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### Zahana: Rural transformation through participatory development



Community built school



Community built water system

**Zahana** is a community benefit organization in Madagascar dedicated to participatory rural development, education, revitalization of traditional Malagasy medicine, reforestation, and sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultur

To realize a community's priorities, Zahana hires in-country experts to assist with specific tasks such as building a clean water system from the mountians to the village or a school. The villagers contribute their labor and locally available materials to every project. To find out more please visit [www.zahana.org](http://www.zahana.org) or write to us for printed information at:

Project Zahana \* PO Box 62223 \* Honolulu HI 96839 \* USA.

Foto: Sometimes we get a photo we really like, such as this one. Later we get a chance to talk with our partners in Madagascar and learn about a story behind such a picture we never imagined.

What we learned: The teacher told us that in this particular family (with daughters only) every day one of the girls is skipping school. Not attending school being very unusual in Fiarenana, Zahana inquired with the parents. They explained that this is indeed the case. The reason being simple: While the parents are out in the fields working all day, somebody has to take care of the little one, not in school yet. Not to single out one child as the designated caretaker, they felt the fairest thing to do was to task a different daughter every day to be in charge of their little sister at home.

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