacks in the north of the province in 2022, the two programmes deployed at the time in Memba district and in the north of Monapo district had to be interrupted. In 2023, the teams worked tirelessly to identify new areas of high need and to re-establish activities, in partnership with local public health services.

Initial surveys in new areas

As a result of the quantitative and qualitative studies carried out, 4 new intervention health centres were selected: 2 in the south of **Monapo** district (Meserepane and Metocheria) and 2 in the new, very isolated district of **Mogincual** (Xa-Momade and Xa-Seleman), where almost no health intervention is ongoing.

Initial surveys confirmed the needs: the average mortality rate for children under 5 is 116 per 1,000 births. 44% of deaths are caused by easily treatable infectious diseases (malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia) and 38% are linked to maternal health (neonatal deaths). Only 55% of births take place in health centres, and only 31% of women use contraception.



Initial survey in Mogincual district

Improving family health practices

The teams launched awareness-raising campaigns with 15 facilitators based in the villages. In Monapo, **7 local community health volunteers** and **27 traditional matrons** were trained as facilitators.

In total, 507 group sessions and 1,983 home visits were carried out to improve family practices in preventing childhood illness and in seeking care for women and children: 20,124 participants were recorded.

An estimated **3,420 families** in Monapo and Mogincual benefited from the project in 2023.



Training of traditional matrons (Monapo)

Support for the healthcare system

A detailed analysis of short- and medium-term needs was carried out for the 4 targeted health centres.

Essential medical equipment has been distributed to the two centres in Monapo. Work is underway to repair the Metocheria health centre roof and build a house for the health centre staff.

At Xa-Momade, **the renovation of the centre has enabled the maternity ward to reopen:** deliveries had been taking place in tents since Cyclone Gombe struck in 2022.

GUINEA



1 Health programme
in the prefecture of
Kankan

4 885
beneficiary families

= 2 869 + 16 + 2 500 * 80 %



1 local CSO partner :
Actors United for the
Development of
Community Initiatives
(AUDICO)



The project has been targeting the Kankan region since 2022 because of the alarming mortality rates among children under 5 (more than 200 per 1,000 live births), the high prevalence of malaria, the low level of health facilities (poor staff qualifications and equipment) and the high rate of home births in very precarious conditions. In 2023, the project was launched in close collaboration with the local health authorities. In addition to providing support for Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), the team has started to strengthen health posts, which are particularly neglected in Guinea.

Improving family practices

Awareness-raising activities **to improve prevention practices and families' use of healthcare** are implemented by our local partner AUDICO. In 2023, the facilitators targeted 34 villages in the communes of Tinti Oulen and Mamouroudou, organising 4,820 sensitization sessions and mass events totalling 49,394 participants, for around **2,869 families**, in half of the targeted villages.

At the same time, Inter Aide trained 28 agents from the Mamouroudou commune (CHVs, health centre staff) to carry out health education talks and home visits in their communities.



Awareness-raising activity by the AUDICO facilitator in the village of Morigbeya, Mamouroudou commune

Support for the healthcare system

In collaboration with the Kankan Prefectural Health Department, a training programme in basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC) was developed for all staff of the 11 health posts in the commune of Tinti Oulen (**16 health professionals**, including the health centre midwife). The training was complemented by the provision of essential equipment to all health posts to improve delivery practices.

A second supply of equipment (delivery table, cupboard, etc.) will be proposed at the beginning of 2024 depending on the progress observed in the health posts and monitored during the team's supervisions.

The team continues to support the 50 community health volunteers in the two communes. In 2023, they carried out **2,500 consultations of sick children**, representing 30% of consultations in these rural areas.

The child consultation index in Tinti Oulen **has increased significantly over the past two years**, from 0.3 in 2021 to 0.69 in 2023. This is a clear indication of the positive impact of our actions on access to healthcare.



