

The youth centre of Tsihombe: A step towards the demographic dividend!

12 June 2017

The comments are unanimous! The youth centre of Tsihombe is a saving place for the youth of this rural town of Androy region, located at 1,032 km from the capital, which can be reached in 18 hours by car, using a 4x4 as the best means. Free expression of a rural youth is often forgotten but forming an integral part of the engine for reaching the demographic dividend.

While attending a basketball game that was taking place on the new court of the "Tafara Maroroke" youth facility in Tsihombe, offered by UNFPA Madagascar, we gathered the testimony of 3 young women, all of them living in the rural community of Tsihombe.

Ulla, 19 years old, in Terminale class

My name is Ulla, I am 19 years old and I am in my last year of high school.

"This youth centre is really the pride of Tsihombe. This is the first time that we, the young people of this area, have such a good infrastructure. Without hesitation, I can say that yes, it will change the lives of the young people in my community. If, for lack of recreation, it is usual for young people to use alcohol and drugs, they just hang out and destroy each other, now we can come to this centre. Now we can learn music and do sports on an infrastructure that is up to standard. I also attended training for young peer educators on how to educate young people about the dangers of STIs, HIV AIDS, sexual relations and early pregnancy. The information I have received is not being taught to us at school, and I am proud to be able to share it with young people my age so that they can adopt a more responsible sexual behaviour and be able to make the link between sexual transmitted infection, their behaviour and the success of their future. We have already started to raise awareness and young people are quite receptive. The promise I am going to make: I will do my best to educate as many young people as possible about sexual health and addictions, and get them to make frequent visits to this centre, which offers a new opportunity for the young people of Tsihombe! "

Coralie, 19, in First Class

"I am very happy with the existence of this Youth centre in Tsihombe! I like to sing and play basketball and here, I think that our voices have finally been heard! In my opinion, this youth centre will change the lives of young people in this municipality because we now have a recreational and information infrastructure. Having participated in the training on how to effectively communicate with young people about sexual and reproductive health. I am aware of the issue myself. And when you see that most of the girls in my area are already pregnant by the age of 14, I think that now I have my role to play so that other girls do not have to go through the same issues and that young boys have more responsible behaviours. My goal now, and surely that of the young peer educators that have been trained, is to make sure that the young people of Tsihombe return to the right path, no longer tend towards unhealthy behaviours (drugs, alcohol, unprotected sex, ...), and we will rely on the existence of this youth centre to make it happen. I can tell you that it will not be easy but at the same time I can also count on the support of my parents who encourage me in this step even though talking about sexuality is still a taboo."

Tiana Lalaina, 30 years old, teacher

"I'm really happy! Happy now that the youth of Tsihombe can have a recreational centre that put them back in the right path and adopt healthy behaviour. It is sad to see such talented youth who are addicted to alcohol, tobacco or drugs because of lack of leisure in our community. The consequences

are devastating with our young girls who get pregnant too early and are forced to drop out of school. Today, we are already beginning to see the results of this Youth Centre. At the sports tournament organised before this inauguration, we were seeing more and more young people come to support their friends who were participating instead of going to bars, and a handful of youngsters also beginning to learn to play basketball and volleyball. I am, once again, optimistic about the future of the youth of our area and particularly wish to thank the Ministry of Youth and UNFPA for this action which is the pride of our village."

Madagascar, the first to launch the annual theme of the African Union in rural areas!

12 June 2017

For the first time in the history of the African Union, the unanimity of the Heads of State agreed on the annual theme of the African Union one year in advance. At the same time, the theme is accompanied by a roadmap for the 55 member countries. Focusing on the development of the potential of each member country, 2017 will be conducted under the theme: *"Harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in youth."* For Madagascar, the national launch takes place in the rural commune of Tsihombe, in the region of Androy, in the great south of Madagascar. The launching ceremony was honored by the presence of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Youth and Sports, the Minister of Industry, the deputy of Madagascar elected by Tsihombe and the UNFPA Resident Representative. The presence of this delegation reflects the will of the government and its partners to activate as quickly as possible the demographic transition for the country.

In making this launch, Madagascar is among the first 5 countries to have launched the annual theme of the Union and is the first to have launched it in rural areas in order to give the same consideration to the urban and rural population.

One of the next steps for Madagascar is the elaboration of the national roadmap for reaching the demographic dividend.

The annual theme, which focuses on youth, was symbolised by the inauguration of the Youth Centre of Tsihombe, the first infrastructure dedicated to rural youth in the region of Androy. This will enable young people, and adolescent girls in particular, to enjoy their fundamental rights and realise their potential. This Youth Centre is a dedicated place that provides rural youth with facilities for recreation, culture, health and information, as it has a sports field (basketball and volleyball), musical instruments, a library and games of a collective nature (pool table, foosball). <<*Tafara maroroke*>>, literally translated as "The latest but most prosperous", has been personalised by young people themselves on a voluntary basis.

It was also an opportunity to train young peer educators in effective communication techniques for young people in adolescent and youth reproductive health and to strengthen their capacity in raising awareness. In all, 20 young people were trained and started the first sensitisation the day before the inauguration. From now on, they will be responsible for the animation and awareness-raising of this Youth Centre.

Providing young people with a centre dedicated to them is an initiative that responds to one of the four pillars of the demographic dividend: employment and youth entrepreneurship; education and skills development; health and well-being; rights, governance and empowerment of youth. This Youth Centre project is a major challenge for the Ministry of Youth and Sports and UNFPA to offer equal opportunities between urban and rural youth in access to information and services that promise their

protection and development on all the plans. It also meets the Sustainable Development Goals' vision - "leaving no one behind."

Youth Centre is then a response that takes into account the importance of the problems faced by adolescents and young people in Madagascar. Indeed, the national survey on the follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals (ENSOMD 2012) shows that more than 43% of deaths occur among children under 24 and more than one third (34%) of adolescent girls 15 to 19 years old. These teenagers are exposed to the risks associated with early pregnancy because 28.4% are currently in union and 11.6% enter the first union before the age of 15. Their fertility rate is close to 37%.

Investment in the demographic dividend is an important pillar for development, as the Prime Minister emphasized in his address to young people: "You are not only the future of the country, you are the guarantors of the development of the country" in response to the testimony of Ulla, 19, representing the youth of Tsihombe: *"Everything is said in the theme: do like the MJS and UNFPA, investing, especially in young people in remote areas, is the best investment a country can make in order to achieve the demographic dividend. Believing in and investing in young people means believing in the future of a country and reaping the benefits!"*

At the same time, UNFPA Madagascar, through its Representative, had the opportunity to advocate with the high authorities to urge all the country's forces to invest in realizing the potential of Malagasy youth in addressing the Prime Minister in his speech: *"We are confident that you will get the contribution of our religious leaders, our traditional chiefs, heads of family and local authorities so that together we can continue to protect the most vulnerable, especially our young girls, to restore them with dignity so that they can participate in the revival of Madagascar and the economic take-off of this country. Giving girls a chance is certainly the best way to break the cycle of poverty."*

UNFPA Madagascar, watching over Maromiandra's women (District of Tuléar II) following the floods of January 2017

31 January 2017

The area of Atsimo Andrefana, particularly the commune of Maromiandra of the District of Tuléar II, was touched by a flood caused by heavy rains during the month of January 2017. 800 ha of crops were destroyed leaving no prospect of harvest for the inhabitants. This community is composed of 9,678 people including 2,265 women of childbearing age.

In order to save the lives of pregnant women, who are among the most vulnerable groups in this context, UNFPA Madagascar has endowed the Municipal Health Centre of Maromiandra with medicine and medical equipment (Emergency Reproductive Health Kits) as well as 129 individual delivery kits and 100 dignity kits.

With this endowment, the lives of a thousand pregnant women will be saved through access to free maternity care at the CSB II of Maromiandra. In fact, this CSB will offer 900 prenatal and postnatal consultations, 130 free and quality assisted deliveries for a period of 5 months.

Hortense, 25 years old, giving birth to her 3rd child, is one of the beneficiaries of these kits. "My child was born on the 26th of January 2017 at 8:15 am. I thank the medical staff of the CSB II who knew how to give me the necessary care for the smooth progress of my childbirth in spite of the difficult

situation that we passed through. I am particularly pleased that the care has been offered to us, that my baby is doing well and that I was able to receive the necessary clothes and warm my newborn baby and hygiene items for myself," said the young mother, who lost everything during the flood.

Mrs. Ban Soon Taek visits the Maternity of Befelatanana and the Women Vocational Training Centre of Tsimbazaza

11 May 2016

The visit of Mr. Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General in Madagascar was an occasion for his wife, Mrs. Ban Soon Taek to read the interventions of United Nations agencies on the empowerment of women, maternal and newborn health in Madagascar.

Because First Lady Ms. Voahangy Rajaonarimampianina is the sponsor of CARMMA in Madagascar, she accompanied Mrs. Ban during the visit of the Befelatanana Maternity and the Women vocational training center in Tsimbazaza, usually called CFPF.

During the visit, the delegation was able to visit the operating room/Triage/Emergency Room. Rehabilitation and equipment were supported by UNFPA. Indeed, the operational unit rehabilitated by UNFPA Madagascar was inaugurated on this occasion. Currently operational, the operating room can treat cases of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. In addition to rehabilitation; the organisation also provided the hospital with a surgical light and anesthetic respirator. UNFPA's intervention in the Befelatanana maternity facility will give the population the opportunity to benefit from 4,000 free births, 1,500 cesarean surgeries and gynecological surgeries each year.

The Hospital of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Befelatanana or Maternity of Befelatanana is the largest maternity hospital in Madagascar, where most of the vulnerable population is delivered. It is a national reference centre for maternal and child health and is the reference hospital for gynecology-obstetrics and reproductive health. It is also a centre for training and research of national and international medical and paramedical students.

The delegation then visited the vocational training centre dedicated to women in Tsimbazaza. The training centre was set up on the initiative of Mrs. Voahangy Rajaonarimampianina, and is targeted primarily at vulnerable and low-income women in the capital. It offers various training modules: sewing, cooking and tableware, gardening and computer science. A media library is also available in the centre. A listening and counselling centre to combat gender-based violence and to inform women about their reproductive health and rights, including family planning, was also implemented in the centre with the support of UNFPA. The aim of the centre is to provide vocational training that will fully contribute to women's empowerment so that they may be able to participate in their economic, family and community development.

MEETING MARY SOSETY: testimony of a woman supported by her husband on the spacing of birth and family planning

Mary Sosity is 35 years old and has just given birth to her second daughter by Caesarean section and has benefited from the free care through the UNFPA C-section kits. Living in Fort Dauphin, Anosy region, she preferred to come to the Ambovombe Regional Reference Hospital Centre, Androy region, to give birth. As a regular contraceptive user, she used injectable contraceptives for 7 years and stopped using them once her spouse decided to have the second baby. 9 months later, the baby is born, healthy and is in the best conditions. She has already received counselling on postpartum family planning and is deliberately considering a long-term approach. *"I was operated on by caesarean section in my first delivery, after which I adopted contraceptives. We, my husband and I, chose injections because we wanted to space the birth of our children well. Now that our daughter is 7 years old, we decided together that we were going to have our second child. Now we have two daughters and we are determined to not have any more children. "After the discussions we had with my doctor, I seriously and voluntarily plan to adopt either a long-term method or a definitive method,"* she said.

Tongasoa in Madagascar Mr. Constant-Serge BOUNDA

22 May 2017

Mr. Constant-Serge BOUNDA, the new Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) who arrived in Madagascar and presented his letters of accreditation to the Malagasy Government, represented by the Minister Mrs. Béatrice ATALLAH.

Of Congolese nationality, the new Representative has proven expertise in leadership, foresight, policy and strategic analysis and counselling, institutional management and the mobilization of men at the national level of the United Nations system, in Africa and internationally.

Just before joining UNFPA Madagascar, Constant-Serge BOUNDA served as Director/Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) The African Union (AU) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Special Adviser to the Executive UNFPA for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Many of the challenges facing the new Representative include the General Population and Habitat Census, reducing maternal mortality, family planning, gender-based violence and the health of adolescents and young people.

Endowment of equipment and teaching materials at the Faculty of Medicine of

Antananarivo and the Inter-Regional Paramedical Training Institute

13 April 2017

Left to right: Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the Technical Specialist, Reproductive Health Commodity Security of UNFPA **Antananarivo Thursday 13 April 2017**, The official ceremony of delivery of equipment and teaching materials to the Faculty of Medicine of Antananarivo and the Institute of Interregional Paramedical Training took place today in Ankatso. This endowment is part of UNFPA's programme of cooperation with the Malagasy Government for improving the quality of training at the level of the Faculty of Medicine, in particular the maieutic field.

UNFPA has officially handed over to the Faculty Medicine equipment worth USD 2,500, consisting of instrument trays with lid, adult aneroid tensiometers, electronic thermometers, mobile examination lamp, stepladders, steam sterilizer, baby scales, examination table with mattress, delivery table with mattress.

These materials are intended for the University Hospital of Gynéco-Obstetric Befelatanana and the Institute of Inter-regional Training of the Paramedics of Antananarivo, including the training of midwives.

This activity aims to improve the health and particularly the health of the mother and the newborn in Madagascar, through the strengthening of the training of skilled health workers with the means to train and thus contribute to the fulfillment of UNFPA's mission, delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled."

Signature of the 2017 Joint Work Plan of the Ministry of Economy and Planning supported by UNFPA and UNDP

6 February 2017

"Delivering as One" to achieve sustainable development. It is in this spirit that the Joint Work Plan 2017 of the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP) respectively supported by UNFPA and UNDP was signed at the Ministry of Economy and Planning on Tuesday, 06 February 2017. The Minister of Economy and Planning, General of the Army Corps Herilanto RAVELOARISON; UNFPA Representative Mamadou DICKO and UNDP Deputy Representative Marie DIMOND honoured the signing ceremony with their presence.

The total amount of USD 2,341,000 of this Joint Work Plan 2017 is based on the following outputs: national authorities are better equipped to formulate and implement national, local and sectoral policies and strategies, taking into account national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the Ministry of Economy and Planning and its decentralized structures have enhanced capacity to monitor and coordinate development programmes at national, local and sectoral levels; structural transformation, sustainable productive capacity building and good environmental

governance are effective and promote the creation of jobs and livelihoods for poor and vulnerable populations, especially women and young people. A fourth output has been included in the joint work plan which is related to the coordination and management of planned interventions.

This plan fully contributes to the UNDAF effect on: vulnerable populations in intervention areas , access opportunities and income and employment, improve their resilience capacities and contribute to inclusive and equitable growth for sustainable development.

Endowment of computer equipment as part of the preparation of the General Population and Habitat Census (RGPH)

2 February 2017

The official ceremony for the endowment of computer equipment in the framework of the preparation of the General Population and Habitat Census (RGPH) took place today at INSTAT Anosy, in the presence of the Minister of Economy and Planning , The Director of INSTAT, the UNDP Representative and the UNFPA Representative.

85 desktops and 250 tablets with a total value of USD 100,000 were officially handed over by UNDP to the government through INSTAT today. These materials were acquired as part of the joint project on the RGPH between UNDP and UNFPA in the presence of the Minister of the Economy and Planning, whose implementation UNFPA ensures. These materials will contribute to the mapping work according to the adapted methodology.

