

PROJET JEUNE LEADER

A Youth Led and Youth Centered

Sexual Health and Leadership Development Project

In Madagascar

2014-2015

Annual Report





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Projet Jeune Leader

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS



The 2014-2015 school year has been a formative period for **Projet Jeune Leader**.

Projet Jeune Leader began its journey in 2011 when we were implementing a self-designed project "Arts, Basketball-ball and Condoms". We realized that young adolescents in Madagascar were not receiving sufficient reproductive and sexual health education, in or out of school. This makes them vulnerable to teenage pregnancy, weak relationships, risky sexual behavior, and school drop-out.

We crafted **Projet Jeune Leader** on a shared belief that all adolescents have the right to age-appropriate, creative, and culturally sensitive sexual and reproductive health information. However, as youth ourselves, we recognize that providing health information is not enough to prevent risky behaviors.

Health education should be accompanied by 1) programs to boost youth's - and especially girls' - self-esteem, leadership, and assertiveness, and 2) initiatives to create a more supportive school environment.

These values guided our project's pilot year, as we hired, trained, and mentored our first cohort of youth educators who worked tirelessly in Fianarantsoa's public middle school.

As we hope this report demonstrates, this second year has exceeded our expectations. We believe as strongly as ever in the power of comprehensive, school-based, sexual health and leadership education. We are eager to scale up our activities.

Throughout this journey, we would like to thank all of our friends, donors, advisers, and partners who have supported us from the beginning. "Misaotra!"

With warm wishes from Madagascar,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maia Freudemberger".

Maia Freudemberger
Co-founder

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anselme Hasiniaina".

Anselme Hasiniaina
Co-founder

WEEKLY LEADERSHIP AND HEALTH CLASSES

The Youth Educators teach weekly sexual health and leadership classes to all students. We are not lengthening students' school day, but simply filling the free hours in the middle of their day due to a lack of teachers in the public school system. The Youth Educators follow our innovative curriculum that combines leadership and health messages and addresses topics ranging from the menstrual cycle, to gender stereotypes, to healthy relationships, to self-confidence building.



Among 912 surveyed students, 99% declare "liking" the youth educators' classes. Among them, 86% declare "really liking" them



INITIATIVES TO FOSTER A MORE SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

The Youth Educators run weekly **after-school activities**, allowing the educators to cultivate closer relationships with students and to reinforce leadership skills presented in the classroom. We also create a **Youth Space** in each partner school. This is a multipurpose space where kids feel safe discussing sensitive topics and have access to educational reading and recreational materials during their free time.

We asked students how at ease they feel in the Youth Spaces on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the most at ease). 81% chose "5". When asked what they did most often in the Youth Spaces, the top 3 choices were: talking to the Youth Educators, playing games, and reading books

In 2014-2015, the Youth Educators taught 1,692 hours of leadership classes!



