



Reducing schistosomiasis through aquaculture interventions in Madagascar: a pilot study (RESAMP)

Project Report

Report by Dr. Daniela Fusco (Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin, Hamburg) on 03-01-2024, E-Mail: fusco@bnitm.de

GLOHRA Partner: Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin (BNITM), Hamburg, Germany

LMIC Partner: APSIAN, CIRAD

Countries: Madagascar, Germany & France

1. Introduction

RESAMP is a multidisciplinary pilot study with the main objective of assessing the feasibility of an agricultural intervention to control and prevent schistosomiasis in Madagascar. Once assessed the feasibility, to prove the efficacy of such intervention, the implementation a randomized-control trial will be the direct consequence of the study.

The BOOST fund for RESAMP was aimed at from (i) one side increasing the scientific output of the original project and from (ii) the other to contribute to give visibility to the problem of schistosomiasis in Madagascar through the organization of a dedicated conference.

2. Project Summary

The first part of the project managed to add the ecological component to the original project through the collaboration established directly with CIRAD (Activity 1.1). As subcontractors, in collaboration with the FoFiFa they performed the ecological assessment of the areas of Vatomandry in terms of soil composition and snail populations. Two missions (Activity 1.2) took place during the course of the project in different season in order to allow the diversification of the sampling and make sure that all the results wouldn't suffer from any seasonal bias. Dr Paula Senf was the main leader of the field operations. The first sample collection was also performed together with Dr Alexandra Sacks, from the University of Notre Dame. Additional support to the main project (Activity 1.3) was given in terms of salaries for the staff and field transportation since after the cyclone occurred in the area more staff and more transportation capacity than originally planned was needed due to the additional difficulties arose to reach the remote villages where the project was taking place. On October 21st 2022 the CCSM conference took place in Antananarivo (Activity 1.4).

3. Results

The conference was a great success in several terms. The Malagasy Minister of Health attended, key presence for advocating the importance of the diseases in the country. The director of the STH program at the WHO attended the conference, this was of critical importance for the country but also for the RESAMP team. In fact, after the conference a strategic meeting took place to initiate a formal collaboration between the WHO and the BNITM. This was done as an important milestone to start working on a concept of a joint WHO collaborating center on schistosomiasis between APSIAN/University of Fianarantsoa and the BNITM. From this meeting a strong collaboration with the national program for the fight against schistosomiasis was established. From there a practice paper/policy brief was published (Rasoamanahaja et al, 2023) aiming at advocating for improved policies for schistosomiasis management in Madagascar. Finally, the conference was a huge opportunity for young investigators from Madagascar who could present for the first time their researches in presence of a valuable national and international scientific audience. The conference has been so successful that the BNITM committed to find additional funding to organize a second edition of the conference in 2024. The funds were secured through the hospital partnership program (MeduMad grant, contract number 81296275) and the second edition of CCSM will take place in October 2024.

4. Pictures





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Elise
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CCSM 2022

CONFÉRENCE SUR LES STRATÉGIES CONTRÔLE
DE LA SCHISTOSOMIASE À MADAGASCAR

21

OCTOBRE
2022



8:30H-
18:00H



HÔTEL CARLTON
ANTANANARIVO

www.bnitm.de/ccsm



Poster of CCSM 2022

5. Contact

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