The RGPH will allow us to have reliable data which will improve the knowledge of the main demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population of Madagascar and its dynamics and a better taking account of population issues in the design, formulation, implementation and evaluation of national and sectoral policies, programmes and poverty reduction strategies in Madagascar.

Madagascar was able to successfully complete the pilot census in 2016. The large census mapping is scheduled for February 2017 and the enumeration is scheduled for October of this year.

Visit of the Regional Director of the Southern and Eastern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in Madagascar

16 October 2016

The Regional Director of the Southern and Eastern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) Dr. Julitta ONABANJO is in Madagascar from 18 to 22 October 2016.

She was welcomed on her arrival by the Minister of Employment, Technical Education and Vocational Training; Mrs. TOTO RAHARIMALALA Marie Lydie, Minister for Fisheries and Halieutic Resources; Mr. GILBERT François, the First Lady's Cabinet Director, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Madagascar and the UNFPA Representative in Madagascar.

She will participate in the COMESA First Ladies Round Table as moderator and benefit from his stay to visit the main UNFPA intervention sites in Antananarivo and Toliara.

Celebrating International Population Day 2016

1 August 2016

The annual theme "Investing in Adolescent Girls" of the International Population Day was an opportunity for UNFPA to involve and build the capacity of members of the network of young ambassadors engaged in the adolescents and youth reproductive health and to discuss with the local authorities the upcoming implementation of this network in Mahajanga.

This project aims to celebrate excellence by identifying young graduates with "High Honors" or "Honors" and those who are pursuing their post-baccalaureate studies, proposing them to become ambassadors for the promotion of adolescent and youth reproductive health. Their role is to be models for girls in Madagascar, especially from their home towns. In concrete terms, they educate young people, especially young girls, on early pregnancy and marriage in school and out-of-school settings, represent Malagasy youth during national and international meetings on sexual and reproductive health issues for young people, advocacy in favour of the adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health with the traditional, religious or governmental authorities.

The first network was set up in Diego Suarez, in the North of the Island. Of these girls, two came expressly from Diégo Suarez and two continue their studies in Mahajanga who will contribute to the establishment of this network in the city of Mahajanga. Since the creation of the network, these young ambassadors have been able to educate 268 college students in the city of Diégo.

On the occasion of World Population Day, they actively participated in the activities organized during the 3 days of celebration. Especially :

- Demographic Dividend Training to raise awareness of their roles as youth leaders in the development process
- Training on "How to Communicate Effectively with Youth" with young peer educators so that they are well armed in their awareness roles
- Awareness-raising on the fight against early marriage and early pregnancy in three vulnerable neighborhoods of the city with the young peer educators of the city of Mahajanga who reached at least 200 young people
- Testimony on the importance of continuing studies, carrying out professional projects and delaying the first sexual relationship during the intergenerational dialogue with 50 people

· Advocacy in the form of a speech and testimony to the authorities during the celebration ceremony at the Mahajanga City Hall

Following the ceremony, the First Lady encouraged UNFPA's initiative to create the network of young ambassadors throughout the island and also encouraged these girls to reach their full potential: "I would like to encourage high school students, not to abandon their education or to engage in an early matrimonial situation but initiate themselves to the social, political life and above all to ensure an economic autonomy," she insisted.

It should be noted that the national network of young ambassadors in the adolescent and youth reproductive health has a formal existence in Madagascar. To date, the capital and the city of Diégo already have a network of young ambassadors. The next steps are to expand this network throughout Madagascar, starting with Mahanjaga in the North West and Tuléar in the Atsimo Andrefana Region in the South.

CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFERY 2016

7 May 2016

The national celebration of the International Day of Midwives was celebrated in the presence of the godmother of the event, First Lady Voahangy RAJAONARIMAMPIANINA, wife of the President of the Republic. The Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Public Health, Dr. Willy RANDRIAMAROTIA and the UNFPA Representative in Madagascar, Mr. Mamadou DICKO, attended the celebration. On this occasion, midwives demonstrated at their level, reaffirming the importance of their profession in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality.

This year, the theme is "Woman and newborn: at the heart of midwifery." This day, celebrated in Diégo from the 4th until the 6th of May, aims to highlight this profession often criticized but which saves lives of women and newborns. The celebration also attracts the attention of the media and decision-makers on the importance of midwifery in Madagascar. The midwife who is in the front line to save the life of the mother and baby before, during and after childbirth.

"Promoting and investing in midwifery is one of the most profitable investments a country can make because it is about saving lives," said Mamadou DICKO, UNFPA Representative in Madagascar.

For three days, the midwives conducted free consultations with their various partners; including antenatal clinics, diabetes screening, STIs and HIV, blood pressure, counselling, and family planning services. Midwives from the Diana region also received a capacity building session on new techniques related to the profession.

In Madagascar, ten women die from complications of pregnancy or childbirth everyday. These tragedies could be avoided if decision-makers focus more on the profession of midwives because they play an important role in health education, not only for women but also for the family and the community. Midwives are available and attentive to surround, reassure and accompany women throughout pregnancy to deliver deliveries within the health facility. "Midwives have a key role in achieving sustainable development goals, including the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality. I urge women to have at least four antenatal clinics and to give birth at the health facilities in the

presence of qualified staff,” said Mrs. Voahangy RAJAONARIMAMPIANINA, wife of the President of the Republic during her speech.

When they were trained in accordance with international standards and a fully functioning health system, midwives can provide about 90% of essential care for women and newborns and are able to reduce by two thirds the number of maternal deaths and neonatal. In Madagascar, the Ministry of Health, UNFPA, in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine of Antananarivo, are implementing an action plan to enhance the profession of midwifery, notably by supporting the training institutes, the National Order (ONSFM) and the National Association (ANSFM) of Midwives. The mentoring system set in place since 2012 aims to accompany and guide young midwives on the field in strengthening their skills. UNFPA also supports the education system to bring the midwifery sector up to international standards.

Media as a catalyst for behaviour change

3 May 2016

In Madagascar, there is a very weak relationship between supply and demand contraceptive methods. Despite the progress made, according to the results of the MDG Monitoring Survey (ENSOMD 2012-2013), only about one third of women in union use modern contraceptive methods, and just under a quarter of these women express need, but do not have access. The problem is particularly with the most vulnerable women. Thus, in order to reinforce the population's knowledge on issues related to reproductive health, UNFPA Madagascar has decided to award the best national journalists through a competition of the best journalistic production on the subjects of health of the reproduction. The award-winning feature included the access of vulnerable women to family planning by conducting an investigation of women in one of the most disadvantaged neighborhoods of the capital, Antetezanafovoany 67 Ha, through their positive testimonies . This 10-minute journalistic production highlighted not only the benefits of birth spacing but also the ease of access to family planning, both in terms of cost and proximity, through the network of health centres of implementing partners supported by UNFPA those of SISAL and Marie Stopes Madagascar. At the end of the report, a call to action at all levels was issued to further facilitate this access and in particular to eliminate one of the main obstacles which is the refusal of the spouses to the adoption of contraceptive method by his companion.

The report is available at <http://madagascar.unfpa.org/en/video/the-materials-as-the-catalysts-of-...>
The proclamation of the winners and the presentation of the prizes were made during the celebration of the World Press Freedom Day on May 03.

This competition is only the beginning of the partnership that UNFPA Madagascar plans to forge with journalists because an action plan will soon be developed with the three winners of the contest to strengthen their contributions in changing the behaviour of the population through their respective media outlets which are television and print media.

National Celebration of International Women's Day

8 March 2016

The National Women's Day celebration ceremony took place today in the city of Diego. This day is organized by the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and the Advancement of Women in partnership with women in partnership with UNFPA and other agencies of the United Nations system. The national theme chosen for this year is "Planet 50/50 by 20130: Let us take the step for gender equality" His Excellency, Mrs Voahangy RAJAONARIMAMPIANINA, Wife of the President of the Republic of Madagascar, Ministers and members of parliament were present during the ceremony.

International Women's Day is a day of events throughout the world and in Madagascar to take stock of the situation of women, celebrate victories and achievements, celebrate acts of courage and determination of ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities and have their claims heard in order to improve the situation of women. This day is also a rallying moment to mobilize support for women's rights and their participation in political and economic life and an opportunity to focus on ways to accelerate the sustainable development agenda and a momentum for the effective implementation of the 17 new Sustainable Development Goals

"Progress has been made in Madagascar in terms of the exercise of women's rights ... continue our momentum and show us more audacious in our actions and in our decisions to make substantial efforts to improve the lot and living conditions of women and girls," said Mr. Christian NTSAY, representative of the Resident Coordinator of the System of Nations in Madagascar during his speech.

Let us recall that the celebration of the International Day of the woman took place during the last few days in the city of Diego. A women's empowerment fair, including for-profit consultations, provided young people and pregnant women with free access to family planning and pre-natal counselling, UNFPA.

More than half of the Malagasy population is under 24 years of age. Girls, adolescents and women also account for half of the population. If we really want to reach the goal of the 50-50 Planet in Madagascar in 15 years, we must invest in young people, specifically in adolescents and young girls. For example, UNFPA, in collaboration with AIRTEL Madagascar, also awarded first prize-winners to the 2015 Baccalaureate, who received the highest honors and honors during the opening of the reflection workshops on leadership and the rights of women.

Together, with the contribution and responsibility of each one, we can guarantee the enjoyment of the rights of Malagasy women!

Regional Programming Workshop in the Androy Region

1 March 2016

In the framework of the implementation of the 7th Cooperation programme between the Malagasy Government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the period 2015-2019, the objective of which is to "reduce poverty by targeting women, young people and adolescents and more particularly those living in rural and remote areas including through the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality", UNFPA Madagascar continues to reaffirm its commitment to support the Malagasy state. To be closer to the benefits UNFPA decided to adopt an integrated approach at the level of the Priority Regions of Concentration. To this end, a regional programming workshop in the

Androy region, one of the priority regions of its interventions, was held from 29 February to 1 March in Ambovombe.

This workshop was conducted jointly with the Ministry of Economy and Planning as a governmental coordinating body, ensuring comprehensive and multisectoral coordination of development partnerships with all United Nations agencies, and as a department for national, regional and sectoral development planning. The objective of the workshop was to develop an action plan for 2015-2016, responding to the priority needs of the Androy region, which would contribute to accelerating the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality.

Specifically, the workshop aimed to bringing together local actors and stakeholders in the Androy Region for better ownership of the programme. At the end, the participants were able to identify and develop together appropriate strategies and an action plan for 2016 in order to implement a "high-impact integrated response package" in the target districts. This package of interventions (i) includes all key components of the programme, such as Reproductive Health, STI/HIV, Gender-Based Violence, Adolescents and Youth and the Population and Development Component, and (ii) regional specificities and existing initiatives and projects for better synergy and complementarity of interventions. In the first phase, for the Androy Region, UNFPA has prioritized 2 districts, namely Ambovombe and Tsihombe.

The workshop has seen the active participation of technicians from the ministerial departments concerned, among others, the Ministries of Economy and Planning, Public Health, Youth and Sports and Population and Social Protection, as well as local actors including regional officials and national actors as well as the team and staff of the national and regional office of UNFPA. Representatives from other technical and financial partners such as WFP, PAUSENS, Médecins Sans Frontières, etc. have also been present to ensure the harmonisation, synergy and complementarity of their interventions in the field.

Official endowment of materials and equipment for the Youth Centres in the Atsimo Andrefana Region

24 February 2016

UNFPA has officially handed over to the Ministry of Youth and Sports some equipment and supplies valued at USD 30,800, including office furniture, some electronic devices (solar panels, mini-stereo with karaoke) and music equipment (electro-acoustic guitar, microphone, jambe), sports equipment (balls, nets, jerseys ...) books, board games and various supplies.

The official ceremony for handing over the materials and equipment in the framework of UNFPA's cooperation with the Malagasy government, in particular the Ministry of Youth and of Sports, took place on 23 February 2016 at the level of the DRJS Regional Department of Youth and Sports of Tuléar, in the presence of the Minister of Youth and Sports; Jean Anicet Andriamosarisoa and the UNFPA Representative, Mr. Togbé NGANGEDEBA.

These materials are intended for the eight (08) youth centers in the eight rural communes of the Atsimo Andrefana Region, namely Miary, Andranovory, Ankililoaka, Ejeda, Ampanihy, Fotadrevy, Itampolo and Toliara I.

The youth receives as well as structures where they can access the information they need, including their sexual and reproductive health. They can also develop their potential through art and sport.

Establishing youth structures, especially in rural areas where adolescents and young people are the most vulnerable, is an essential element in an environment conducive to the development of adolescents and young people. Thus, they will be able to protect themselves and fully realize their future projects.

Start of the second year of implementation of the seventh cooperation programme of UNFPA with the Malagasy government

4 February 2016

The activities for this year 2016 have effectively started through the signature of the Annual Work Plans with Implementing Partners; namely the Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and the Advancement of Women, the Ministry of Public Health, INSTAT, SALAMA, Marie Stopes Madagascar, ASOS, SALFA, the National Association of Midwives and the Faculty of Medicine of Antananarivo.

An official ceremony was held, during which Mr. General RAVELOARISON Herilanto, Minister of Economy and Planning, Mr. Jean Anicet Andriamosarisoa, Minister of Youth and Sports, Mrs. Onitiana Realy, Minister of Population, Social Protection and of the Promotion of Women and Mr. Mamadou DICKO, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Madagascar, officially signed the Annual Work Plans of these respective Ministries. Similarly, the annual business plans of organisations such as ASOS, SALFA and the Faculty of Medicine of Antananarivo were also signed during this event.

UNFPA will invest up to USD 3,500,000 for this year 2016 of the following four components; maternal and newborn health, family planning and securing reproductive health commodities, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, gender and population and development. The Malagasy government also contributes to the implementation of the plan.

The activities of the action plan will have as programmatic priorities; (i) improving access to sexual and reproductive health services, (ii) increasing youth access to information and sex education, (iii) preventing/responding to gender-based violence, (iv) collect, operate, analyze and disseminate data for the population. Efforts will be concentrated in the districts of the Atsimo Andrefana, Vatovavy Fitovinany and Androy regions.

These work plans are in the second year of implementation. implementation of the seventh UNFPA cooperation programme with the Malagasy government. A programme of cooperation which, it should be recalled, is aimed at reducing poverty targeting women and young adolescents, particularly those living in remote rural areas through, inter alia, reducing maternal and neonatal mortality while taking into account of the socio-cultural factors in the country.

Launch of the National Campaign on Family Planning

22 September 2015

The use of contraceptive methods remains low in countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including Madagascar. In Madagascar, only 33.3% of women in union use modern contraceptive methods and 17.8% of women wanting to space births do not use them. Despite this, the Government has launched the challenge of reducing the maternal mortality rate by 50% by the end of 2015.

