

**PROJET  
JEUNE  
LEADER**



**EMPOWERING YOUNG ADOLESCENTS TO MAKE HEALTHY AND INFORMED SEXUAL HEALTH DECISIONS  
FROM PUBERTY INTO ADULthood**

# 2016-2017 **ANNUAL REPORT**





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# Dear friends,

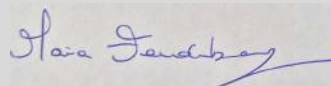
The 2016-2017 school year has been our busiest yet. We expanded our programming for the first time to rural schools. We took on Menstrual Health and Hygiene in Madagascar (which included a lot of singing and dancing about re-usable pads along the way). And most importantly, we developed the leadership and talents of local Malagasy, both within our organization, and out in the community.

We realize that collaboration and coordination across other sectors and agencies is required to address those social determinants of health - especially poverty - which impact Malagasy students. The positive effects of our programming will ultimately be rendered useless if students remain in unsupportive environments. That is why this school year we trialed and scaled up innovative programs for parents, teachers, and healthcare providers. We are excited to share with you some of the details of these initiatives in this year's report.

Beyond our continued outreach with young adolescents, our next steps include further enlisting champions of PJI's work - like that of the National Ministry of Education - among policymakers and community leaders. Following the end of the school year, we received a remarkable call from one of the new middle school's directors. The percent of students who had passed the final exam to enter high school had increased from 14% to 54% after only ONE year of PJI's programs at the school. He fully believed this was owed to the Youth Educators' work - their ability to create a supportive environment for students, all while teaching them invaluable life skills such as critical thinking and guiding them through puberty with essential SRH information. Harnessing support from leaders like this, while stepping up our impact evaluation methods, will help us to continue to invest in Madagascar's youth.

Lastly, we at PJI are ready to step into the forefront as the primary advocate for sexual-reproductive health and rights of young adolescents in Madagascar. The baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of rural adolescents we collected with our expansion is the first of its kind in the country. The incredible insight gained from this dataset, as well as the results of our programming in these areas, will be invaluable in helping us advocate for and advance our mission for years to come.

Thank you all so much for your ongoing support of young adolescents in Madagascar.



Maia Freudenberger, Co-founder and Executive Director



Maia with the National Minister of Education after signing a national convention for Madagascar's first girls' puberty book

# MEET PJJ'S LEADERS

Projet Jeune Leader's Rural Coordinator, Chrystian, started at Projet Jeune Leader as a Youth Educator. This was his first paid job. With his extraordinary promise, he was promoted in his second year to Program Assistant (becoming one of the three supervising staff at the time). His third year, he became PJJ's Rural Coordinator, where he now supervises 11 Youth Educators.

“After being a Youth Educator I really desired to take my leadership skills to the next level, to help other youth educators reach their full potential and to teach as many kids as possible. I lead the youth educators in their development and help them to love their work, like I did. I become their mentor, their older brother.”



Chrystian



Hanitra

Hanitra was a Youth Educator in PJJ's second year. Because of her talent and dynamism she was hired a second year and placed in a new partner school - PJJ's largest school to date (2,500 students). She proved to be such an amazing leader, that she was hired on as PJJ's Urban Coordinator her third year with the project and currently supervises 17 Youth Educators.

“The wonderful thing about PJJ is that it's run by youth - there are few workplaces like that. You don't have to have 5 years of experience to work here - you are given a platform to grow and work and prove yourself. I've come to realize that us youth can really get things done - including lead others - even though we are young. Young people CAN create change.”

