



RESAMP has started data collection

Our research group is more than delighted to announce that finally, "Reducing schistosomiasis through aquaculture interventions in Madagascar: a pilot study (RESAMP)" is out of the starting blocks.

After our twenty RESAMP surveyors have been successfully trained in the study protocol, good clinical practice (GCP) procedures, collection of biospecimen and questionnaires using tablets, they finally set off for their Fokontany (villages) in the rural district of Vatomandry on the east coast of Madagascar for sample collection.



Photo 1 – Proud RESAMP team after successful training



Photo 2 – En route for sampling in Ambodavola

Rural communities in Madagascar are particularly affected by schistosomiasis, which is transmitted through contact with contaminated freshwater. On this matter it needs to be said, that the main source of livelihood for most people in this region is rice cultivation. For the reasons mentioned above rice farming can increase the risk of schistosomiasis infection, as rice farmers stand for hours in contaminated water to plant, sow and harvest.

Therefore, RESAMP's mission is to assess the prevalence of schistosomiasis and the nutritional situation among the population in this region to pave the way for an aquaculture intervention. The idea of the following aquaculture intervention is to introduce a carp fish species into the rice fields that acts as a natural predator for freshwater snails, which are the host of the schistosomiasis parasite.

So far, our highly motivated study team has surveyed 166 households with 369 participants. They have conducted 304 antigen tests (POC-CCA) to detect schistosomiasis and treated 153 positive individuals for schistosomiasis.