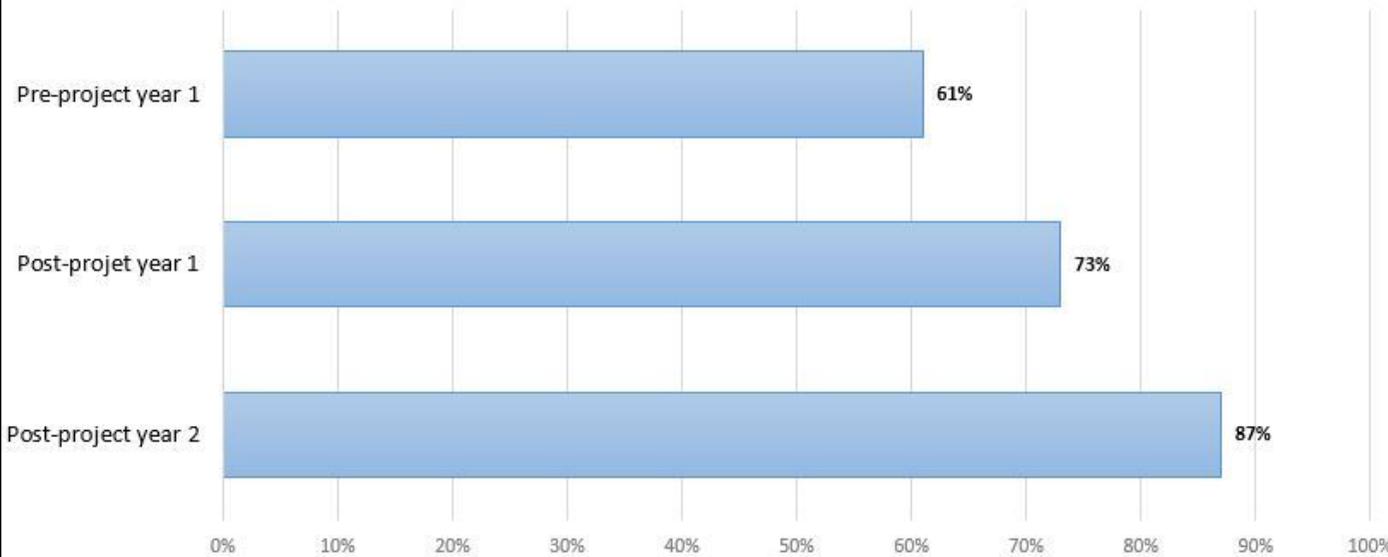
COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICES

The Youth Educators provide **support and counsel** to students. Students can sign up for individual or group sessions with the Youth Educators to discuss any personal concerns they may have and receive advice. Through a partnership with a health clinic, the Youth Educators can also refer students to a doctor.

Because the Youth Educators are in the schools daily, and remain in their same school throughout the school year, they develop **trusting relationships** with the students. 94% of kids in our partner schools said that they will talk to the Youth Educators if they have sexual health questions or concerns in the future.

THE IMPACT OF OUR CURRICULUM

Percentage of correct responses on the 31 question quiz on the sexual health topics covered in the curriculum



"This program is necessary for all middle school students"

Donilson, 8th grade student

THE IMPACT OF OUR AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



544 students participated this year in our after-school activities, ranging from dance (right), to chess, to arts and crafts, to theater.

Students can also develop personal relationships with the Youth Educators by volunteering to be a "friend of the Youth Educator" (left). These motivated students help the youth educators, reach out to students, advertise activities, and generally demonstrate leadership skills and initiative.



IMPACT: CULTIVATING TWO LEVELS OF LEADERS

Chosen from over
200 candidates
for the position!



Aina Rasoazanany, Youth Educator 2014-2015

"Becoming a youth educator awoke my passion for education and brought me closer to youth. This work requires a lot of love, patience, creativity, and imagination to maintain and improve relations with students. [...] Becoming a youth educator was a chance for me to prove my capabilities and believe in myself. I decided to continue a career in education and social work."



Donilson, 8th grade student

"Since I joined the Zumba club at my school organized by the Youth Educators, I found my dream: teaching dance! I am now the leader of the school's club, and I even teach the class if the Youth Educators aren't there. Now I am capable of teaching and am not embarrassed to be in public. The classes with the Youth Educators also made me participate more in class and taught me a ton about leadership and reproductive health. [...] The Youth Educators paved the way to realize my dreams; I want to continue dancing and succeed in my studies and, why, not become a Youth Educator in the future!"