# 2016-2017 BY THE NUMBERS

**12** Partner schools

**12,000** Young adolescents reached with comprehensive sexual health and leadership education

**2,377** Hours of sexual-reproductive health and leadership classes taught

**2,298** Counseling cases requested by students

**1,161** Sanitary pads distributed to girls unexpectedly caught with their period at school

**5** New schools added, located for the first time in rural areas

**28** Full-time Youth Educators

**1,341** Participating students in after-school activities

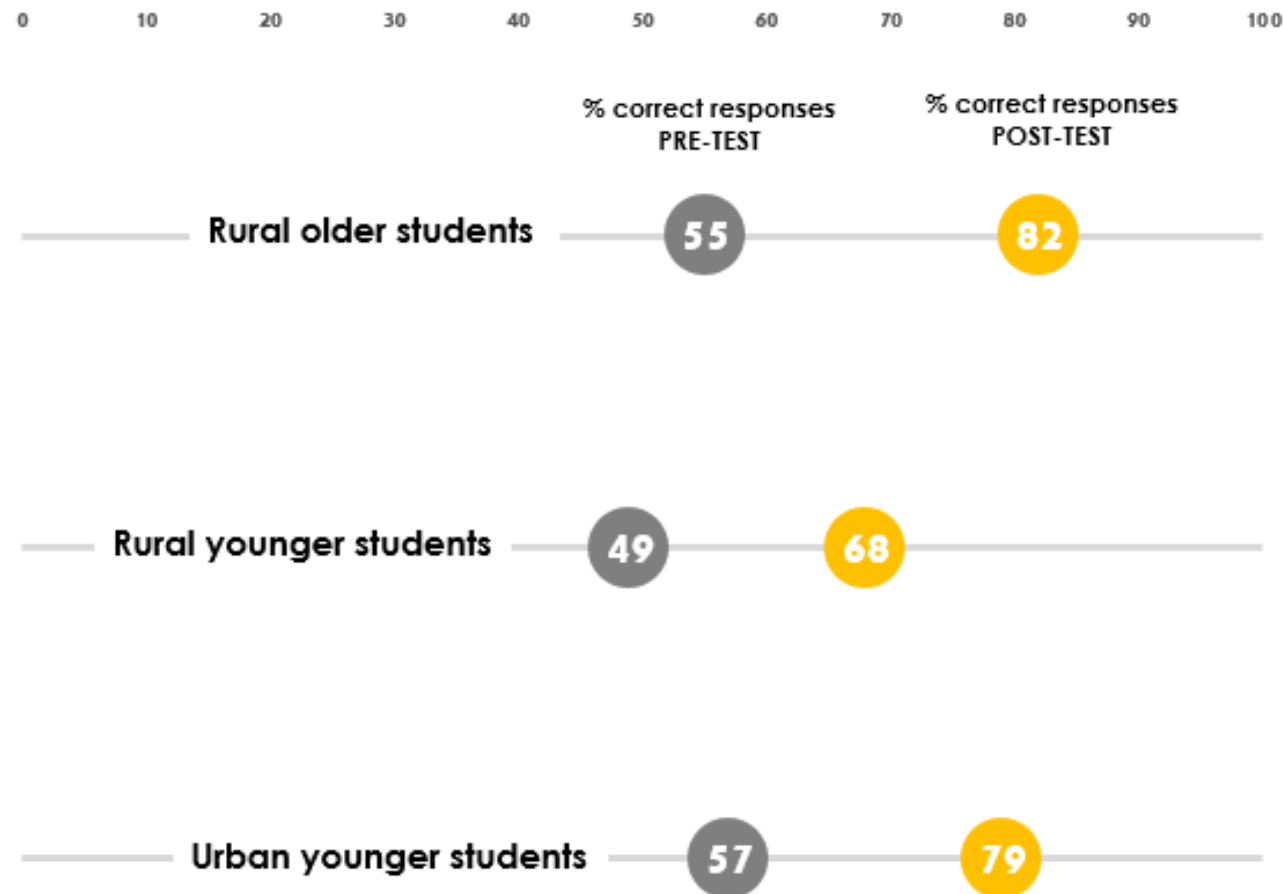
**45** Different after-school activities offered





# STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE

PJL's 33 question quiz distributed at the beginning and end of the school year showed a **substantial improvement** in students' knowledge of sexual-reproductive health information.



# EXPANSION TO RURAL SCHOOLS

Projet Jeune Leader also collected data from nearly 400 rural adolescents (average age = 16) before and after bringing PJL's programming to new partner schools in rural areas. The lack of knowledge about key SRH topics and prevalence of risky behaviors and attitudes re-shaped PJL's mission to focus in these areas where adolescents are most vulnerable.

