



NATIONS UNIES  
MADAGASCAR

"Unis dans l'Action"

# LESECHOS

DU BUREAU DU COORDONNATEUR RESIDENT



Miara-mientana isika hamongotra ny aretina  
«mamany lava» mahazo ny vehivavy

**SPOTLIGHT :**  
**THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**POPULATION FUND**  
**IN MADAGASCAR**



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Système des Nations Unies à Madagascar



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Dear readers,

We congratulate the people of Madagascar for the successful completion of the legislative elections, which took place peacefully albeit with a decline in voter turnout. The United Nations system has stood by the government and the electoral institutions throughout the process. The successful conduct of elections marks an important step in the democratic process of each country. As democracy is not just an event, Madagascar's partners remain committed to supporting the democratic process, including future elections.

Female candidates to the legislative elections were encouraged to include issues affecting Malagasy young girls and women into their programmes. Efforts were made to strengthen female leadership to further integrate women into political life, as well as to effectively carry out their roles. All actors agree that much remains to be done in this area. Women account for more than a half of the Malagasy population, and need to occupy their place in all spheres of society, including political leadership.

Her Excellency the First Lady of Madagascar, Mrs. Mialy Rajoelina, accepted to be formally appointed Ambassador of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the fight against gender-based violence in April 2019. We commend the First Lady for her leadership by volunteering her time and energy to improve the living conditions of the population. The United Nations system is very grateful for the support of the First Lady and the partnership with the NGO Fitia.

As with every edition, an agency is placed under the spotlight in our newsletter. In this issue, you will learn more about the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Madagascar, whose mission is to 'deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.'

Our objective is to continuously broaden the horizons of our audience so that they can better understand the United Nations and its values, as well as the work we do with our partners. We would thus like to thank our readers for their interest in our work, and for your suggestions to improve this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and thank you for your attention.



*Violette Kakyomya*

United Nations Resident Coordinator



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## Interview with Constant-Serge Bounda, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Madagascar

### Can you state the mandate and values of UNFPA?

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the United Nations agency in charge of sexual and reproductive health. UNFPA was founded in 1969, the same year the United Nations General Assembly decided that **"Parents have a basic human right to determine freely the number and spacing of their children"**. Therefore, 2019 is a special year as not only does it mark the 50th anniversary of UNFPA but also the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD). The latter laid the foundations for the emancipation and independence of women, as well as population and development.

UNFPA stands for supporting young people and women's reproductive health in over 150 countries, as well as contributing to the creation of a world where **"every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled."**

Our strategic plan has three clear objectives:

- Eradication of preventable maternal deaths;
- Eradication of unmet needs for family planning;
- End gender-based violence and all harmful practices including child marriages.

UNFPA has been in Madagascar since 1979 and is currently working on its seventh cooperation programme with the Malagasy government. It also partners with organizations and NGOs that deal with reproductive health.

The actions taken by UNFPA aim to:

- Reduce teen pregnancy rate, notably by setting the minimum legal age to marry at 18, and raising awareness in youth health centers;



*Mr. Constant-Serge Bounda,  
UNFPA Representative in Madagascar*

- Guarantee the availability of the supply of good quality reproductive health services, which include family planning;
- Reduce gender inequality by reinforcing the services which support survivors of violence, especially through listening centers, legal counseling and partnership with law enforcement organizations;
- Support the Malagasy government in the collection, analysis and use of socio-demographic data that are essential for planning and monitoring national development programmes.

Through its actions, UNFPA and its different partners contribute to assuring quality care that respects basic health standards, and adequate support to victims or the sick.





*Her Excellency the First Lady of Madagascar, Mrs. Mialy Rajoelina, was appointed UNFPA anti-gender-based violence champion on 12 April 2019 (c) Présidence de la République*

## What are the primary constraints and challenges to Madagascar's development? What solutions would you propose?

UNFPA supports empowerment throughout the life cycle, from birth to old age. For this reason we call for investing in the demographic dividend. That being said, the challenges we must address with increased energy and stronger convictions include:

**Lack of access to family planning** which leads to early and involuntary pregnancies which, in turn, lead to young girls dropping out of school and perpetuating the poverty cycle. We set ourselves the target of facilitating access to voluntary family planning services to all who want it, without discriminating by age. We also support the individual's right to choose and make informed decisions. That is why we strongly support the application of the law which will grant access to family planning to everyone, and in particular young people.