The 22 September 2015 was marked by the official launch of the National Campaign on Family Planning at Madagascar. The ceremony was conducted under the patronage of the First Lady of Madagascar, Mrs. Voahangy RAJAONARIMAMPINANINA, who is at the same time the godmother of CARMMA. In partnership with the major family planning actors in Madagascar, including UNFPA and USAID, the campaign focused on young people's access to family planning. Based on the theme "Your life, your voice, talk contraception!" UNFPA Representative Madagascar, Mr. Mamadou DICKO, pointed out in his speech the important part of young women under the age of 19 who die by giving birth, representing one third of maternal mortality in Madagascar and emphasize that "Access to contraception increases the opportunities for women and their families to get out of poverty", "that appropriate sex education and access to contraception, provide valuable assistance to young people in planning their education, work and family as they see fit," and that "Family Planning is one of the safest and most profitable investments a country can make to give its people a better quality of life."

In this regard, the inauguration of the Model Centre for Renovated Family Planning and equipped by UNFPA, was held on the sidelines of the launching ceremony of the national campaign. This launching ceremony was also marked by the commitment of the First Lady to militate even more for the well-being of the population, particularly women and adolescent girls, by signing the FP 2020 Commitment, which aims to improve access to family planning services to as many people as possible and calls for the adoption of laws that promote access to services and information in particular for Madagascar.

For this year, the campaign has been divided into several supports according to the target of the actions:

Youth, the target of the campaign

Stands were held in the forecourt of the City Hall of the capital to inform it about the different possibilities of family planning that exist in Madagascar. Radio and TV spots spend 10 days on television and radio and the channel and radio with a stronger audience throughout the island. Posters and leaflets to families and youth to encourage them to choose the contraceptive method that is appropriate and A meeting with young people in a popular neighbourhood of the capital accompanied by door-to-door and face-to-face outreach visits, free family planning services and a flash mob with young volunteers. Young people have sensitised more than 500 people.

Listening Health Professors

A scientific conference on approaches and contraceptive innovations was held on 22 September

Launch of the National Campaign for the Elimination of Fistula midwifery

5 August 2015

A Madagascar, about 50,000 women and girls suffer obstetric fistula and are awaiting surgery.

The fourth National Campaign for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula was launched this morning at the Regional Reference Hospital Centre presence of her godmother, Mrs. Voahangy RAJAONARIMAMPIANINA, wife of the President of the Republic of Madagascar. In the presence of governmental and local authorities and representatives of the United Nations system.

The three-week campaign seeks to provide support for greater national investment in maternal health, more resources for the treatment of fistula, but also to combat the stigma of women suffering from this disease.

The obstetric fistula (or vesico-genital fistula) generally results from prolonged and difficult work, without any obstetric intervention (caesarean section) performed in due time. The fetus then exerts excessive pressure on the internal organs (vagina, bladder, rectum) and damages the tissues of the woman. In most cases the baby dies. The woman suffers from severe incontinence which leads to ulcers, infections and sometimes even death. This disabling disease is often hidden because it affects the most marginalized members of society, namely poor young women living in rural and landlocked areas.

Worldwide, but especially in developing countries, more than 2 million women and girls suffer from obstetric fistula, a disease that hardly exists anymore in industrialised countries. Each year, between 50,000 and 100,000 new cases are added and only 10,000 women in the world have access to restorative surgery. In Madagascar, more than 50,000 women and girls suffer from obstetric fistula and are waiting for restorative surgery. The results of the Survey on the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (ENSOMD 2012/2013) reveal that 4,000 women suffer from this disabling disease each year and the majority of them are between the ages of 15 and 19.

"If we are gathered here today, it is to show women who are victims of fistula that they are no longer alone, that they are no longer invisible and that we take into account the severity of this problem, which breaks several thousand lives and families every year," said Mr. Mamadou DICKO, UNFPA Resident Representative in Madagascar.

Since the first national campaign organized in 2011 by the Ministry of Public Health in partnership with UNFPA, about 1,000 women have some fifteen Malagasy surgeons were trained by international experts. The partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) makes it possible to provide specific nutritional support to the beneficiaries, as well as a family ration for the household during the 20 days of hospitalisation. This support encourages patients to go to the hospital and contributes to recovery and rapid healing after surgical repair of fistulas. Food for the families of the patients helps to support the household during the absence of the woman of the house. WFP will provide 30 tons of food, including rice, beans and vitamin A-enriched oil.

Between the 29th of April and the 7th of May 2015, an obstetric fistula repair campaign was held at the Hospital Centre Regional of Sambava. During this campaign, six surgical teams were trained in

the management of this disease. Forty women with obstetric fistula have been treated and each learner has benefited from the practical and theoretical supervision of international experts.

In order to reduce the surgical waiting list for women victims of this disease, Public Health in partnership with the MERCYSHIPs organisation and with the support of UNFPA will take care of 450 women victims of obstetric fistula from the 22 regions of Madagascar. This will be conducted in two phases. The first phase took place in March 2015 when 80 women were operated and the second phase will take place between August 2015 and June 2016.

In Madagascar, four public hospitals (CHRR Sambava, CHRDI Ifanadiana, CHRDI Mananjary and CHU JRA in Antananarivo) and four confessionals (EJEDA, VANGAINDRANO, MANAMBARO and the Ampasimanjeva Medical Foundation (FMA)) have the technical capacity to operate obstetric fistula. After their operation, women integrate socio-economic reintegration projects enabling them to become autonomous.

National Artistic Competition for Drawing and Poetry for Young People in Madagascar

23 July 2015

As part of the African Union's campaign to combat child marriage, which will be launched in Madagascar from June to December 2015, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNFPA) is organising a national competition for drawing and poetry in the 22 regions.

The aim of this competition is to give free rein to the imagination of young people on the theme of child marriage. The drawings and poems made must help to break the silence around this practice. It also aims to raise the awareness of stakeholders through the works of young people on the harmful effects of early marriage on the child himself; All young people under the age of 19 are invited to take part in this contest. Participants will have the choice between drawing or poetry. But they must respect the theme "Let us live our childhood, do not marry us." To know the rules of the contest, contact the nearest Youth House, your district or the Regional Youth Directorate of your Region or download it [here](#). You have until the 31st of July 2015 to deposit your works with the Regional Directorate of Youth of your Region or of the nearest Youth House. Let's fight together against the marriage of children!!

COMPETITION OF THE BEST

JOURNALISTIC PRODUCTION ON THE THEMES OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT, AND GENDER - from 15 July to 15 September

15 July 2015

The media is the first channel for conveying information to the public. The media occupy an essential place among the populations because they can be a catalyst for behavioural change. In this way, they can go against the preconceived notions, taboos. The media inform and encourage the general public to adopt positive behaviours in the promotion of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health in particular. The media can also draw the attention of the population to harmful practices that harm the wellbeing of women and girls.

In order to highlight population and development issues such as sexual and reproductive health and gender in Madagascar, UNFPA and its partners launch the first national competition for the best article (dossier), report and radio broadcast at destination of Malagasy journalists. The award will reward journalistic work that has made an exceptional contribution to clarification of population and development issues or to promoting a better understanding of the mandate of the United Nations Population Fund. **[See the full contest rules the 2015](#)**

World Population Day was celebrated on July 14 at the community site of Andranofeno Sud in the presence of the President of the Republic of Madagascar. Date: 14/07/2015

14 July 2015

The World Population Day, celebrated every 11 July since 1989 in the world, aims to draw attention to the urgency and importance of population issues, in particular through development plans and programmes and on the need to find lasting solutions. This year's theme for World Population Day is "Vulnerable populations in emergency situations." This theme aims to highlight the special needs of women and adolescent girls in conflict and humanitarian disasters.

Three-quarters of the world's fifty million people displaced by natural disasters or conflict are women, children and youth. The precarious conditions in which the affected populations lived worsened the situation of women and girls. They face greater risks such as ill-treatment, sexual exploitation, forced

marriage, etc. In addition, they most often become heads of families who need to care for the children, the elderly to the detriment of their needs. In this context, the lack of reproductive health services, including emergency neonatal obstetric care, family planning, health services and products to treat women and children who have experienced sexual violence increases maternal and neonatal mortality and sexually transmitted diseases. Moreover, the vulnerability of young people and adolescents during times of crisis and emergency is exacerbated by the lack of access to quality reproductive health services. There is a need to pay more attention to the needs of young people and adolescents through innovative approaches to help mitigate some of the impacts that threaten their lives.

"By prioritising health, rights and participation of women, adolescents and young people in public life, we are increasing our chances of a more just, stable and peaceful world," said Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. United Nations and Executive Director of UNFPA on the occasion of World Population Day.

The 2015 theme is of particular importance since at the global level Madagascar is a country highly exposed to natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and drought that promote food insecurity, especially in the south of the country. Humanitarian crises and their impacts affect a part of the Malagasy population at least six months a year.

In humanitarian crises, UNFPA plays a major role in the supply of reproductive health products, of Gender-based Violence. UNFPA focuses its interventions on the care of pregnant and newborn women, family planning, Gender-based Violence (GVA), including sexual violence and data collection. The organisation targets the most vulnerable populations, mainly women, adolescents and young people.

During the official celebration on 14 July, UNFPA will hand over medical equipment to the health centre at the Andranofeno Sud community site so that health workers can deliver quality births and antenatal consultations.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION AND LAUNCH OF THE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN'S MIDWIFERY PRACTICE 2014

5 May 2015

Tuléar, Tuesday, May 5, 2015 - The International Day of Midwives was celebrated this morning in Tuléar in the presence of the godmother of the event, the First Lady, Mrs. Voahangy RAJAONARIMAMPINANINA, wife of the President of the Republic. The Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Public Health, Dr Willy RANDRIAMAROTIA and the Representative of UNFPA in Madagascar, Mr Mamadou DICKO attended the celebration. On this occasion, the midwives of the 22 regions demonstrated at their level to reaffirm the importance of their profession in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. This year, the theme is "*Midwives: for a better future.*" This day, celebrated in Toliara from 04 to 08 May, aims to highlight this profession, which is often the object of criticism but which saves the lives of women and newborns. The celebration also attracts the attention of the media and decision-makers on the importance of midwifery in Madagascar. UNFPA took this

opportunity to provide 100 pregnant women with dignity kits and individual delivery kits. The CSB of Mahavatse first and Mangily have received medical equipment and consumables for their delivery performance by skilled attendants. In addition, the Telma Foundation sent an SMS to all its subscribers, which is in line with the fight against maternal mortality.

For several days, midwives will conduct awareness-raising sessions with young people on STIs, HIV/AIDS, pregnancy free prenatal and family planning clinics. The present midwives will receive a postgraduate course on the management of obstetric complications occurring before, during or after childbirth.

In Madagascar, ten women die from complications of pregnancy or childbirth every day. These tragedies could be avoided if decision-makers *focus more on the profession of midwives because they play an important role in health education, not only for women but also for the family and the community.* Midwives are available and attentive to surround, reassure, accompany women throughout pregnancy to deliver births within the health facility.

"The Malagasy Government prioritizes maternal and neonatal health in order to achieve sustainable development goals, including family planning," said Dr. Willy RANDRIAMAROTIA, Representing the Minister of Public Health. At the ceremony, the National Order and the Association of Midwives of Madagascar launched the report on the state of midwifery practice in the world in 2014. This report, published by UNFPA, in conjunction with the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the World Health Organization (WHO) and their partners, reveals that 73 countries where their services are most needed have an inadequate number of midwives. This report provides information on the range, deployment, environment and development of midwifery personnel in relation to future needs and is thus an advocacy tool for strengthening human resources. The report recommends that strategies be put in place to address these shortcomings and save millions of lives. In particular, it encourages countries to invest in midwifery education and training.

"Promoting and investing in the midwifery profession is one of the most cost-effective investments a country can make, will benefit the health of families, communities and the development of the nation," said Mr. Mamadou DICKO, UNFPA Representative in Madagascar.

When they were trained in accordance with international standards and in the framework of a midwives can provide about 90% of essential care for women and newborns and are able to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths by two thirds. In Madagascar, the Ministry of Health, UNFPA, in partnership with the Faculty of Medicine of Antananarivo, is implementing an action plan to enhance the profession of midwifery, notably by supporting the training institutes, the National Order (ONSFM) and the National Association (ANSFM) of Midwives.

The mentoring system introduced in 2012 to support and guide young midwives in strengthening their skills continues in 5 regions. In 2014, UNFPA provided support to the education system to bring the midwifery sector up to international standards.

CEREMONY OF THE OFFICIAL SIGNATURE OF THE COUNTRY

PROGRAMME ACTION PLAN 2015-2019

MADAGASCAR - UNFPA

10 March 2015

General of the Armed Forces Herilanto RAVELOHARISON, Minister of Economy and Planning and Mr. Mamadou DICKO, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Madagascar, this afternoon, signed the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) of the 7th Cooperation Programme between the Government of Madagascar and UNFPA for the period 2015-2019. Several members of the government, UN agencies representatives, and other guests attended the ceremony.

The Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) was developed through a participatory process under the Ministry of Economics and Planning. This programme is based on the recommendations of the evaluation of the 6th programme, the priorities of the new "General State Policy," the National Development Plan (NDP), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2015-2019 and UNFPA's Strategic Plan for the period 2014-2017.

The Seventh Cooperation Programme targets the reduction of poverty targeting women and young adolescents, particularly those living in rural areas, particularly through the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality while taking into account the country's socio-cultural factors.

The programme is structured around four priorities that aim to (i) improve access to quality and integrated sexual and reproductive health services; (ii) increasing youth access to information, sex education and services; (iii) preventing/responding to gender-based violence; (iv) making the data available to implement effective evidence-based programmes.

The Minister of Economy and Planning and the UNFPA Representative signed the Cooperation Document (CPAP 2015- 2019) for USD 74.5 million, including USD 27 million in own resources and USD 47.5 million to be mobilized. *"The context in which we are approaching this 7th programme of cooperation between Madagascar and UNFPA is marked by many challenges. But by joining forces, I am convinced that we can improve the lives of people, especially those living in remote areas,"* said Mr. Mamadou DICKO, UNFPA Representative in Madagascar. The Minister, for his part, underlined: *"And I dare to affirm that the action plans of the Partners of Madagascar in general, and of UNFPA in particular, are aligned with development challenges, strategic orientations, with the vision of a modern Madagascar and prosperous."*

In order to optimize the impact of the programme and in consultation with partners, special attention will be paid in the first phase of the programme to three regions of the South, namely Atsimo Andrefana, Vatovavy Fitovinany and Androy. These are areas of convergence of the actions of the United Nations Agencies. This will allow the agencies involved to strengthen their collaboration in order to support the country in improving the living conditions of the populations, particularly the most vulnerable.

During this ceremony, UNFPA also signed the work plans for the year 2015 with the ministries in charge of their implementation. These include the Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and the Promotion of Women.

Official ceremony for the presentation of the credentials of the new Representative of UNFPA

16 February 2015

Mr. Mamadou DICKO, the new Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) presented his credentials to the Malagasy government on 13 February 2015, represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Béatrice ATALLAH.

The new Representative has a long experience in the field of population and development in Africa. He was Regional Advisor for Population Policies at the Institute of the Sahel in Mali. He was also the Director of the Regional Office of the Centre for African Family Studies (CEFA) in Lomé, Togo. He has served as the UNFPA Representative in Benin and Chad for almost a decade.

Mr. DICKO is a Senegalese national. He holds degrees in Political Science, Geography, General Demography and Planning.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is a United Nations agency established in 1969 for development. UNFPA's mandate includes reducing maternal mortality and enabling the most vulnerable populations to improve their living conditions, especially women and young people.