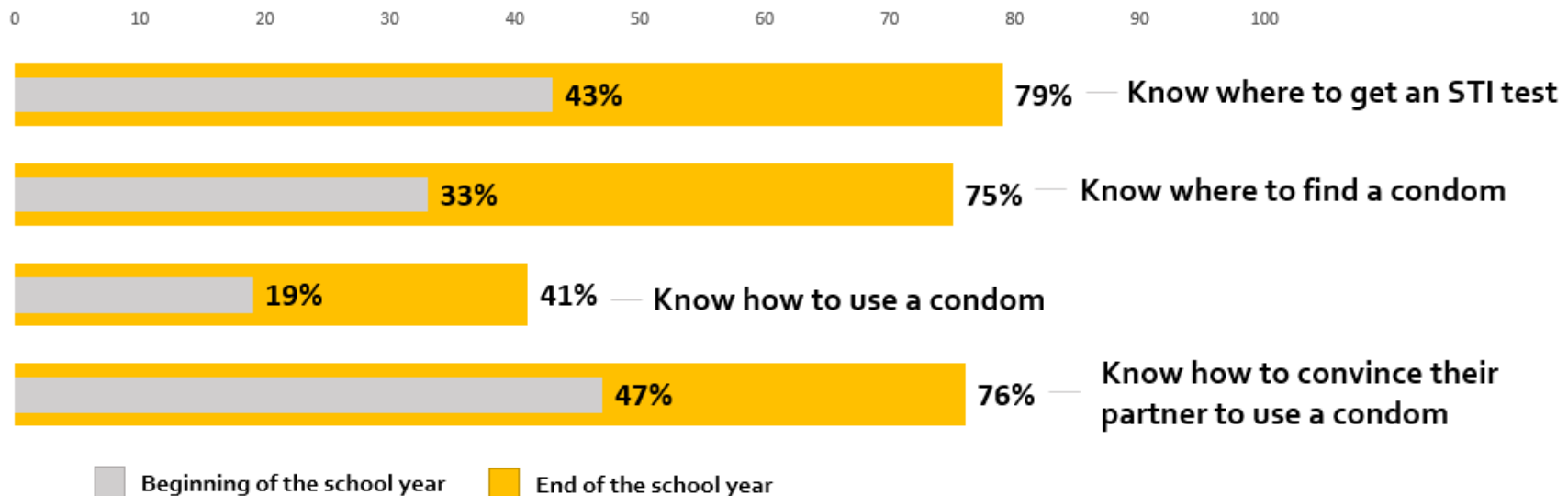
**17%** have already had sex, of which only **4%** reported using a condom

**35% & 10%** have already drank alcohol and smoked cigarettes, respectively

**36%** reported having a boy/girl friend at the time of the survey

At the beginning of the school year, **66%** of rural students believed that only the man can make the decision to have sex, while at the end of the year **16%** believed this.

At the beginning of the school year, **56%** of rural students believed that it was okay to use force to get your partner to have sex with you, while at the end of the year **24%** believed this.



# TEACHER TRAINING ON MENSTRUAL HEALTH

A one-day pre-service teacher training is Projet Jeune Leader's answer to the lack of capacity within the public-school system in teaching children essential information about puberty and menstrual health and hygiene. PJL trains primary school teachers in how to best to support young adolescent girls at the onset of puberty, why menstrual health and hygiene is important, how to educate young girls and boys creatively about menstrual health and hygiene, and how to make optimal use of the book 'Growth and Changes'. Each participating teacher leaves the training with 50 copies of the book Growth and Changes, a certificate, and most importantly, a plan of how they will better support young girls in their respective schools.

PJL's pilot program reached 246 teachers in the Haute Matsiatra region during the 2016-2017 school year, and will be offered to 300 more teachers in 10 different regions of Madagascar in 2017-2018.



“What really came out of this training and what most surprised me were the number and types of taboos surrounding menstruation in our society. For instance, parents don't talk to their children about menstruation [...] It is the responsibility of teachers to talk to students about this so that at the minimum, students have something to help them deal with the difficulties of adolescence.”

Reflections from a male primary school teacher at the rural school of Sahamena.



# PROGRAM FOR PARENTS OF ADOLESCENTS

Projet Jeune Leader recognizes the importance of creating enabling environments for young adolescents to live, learn, and thrive. There is a larger literature base suggesting a relationship between young people's reports of discussing sex with their parents and significantly lower levels of sexual risk-taking behavior. In addition to school-based activities, in 2016 PJJ initiated the implementation of workshops for parents of young adolescents. These workshops increase parents' awareness of the dangers of teenage pregnancy, as well as improve their communication skills and confidence so they can address sexual and reproductive health issues with their children starting at a young age.

Baseline research revealed that 38% of parents had never talked to their children about puberty, and 46% had never talked to their children about the dangers of teenage pregnancy. PJJ's parent workshops led to improved knowledge of puberty and adolescent psychology, and more positive attitudes towards talking about sexual and reproductive health with their children during its pilot phase. Now, this workshop is standard programming at each of PJJ's partner schools.



Before I didn't talk much about being a young person to my children. For instance, adolescence: I was embarrassed to bring up the subject. But since I participated in the training, I am more open and I can talk to my kids.