### **Maternal mortality, and home births not attended by medical professionals:**

In Madagascar, more than 60 percent of child births occur at home, without medical assistance. It is estimated that ten maternal deaths occur every day

compared to 1 or 2 in the neighbouring island of the Seychelles. In line with our vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and reproductive health rights, we believe that no woman should die giving birth or suffer an obstetric fistula while losing the baby altogether. Bringing about UHC is therefore a much-needed solution. This fundamental right must be fulfilled if we want the 400-600,000 annual births to take place in the best conditions and for the newborns' future fulfilment to be guaranteed.

### **Reliable and up-to-date data:**

One of the biggest issues in Madagascar is the lack of up-to-date data, which automatically leads to uncertainty in planning future programmes, as projections are based on statistics which are several years old. A strong impulse was given after the completion of the third General Census in 2018, and we have engaged with renewed conviction to facilitate birth and death registries.

In this special year of its fiftieth anniversary and of the 25th anniversary of the ICPD, UNFPA is stepping up its efforts to fulfill the promises of the ICPD by increasing access to reproductive health and lowering the birthrate. This should serve to lower mortality rate and increase education and income levels, thanks to the improvement of the education and economic situation of women.

Because every pregnancy deserves a happy ending, UNFPA is invested in strengthening national capacities that deal with reproductive health. To ensure every young person reaches their potential, we encourage the engagement of youths via programmes aimed at raising awareness and capacity building.

### **What major results were achieved in 2018 thanks to UNFPA's support in Madagascar?**

2018 saw the culmination of UNFPA's and its partners' advocacy efforts for the rights to family planning to be recognized by law, in particular for young people, via the promulgation of Law 2017-043 which grants access to voluntary family planning for young people, among other things.

The region of Androy has also become a pole of excellence following the launch of the Demographic Dividend in the region in 2017. The first Youth and Entrepreneurship Center in Madagascar was opened in Ambovombe in 2018. With the investments made into that part of the

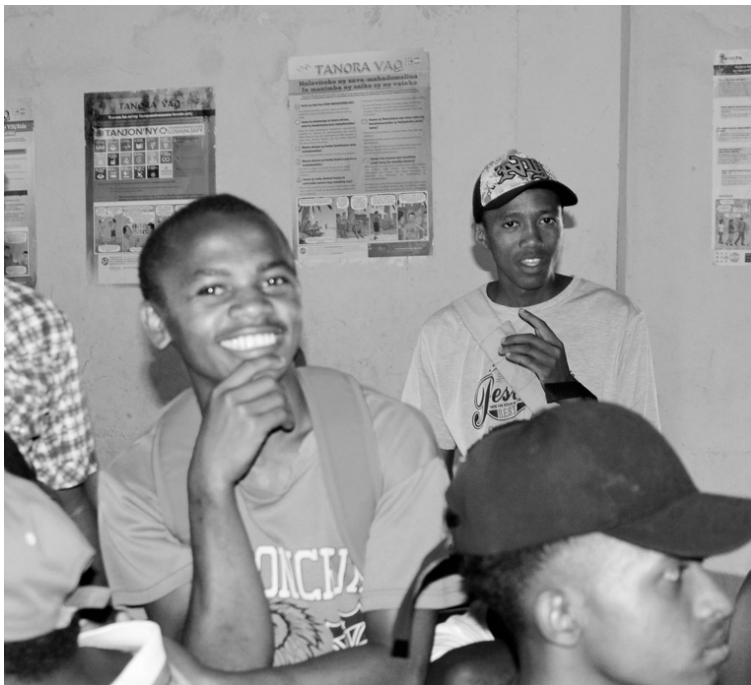
island, the Human Development Index (HDI) has increased and the contraceptive prevalence (although still the lowest in Madagascar) saw a steady rise thanks to the implementation of counseling and family planning services.

The year 2018 was also marked by the General Census, which will allow the country to plan its development using reliable and up-to-date data.

1171 victims of obstetric fistula also benefitted from reparation thanks to collaboration between multiple partners in 2018.



