



1. What happens if you don't reach your goal?

Any funding deficiencies will unfortunately mean that students who don't perform academically will be removed. This has been communicated to the families. Decisions will be made by Fo Mitambatra subject to these criteria:

- A. Class ranking
- B. Grades: based on English-Malagasy grade conversion
- C. Improvement between trimesters
- D. Teacher comments

2. How are you using the money?

Your donations are used to secure:

- A. One-year scholarships at each of the two participating schools in Sabotsy Anjiro (~\$70)
- B. GoFundMe fees (from GoFundme Help page: GoFundMe deducts 5% on all donations. Our US and Canadian payment processor (WePay) also deducts 2.9% + \$0.30 on all donations. If someone were to donate \$1.99 to you, the fees would be $\$0.10 + \$0.06 + \$0.30 = \0.46 . That's almost 25% of the total donation! However, if someone donates \$5.00, the fees come out to $\$0.25 + \$0.15 + \$0.30 = \0.70 , which is only 14% of the total donation. It's a much smaller chunk of the donation and will ultimately help you raise more money.)
- C. Wire transfer/International money transfer fees/International withdrawal fees (~\$40)

D. Taxi travel to, from, and around Antananarivo (where bank is located)

3. Tell me about the schools?

The participating local schools this year include: College Ste. Chantal Sabotsy Anjiro and College Prive FJKM. Both schools provide education from the elementary up to the secondary levels. The principals of the local schools are on board with the project. They will sign written contracts confirming the scholarship award and the student's enrollment.

4. When does school in Madagascar start?

October 2019

5. Is my donation tax-deductible?

As of this year, your donation will still be treated as a **personal gift** and will **not** be tax deductible. Stay tuned - we are working hard on this.

6. What field work is required? How are you doing this from America?

Field work required for successful completion of the project each year includes:

- A. Identifying candidates for the scholarship
- B. Collecting and recording candidate information
- C. Communicating expectations with the parents of each candidate
- D. Collaborating with local schools - negotiating tuition, student/family follow-ups
- E. Scholarship finance, accounting, budgeting, and reporting
- F. Monitoring and communicating student progress
- G. Relationship building with teachers
- H. Following year fundraising assessments
- I. Sponsor communications - translating, reporting, and pen pal program (letters and videos)

7. Where did the name, "Fo Mitambatra" come from?

Back in 2014, local village kids whom I collaborated with during my Peace Corps service scribbled the words, "Fo Mitambatra" ("Hearts Combined") into the white sand on Andilana beach on Nosy Be. At the time, we did not know when our lives would cross paths again.

8. How do we know that this is a well run project?

You are depending on the trust I have already established with the schools and my instincts regarding the contacts I have already established in the community. This project will continue as

long as my gut tells me it is possible. You, the donor, are placing your faith in me, your faith in the contacts I have made, and your faith in the trust I have built with the participating schools in the community. I like to believe that the strong relationship that I have established with the village is why this project was wildly successful last year and why it will continue to be so for the next 4 years.

9. You left Madagascar over five years ago. Why are you still doing this?

I made a new “family” in Madagascar and this project will remain for as long as humanly possible. We are making concrete steps to grow our organization.

10. Will this project work?

It worked last year and has a great reputation in the village. Transparency, trust, and family are the foundation of this project, which have contributed to its success.

11. I don't want to donate through GoFundMe. Is there another way to send you money?

If you prefer to send in an offline donation via check or Venmo, contact me.

12. You should register as a non-profit so I can get my company to match my donation!

Stay tuned. We are preparing something special with a truly amazing group of people.

13. Why create dependency by providing scholarships externally? Will the families lose capacity to provide for themselves?

This is a contested topic in the world of aid/development. It is common rhetoric for someone who has never lived longer than a few weeks/months in a rural community at the same level as everyone else to pose this theoretical argument, usually acquired from a classroom. Individuals who make this claim have neither lived in the same context nor experienced the acute, daily poverty that comes with uncertainties regarding the acquisition of basic necessities to live a dignified life.

School fees are arguably the highest expense families must bear next to healthcare costs after meeting daily food needs. A day's worth of rice in the Anjiro can cost 1,000 Ariary, which can be earned by working a half day in the field. Monthly school fees can cost up to 7,000 Ariary. Now if daily income is spent feeding the family, taking erratic, unstable employment into account, where do the savings for school fees come from? I believe that there is a level of poverty which requires external assistance before savings can be generated. With that said, when is education not a good investment? :)

This project is founded on the premise that **we will not wait to help those who are left behind**. We deliver a critical, lifesaving service that provides parents and students with access to contingent education funds **that saves lives now and over multiple generations**.