For me, I changed my behavior towards my children and my household, because I participated in the training and I applied what I learned. I learned that it is not acceptable to scold my children all the time, but to talk calmly when there is a problem. It is the big change because my children are 13, 16, and 19, so full swing in puberty. So I applied the training that I received...

Here, in the village, the level of knowledge on adolescents is still low, but thanks to the training the mentality has changed and the relations between parents-children have developed.

# HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TRAINING

Training health care providers to offer adolescent-friendly services is a best practice in building an enabling environment for adolescent programming. With PJI's expansion to rural schools, establishing youth-friendly referral systems to rural health clinics became a major priority, as specialists in adolescent sexual-reproductive health do not exist in these areas.

Following an extensive needs assessment of rural young adolescents' attitudes towards local health workers, a consultant medical liaison developed and implemented a training specific to clinic-based providers. This participatory and well-received training improved providers' skills and confidence in counseling young adolescents on sexual-reproductive health issues, including counseling on the use of long-acting reversible contraceptives. This training will now become a component of PJI's core programming at new rural schools.



**Nanomboka oviana ianao no niasa tao amin'ny CSB Maneva?**  
Hatramin'ny jona 2010

**Talza ny CEG nianaranao?**  
CEG Fort Dauphin

**Inona ny taranjatena tianao tamin'ianao nianatra tamin'ny CEG?** Mathematiques sy Science Naturelle

**Iza ny mpihira tena tianao?**  
KAPELAONY sy KTKT

**Inona ny sakafo tena tianao?**  
Sakafo malagasy (legume, voamaina, hena)

**Inona ny fanatanjahan-tena tianao?**  
Ny volley-ball sy ny fanaovana sary

**Ny CSB Maneva dia misokatra ho antsika rehetra ny alarobia tolakandro manomboka amin'ny 1 ora.**  
Tongava ny tanora!

**RANJAONARISOLO MARTIN GILLOT**  
Dokotera CSB Maneva

PJI created fun and youthful posters for students to learn more about their local health providers.



# DIGITAL STORY CLUBS

A new after-school program for students at rural middle schools brought together technology, research and reporting, and sexual-reproductive health issues. Students created storyboards for documentary films about local issues of abortion, smoking, and teenage pregnancy in their communities, and then conducted and filmed interviews with community members. This was the students' first time using a camera.

Later discussions with the students revealed that the club enhanced their communication and critical-thinking skills, and that they became comfortable educating their peers and families about the issues covered in the films.

The need for communication skills is what I really saw in the club - because there wasn't anyone who taught us that before - in the [Projet Jeune Leader] Youth Space is where we first learned that.

From when I entered the digital story club and there was talk about opening up/developing our minds for the things we are doing - I developed my mind and now when there are difficult exercises I can really think through them.

The thing that changed in me was that I wasn't used to interacting with people before I entered the digital story club, but then we talked to community members and now I'm beginning to relate to people.

**Students' comments during focus group discussions after participating in the club**



# RE-USABLE SANITARY PAD PROJECT

Around the world, young girls – especially those in rural, resource-poor settings – struggle to manage their period. Projet Jeune Leader's research showed that synthetic pads are too expensive for the majority of rural girls in Madagascar, and that there is a staggering lack of access to basic scientific information about puberty and menstruation. P JL provided nearly 1,000 girls in rural partner schools with clean, affordable, and reliable menstrual products, as well as in-depth menstrual health education sessions, to ensure that they enter puberty confident and informed.



“It's not embarrassing to talk to my older siblings about [menstruation] now because it's a natural thing... and my parents as well.

I'm no longer scared when I get my period because I know the reason for it.

”I'm not embarrassed anymore to tell my friends I have my period because I have re-usable sanitary pads.