*Through rehabilitation of hospital facilities and capacity building of health staff, UNFPA aims to ensure good conditions for healthcare, improve access to voluntary family planning and ensure timely management of obstetric emergencies*



*Youth and Entrepreneurship Centers contribute to youth training and awareness-raising.*



*UNFPA supports the Government's commitment to achieve demographic dividend through a series of actions (advocacy, awareness-raising, training, access to health services, youth empowerment, etc.)*

Here are some quick facts about year 2018 :

- A net increase in the number of women who use or have access to contraceptive methods: modern contraceptive prevalence rate among women in a relationship is currently 38.9 percent against 33 percent in 2015;
- 128 people received training on the Demographic Dividend;
- 22,224 survivors of gender-based violence benefited from support services;
- 1,500,000 unwanted pregnancies were avoided thanks to the increased availability of modern contraceptives.

## What are the prospects for support from the UNFPA for 2019 and beyond?

Throughout the year 2019, UNFPA will continue to strengthen its traditional interventions in the Indian Ocean while enhancing its visibility and strengthening its capacity to advocate and engage with governments, donors and its targets groups in general. These achievements are crucial now that UNFPA is entering the second year of its 2018-2021 Strategic plan, which means it will have to intensify its efforts to achieve the goals it has set. We will use innovative approaches to accelerate the implementation of our transformative results, particularly those related to gender-based violence. The appointment of H.E. Mrs Mialy Rajoelina, First Lady of Madagascar and President of Association FITIA, as UNFPA anti-gender-based violence champion is an example of such initiatives.

We will also:

### **Expand our results and reach out to our beneficiaries:**

Expanding results will be especially important following the introduction of the fight against the propagation of HIV as UNFPA's fourth target in 2019. This addition is justified by the fact that 50 percent of all people infected with HIV live in the South and South-East regions of Africa whereas this area accounts for only 7 percent of the world's total population. Reaching out to beneficiaries is part of the intensification of UNFPA's work. It will begin this year with the resumption of our activities in the Seychelles to address the issues of early marriages, early pregnancies and HIV as well as the new population policy.





*Dialogue and training of women to increase their participation so that they become messengers of peace .*

An office will also be opened in Mauritius to improve and capitalise on our collaboration with the Mauritian government. In Madagascar, UNFPA will seek to enlarge its office in Toliara to better serve the particularly vulnerable population of the Great South. It will also continue the implementation of its pole of excellence in the region of Androy, which faces the greatest challenges, with humanitarian indicators in the red, despite an increasing Human Development Index (HDI) in the region.

### **Review our achievements as UNFPA reaches key anniversaries and define the future:**

Finally, for the whole UNFPA family, 2019 will be a year to take stock of what has been achieved so far as it sees three landmark anniversaries: fifty years since the creation of the organization, twenty-five years since the first International Conference on Population and Development, and fifty years since the Tehran Proclamation that family planning is a right for all. As far as the Indian Ocean region is concerned, UNFPA will enter its 41st year of presence in Madagascar.

With these anniversaries, UNFPA must assess its past contributions and define how it can help in the future to "*deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential in the region is fulfilled.*"

### **Any closing remarks?**

With renewed determination we will continue to work in line with our transformative results and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. Our aim for 2019 is to put young people, women and girls at the core of our agenda. We want their faces to be illuminated with joy because their needs for family planning are satisfied and they can live free from early and unwanted pregnancies as well as gender-based violence. The structural and institutional change within UNFPA and the resources it mobilizes offer the opportunity to really make a difference in this special year of 40 years of presence in the Indian Ocean and 50th anniversary of the organization.



# WORKSHOP ON GENDER, ELECTIONS AND WOMEN LEADERSHIP

After the sixty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) which took place in March, and less than two months from Madagascar's legislative election of 27 May, a workshop for female candidates was held at the Carlton Hotel in Antananarivo on 9 April 2017. The workshop also brought together female leaders from the public, private, political and civil society sectors. The objective of this day of dialogue and information-sharing was to shed light on the numerous obstacles women face in politics as well as other aspects of society, in order to identify solutions and ways to overcome gender inequalities and enhance women participation in national debates for Madagascar's development.

Approximately 200 people participated in the workshop, which was organized by the project supporting the electoral cycle in Madagascar (SACEM in French) implemented by UNDP, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the High Constitutional Court, the National independent Electoral Commission and the Indian Ocean Commission. The event also counted on the presence of numerous influential figures.

## Renowned speakers to inspire success:

Several great figures in the Malagasy society, models for women's success, participated in the workshop as speakers or panelists. These women are known for having made a difference in their position and for their experience in the political sphere. They contributed to raise awareness among the stakeholders in the electoral process on the importance of women's engagement and participation in major societal debates.