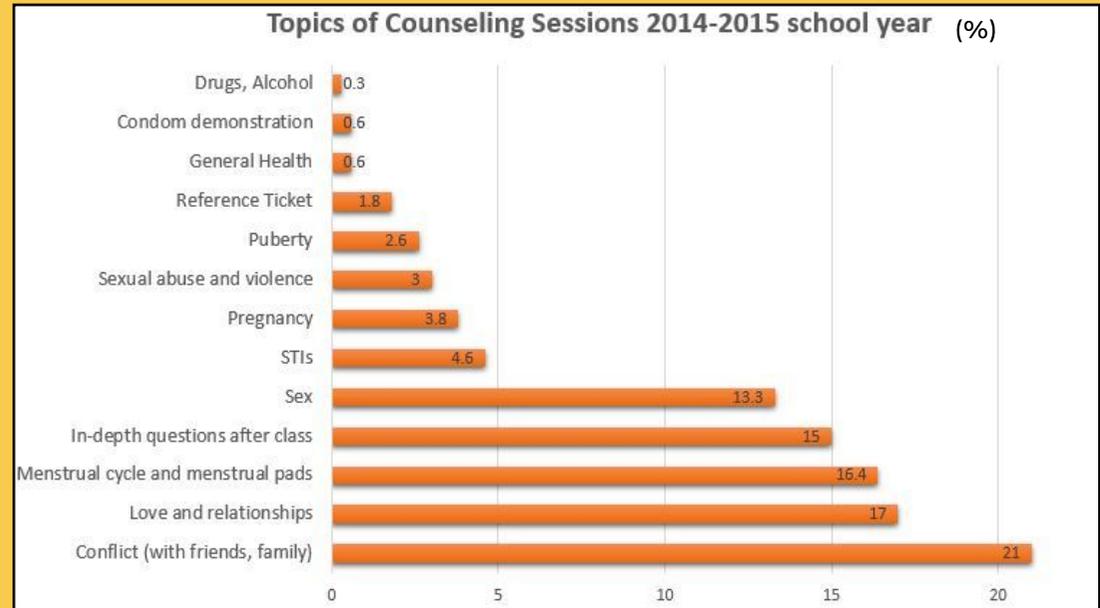
IN-DEPTH : OUR COUNSELING SERVICES

One of the project's main goals is to ensure that all children have a trustworthy person to turn to as they navigate puberty and transition into adulthood.

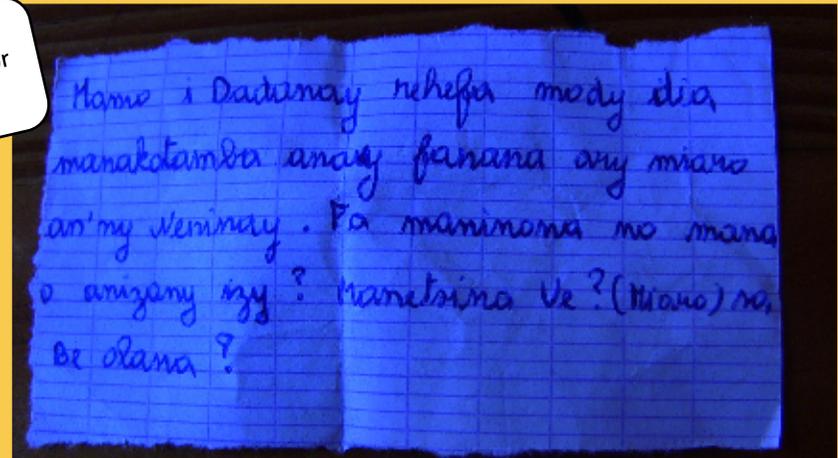
Before Christmas break, the Youth Educators talked about violence against children and children's rights in their weekly class. The next day, a 12 year old girl pulled aside Aina, one of the school's Youth Educators. Crying, the middle school student explained that her uncle has been making regular sexual advances. She's scared to return there at night. *"It all makes sense now,"* explained Aina, *"I noticed that every day, this small, quiet, girl would be the last to leave the Youth Space..."* Following a series of conversations, Aina pieced together more of the girl's story. The girl's parents are divorced; her mom lives in a tiny village outside of Fianarantsoa and her dad works in northern Madagascar. In order to continue her studies, she had to move to Fianarantsoa. Her uncle, who already has a number of children, agreed to take her in. But then the sexual advances began.

After sharing this depressing story, the girl agreed – if Aina accompanied her – to make a statement at Fianarantsoa's headquarters of the Ministry of Population and Social Affairs. We have partnered with this service for multiple events, and they provide our Youth Educators with training on children's rights. The case was followed closely by the city's social and legal services and was brought to court. The child won, and she has been taken away from her uncle.