UNFPA has been present in Madagascar since 1978 and is currently implementing is carrying out its seventh programme of cooperation with the Government of Madagascar, whose main activities are concentrated in the disadvantaged regions of the south of the country.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

2 December 2014

16 Days of Activism Against Violence

Today, November 25, 2014, is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This day also marks the beginning of the 16 days of activism against violence against women. The theme chosen for this year is "Woman Protected Against Violence, a woman who advances with confidence."

In Madagascar, the national celebration of this day took place on 24 November 2014 in Ambanja in the presence of the Minister of Population, Social Protection and the Advancement of Women, Ms. JOHASY Eléonore and the Representative of UNFPA in Madagascar, Mr. Bernard COQUELIN.

Various demonstrations took place there; including a carnival, exhibition booths, musical entertainment, and a film broadcast on violence against women followed by discussions.

Many sensitisation and mobilisation activities on the elimination of violence against women will be held throughout Madagascar during these 16 days of activism against violence against women; in particular through: poster campaigns, the broadcasting of radio theaters and awareness-raising spots.

Violence against women is a scourge that persists in Madagascar even if it is often considered a private matter. Out of fear or above all shame, survivors of violence refuse to talk to their relatives and competent authorities. Thus limiting their access to the different health care services, the psychosocial and also legal aspects. In Madagascar, about one in three women think their partner has the right to beat his wife for one reason or another. The survivors suffer in silence, while their torturers live in freedom. Impunity remains the norm more than the exception. Given the magnitude of this phenomenon, it is urgent to act now. The National Campaign for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence aims to give new impetus to the fight against violence against women and girls.

Together we protect women against violence, to enable them to advance with confidence!

RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL COMPETITION: PROMOTION OF YOUTH INITIATIVES IN THE 22 REGIONS OF MADAGASCAR

20 October 2014

Youth, solidarity and responsibility, make your commitment!

The Ministry of Youth and Sports supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) launched the first edition of a National Competition to Promote Youth Initiatives in the 22 Regions of Madagascar. The objective of this competition is to promote the place of young people in the development of Madagascar by enhancing their participation and commitment for the benefit of all.

You will find enclosed the result of the contest: [PROMOTION OF YOUTH INITIATIVES IN THE 22 REGIONS OF MADAGASCAR](#).

International Day of the Girl 2014

11 October 2014

The national celebration of the International Day of the Girl takes place on 11 and 12 October 2014 in the Urban Commune of Tamatave. The Minister of Youth and Sports; Dr. Jean Anicet ANDRIAMOSARISOA, Minister of Water; Dr. Johanita NDRAHIMANANJARA, General of Division PAZA Didier Gérard; Secretary of State to the Ministry of National Defense in charge of the National Gendarmerie, as well as the Representative of UNFPA; Dr. Bernard COQUELIN were present at the opening ceremony.

This day is organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in partnership with different organisations namely: UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF. This year's theme is "Empowering Adolescent Girls: Breaking the Cycle of Violence".

This international day is also integrating and officially launching the national campaign "Viavy Arô Zahe" (Because We Are Girls) will extend over three months and aim to enable young girls and teenagers to know and enjoy their rights fully so that they can achieve their full potential in an environment that is favorable to them.

Indeed, the situation of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 and more widely among young girls aged 10 to 24 has deteriorated.

The upsurge in early pregnancies, maternal mortality among adolescents and exposure to HIV/AIDS and STIs due to the low reliability of contraceptive use, are all realities they face today.

The early age of entry into sexual and reproductive life young people's persistence. 17% of girls aged 15-24 had their first intercourse under 15 years of age and 9% of their opposite-sex peers.

The early marriage rate is one of the highest in the world. One out of two girls is married or in union before the age of 18, despite the fact that according to the law 022 2007, marriage between two persons, one of them under 18 years of age, is illegal. This situation is intimately linked to early pregnancies affecting one in three girls in Madagascar. Early pregnancies lead to loss of educational opportunities, perpetuate poverty and deny basic human rights. In addition, pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of adolescent deaths in the country. Of the 10 women who die each day as a result of childbirth causes in the country, three are adolescents under the age of 19.

This international day of the girl and this national campaign have two objectives: young girls have the knowledge and skills to protect themselves and make informed decisions, while also educating young boys on the same themes, but also to advocate in order to encourage the application of laws and existing policies aimed at protecting girls in particular and raising awareness among decision-makers and leaders of the need to invest in girls.

"Girls deserve special attention in the composition of the Malagasy population. They are part of this vulnerable fringe and are victims of early and unwanted pregnancy. But we must also not forget to educate young boys, co-actors of early pregnancy so that they benefit from the information needed to improve their living conditions aimed at better individual and professional development later," said the Minister Youth and Sports, Dr. Jean Anicet ANDRIAMOSARISOA, during his speech. This day is animated by young people and especially by young girls. They will advocate for decision-makers in order to secure a greater commitment to defend their rights.

Singer Gangstatabab has presented his new song specially created for this campaign aimed at getting through music, awareness-raising messages for parents and young people.

Awareness activities will be organized by and for young people and the film Dzaomalaza 3 has been screened and followed by discussions among young people. The day of 12 October 2014 will be devoted to sports activities during which messages on the rights of young people will also be conveyed.

"For the development of girls and their families, the community and the country, it is essential to preserve their rights and invest in their future," said the Representative of the UNFPA, Doctor Bernard Coquelin.

Investing in girls can be synonymous with growth and development, offering them the opportunity to fulfill their full potential, "because they are girls!"

Launch of the campaign to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality in Africa.

15 September 2014

Working together to reduce maternal and infant mortality

The launch of the Campaign to Accelerate the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality in Madagascar (CARMMA) took place on September 15, 2014 at the covered stadium Mahamasina, under the High Patronage of the Prime Minister Head of Government, Minister of Public Health Doctor KOLO Roger and under the High Sponsorship of the wife of the President of the Mrs. RAJAONARIMAMPIANINA Voahangy

"This opportunity to launch CARMMA is that now we do not dwell on the causes and reasons for maternal mortality rates in Madagascar, but rather to mobilize ourselves on the importance of this cause with all the Malagasy Government, the National Assembly, the religious and traditional leaders, and I would like to remind conference that we had in April with more than 150 traditional leaders because some traditional and cultural practices have their share in maternal mortality. They pledged to do something and we are following their recommendations," said Ms. Agathe Lawson, UNFPA Representative in Madagascar.

CARMMA will last from September 15 to December 31, 2014. This campaign sets a goal to mobilise livelihoods at all levels to improve maternal and child health in Madagascar in order to achieve an increase in the use of quality health services, including those related to reproductive health, which are essential for the reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality.

International Youth Day 2014

12 August 2014

"A Serene and Healthy Youth, Lever of Development"

The national celebration of the International Youth Day takes place from 12 to 14 August 2014 in the Urban Commune of Ambalavao, Prime Minister KOLO Roger, Minister of Youth and Sport, Jean Anicet ANDRIAMOSARISOA, Minister of Finances Jean RAZAFINDRAVONONA, the Minister of Population, Social Protection and the Advancement of Women; Johtle Eléonore; as well as the Minister of Crafts, Culture and Heritage; RANDRIANARISOA Vaonalary were present at the ceremony of 12 August 2014.

This day is organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in partnership with different organisations namely; UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, WHO, UNESCO, Reggio Terzzio Mondo, PSI Madagascar and TELMA. In keeping with the global theme of Youth Mental Health, the slogan chosen by

Madagascar this year is "A Serene and Healthy Youth, Lever of Development", "***Tagnora milamin-tsaina sy tomady, Fanoitsy ny fampandrosoana.***"

Indeed, untreated mental health problems among adolescents can have multiple consequences: poor school performance, unemployment, risk behaviours such as sexual and reproductive health, self-harm and even suicide - all of which increase the risk of mortality.

Worldwide, suicide is the highest level of the consequences of mental imbalance and is the third leading cause of death among young people after road accidents and HIV/AIDS. In Madagascar, the rejuvenation of victims of stroke due to inadequate lifestyles is alarming. In addition, according to UNDP surveys with the National Youth Institute in 2013, 83.9% of young people are concerned about drugs and 81.6% of young people are concerned about alcoholism. Similarly, job loss, early pregnancies and their serious socioeconomic consequences for young mothers are all problems faced by young people. Early pregnancy affects one in three girls in Madagascar and leads to loss of opportunities, education, perpetuating poverty and denying basic human rights.

"It is up to each of us to move forward in our long march towards progress, and it begins with you, dear young people, to take advantage of your youth because you are not only the beneficiaries of the actions that the state implements in your favor but both the actors the development of our country," said Jean Anicet ANDRIAMOSARISOA, Minister of Youth and Sports, at the time of his speech.

The International Youth Day 2014 aims to highlight and reinforce the importance of Youth Mental Health, in particular through the promotion of youth, Life Skills approach that contributes to young people's behaviour change. Awareness-raising activities will be carried out in the community and in the Youth Centres to promote the wellbeing of young people and social cohesion, such as conferences on mental health, computer maintenance training, entrepreneurship, the screening of the film Dzaomalaza 3 and sports and cultural activities. Awareness sessions aim at encouraging young people to adopt the entrepreneurial spirit so that they can exploit their potential, as well as to strengthen collaboration with the "Friends of Youth" services in prevention, care and rehabilitation of young people facing mental health problems. This event is also marked by the dynamism of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Youth. Finally, it aims to advocate against the stigmatisation and discrimination of young people affected by these mental health problems.

"By improving and expanding the knowledge of these young people, we will guarantee them a healthy future and free of mental disorders. But it is also by mobilizing all actors: from decision-makers, civil society, communities, traditional leaders and parents, that we can bring about change," said the UNFPA Representative in Madagascar, Mrs. Agathe LAWSON.

3rd National Campaign for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula

12 July 2014

"End shame. End to insulation. Let's eliminate the fistula!"

The third national campaign for the elimination of obstetric fistula 2014 was launched on July 12th in the presence of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health Roger KOLO and the UNFPA Representative in Madagascar, Mrs. Agathe Lawson. This campaign, which is taking place simultaneously with the CHRR in Manakara and the CHRD in Mananjary from 12 July to 11 August 2014, is part of the Global Campaign for the Elimination of Obstetric Fistula initiated by UNFPA and its

partners in 2003 whose goals are to advocate for preventing fistula and caring for women who suffer from it. In Madagascar, this campaign has been carried out since 2011 by the Ministry of Public Health and its partners. At the launch, several women operated last year during the previous campaign took the floor to tell their story and their healing. The Prime Minister took advantage of his presence to discuss a moment with the women expecting surgery at the CHRR in Manakara.

The Ministry of Public Health is organizing this campaign in partnership with UNFPA, the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Society of Fistula Surgeons (ISOFS) and the Fistula Foundation. To conduct this campaign, 04 ISOFS expert surgeons are in Madagascar to strengthen the skills of 13 surgeons and their team and to operate 200 women with obstetric fistula.

The travel and accommodation expenses of the women who will be operated and their accompanying person are totally taken care of during their convalescence at the Hospital. The World Food Programme (WFP) provides specific nutritional support for campaign beneficiaries, as well as a family ration for the household during hospitalisation, representing a total of more than six tons of food.

Obstetric fistula is a disease that affects about two million women and girls in developing countries. It is a bond in the vaginal wall that occurs during a difficult, prolonged delivery and most often without the assistance of a qualified medical staff. Most often, the baby does not survive and the women suffer from chronic incontinence that bans them from their family and community. "*There will be no development without the population being healthy, women play an indispensable role in development, we must consider them,*" said the Prime Minister in his speech. The Prime Minister also challenged the medical staff by recognising that health is a difficult area but that it is essential to be attentive to the sick. He also stressed the importance of hospitality.

To end obstetric fistula, access to high-quality, equitable sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning and maternity care, especially emergency neonatal obstetric care, must be provided. It is essential to take measures to prevent fistula by addressing the underlying medical and socio-economic causes, eliminating gender-based social and economic inequalities, preventing child marriages and early pregnancies, and promoting education, especially that of girls.

In Madagascar, thousands of women and girls suffer from obstetric fistula. Each year, an estimated 5,000 new cases are reported. This disease is a real public health problem accentuated by a human and social tragedy. As women are often rejected by society and sometimes even by their families, these women find it difficult to find their place in society even after they have been cured. "Obstetric fistula highlights the persistence of global inequalities in access to health care and basic human rights," said Ms. Agathe Lawson, UNFPA Representative in Madagascar.

In Madagascar, the campaigns have trained fifteen Malagasy surgeons. Today, ten hospitals, including five public hospitals have the technical capacity to operate obstetric fistula and some surgeons are able to operate cases of complex fistulas.

Celebration of World Population Day 2014

11 July 2014



The celebration of World Population Day was held on 11 July 2014 in Manakara in the presence of the Minister of Population, Social Protection and the Advancement of Women (MPPSPF), Mrs. Eléonore JOHASY, Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Jean Anicet ANDRIAMOSARISOA, Minister of Crafts, Culture and Heritage, Mrs. Vaonalaroy RANDRIANARISOA, Head of Region Brigadier General Jean Felix RANDIARIAMAROLO and the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Madagascar, Mrs. Agathe LAWSON, as well as some Members of Parliament.

This year, young people are honored for World Population Day through the chosen theme by the United Nations: "Investing in young people." Today's youth have never been so numerous and therefore have a vital role to play in development. Although they face daily challenges in health, education and employment, they are a force for the global future in which it is necessary to invest.

This year, UNFPA, the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and the Promotion of Women decided to celebrate World Population Day 2014 in Manakara in the Vatovavy Fitovinany Region. A choice that clearly coincides with MPPSPF and UNFPA interventions that are currently conducting a repair and awareness campaign on obstetric fistula. This disease related to childbirth affects a large number of women and girls in the region, particularly due to early pregnancy.

Several activities have been carried out to celebrate this JMP, as are the traditional dances and folk songs that have seen the participation of young people from some local institutions and "Fokontany." They met especially during sporting activities.

The celebration began on Thursday July 10, in the morning, by the visit of the Minister of Population, Social Protection and the Promotion of Women, Mrs. Eléonore JOHASY, in the centres of professional training, culture and leisure. A public awareness and mobilization session focused on citizenship, citizenship and reproductive health ended this day.

Activities continued on Friday, 11 July with a revival that traveled the city to mobilise the population. Afterwards, a carnival of young people from various associations marched through the streets to reach the Place de la Democratie where the official ceremony was held.

"The future of youth is at the heart of our concerns, they are able to and we are determined to support them so that they can find the appropriate opportunities and supports to find their way and that they can be confident in the future," said the Minister of Population, Social Protection and the Promotion of Women, Mrs. Eléonore JOHASY during her speech. The main actors and beneficiaries of this day, the young people participated actively in the event, notably through animations and exhibitions in stands.

"It is time to accompany them, to orient them so that they can reach their ideals and offer them a favourable environment so that they can flourish. Let us give youth a central place in future development programmes," said UNFPA Representative in Madagascar, Mrs. Agathe LAWSON. In the late morning, the Minister invited the representatives of the associations and the various authorities to take traditional meal "nofon-kena mitam-pihavanana" in the MAGNEVA centre. In the afternoon, an intergenerational debate took place in the C.E.G. a reference for generations to exchange on their respective realities and aspirations.

