



For immediate release: New Documentary Sheds Light on Child Labour in Madagascar's Mica Mines

Fort Dauphin, Madagascar, 19 November 2024- Shockingly, an estimated [ten thousand Malagasy children](#), some as young as four, work in Madagascar's mica mines, enduring harsh, unsafe conditions for meagre wages. These children face chronic food insecurity, respiratory problems, and a lack of access to basic services, including education and healthcare. This hidden crisis demands **urgent attention**. To address this issue, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, an international child rights organisation, is launching a powerful documentary that exposes the alarming child labour situation in Madagascar's mica mines and its devastating impact on children and their families. The documentary serves as a call for *immediate end to child labour in the mica mines*.

As the fourth-largest mica exporter globally, Madagascar's mica-producing communities face severe poverty exacerbated by droughts and rising food prices, pushing families to send their children to work in the mines. Mica, valued at €0.02 per kilo at the mines, sells for ten times more on the export market due to its use in products from makeup to electric car batteries.

Ending child labour exploitation in the mica mines of Madagascar

The FAMAHA project documentary, titled *Ending Child Labour Exploitation in the Mica Mines of Madagascar*, features personal stories from project participants, including children and parents, alongside insights from child labour experts. The documentary, which is approximately 14 minutes long, highlights the impact and effects of child labour in the mica mines on the lives of children and parents and sheds light on the interventions implemented under the FAMAHA project. These interventions include educational support for children and alternative income-generating activities for families. Since the project's inception, approximately **1,200 children** have been encouraged to enrol in school, **three child clubs** have been established, and **201 families** have been supported with alternative income-generating activities.

"Child labour in mica mines is a hidden crisis that demands our attention and action. This documentary is a powerful tool to bring this issue to light and inspire change," said Tsinjoharinosy Rahaingoarivelo, Country Programme Manager, Terre des Hommes Netherlands. *"We hope that this documentary will spark a global movement to end child labour in all forms. You and I have a duty to protect children. They have the right to go to school and play."*

Make a difference

The rights of thousands of children in Madagascar are at stake. As part of the [Responsible Mica Initiative](#), we have embarked on a crucial mission to end child labour in the mica mines of Madagascar. Ending child labour in mica mines is a challenging journey, but with your support we will make it. Join us to help stop child labour in the mica mines.

Access the full documentary [here](#) and share it widely. Credits: Terre des Hommes Netherlands.



—ENDS—

Note to the editor

Project FAMAHA

In 2021, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, UNICEF Netherlands, UNICEF Madagascar, and VDL Group received a grant from the Dutch Enterprise Agency (RVO) for a 21-month project aimed at eliminating child labour in Madagascar's mica sector. The project, named FAMAHA (Fampiasa Ankizy amin'ny Mica Andao HAtsahatra- Child Labour in Mica Mines, Let's End It), was implemented with local partners ALT and FAFIFI in three fokontany in the district of Betroka, southern Madagascar.

*Produced in line with Terre des Hommes Netherlands' Ethical Content Policy, the FAMAHA project documentary follows clear guidelines on the collection, production, and use of content involving children. Informed consent was obtained from all project participants during and after the documentation exercise.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) is an international non-governmental organisation committed to stopping child exploitation. Our mission is to protect children by preventing and stopping child exploitation, and by empowering children to make their voices count. Our vision is that children can flourish in a world free of all forms of exploitation. Since 1966, Terre des Hommes Netherlands has been committed to the fight against child exploitation. Terre des Hommes fights against sexual exploitation, child labour and provides emergency aid, for example during war situations and natural disasters. For more information about Terre des Hommes Netherlands, visit www.terredeshommes.nl

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