EDUCATION

6 901
beneficiary families
school support activities
in 2023 in Haiti



Classroom at François de Malherbe school, Marmelade

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

1. **Strengthening the skills of those involved in the education community:** parents, teachers, management, school committees, etc. as part of a contractual support package with the schools, limited in time, with shared annual objectives and in compliance with the guidelines set by the Haitian Ministry of Education.
2. **Improving the learning environment for pupils:** teaching materials, school furniture and the construction of classrooms in partner schools demonstrating their ability to progress.
3. **Assessing pupils' learning** by means of a standardised test, carried out on pupils in the 3rd fundamental year.



HAITI



4 programmes in the communes of Verrettes, Grand-Goâve, Marmelade and Bainet

6 901 beneficiary families

= 9 858 *70 %



3 local partners: Concert-Action, IEPENH and OJELEQ



The start of the 2022 school year was postponed until January 2023 in most schools due to social unrest against the government. Despite the challenges, the start of the 2023 school year went well overall, with **9,858 children enrolled in 86 partner schools**. The challenge taken up by the teams is to ensure that the entire educational community in each school is capable of guiding the management of its school to achieve lasting improvements in children's learning, with each school having its own specific characteristics.

Mobilising parents on the importance of a good school for their children

Training courses for parents explore the notion of learning and the factors that hinder it. They are structured around the "path to learning", describing various factors (adherence to the timetable, the presence of teachers, pupils, teaching materials, the environment, the teaching method) and animation modules, always very participative, on more specific issues depending on the situation of each school. **More than 2,000 parents have been trained this year, and their involvement has increased, in particular by checking on the punctuality and attendance of teachers.** In Verrettes, the teacher attendance rate is now 90%, and the pupil attendance rate 76%.

Supporting the development and implementation of school projects

On the basis of observations made during weekly visits by project's educational advisers and activity leaders, each school draws up its annual project to overcome the main difficulties and define a realistic budget setting the amounts of school fees paid by families and teachers' salaries.

The team has organised training courses throughout the year to enhance the skills of everyone, especially the teachers, either through individual tutorials targeting a specific need, or by school level on specific themes. 349 teachers (out of 406) received several days of training adapted to each level.



Satier National School, Marmelade

Improving learning conditions

The project distributes school books and furniture to all the schools supported. For those who are most assiduous in meeting the commitments made in their school project, the construction of classrooms can be envisaged. School books were supplied to 22 schools, 62 desks were distributed and 10 classrooms were built in 2 schools, radically changing the learning conditions for pupils. **In Grand-Goâve, 80% of pupils now have textbooks and all have a seat.**

Every year, the project's facilitators assess the school population: age of pupils, repeaters, girls and boys. A Basic Skills test in the 3rd year is used to check learning progress. No doubt linked to the very late start to the 22/23 school year and the troubles throughout the year, the average age in the different levels has stagnated this year. **At Marmelade, where the project is still new, the latest test shows a positive trend:** the success rate has risen from 42% to 51% for reading syllables, from 31% to 37% for addition and from 43% to 51% for subtraction. **The tests also highlight the importance of pre-school, with pupils achieving a success rate twice as high as those who did not have the chance to study at pre-school.**

The "**Réseau Pratiques**" (www.reseau-pratiques.org) network for exchanging experiences and methods freely shares all the publications produced by the Inter Aide, ATIA, ESSOR, Planète Enfants et Développement and Experts-Solidaires teams, as well as summaries of evaluations carried out on projects.

Water, hygiene, sanitation & maintenance

In 2023, a number of studies and dissemination activities were undertaken to support the sustainability of water services:

- The Director of the local Ethiopian NGO RCBDA travelled to Madagascar, accompanied by a team from the head office, to share and train the local team in the design of gravity structures, with a view to facilitating their future maintenance.
- The water services management models implemented as part of the Ranomanga project in Madagascar were presented during a radio programme. The emphasis was on citizen participation and the involvement of women.
- Tools for characterising water services and measuring the involvement of local stakeholders have been developed with the support of the pS-Eau programme, with the ultimate aim of strengthening the professionalisation of services in all intervention contexts.

The teams have continued to promote an integrated approach to gender issues, in collaboration with organisations such as GRET and the Azimio consultancy in Madagascar. These efforts have led to the implementation of concrete action plans to improve the representation of women in decision-making processes relating to access to water.