National Symposium on Health and Development of Adolescents and Youth: 01, 02 and 03 July 2014

1 July 2014



"All for the Malagasy youth!"

The 2014 Youth Symposium in Madagascar was officially opened on 1 July 2014 at the Higher Institute of Social Work (ISTS) by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health, Roger KOLO, in the presence of the Minister of Education, Economics and Planning, Mr. Herilanto RAVELOHARISON, Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Jean Anicet ANDRIAMOSARISOA, Mrs. Fatma SAMOURA, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Madagascar and the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Madagascar, Mrs. Agathe LAWSON. The other Ministries were also widely represented at the opening ceremony.

The 2014 Youth Symposium is organized by the Ministry of Economy and Planning, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and UNFPA in partnership with sister agencies of the United Nations System. It is a result of the great willingness of the stakeholders to place special emphasis on Malagasy youth and aims to give young people the opportunity to talk about the issues that concern them and to formulate recommendations for the future, to come up. The involvement of young people in the whole decision-making process concerning them constitutes one of the best practices in order for them to feel both actors and beneficiaries. And this, under the participatory approach that the Ministry of Economy and Planning advocates for all planning activities.

"This symposium should examine the role of young people to play in the development of their peers, their community, and the country as a whole, as well as all other actors. The Malagasy youth will be responsible, active, united, integrated, competitive, healthy and protected from all scourges," declared the Minister of Youth and Sports, Jean Anicet ANDRIAMOSARISOA during his speech.

Six themes will be addressed during the Youth Symposium 2014:

- (1) Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health
- (2) Education and Training
- (3) Violence and Addiction
- (4) Environment and Sustainable Development
- (5) Employment and Entrepreneurship
- (6) Political Inclusion and Youth participation

Throughout the discussions and exchanges on these six themes, the 2014 Youth Symposium aims to increase the awareness and commitment of the various stakeholders on the investment in the promotion of the rights and development of adolescents and young people in the different development plans and strategies of Madagascar. Since youth is a necessary and cross-cutting theme, it must be taken into account in the overall development plans of both private and public actors.

During the crisis period in Madagascar, young people were exposed to various risks, including loss employment, drop-out and the use of the worst forms of trades. The aggravation of some indicators related to youth provides a blackboard for the country. For example, the birth rate among adolescent girls rose from 148 births per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19 in 2008 to 163 births in 2013, according to the National Survey on MDG Monitoring in Madagascar (ENSOMD) .

The higher level commitment offers new perspectives and gives special emphasis to young people in general by referring to the new General Policy of the State. The objectives of the General Policy of the State directly involve the synergy of all actions aimed at young people.

"Investing in young people, especially in adolescents, is one of the most prudent investments, a country can do. Young people can help break the cycle of poverty, consolidate the social fabric and

create a sustainable future," said UNFPA Representative in Madagascar, Mrs. Agathe Lawson. During the three days of the Symposium, more than 350 participants will be gathered at the Higher Institute of Social Work, including more than 200 young people from the 22 regions of Madagascar, as well as the other islands in the Indian Ocean; the Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles. They will have a strong responsibility to build a strong foundation for the promotion of youth in Madagascar.

"Let us ensure that today's youth have the support, opportunities and programmes necessary for comprehensive development, they do not become a demographic bomb in 2025. All in front for Malagasy youth!" Said Tiana RAZAFINIMANANA, a young member of the Youth First network.

UNFPA supports the Soroptimist International Antananarivo Dean Club in medical equipment for improving maternal and neonatal health

14 June 2014

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Soroptimist International Antananarivo Club Dean (SICAD) of 150 delivery kits and a midwife kit containing medical equipment to ensure prenatal consultations and childbirth in standards. The official presentation of this equipment took place this morning at the Maison de la Femme at 67 HA in the presence of Mrs. Agathe LAWSON, Resident Representative of UNFPA and Mrs. Mamy Rabenarivo, President of the Soroptimist International Antananarivo Dean Club.

UNFPA promotes universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, quality obstetric and prenatal care for all pregnant women and girls, and the promotion of prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. In its efforts to improve maternal health, UNFPA is supporting the country to provide quality care to women who give life through the provision of appropriate medical equipment. Today's facilities will enable healthcare staff at the Soroptimist Health Centre to offer more comprehensive reproductive health services. Approximately 720 women of childbearing age receive health services from the Soroptimist clinic throughout the year.

"Access to reproductive health products and services is a fundamental human right as it saves lives, improves the health of women and young people. It reduces the number of maternal disabilities and deaths, which is at the heart of UNFPA's mandate," said Agathe Lawson, UNFPA Resident Representative in Madagascar.

Soroptimist International is a global network of women engaged in a professional activity that helps local, national and international communities in their efforts to promote human rights and the status of women. The movement has approximately 99,000 members in more than 120 countries. The Soroptimist International Antananarivo Club Doyen (SICAD), founded in 1972, is the first Soroptimist club in Madagascar. The club of Antananarivo realizes its works in several areas; economic and social development, education and culture, environment, health, human rights and the advancement of women. SICAD runs a centre called "House of Woman" at 67 HA whose beneficiaries are the inhabitants of the surrounding neighborhoods of the centre. It also provides training in cutting and sewing and conferences on human rights and health.

The Soroptimist Club Dispensary, named MANASOA, was inaugurated in February 2013 by the Minister of Public Health, the Resident Representative of UNFPA and the Resident Representative of WHO. The services offered at the clinic include medical consultation, monitoring of women's and children's health including prenatal consultations, vaccination, monitoring of growth and small surgery. The clinic provides health education, nursing and medication. Since the opening of the dispensary more than 1000 patients have been received, 250 children have been vaccinated and 200 prenatal consultations have been carried out.

"Our objective is to optimize our contributions for the women in need, donations received from UNFPA our dispensary to provide a better quality of care to our beneficiaries and to be able to lighten them financially, our appreciation and deepest gratitude to UNFPA," said Mamy Rabenarivo, President of the Soroptimist International Antananarivo Dean Club.

International Day of Midwives

19 May 2014,



The world needs midwives, now more than ever!

On **19 May 2014**, International Midwives Day was celebrated at the Antsiranana City Hall. More than 300 midwives from across the country traveled. The theme this year is "*The world needs a midwife now more than ever*". The purpose of this three-day celebration is to highlight the midwifery profession and to engage the public, decision-makers, traditional and religious leaders on the importance of this profession in reducing maternal and neonatal mortality in Madagascar.

This day highlights these shadow-workers as well as their decisive role in the fight against maternal and neonatal mortality and particularly in Madagascar where sometimes the midwife works alone. To this difficulty, it must be added the geographical remoteness, the insecurity, the lack of adequate

medical material and the socio-cultural differences that affect their results. In addition, there are many health centres in the country where there are no midwives or medical staff with the skills to monitor women during pregnancy and delivery. According to WHO standards, the ratio is one midwife per 5000 inhabitants, while in Madagascar there is a midwife for 16000 inhabitants. It lacks about 1500 midwives in the country. Midwives are indispensable because their medical, gynecological and obstetric skills make it possible for them to provide adequate and necessary care to save the lives of women and newborns.

"Supporting and investing in the profession midwife is one of the most profitable investments a country can make, which in turn will be beneficial to the health of families, communities and the development of the nation," said Agathe Lawson, Representative of UNFPA in Madagascar.

The Ministry of Public Health and UNFPA work together to combat maternal and neonatal mortality by enhancing the profession of midwifery, in particular by supporting schools, the National Order of Midwives (ONSFM) and the National Association of Midwives(ANSFM). For several years, actions in favor of the profession have been carried out. For example, new modules have been integrated into the midwifery curriculum, an evaluation of the education system for upgrading of training institutes has been conducted, a mentoring system to support and guide young midwives working in landlocked areas in the (add rest) their competence so that they are able to perform their work properly and efficiently. Finally, the code of ethics involving the duties and obligations of practicing midwifery was updated, validated and disseminated to midwives in 2013.

During these three days of celebration, awareness sessions on the dangers of early pregnancy will be addressed to decision-makers and young people. A midwifery kit to improve the quality of deliveries will be offered by UNFPA to the Antsiranana Level II Base Health Centre where the public consultations will take place on 20 May. In addition, visibly pregnant women will receive an individual birthing kit during these forensic consultations.

National Symposium of Traditional Leaders and Customary Chiefs on Maternal and Newborn Health

28 April 2014



"Let's act together to build a better future for our descendants!" From Monday, April 28 to 30, more than 120 traditional leaders and customary leaders will gather at the Mahajanga City Hall to revitalize their commitment to contribute to the promotion of maternal health and create a favorable environment for the Malagasy population, especially for women and youth.

The opening ceremony of the National Symposium of Leaders and Customary Leaders took place this morning in the presence of the President of the Federation of the Royal and Traditional Communities of Madagascar (FCRTM), Princess Zoendreniny Elakovelo and the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ms. Agathe Lawson. The new Minister of Population, Welfare and the Advancement of Women, Mrs. Johasy Raharisoa Eleonore was also present. More than 120 traditional chiefs from across the country are meeting from 28 to 30 April to revitalize their commitment to contribute to the promotion of maternal health and create a favorable environment for the Malagasy population, especially for women and youth.

The Malagasy population is predominantly young. More than half of it is under 18 years of age. Sexuality and procreation are traditionally precocious on the Big Island. One out of ten adolescents under the age of 15 already has one child according to the results of Madagascar's MDGs national monitoring survey 2012/2013. Early entry into sex can be risky as a girl who gets pregnant before reaching the age of 18 puts her life and her baby in danger. *"The fight against maternal and newborn mortality is now a public health priority, a social, moral and political imperative that is part of the promotion of human rights and of women in particular,* recalled Mrs. Agathe Lawson.

Madagascar, traditions and customs play an important role in a constantly changing society. Customary practices exist and govern the life of the community. Sometimes they can impede human rights, including rights to health, education and gender equality. There are also other vulnerabilities that hinder the lives of women and girls such as prostitution, sexual and domestic violence.

Traditional leaders and customary leaders are respected and heard by communities and play an important role in education, conflict resolution, and the application of customary laws. As a result, the involvement of traditional leaders in helping to remove sociocultural barriers and taboos that impair

the well-being of women, men, youth and adolescents is more than necessary. Because of their credibility, traditional leaders can become effective allies by raising awareness among the most vulnerable populations about the importance of childbirth in health facilities assisted by a qualified health professional, schooling girls and the involvement of men in the use of family planning. *"Women have a role in decision-making, not only within the family but also within the community or even the entire nation,"* said Princess Zoendreniny Elakovelo. resolutions will be taken by traditional leaders to coordinate their interventions and initiate actions for the promotion of maternal and neonatal health.

Day 2 Split 2

Celebration of International Women's Day 2014

8 March 2014



Equality between men and women is a progress for all

On 8 March 2014, the national celebration of the International Women's Day took place in Vangaindrano. The official ceremony organized by the Ministry of Population and Social Affairs and its partners, whose United Nations System was held under the patronage of the First Lady Voahangy RAJAONARIMAMPIANINA sponsored by the Minister of Population Olga VAOMALALA RAMAROSON and in the presence of the UNFPA Representative Mrs. Agathe LAWSON.

This year, the theme of International Women's Day is **"Equality for women is progress for all"** This theme seeks to highlight how gender equality, women's empowerment, the full enjoyment of their human rights and the eradication of poverty are essential for the economic and social development of

women first, of those who are around her and of the community in general. It also emphasizes the primary role of women as actors in development.

"The path of development is all outlined, I appeal to all entities to create an environment conducive to the development and respect of the values of Malagasy women," said Mrs.

Voahangy RAJAONARIMAMPINANINA, wife of His Excellency the President of the Republic .

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2014, the population of Vangaindrano was sensitized through several activities, including the distribution of films, organization of talent contest, artistic events and exhibition stands. A roundtable on the theme of the celebration was also held the day before with the participation of local authorities, traditional leaders, women's associations and members of civil society in the region.

With the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expiring in 2015, International Women's Day is also an opportunity to report on the challenges and progress made for women and girls, including the annual Commission on the Status of Women to be held from 10 to 21 March 2014 in New York.

Madagascar recently published the report of the Millennium Development Goals national monitoring survey. This showed improvements in the level of girls' education and the possibility for women to engage in paid work. However, much remains to be done to achieve full gender equality because too many women still work in the informal and unprotected sector, many adolescent girls are withdrawn from school, women's political and civic participation remain minimal, about 10 women per day die giving life three of which are under 18 years old. Three Malagasy women out of 10 suffer violence. This situation must change.

"As gender equality is making progress for all, we must continue and step up our efforts and be even bolder when we are less than two years away from the Millennium Development Goals. Satisfaction of the rights of women and girls still deserves strong action by all of us, men, women, citizens and leaders at all levels of the public sector, the private sector, civil society, decision-makers and donors,"said Ms. Agathe Lawson, UNFPA Representative in Madagascar in her speech.

International Women's Day is an opportunity for all of us to renew our commitment to promote equality between women and men. As Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, reminded us of this celebration:

"Together, we must ensure that: Everyone is safe and free from gender-based violence. The fundamental rights of EACH are respected, including their reproductive rights. Everyone is economically independent and in all respects, through education, equal opportunities, participation and leadership. "

Official presentation of the results of the Millennium Development Goals National Monitoring Survey (ENSOMD)

24 February 2014



After several months of surveying more than 19,000 households across the country, the results of the Millennium Development Goals National Monitoring Survey (ENSOMD) were presented on 24 February 2014.

This official presentation was held at the Antananarivo City Hall in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Pierrot Botozaza and Fatma Samoura, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Madagascar and technical and financial partners. The main objective of the Millennium Development Goals National Monitoring Survey carried out between 2012 and 2013 is to measure the progress made by Madagascar towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) conducted the survey under the guidance and financial support of UNFPA, which initiated and piloted this challenging and vital exercise for the country. The survey was funded by several technical and financial partners including UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UN Women, World Bank, AfDB. All agencies of the United Nations system and their partners have contributed to the validation of the data. Several hundred interviewers took part in the survey, which made it possible to update data on household consumption, employment situation, food insecurity, education, maternal and child mortality, access to water and sanitation, and to supplement data that could not be covered by the 2010 Household Periodic Survey and the fourth 2008 Demographic and Health Survey / 09 (EDS-IV), taking into account the impact of the socio-political crisis that plagued the development of Madagascar between 2009 and 2013.

"Holding this presentation session and especially the publication of the results of the ENSOMD constitutes a means and a valuable tool in developing a sustainable development policy in Madagascar," said the Deputy Prime Minister in his address to the ceremony. "Living together and better living together, the State will have to strive to help vulnerable families to have access to basic social services such as primary school, basic health centre and vocational training" are among the main lines of action, and finally "these multitudes of figures challenge us on the way forward, the priority to be given and, above all, the objectives to be reached", concluded the Deputy Prime Minister.

The publication of this report on the MDGs comes at the right time when Madagascar is in the process of preparing its strategies and programmes for economic recovery and requires a reliable baseline and a tool for decision-making and programming, "said Fatma Samoura in her address to the national MDGs monitoring survey (ENSOMD) launching ceremony. "Of course, it is difficult for us to be at the rendezvous of 2015, only, we have no right to give up. We must remain committed. We have no choice but to persevere in our efforts to reduce poverty and sustainable human development for the men, women, elders, youth and children of Madagascar, "she continued.

