

Canadian Foodgrains Bank Sunday



Working together to end hunger.

The wife of a fisher in Berano Ville, Madagascar,
prepares a catch for market

“Life Has Changed”

Drought has taken a heavy toll on families in Southern Madagascar in recent years. Buying a single jerry can of water costs at least CAD\$1. To earn that money, people often spend an entire day walking to a distant forest and collecting firewood to sell at the market. The vicious cycle of further depleting local forests only intensifies the drought, but for many residents, there are no other options.



"Before the project came, we didn't have any harvest at all," says Razaka, a farmer and fisher living in the village of Avana with his wife, Vola, and four children. "All we did was look for firewood to sell ... We had to eat red cactus fruit for food which wasn't enough. 12 people died from hunger." Canadian Foodgrains Bank and World Renew joined with the reformed church in Madagascar to help stave off disaster through a Humanitarian, Early Response, and Development (HERD) project.

“Life has changed because the project changed us.”
- Razaka

"I used to catch fish by swimming 100 metres out into the ocean with my net in my hands," says Razaka. He would cast his net and swim back to shore. The net tore easily and Razaka worked incredibly hard for each catch. "Once I received funds from the HERD project, my life changed! We received a canoe. There are ten of us in a group that use this canoe. We take turns. When the ocean is good, we can catch up to CAD\$30 of fish in a day. We sell it right away at the seashore."

Many of Razaka's family and neighbours had moved away due to the lack of food. "I wanted to escape from hunger too," he says, "but because of the HERD project, I can stay here."