The teams in charge of capitalisation have focused their efforts on drafting fact sheets on social pricing, double-pit latrines and recommendations for the construction of boreholes, to be published in 2024.

Support for family farming

The aim of the capitalisation process is to support reflection on how to improve the responses provided by the projects, to assess their practical effects and to share experiences.

The main topics for 2023 include:

- Tree seedling production techniques, including comparative measures for producing a significant number of fodder hedge shrubs on farms in Ethiopia;
- Management of hedges and tree plantations, with initial feedback on pruning practices;
- Evaluation of the savings made and the income generated, thanks to the production of firewood from the pruning of hedge trees set up around and within the fields;
- Analysis of the onion sector in Sierra Leone and opportunities for improving the connection between producers and potential buyers ;
- A study of the costs associated with the various stages of the coffee chain in Ethiopia (drying, pulping, transport, export), as well as the introduction of appropriate tools for traceability and financial management;
- A study to evaluate the rates and conditions of recovery after the passage of fire on reforestation plots in Madagascar;
- A visit by the Malawi team to Ethiopia as part of the launch of the project to scale up the vaccination of hens against Newcastle disease in Malawi.

Tero has continued to provide ad hoc support for reforestation initiatives, as part of an ongoing evaluation process.

Community health

With the creation of a dedicated capitalisation officer post in 2022, the ambition is to generate more exchanges and disseminate the best practices and lessons learned in each context.

An update of the documents published on the Réseau Pratiques network on health was launched in 2023 and is ongoing. This work will enable the publication of many documents produced in recent years but not yet published.

Work on mortality survey methodologies continued in 2023, particularly in Mozambique using the new protocol. The capitalisation report is currently being published on the Réseau Pratiques.

An exchange visit by health teams from Mozambique was planned for 2023 and took place in early 2024. 10 members of the Mozambique health team came to find out about health projects in Malawi and discuss issues with their Malawian colleagues. The opposite visit is scheduled mid-2024.

A final evaluation was carried out on all the health projects in 2023, laying the foundations for a long-term evaluation (2024 to 2026). This process, accompanied by an external consultant, will enable in-depth reflection and team-building by questioning the relevance and efficiency of the support offered to health services in each context. It will also help to improve methods for measuring results and impact.



Remaining loyal to our values while continually adapting to new contexts, with a great deal of humility about our ability to change things, but always with great ambitions for each family we help: this is the day-to-day challenge that each member of Inter Aide will continue to take up in 2024.

For the Education programmes, which are concentrated in Haiti, the evolution of the security situation will of course remain a key concern. But the teams are keen to demonstrate their ability to adapt to meet the needs of the younger generation with an effective method for improving learning in the primary schools supported. 79 schools will be supported in this way.

In projects to provide access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, the major challenge will be to consolidate water services in rural areas to manage, monitor and sustainably maintain village water points. The strategies developed by the teams to professionalise these services so that they can continuously deliver quality water at appropriate and inclusive rates will be extended and consolidated. The growing acceptance that users in areas of high poverty cannot nowadays finance these services in their entirety offers a new perspective on the analysis of the sustainability of the services.

The effects of climate change on agricultural projects, which aim to maintain small-scale farming, are creating major constraints in all project areas. The teams will continue to provide strong support to families so that, through diversification, optimised farming techniques and reforestation, they can better meet their food security needs.

In the healthcare projects, the teams will continue to stimulate demand for care in order to improving the treatment of children and the supply of care by supporting government health services in their response to the needs of families.

By combining the need for long-term commitment, which is essential for an in-depth understanding of contexts and needs, with a focus on actions in the field and the development of specific, carefully tested and evaluated methods, our teams are gradually defining effective and efficient models. Inter Aide does not aim to scale up these models to a larger scale, but large-scale testing allows us to question them and forces us to simplify them so that they can gradually be adopted by other stakeholders. This is the main thrust of the projects in Ethiopia (access to water and agriculture) and Malawi (poultry vaccination), which are clearly identified as "scaling up" projects, as well as the health projects in Madagascar.



44, rue de la Paroisse
78 000 Versailles - France
(+33) 01 39 02 38 59
interaide@interaide.org
www.interaide.org