Following the presentation of the results of the survey, the Deputy Prime Minister and the resident coordinator of the United Nations system together visited the stands representing each of the eight MDGs erected for the occasion by United Nations agencies and their partners . For two days in the main courtyard of the Town Hall, an exhibition will be open to the public and will allow the Malagasy who wish to familiarize themselves with the Millennium Goals.

This open house was carried out thanks to the support of the Governance and Institutional Development Project (PGDI). Regional dissemination will also be carried out in the coming months, in order to promote ownership of the results of the survey and their use by decision-makers and actors at the decentralized level.

At least two years from the 2015 deadline, results of the MDG survey provide an overview of the country's food security, nutrition, maternal health, child mortality, education and literacy, human rights, gender equality, the environment and poverty alleviation. In the light of the information collected and analyzed during the survey, it is now necessary to formulate and implement policies and strategies for Madagascar to move closer to the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The uniqueness of the survey resides in the fact that it makes available to decision-makers a unique and specific database in both economic and socio-demographic variables. Thus, the eight volumes of the survey results are a source of statistical information that will satisfy the needs of partners, institutions, administrations and development actors.

Finally the ENSOMD results will enable the country to design a national anti-poverty programme, as well as sector programmes based on updated data.

National campaign for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence

25 November 2013

Celebration of the International Day for the elimination of violence against women and launch of the national campaign for the sixteen days of activism against Gender-Based Violence

The Ministry of Population and Social Affairs in partnership with the United Nations System and the National Platform for Action to Combat Gender-Based Violence launches today the 16-day National Campaign to Fight Violence Against Women. The theme of this year's campaign is "A promise is a promise: it is time to take action to end violence against women."

The official celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women and the launching of the 16 days of activism took place in the rural commune of Ranotsara in the Ihoromberegion in the presence of the Minister of Population and Social Affairs Olga Ramaroson . The municipality of Ranotsara was chosen because of the resurgence of cases of violence against

women in the Ihorombe region. This celebration falls within the framework of Madagascar's contribution to the African Women's Decade and the "UNITE: Unite to End Violence Against Women" campaign. On the occasion of the official celebration, several awareness-raising activities against violence against women and girls were carried out.

"Gather our efforts to fight against the loss of Malagasy values and the harmful practices of traditions and Customs that promote humiliation and violence against women," said Olga Ramaroson, Minister of Population and Social Affairs.

The campaign of the 16 days of activism will provide an opportunity for strong advocacy to accelerate the establishment of national mechanisms for prevention and response to gender-based violence. It will also involve drawing the attention of national, regional and local decision-makers to the need to make effective mechanisms for the prevention and management of gender-based violence in Madagascar. During the campaign, a number of activities are planned, including a debate on the impunity of the aggressors on 9 December and awareness-raising sessions by volunteers. A radio drama on the RNM, infomercials, a radio spot and a TV spot will also be broadcast. Finally, the morning show of the RTA on December 2 will be devoted to gender-based violence.

Violence against women and girls remains a scourge that has devastating costs and consequences for survivors' lives, for society and the economy. Gender-based violence is not only a blatant violation of human rights, but also an expression of existing social inequalities between men and women. Violence against women and girls can have serious consequences for their health; it restricts their freedoms, their scope, their productivity and thus undermines their participation in development, peace, security and poverty reduction.

"Better laws must be developed and implemented to prevent gender-based violence and support for victims," said Fatma Samoura, United Nations Resident Coordinator. She called on police and judicial authorities to work with government, civil society and international partners to address the root causes of violence against women and girls, support victims, and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The most common forms of gender-based violence in Madagascar are domestic violence, sexual violence such as rape, sexual harassment and procuring. In Madagascar, legislation has been enacted to condemn the violence and to strengthen the technical capacities of the service providers for survivors. In addition, response and prevention mechanisms supported by the United Nations system, such as the Listening and Legal Counselling Centres, Legal Clinics, the Child Protection Network and the National Platform for the Fight against Gender based violence.

In spite of the progress made, many challenges remain. Most surviving women and girls do not dare to report crimes or seek help. They suffer in silence and in shame, while their tormentors live in freedom. Impunity remains the norm more than the exception. Given the magnitude of this phenomenon, it is urgent to act now. The National Campaign for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence aims to reinvigorate the fight against violence against women and of girls.

International Day of the Girl: "Innovation for girls' education"

11 October 2013



UNFPA and UNICEF advocate for mother-to-child reintegration into schools and raise awareness about prevention of early pregnancy. Madagascar celebrated International Day of the Girl in Antsohihy, in the Sofia region.

"Innovation for Girls' Education", is this year's theme with a particular focus on innovative approaches to address the various obstacles to the fulfillment of girls' rights, particularly in terms of education. *"It is a theme that answers one of the problems girls face in Madagascar: education with all the dangers and constraints that make many Malagasy girls can not go further in their studies,"* says Mr. Steven Lauwerier, UNICEF Representative in Madagascar.

As in other countries of the world, more girls now have access to school in Madagascar. The gap between girls and boys in primary school enrollment has also narrowed considerably. Girls' and boys' parity in primary school is one of the few Millennium Development Goals that the country will achieve by 2015. But if enrollment rates increase, girls' completion rates are lagging behind. Out of ten girls entering secondary school, only three complete the full secondary cycle.

UNICEF, in order to increase the low enrollment rate of girls in the secondary cycle, works with the regional directorates of national education and NGOs in three regions of the country, including Sofia, to ensure girls' access to the CEG through the granting of scholarships. This scholarship programme allows girls to make the transition from primary to secondary (transitional scholarships), to keep girls up to the final year of the school (retention bursaries) and above all to reintegrate girls in college (scholarships of reinsertion). UNICEF is supporting mother-to-child girls to resume their schooling to at least finish the college cycle by obtaining the BEPC. Indeed, these girls were often forced into forced marriage, followed by early pregnancy. If they want to go back to school, they are most often rejected by society, by their pairs.

In terms of prevention to keep girls in school, upstream action is needed to prevent teenage pregnancies. In Madagascar, one girl out of three had already been pregnant before the age of 19. In the Sofia region, UNFPA and its partners, including the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Youth and Recreation, regularly carry out awareness-raising sessions on reproductive health,

including prevention of early pregnancies, targeting schooled and unschooled young people school leavers from the region. The 75 Young Peers Educators who have been trained and committed to prevention are essential elements in reaching young people. By the end of 2013, UNFPA will provide equipment to enable two youth-friendly health centres in Antsohihy and Mandritsara to function as well as free services to help adolescents and young people to obtain sexual and reproductive health information and services, including family planning.

"Together, by combining advocacy and sensitization ? we can put an end to child marriages and early pregnancies, we can change the lives of girls in Madagascar. Investing in girls can accelerate the fight against poverty, inequality and gender discrimination. Indeed, girls' education is one of the factors that can positively influence not only the lives of girls themselves, but development," said Philippe Grandet, the UNFPA Deputy Representative in Madagascar.

On the occasion of International Day of the girl 2013, awareness-raising activities were carried out to prevent early pregnancy and to advocate for the education of girls targeting young people, the education community and parents. The Sofia region was chosen because it is one of the regions where the rate of early pregnancy is one of the highest compared to other regions of the island and where CEG Directors and local communities have adopted the reintegration of mother-to-daughters into the formal education system.

Launch of the national family planning campaign: "Plan our family for the well-being of our children"

26 September 2013

The campaign aims to inform and raise awareness of including young people on sexual and reproductive health, including information on the various contraceptive methods. It is also promote the impact of the use of family planning on population and development, and also mitigate rumors.

The national campaign for family planning takes place in Antsohihy, Mandritsara, Farafangana, Vangaindrano and Antananarivo Renivohitra on 26, 27, 28 September 2013. The launching of the Campaign was held on 26 September at the Namontana Basic Health Centre in Antananarivo on the occasion of World Contraception Day, in the presence of Minister of Public Health and the Representative of UNFPA in Madagascar.

Sexual and reproductive health issues remain one of the main causes of precarious health and mortality among women of reproductive age. This causes more than 60 million unwanted pregnancies each year, exposing girls and women to serious risks of death, disability or unsafe abortions. Today, about 222 million women in developing countries want to avoid and / or plan for future pregnancies. However, they can not do so, due to the lack of information and advice needed about family planning. They can not benefit from modern contraceptive methods at an affordable cost, while access to family planning services is a fundamental right.

"Access to reproductive health products and services is a fundamental human right because it saves lives, improves the health of women and young people. It reduces the number of maternal disabilities and deaths, which is at the heart of UNFPA's mandate," said Mrs. Agathe Lawson, UNFPA Representative. Family Planning plays a critical role in the reduction of maternal and neonatal

mortality. It also has a significant impact on poverty reduction, the economic and social development of a nation. A woman, a mother, a healthy wife, whose pregnancies are spaced so as to give her time to take care of her children, contributes more to the well-being of her family. In this regard, the international community is committed to prioritizing universal access to reproductive health.

In Madagascar, the situation of women and girls is worrying. According to the 2008/2009 Demographic Health Survey every day in the country about 10 women die while giving life and 3 of them are under 18 years old. These deaths could have been avoided if all had had the freedom to exercise their right of access to voluntary family planning. Today, about 19% of Malagasy women who need to space or limit their births do not use any contraceptive methods.

These figures are alarming and all decision-makers, traditional and community leaders need to understand the magnitude of the problem. Family planning is not just about women. Men have a role to play in promoting the use of contraceptives and in alleviating preconceptions about family planning. In recent years, the Ministry of Public Health and its partners have succeeded in increasing the rate of women who use modern methods of contraception from 5% in 1992 to 29% in 2009.

UNFPA, as the lead UN agency for the well-being of the population, and in particular the most vulnerable groups, will continue to support and support the Government and its partners so that every Malagasy woman who so wishes can access and use the reproductive health services of which family planning.

During this campaign, numerous awareness-raising activities were conducted, such as debates, talent contest, artistic animations, mobile video sessions. Community agents, associations and NGOs are mobilized during the three days to provide reproductive health services.

International Youth Day 2013: "Youth Migration: Advancing Development"

12 August 2013

This theme aims to raise the public awareness to the opportunities and risks associated with youth migration, to share knowledge and information from research and recent analyzes on this subject and to involve young people in discussions on their migration experiences.

The official celebration of the International Youth Day organized by the Ministry of Youth and Recreation and its partners whose United Nations System was held Monday at the Palace of Sports and Culture and Recreation of Mahamasina in the presence of the Minister of Youth and Recreation, Mr Ulrich Andriatiana and the Resident Coordinator of the of the United Nations in Madagascar, Mrs Fatma Samoura.

More than 2000 young people attend this cultural and sensitization event.

The youth danced to the rhythms of carnival and singers. They encouraged participants in the basketball and rugby tournaments and applauded the participants in the dance competitions. Conferences on "Migration of young people for work, study, vocational training" and on "Youth employment and the migration challenge" also provided an opportunity for young people to obtain information and advice on these themes with the specialists present.

The International Youth Day 2013 is under the theme "Youth Migration: Advancing Development". The objective of this theme is to raise public awareness of the opportunities and risks associated with

youth migration, to share knowledge and information from research and recent analyzes on this subject, and to involve young people in discussions on their experiences of migration.

Refusing poverty, finding decent jobs, fleeing fighting areas, the dangers of global warming, aspiring to a dignified life or respecting their rights are pushing millions young people to build a better future beyond their borders. Young people now account for more than 10% of international migrants out of an annual total of 214 million. They contribute to bringing people closer together, both culturally and socially. Their work contributes to the betterment of the lives of their families and communities that have remained in Canada. Young migrants represent a considerable asset to economic activity. On their return, they often apply the skills and knowledge acquired abroad to contribute to the development of their country.

However, young migrants face immense challenges. Far from their environment, they also face risks and may be victims of exclusion, poverty, exploitation or discrimination. Thus, when they are poorly educated or poorly prepared, this only increases their vulnerability.

Madagascar is not spared the phenomenon of migration of young people. Every year several thousand young people continue their studies in another city of the country or abroad and sometimes do not return; and young women leave to work in the Middle East. However, we know too little about what they live or against what they have to fight on a daily basis. National statistics do not yet allow us to know the exact realities of migration. Migration movements both within the country and internationally exist and evolve with increasing poverty and the search for a better horizon for young people. It is essential to know the complex realities of migration in order to be able to design better and more effective public policies so that migration could be a real factor of development.

"This phenomenon represents both stakes and challenges that should be considered for the country both in terms of respecting labour standards, guaranteeing social protection and structuring institutions if we really want young people to play a key role in the development of Madagascar," said Mrs. Fatma Samoura.

Women and men are the decision-makers of tomorrow. It is essential to pay particular attention to them insofar as they represent an asset and a force for lasting and positive change. Young people have become aware of the power they represent and demand from their leaders that the decisions concerning them are now taken with them. Involving them in the development process is the most judicious choice that a nation can make.

The Ministry of Youth and Recreation and the United Nations System through its agencies have been implementing concrete actions for several years and respect for the right of young people to access quality health services, education, employment with international labour standards, better participation of young people in social life and to better respond to the concerns of young people in Madagascar.

World Population Day: "Fight against early pregnancy"

11 July 2013



Adolescence is a decisive age for girls all over the world. The years of adolescence shape the direction of a daughter's life and that of her family.

Depending on the opportunities and choices available to them during adolescence, they can approach adulthood as autonomous and active citizens. They can invest today in themselves and later in their families, communities and even beyond. Yet the millions of adolescent girls who become pregnant too early are faced with a serious discrimination and exclusion that prevents them from claiming their rights and fulfilling their true potential.

Teenage pregnancies are not only a health problem, they increase poverty, gender inequality, lack of education and unbalance the relationship between girls and their partners.

In the world, especially in Madagascar, early pregnancies are intimately linked to early marriage. In Madagascar, since 2007, the union between two people, one of them under 18 years old, is illegal, yet it persists. Indeed, according to the 2009 DHS, 48% of girls aged 20 to 24 were married or in union before the age of 18. I want to point out that this figure is one of the highest in the world. Despite the 2007 law, some parents force their barely pubescent girls to marry. Child marriage is an appalling violation of fundamental rights and robs girls of their education, health and seriously jeopardizes their future prospects. In most cases, these girls will be pregnant before they turn 18.

The consequences of early and unwanted pregnancy are serious. Complications related to pregnancy or childbirth are the leading causes of death in girls aged 15 to 19 years. If they do not die, they may be severely suffer from disabling diseases related to pregnancy such as obstetric fistula.

Pr Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA, on the occasion of this day recalled that **"Breaking the cycle of teenage pregnancies requires that nations, communities and individuals commit to investment in adolescent girls in both developed and developing countries. Governments must enact and enforce national laws that will raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years and promote community-based initiatives that will support the rights of girls and prevent child marriages and their consequences."**

Adolescents and young people must receive a comprehensive education in age-appropriate sexuality to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to protect their health throughout their lives. Yet education and information are not enough. Good quality reproductive health services must also be readily available for adolescents to make informed choices and be healthy.

At the local level, communities need to provide the infrastructure needed to deliver reproductive health care in a youth-friendly and sensitive environment.