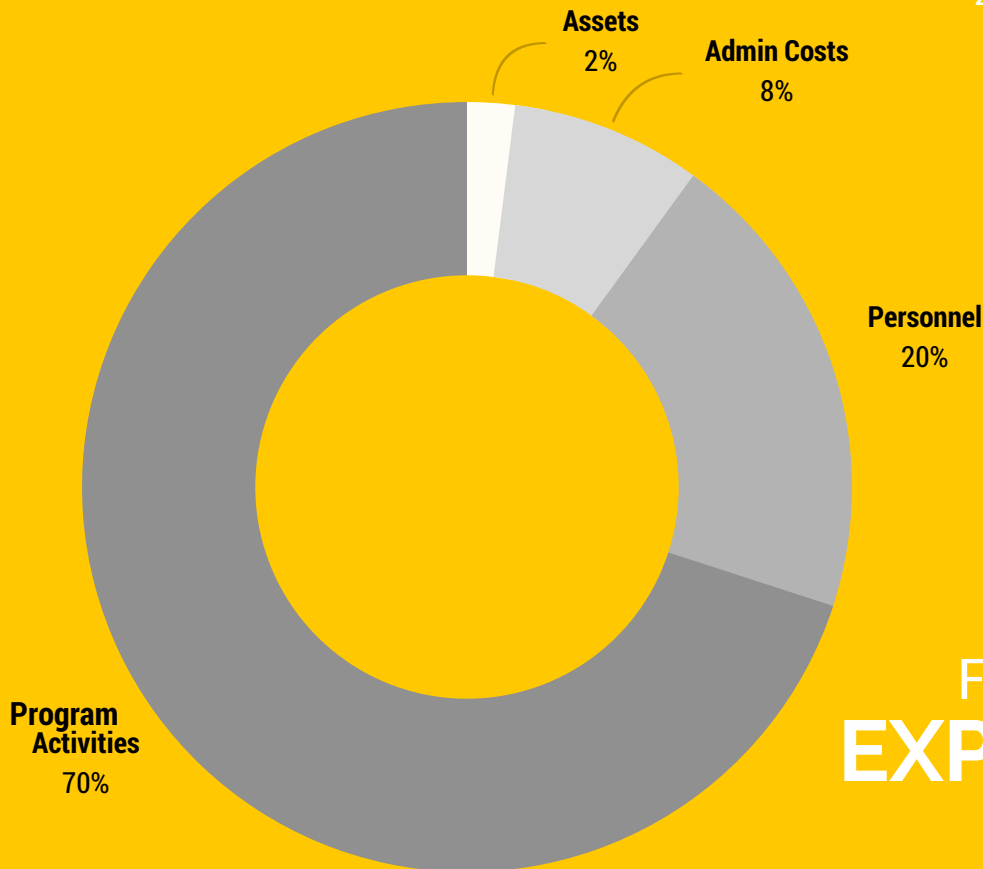
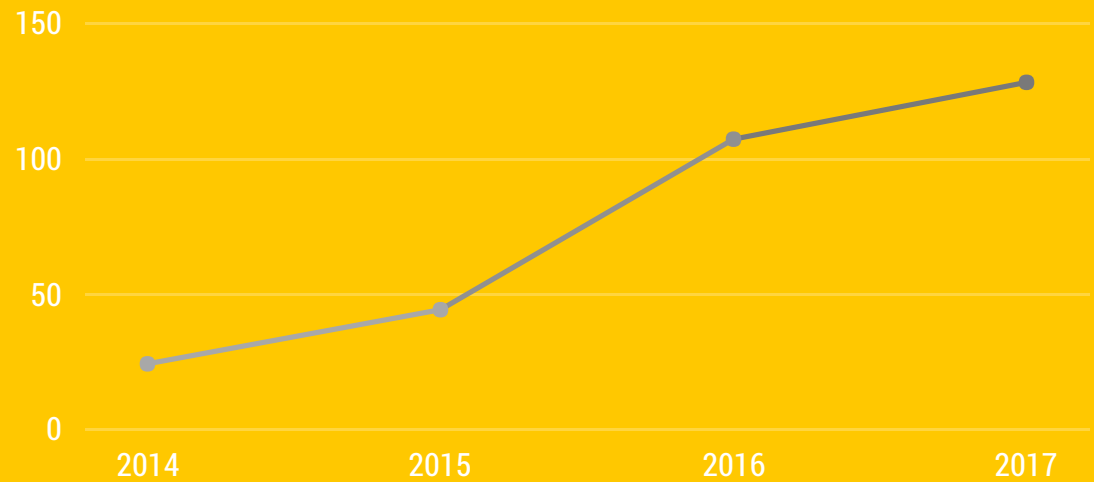
The re-usable pads are good so you should teach new kids again next year.

Comments during focus group discussions from girls who participated in menstrual health clubs



# REVENUE

in thousands \$



FY-2016  
**EXPENDITURES**



Thank you to our supporters who made the 2016-2017 school year possible.

AMPLIFY CHANGE

DAYS FOR GIRLS

STICHTING GROOT HASPELS FOUNDATION

MONACO DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO

POPULATION ACTION INTERNATIONAL - YOUACCESS FUND

POSITIVE ACTION FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

SEGAL FAMILY FOUNDATION

U.S. EMBASSY AMBASSADOR'S SPECIAL SELF-HELP PROGRAM

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL BOARD AND OUR INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.