This case illustrates the range, and the severity, of cases that the Youth Educators are privy to in their school. As the Ministry and Projet Jeune Leader agree: if it were not for the Youth Educators' dedicated work and commitment to forge trusting relationships with her students, this girl would probably have never brought up this horrible situation or felt supported by anyone in her vicinity.



Written counseling sessions work well for sensitive topics...



"My dad is drunk when I come back to school and makes a lot of noise and seems jealous of my mother. Why is he acting like this? Is he hiding something? Maybe it is very serious?"

IN-DEPTH: OUR LEADERSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION CLASSES

Sexual health and puberty remain taboo topics in Madagascar. Only 41% of students in our partner school have ever talked about puberty with their parents.

Through a creative and fun curriculum, Projet Jeune Leader imparts not only health information but also provides kids with the confidence, the leadership skills, and the assertiveness, to ACT on this newly acquired information.



Games!

Visual aids

Brainstorming

Debates

Skits

And more...



VINA: A NEW YOUTH-LED CONSORTIUM

To advocate more effectively on a national scale, Projet Jeune Leader has joined forces with two equally dedicated youth organizations who work, respectively, in eastern Madagascar and in the capital city.

Voices INitiatives Action, or VINA (Vision in Malagasy) is a new consortium between Projet Jeune Leader and two other Malagasy youth-led organizations who share our vision for youth development. JPE Antsinanana, based in the north east of Madagascar, has a nationally recognized peer education model that disseminates reproductive health information to out-of-school adolescents. Youth First offers leadership, entrepreneurship, and advocacy training, and has a special program tailored towards young Malagasy women.

The objectives of VINA are to:

- ▶ Create an enabling environment for comprehensive, national, youth development which includes national advocacy and partnership building
- ▶ Improve the quality and availability of services and structures for youth
- ▶ Increase youth's access to reproductive health information and leadership development

Our kick-off campaign: "My World 2015"

For the new My World Survey campaign of the United Nations, VINA came together to launch a national campaign "Inona no VINA-nao [What is your vision?]" to mobilize youth votes from Madagascar. Youth across Madagascar were surveyed on their priorities for the Post 2015 agenda.

In March 2015, one month before the launch of the campaign, only 903 votes were recorded from Madagascar. To date, 13,448 people from the country have voted in the Survey.

Young adolescents and out-of-school youth were a priority in our campaign.



In March 2015, we convened to write a 5 year action plan. In June, we presented the consortium to donors, partners, and the media

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

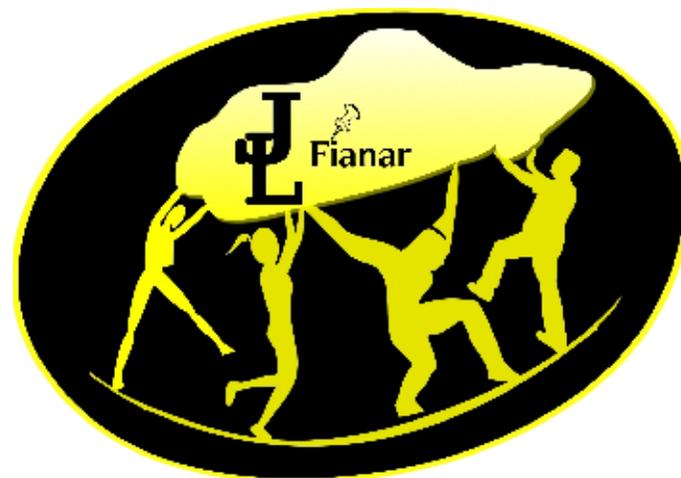
Projet Jeune Leader relies on grant support to fund our activities. As a grassroots organization, we are proud to have low overhead and administrative costs. The overwhelming majority of grant goes to program activities directly benefiting youth in Madagascar.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|--------|--------------|--------------|
| Grants | \$ 27,001.00 | \$ 35,623.00 |



We would like to thank: The Ella Lyman Cabot Trust, the Sara Wish Foundation, the Principality of Monaco (Division of International Cooperation), and the Davis Projects for Peace, for their generous support.



PROJET JEUNE LEADER

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