Underlying all these activities is an understanding that the dignity and fundamental rights of adolescent girls must be respected, protected and must be met. We call on governments, the international community and all interested parties to take measures to enable adolescent girls to make responsible lifestyle choices and to lend them the necessary support in cases where their rights are threatened. Every girl, wherever she lives and whatever her economic situation, has the right to fulfill her human potential. Today, this right is denied to too many girls. We can change that, and we have to. "

In Madagascar, the situation of girls is alarming. Every day in the country at least 10 women die from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth and three of them are under 18 years old. According to the 2009 DHS IV, more than one in three adolescents has already been pregnant or is already a mother.

Despite the efforts of the various stakeholders, young people continue to face huge challenges such as access to information, education, employment and health. However, young people are motivated and are striving for change. Today, no developing society can ignore them. Young people have become aware of the power they represent and ask their leaders that decisions about their future be made with them.

Their future depends on the choices they make today. All early pregnancies can be avoided. It is up to young people to decide. They can learn about sexuality and the use of contraception.

By combining our advocacy and sensitization efforts we can end child marriages and early pregnancies, we can change the lives of girls in Madagascar. We can help them appreciate their childhood, enroll them in school and protect them from gender-based violence. We can ensure their safety. And in doing so, we are helping to break the poverty cycle.

UNFPA will spare no effort to support Malagasy youth. Their dynamism must be recognized as essential to development. Government, civil society and the international community have a role to play in ensuring that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

This year 2013, UNFPA Madagascar chose Mandritsara in the north and Toliara, in the south of the country, to celebrate World Population Day.

First International Day of Obstetric Fistula: "End Shame, End Isolation, Eliminate Fistula"

25 May 2013

The countries of today marked the first International Obstetric Fistula Day, with a variety of awareness-raising events on this neglected health problem.

More than 2 million women and girls in developing countries have obstetric fistula, a disease that has been virtually eliminated in industrialised countries. Between 50,000 and 100,000 new cases are added every year, and only 10,000 women in the world have access to restorative surgery each year. In Madagascar, the number of new cases is estimated at 2,000.

Obstetric fistula is a hole in the vaginal wall that results from prolonged delivery without rapid medical intervention, usually a caesarean section. The effects are often devastating: the baby dies in most cases and the woman suffers from chronic incontinence. Unable to control the flow of urine or the excretion of fecal matter, she is often abandoned by her husband and her own family, or even banned from her community.

The report of the United Nations Secretary General dated 6 August 2012 and which is entitled "*Supporting Efforts to End Obstetric Fistula*" concluded that despite the progress made in the last two years, the fight against obstetric fistula requires more effort as well as increasing technical and financial support. On November 21, 2012, the members of the United Nations General Assembly met again under the slogan "Advancement of Women" to reaffirm commitment for this cause. On 23 May, the World Day for the Fight against Obstetric Fistula was chosen.

"The persistence of fistula is the result of a denial of fundamental rights and reflects a violation of these rights. It can be explained by chronic health inequalities and constraints on the health care system, as well as by more general problems such as gender inequality and socioeconomic inequality, children and early pregnancies, all of which are likely to ruin the lives of women and girls and prevent them from enjoying their human rights," said UNFPA Representative in Madagascar, Mrs. Agathe Lawson.

In 2007, UNFPA continued to support women victims of this disease through advocacy with entities directly involved in the eradication of fistula. In June 2011, the first national campaign for the eradication of fistulas was organised by the Ministry of Public Health in partnership with UNFPA. During this campaign, 14 Malagasy surgeons were trained by international experts to repair obstetric fistula. However, today in Madagascar only ten health facilities have the capacity to operate obstetric fistula.

As a result of the first national campaign to eradicate obstetric fistula, the Ministry of Public Health and the NGO SALFA in partnership with UNFPA, operated 106 women with fistulas.

UNFPA's long-standing activities in meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5 to reduce mortality and morbidity maternal care places the organisation in a privileged position to meet the challenge of obstetric fistula eradication. In addition, the disease affects virtually every aspect of UNFPA's mandate, including reproductive health rights, gender equality, empowerment of women and the reproductive health of adolescents.

Putting an end to the death and suffering of women and girls who are linked to pregnancy is not impossible. This disease would no longer exist in developing countries if every woman had access to reproductive health information and services such as family planning, antenatal care and the provision of trained health personnel for childbirth and emergency obstetric care.

Together, we must commit ourselves to fighting and eliminating obstetric fistula!

Launching of the poster campaign for the fight against Gender-based Violence: "Stop violence against women, break the silence!"

12 April 2013

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread human rights violations. In some countries, up to 7 out of 10 women are beaten, raped, abused or mutilated in their lives. Less than a thousand days from the deadline set for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, it is essential to commit to fighting this scourge that breaks thousands of lives each year.

Inauguration of one of the giant billboards on 12 April 2013.

The violence prevents women from participating fully in the development of their communities and hinders the attainment of all the Millennium Development Goals. Each year, it costs billions of dollars to the states, in the form of extra health spending and loss of productivity.

Madagascar violence against women is generally perceived as a "private matter" and shameful, which prevents survivors violence to speak, denounce and bring the case to justice. The Ministry of Population and Social Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) aim to mobilise attention to violence against women and girls in Madagascar and to initiate action to stop this violence phenomenon. The two partners today launched a national poster campaign to combat Gender-based Violence:

"The participation of everyone is desired and indispensable, victims or witnesses of a case of violence, to go to the "Bureau of Fokontany", CSBII, Police station, Gendarmerie or Centre of Listening and Legal Advice to dispose of the supports, advice and solutions. We make every effort to follow up the application of the laws in force, to show of assistance and to be helpful. We call on men to participate in the implementation of women's rights and to promote gender equality," said Minister of Population and Social Affairs, Mrs. Olga Ramaroson in her speech.

The one-month campaign takes place in 8 cities of Madagascar including Antananarivo, Mahajanga, Tulear, Antsohihy, Antsirabe, Fianarantsoa, Diego and Toamasina. The campaign aims to break the silence on violence against women and encourage survivors to go to a listening centre or legal clinic for information and/or assistance.

With have the duty to respond to women's expectations. Violence against women and girls is unacceptable and intolerable. We must fight it with all our might. We must support and help these abused, despised and threatened women break the silence, and get out of this sordid situation," said UNFPA Representative in Madagascar Mrs. Agathe Lawson. It also calls on all human beings who are sensitive to the most basic human rights to join this noble cause because it is all together that we will succeed in overcoming this scourge. In this struggle the role of communities and religious leaders is essential.

The most effective way to end violence against women and girls is to demonstrate a clear and strong political commitment by all the states which are realised, through actions and resources. Already in 1994, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, the countries of the world, including Madagascar, committed themselves to implementing a 20-year action plan, in particular to reduce discrimination and violence towards women. In Madagascar, progress has been made in the care of survivors, but further efforts are needed to prevent violence. In September 2014 the countries of the world will meet again and Madagascar will have to report on its achievements and commitments. In 2011, Madagascar launched the United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign to end violence against women, Mr. Ban Ki-moon in partnership with the United Nations System (UNS). Currently, the government and its partners, of which the SNU is conducting a national survey on the follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals in 19,000 households. For the first time, the survey will collect data on Gender-based Violence. This will make it possible to better target actions to eliminate violence against women and girls in Madagascar. Together we must commit ourselves to fight and eliminate violence against women and girls!

After the passing of Cyclone Haruna, UNFPA provides support to nearly 300 pregnant women.

13 March 2013

In a natural disaster, the risk of dying in childbirth is much higher than usual. UNFPA has pre-positioned six (06) Reproductive Health Kits in Tuléar to allow 270 deliveries in safety standards and free of charge.

On Friday, 22 February 2013, category 2 tropical cyclone Haruna heavily the south-west coast of Madagascar leaving flooded and destroyed cities on its way. The provisional record shows several dozen deaths, missing people and more than 9,000 displaced including pregnant women.

The situation left by cyclone Haruna only increases the risks of excess mortality and maternal morbidity as well as the morbidity sexually transmitted infections and the increase in cases of gender-based violence. **"The maternal mortality rate in Madagascar is already very high, and in this situation of humanitarian crisis the lives of pregnant women and newborn babies are more than dangerous,"** said Mrs. Agathe Lawson, Representative of the United Nations Fund for the population in Madagascar.

In response to this humanitarian crisis, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has a major role in providing products and services to ensure that pregnant women can deliver the required medical standards free of charge. In fact, taken in an unstable environment, the lives of pregnant women, newborns is in peril. UNFPA's emergency response to humanitarian situations includes supplying health facilities with individual delivery kits, hygiene kits, equipment, medicines and supplies needed to provide clinical assistance during childbirth, and emergency obstetric care.

UNFPA's humanitarian response, **totaling USD 165,000**, is aimed at restoring the service provision of the most affected primary health centres as soon as possible so that maternal and neonatal care as well as free quality family planning can be readily available. This response allows pregnant women to be given the opportunity to give birth at the community level under minimal hygiene conditions and to

be able to access family planning services for those who need them. Finally, UNFPA's response helps restore some dignity for those pregnant women who have lost everything.

International Women's Day: "Say no to violence against women, break the silence"

8 March 2013

Each year, the Women's Day focuses on a particular theme. This year, the United Nations System is dedicating its efforts to fighting violence against women on 8 March: **"A promise is a promise: it is time to take action to end violence against women."** On 8 March 2013, UNFPA, in partnership with the Catholic University of Madagascar, celebrated International Women's Day, organised by the United Nations System.

Violence against women and girls a scourge that persists on every continent and spares no social environment. Violence against women is a major human rights violation.

"Gender-based Violence remains a major concern for health and human rights and human development is unfeasible as long as women and girls continue to suffer violence or live in the fear of being victims," said Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of UNFPA

In addition to physical damage and psychological sequelae, violence prevents women from participating fully in the development of their communities and hindering the attainment of all the Millennium Development Goals. Every year, it costs billions of dollars to the states, in the form of extra health costs and lost productivity. **"On this International Women's Day, we pledge to leave no crime against women unpunished and systematically refuse to allow women to be punished for violence they themselves have suffered. We commit ourselves again to fighting this global scourge, wherever it strikes: in families and in the world of work, in war zones and in countries in peace, and in the minds of those who leave it alone,"** said Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations.

Madagascar has made an international commitment to the eradication of gender-based violence through the signature of the Platform Action Plan Beijing Convention and the ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. In 2000, the country adopted a National Policy for the Advancement of Women, which was implemented through the National Action Plan for Gender and Development covering the period from 2004 to 2008. This five-year plan includes a programme and two specific programmes, one on the fight against Gender-based Violence. Legislative texts have also been adopted or reformed, and measures to strengthen the technical capacity of survivors' care providers have been undertaken. In addition, several United Nations system-supported responses and prevention mechanisms, such as the Listening and Legal Counselling Centres, Legal Clinics, the Child Protection Network, the Anti-Violence Platform

"Today, on the occasion of International Women's Day, and every day, show courage, conviction and commitment. Together we commit ourselves to sharing the message that women's issues are issues of global importance that deserve to be seen as a top priority. There can be no peace or progress as long as women live in fear of violence," recalled Michelle

Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women. In 2011, the Malagasy government launched in partnership with the UN system UN Secretary General's campaign "UNiTE, united in ending violence against women" has given new impetus to the fight against violence against women and girls.

Currently, the Government and its partners, whose United Nations system conducts a national survey on the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals in 19,000 households. For the first time, the survey will collect data on Gender-based Violence. This will better target actions to eliminate violence against women and girls in Madagascar.

Faced with the magnitude of the phenomenon, the Government of Madagascar and partners whose UN systems are carrying out concrete actions to be continued and intensified. Indeed, in 2012 under the Interim Programme 2012-2013, UN agencies agreed with the Government of Madagascar to strengthen all national mechanisms for the prevention and reduction of violence, abuse and neglect against women and girls.

The Madagascar Celebration, which will be held at the Catholic University of Madagascar, is an opportunity for the United Nations System and its partners to carry out strong advocacy to increase awareness and understanding men and women to commit themselves to combating violence against women and girls, which annually breaks down thousands of families and has serious consequences for the lives of women and girls.

Annual Report 2016 UNFPA Madagascar



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Author: UNFPA Madagascar

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The year 2016 is marked by several major events:

The first visit of the UNFPA Regional Director for Southern and Eastern Africa (ESARO) from 18 to 22 October 2016. The visit strengthened cooperation between Madagascar and UNFPA, thus making visible the actions of the Office in the areas of combating maternal mortality, reproductive health of adolescents and youth, the fight against gender-based violence and the preparation of the third general census of population and housing.

The National Conference on Family Planning was held from 13 to 16 September 2016, culminating in the revision of the Family Planning Act. This revised law was validated by the Council of the Government in December 2016, enabling it to be submitted and adopted in the near future by the National Assembly and the Senate and its promulgation by the President of the Republic.

2016 in the preparation of the third general census of the population and of the habitat with the realisation of the pilot census which made it possible to test the whole organisation and the various tools elaborated including the questionnaire.

In the field of the family planning, twelve (12) model family planning centres have been set up specifically for adolescents and to all women who wish to benefit from quality family planning services.

At the level of maternal mortality, nine hundred and fifty (950) women with obstetric fistula have been repaired and socially reintegrated in the year 2016.

A surge has been made in the fight against gender-based violence with the official launch of the national strategy to combat violence based on gender, recruitment and the setting up of the network of young ambassadors engaged in the health of the adolescents and young people in four (4) regions: Analamanga, Boeny, Atsimo Andrefana and Diana. More than 3,000 young people have been sensitized on early pregnancy, family planning, obstetric fistula and HIV/AIDS.

UNFPA Madagascar remains convinced that universal access to sexual and reproductive rights and the reduction of maternal mortality will improve the living conditions of women, adolescents and young people.

UNFPA Annual Report Indian Ocean 2015



No.of pages: 40

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Author: UNFPA Madagascar

Download

This report covers the main achievements of UNFPA in the Indian Ocean, namely Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Rodrigues

User manual to access UNFPA online training via the UNSSC website



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Author: UNFPA

Download

Summary:

The purpose of this document is to guide new users to the UNFPA process. online training on the UNSSC website and also to give some guidelines on how to start training ons developed by the UNFPA Supplies team based in the Procurement Services Division (PSB). In addition, you will also be given some advice that may be useful to you throughout this training so that you can benefit from the time spent on this self-directed (or distance learning) training which is the result of the partnership between UNFPA and UNSSC. Please note that registration and online training are free of charge and successfully completed with a certificate of achievement.

Please note that this document only deals with online training related to procurement, often with a special reference health products. On the basis of this, the first targeted audiences for this online training are people from the public and private sectors working on procurement, quality assurance of medicines, operations, reproductive health and contraceptives, as well as the field of supply chain. However, online training is open to all, as well as to students in the tertiary sector, so all are encouraged to register and complete this training available.

Please share this document freely with those who might benefit from it. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact: Rachel Kouassi-Zessia psb.supplies@unfpa.org

Sincerely,

UNFPA Online Training in Procurement and Supply Chain



Formation en ligne en Procurement et Chaîne d'Approvisionnement offerte par UNFPA.

L'UNFPA a développé trois formations en ligne relatives aux étapes de la garantie de qualité et à la chaîne d'approvisionnement pour les acteurs clés du secteur de santé de la reproduction. Ces formations sont offertes aux gouvernements, aux ONG et aux institutions travaillant au sein des Nations Unies, accessibles 24 heures sur 24 et sans frais, ces formations fournissent un apprentissage flexible à l'utilisateur. Les formations actuellement disponibles sont les suivantes :

1. **UNFPA - Introduction à la garantie de qualité.** Cette formation explique les étapes clés et les principes à appliquer lors de l'achat de biens et services. Elle est disponible en Anglais, Français, Russe, Mongol, Portugais et Espagnol.
2. **UNFPA - Éthique en matière de garantie de qualité.** Cette formation explique le rôle de l'éthique aux différentes étapes de la garantie de qualité. Elle est disponible en Anglais, Français, Portugais, Russe et Espagnol.
3. **UNFPA - L'assurance qualité des médicaments** fournit une meilleure compréhension de la politique générale de qualité appliquée et des processus qui s'appliquent à chaque étape, national et international. Les processus énumèrent des directives qui doivent être suivies afin d'assurer que les médicaments sont conformes aux normes internationales relatives au contrôle de qualité et d'efficacité pour assurer son impact dans les programmes de santé. Cette formation est disponible en Anglais, Français et Espagnol.
4. **Prévu pour 2016!** L'équipe est également en train de développer d'autres formations en ligne, telles que la formation de 2016 sur la Bonne Gouvernance des Médicaments, la Distribution et l'Entreposage.

Si vous souhaitez en savoir plus sur les formations de l'UNFPA ou vous faire un programme de santé reproductrice, vous pouvez nous contacter en ligne via le site www.unfpa.org/online ou en contactant le UNFPA@un.org ou unfpa@un.org.

Si vous êtes à la recherche de Nations Unies, vous pouvez accéder à la Commission on Population and Development (COPD) sur le site www.un.org ou par téléphone au [+1 212 853 2323](tel:+12128532323). Veuillez noter que le personnel des Nations Unies ne peut pas être contacté par un programme de santé reproductrice. Pour toute demande, contactez UNFPA@un.org ou [+1 212 853 2323](tel:+12128532323).

Coordonnées:
Pour toute demande, contactez Rachel Bennett, Directrice de l'éducation, rachel.bennett@unfpa.org
Pour plus d'informations, visitez le site <http://unfpa.org/online>



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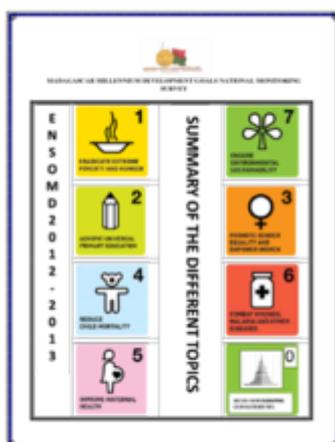
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UNFPA has developed three online training courses on procurement and supply chain issues, with particular emphasis on reproductive health products. These training courses are offered to partners working within governments, NGOs and institutions as well as to United Nations staff. Accessible 24 hours a day and free of charge, these training courses provide flexible learning to the user. The training currently available is as follows: 1. UNFPA - Introduction to Procurement. This training explains the key steps and principles to be followed when buying goods and services. It is available in English, Arabic, French, Russian, Mongolian, Portuguese and Spanish. 2. UNFPA - Ethics in Procurement. This training explains the role of ethics in the various stages of procurement. It is available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. 3. UNFPA - Drug quality assurance provides a better understanding of the policy, legislative framework and processes that apply to a country at national and international level. Processes provide guidelines that must be followed to ensure that a drug meets the international standards required for quality, safety and efficacy to achieve its goal in health programmes. This course is available in English, French and Spanish. 4. Planned for 2016! The team is also developing other online training courses, such as: WHO training on Good Drug Governance, Distribution and Warehousing.

Online training in Procurement & UNFPA procurement UNFPA has developed three online training courses on procurement and supply chain issues with a focus on reproductive health commodities. These training courses are offered to partners working within governments, NGOs and institutions as well as to United Nations staff. Accessible 24 hours a day and free of charge, these training courses provide flexible learning to the user. The training currently available is as follows: 1. UNFPA - Introduction to Procurement. This training explains the key steps and principles to be followed when buying goods and services. It is available in English, Arabic, French, Russian, Mongolian, Portuguese and Spanish. 2. UNFPA - Ethics in Procurement. This training explains the role of ethics in the various stages of procurement. It is available in English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. 3. UNFPA - Drug quality assurance provides a better understanding of the policy, legislative framework

and processes that apply to a country at national and international level. Processes provide guidelines that must be followed to ensure that a drug meets the international standards required for quality, safety and efficacy to achieve its goal in health programmes. This course is available in English, French and Spanish. 4. Planned for 2016! The team is also developing other online training, such as: WHO training on Good Drug Governance, Distribution and Warehousing. If you are working in a government, an NGO or you are an implementing partner, you can access the online training through the <http://unfpa.i2cat.co/default.aspx> website, by returning the FORM at: psb.supplies@unfpa.org If you are an employee of the United Nations, to access online training, [CLICK HERE](#). Please note that the first time you access the system, you will be asked to go through a very simple self-registration process. To register click here. If you are having difficulty with the registration process or accessing online training, see the user manual. For further information, please contact: Rachel Kouassi-Zessia at psb.supplies@unfpa.org For more information, please visit: <http://unfpa.i2cat.co/>

NATIONAL SURVEY ON MONITORING THE MILLENNIUM OBJECTIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN MADAGASCAR



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Publication date: 2013

Author: INSTAT - PARTNERS

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The main objective of the National Survey for the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (ENSOMD) - 2012 was to assess the path taken by Madagascar in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This survey makes it possible to measure indicators on 7 of the MDGs out of the 8, knowing that the eighth concerns, among other things, the mobilisation of financial resources and therefore goes beyond the scope of a household survey. To remain consistent with the main objective of the survey, the report was organized into 7 parts, each corresponding to a Millennium Goal. But it should be stressed that the survey goes far beyond the MDG indicators in the strict sense, to provide rich and varied information on the socio-economic, demographic and social situation of the Malagasy population in 2012. In addition, part 0 on the socio-demographic characteristics of the population makes it possible to draw the portraits of households and the

Malagasy population according to the data from the ENSOMD survey. Finally, the eight parts of the report are as follows:

0. Sociodemographic characteristics of the population.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education.

3. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.:

French

English

4. Reduce mortality among children under five.

5. Improving maternal health:

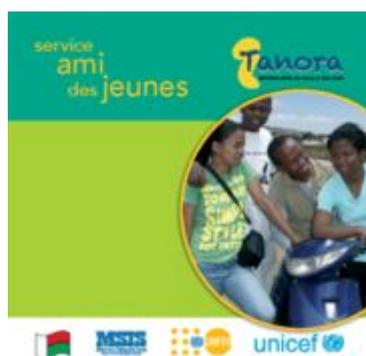
French

English

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

7. Ensure a sustainable environment.

Youth Friendly Service 2013



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Author: MJL - UNFPA - UNICEF - MSIS

Download ... Guarantee to young people the enjoyment and exercise of rights recognized by Malagasy positive law as (National Youth Policy, 2004).

Our young people make up a large proportion of the population in Madagascar. However, it must be recognised that they are often the subject of some negligence which leads them to precarious situations and to risks, particularly in terms of education and health. The lack of appropriate care structures and services that meet their specific needs are among the reasons noted and repeatedly mentioned by the health sector and youth development actors.

Ministry of Youth and Recreation supported by partners including UNICEF, UNFPA and MSIS plans to deploy Youth Friendly Services or SAJs across the country. This document is designed to serve as a framework to harmonize the understanding of this new concept and to better popularise it with the entities offering services for young people. As a guide, it provides the knowledge necessary to set up the SAJs and stipulates the main conditions to be met and the different criteria to be met.

Through this SAJ framework document, the MJL does not intend to force actors to to commit themselves to commitments which they will never be able to fulfill, but rather to help them to consider in an optimal way the needs of young people and to address them in accordance with the means at their disposal or they can mobilise. The Ministry hopes that if each of the entities or organisations makes its own efforts to meet the criteria set out in this framework document, and if these entities and organisations network to unite their efforts, young people will have more opportunities to have answers that will help them better cope with the vagaries of life that they are obliged to do.

Flash of the islands October 2013



No. of pages: 28

Publication date: 2013

Author: UNFPA: Madagascar - Comoros - Seychelles - Mauritius

Download

The bulletin on UNFPA actions in the Indian Ocean: Madagascar - Comoros - Seychelles - Mauritius.
This bulletin includes the following files:

Madagascar:

- Midwives are essential in the fight against maternal mortality
- an interview with Rakoto Victor , the former Assistant to the Representative, who holds the post of Deputy Representative to UNFPA Ethiopia
- a special file on women have cured obstetric fistula
- support provided by UNFPA following the cyclone Haruna

- national poster campaign to break the silence on gender-based violence

Seychelles:

- UNFPA provided Reproductive Health Kits to Populations Affected by Floods,
- First National Training Workshop on Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations

Comores:

- International Women's Day: Violence against Women,
- Comoros, 38th African country to join CARMMA in saving the life of the mothers.

Maurice:

- The youth of Rodrigues takes responsibility as an actor of development

When Dorothee calls for help: "Help me to set up a referral system to save the lives of women and newborns! The story of Dorothee, a midwife in a remote location in Madagascar (Ankorefo, Mangoaka, Diégo, Madagascar)

Since Dorothee's testimony during the International Midwife's Day about her difficulty in performing her midwifery work, in the right conditions, the situation has changed for CSB 1 in Ankorefo.

Thanks to the supply of office furniture, delivery and consultation beds, other medical equipment, medicines and motorcycles for the health centre in which the midwife works, attendance at the health centre has a strong increase and the statistics are eloquent:

- The number of deliveries made to the centre more than doubled (+ 133%).
- The number of pregnant women attending the centre for their first prenatal consultations has increased by more than 70% .

Dorothee is a Malagasy midwife working in the rural commune of Mangaoka in Diégo. Commune takes 40 km by car, the crossing of a river and 50 km by foot. She does not back down from anything to allow women in this remote community to enjoy their right to health and to have quality care, or even just care.

The poignant testimony of this young woman has clearly translated the reality out on the field, including following extracts:

"I work in the CSB1 Ankorefo, rural district of Mangaoka, district Diego II, **located 90 km, of which 40 are by car and 50 km by foot. I work alone and assume all the tasks of support, technical and administrative 24/7 and 365 days a year since my 5 years of work.** It is very difficult for me to travel these miles during my travels to provide monthly medicines and livelihoods, or to attend monthly reviews, as well as group monitoring and supervision.

There were also no equipment or working materials, and I had to pay several times with my own budget, namely: thermometer, tensiometer, stethoscope, weighing scale, because despite requests repeated, I never had.

And when I do two simultaneous deliveries, the 2nd is done on the ground on a mattress placed on the floor and I have to use the same box twice, to ignore the hygiene.

My salary, I get pick it up in Diego every month to return here in Ankorefo just after. **Sometimes I have to sleep on the river bank awaiting the resurgence of the waters, with all the supplies and my salary.**

With the help of God, I can sacrifice myself and even my children can only see me whenever I come to Diego but I have trouble for women who must be referred and who can die “en route” because of all these problems. I have carried out 183 deliveries since, out of 42 pregnancies expected, for a population of 937 inhabitants, or 3 to 4 deliveries per month.

Ladies and gentlemen, **I would like to assure you of my determination to continue, for the nobility of my work, which is to help mothers not to die by giving life! Help me succeed!**

I would also like to see my CSB equipped with sufficient equipment, working equipment, solar panels and medicines, a light means of transport (motorcycle), and communication equipment. Help me set up a referral system to save the lives of women and newborns. Thank you also for thinking about a permanent establishment for the CSB and staff housing because it serves me at the same time as workplace and housing (and it is all in sheet metal)."

LYDIA - FRAGILE YOUNG GIRL TO resilient WOMAN

Young with a head full of dreams, a dream of love and social success, Lydia entered the traps of early marriage and violence against women at the age of 15. After the advice and interventions of the Centre for Listening and Legal Advice, supported by UNFPA Madagascar, Lydia came out unharmed ... after 20 years of ordeal. Follow her story, it could be that it sounds like the story of your neighbour or sister who would need your help.

"My name is Lydia, I am 36 years old and I have 3 children.

I got married at the age of 15, I was only in grade 9. My husband is 10 years older than me. In love with him, and he prioritised me, he asked for my hand from my parents, promising that he would take care of me and that I would continue my studies.

In preparation for my BEPC, I became pregnant with our first child. I had to stop school, no BEPC. A few months after the birth of our first child, I became pregnant with our second child. I was then 19 years old and was not yet aware that my ordeal would begin.

My husband, a civil servant, was financially insuring our home. Wanting to climb the social ladder, I encouraged him to carry out all the examinations and state competitions so that he could rise in rank. And indeed, he did well and got to achieve and maintain better positions in the administration. But once he got the prestige, he turned against the one who has supported him since!

Having interrupted my studies, I wanted to enroll in vocational training in order to contribute to the burdens of our home, not entirely dependent on my husband. His answer was "no". To resume classes or find work was forbidden to me by my dear husband. From that moment on, I became just what he wanted me to become: a submissive woman at his mercy!

Since he is the one who brings money, he is the one who manages it. At the end of each month, he buys the rice and the coal of the month. Each week he gives barely 10,000; 8,000 or 20,000 Ariary, it is according to his mood. This amount must cover all the burdens of the home, even when the children get sick, I have to fend for myself. The rest of his salary, neither I nor our children can see the colour.

5 years after the birth of our second child, I had our third child. I decided to set up a small grocery store. No maternity leave, I worked and took care of my three children at the same time. Mister did not agree that I could earn a little money and did not give me any right to make the decision on the adoption of any contraceptive method. From there he began to go out at night, while everyone was asleep, and did not return until early in the morning. Not with the smell of alcohol but with a feminine smell or the neck full of love bites. You say that as a woman, and financially dependent on him, you must accept, for the good of your home.

The situation was getting worse year after year. Not only did he no longer pay attention to his children. Whenever they would be asked for something, they only received degrading phrases like "If you do not work, you will not have money! I do not share this money no matter what!" For me, not only was the money he gave to the house diminished day by day but insults became my daily present and he was no longer hesitating to show himself up with his mistress, who according to him is a woman more intelligent and having a baccalaureate + 4, I am only a "fool who has nothing in the brain."

After more than 20 years of marriage, 20 years of calvary, I thought that was enough. I was able to discover during a program on TV the existence of the CECJ (Listening and Legal Counselling Centre) and I asked that they take me there. Since I came here, and after the legal support of the CECJ, now I receive monthly child support payments for my 3 children, I no longer live with my husband, and I was able to create an income-generating activity that helps ensure my needs and those of my children. It is the love I have for my children that pushes me to always move on.

My message for my little sisters, **continue your studies, start working, enjoy your youth before you go into marriage and make babies. First, have enough baggage to be self-sufficient in life so that you do not depend on your husband. A home is a boat that leads to two. And finally, always remember that a woman who have enough will not be crushed by her husband.**"