The entirely female panel was composed of Mrs. Rahantsoa Lydia Aimée, former Minister of technical education and vocational training and former "députée" from the district of Manjakandriana; Mrs. Marie Cécile Hollande Via, former Senator of the Republic of Madagascar; Mrs. Fanja Razakaboana, President of Female Entrepreneurs Group; and Mrs. Chricy Ramantsoa, economic operator and young female leader. Other renowned speakers including Mr. Tianarivelo Razafimahefa, Minister of interior and decentralization and Minister of population ad interim; Mr. Jean Eric Rakotoarisoa, President of the High Constitutional Court;





Mrs. Violette Kakyomya, United Nations Resident Coordinator; Mr. Serge Bounda, UNFPA Representative; Mrs. Maria Raharinarivonirina, CENI member; Mrs. Hanitriniaina Liliane Ravaoharinirina, Deputy Executive Secretary of CENI; and Mrs. Monique Andreas Esoavelomandroso, President of the Plateforme des Femmes en Politique de l'Océan Indien (PFOI) called on the involvement of electoral actors in the promotion of a more inclusive electoral process.

### **Sharing practical information with legislative candidates:**

Given that only 153 out of the 1,111 candidates for legislative elections are women (i.e. 13.77 percent of representation) and that the great majority are independent, the question of influence and visibility of women in the political sphere was discussed at length during the workshop. The candidates were provided with valuable information about the context where difficulties of administrative order and certain sociocultural practices represent major challenges for women seeking to enter political life. The parliamentary candidates received practical, technical and legal information on their rights and responsibilities, the legal framework in force and the exercise of their role as parliamentarians in Madagascar.

The workshop participants were also encouraged to share their own experiences, and to identify areas where they can help each other and reinforce the effectiveness of female leadership in all levels of Malagasy society.





# 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO): "TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE OF WORK"

The International Labour Organization (ILO) celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The ILO was founded in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles, which marked the end of the First World War. The creation of ILO is based on the idea that a lasting and universal peace has to be founded on the idea of social justice. Additionally, the idea of regulating labor on an international level has its roots in the 19th century. The Paris Peace conference which began on 25 January 1919 created the Commission on International Labour Legislation which was tasked with elaborating the constitution of a permanent international organization. The text, which they would adopt on 11 and 28 April, under the title "Labour", became part of the Treaty of Versailles and forms the "Constitution of the ILO".

A variety of celebration events have been held around the world and Madagascar was selected to be one of the 24 countries in the world, and one of the four countries in Africa, to participate in the "ILO 24 Hour Global Tour", (a global broadcast of live celebrations) on 11 April 2019. For Madagascar, the live broadcast took place on 11 and 12 April. The entire world was able to watch live how Madagascar is committed to promote its youth and end child labour.

The major activity organized on 11 April 2019 at the covered gymnasium of Ankorodrano was an opportunity to raise awareness and engage with all stakeholders in the fight against child labour and the promotion of decent work for Malagasy youths. Cultural activities with Malagasy artists were also organized to raise awareness and get messages out in a spirit of celebration.

Around 2000 people attended the event including:

- The Prime Minister
- The Heads of Institutions
- Workers and Employers organisations
- The UN system in Madagascar
- Technical and financial partners
- The University of Antananarivo
- Civil society and NGOs
- ILO partners in Madagascar

The slogan chosen by the tripartite organisational committee was "**Together for a better future of labour**" highlighting ILO's commitment to combine its efforts with those of all its partners, including journalists who play a crucial role in promoting decent work in the country so that children are not subject to work that is harmful to their development and Malagasy youths can hope for a better future of labour.

The celebration benefited from the support of ILO partners, notably France, Switzerland, the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), Norway, and its tripartite constituents (i.e. the Government, workers' and employers' organizations), ministries, the University of Antananarivo, the network of journalists who specialize in employment and labour (RJSET), the national radio and television stations (RNM and TVM) and TELMA.

The event was broadcasted live on TVM and RNM and was streamed on ILO Antananarivo office's Facebook page.



## A few pictures from the celebration of ILO's 100th anniversary in Antananarivo



# 25TH COMMEMORATION OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSIS IN RWANDA IN 1994

The ceremony for the 25th commemoration of the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994 took place on 30 April 2019 in the conference room of the Ministry of foreign affairs. Government authorities, members of the diplomatic corps and the civil society were present at the event. The ceremony was organized under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations system and the Rwandan community in Madagascar.

The day was dedicated to the memory of the victims and marked a great moment of contemplation and reflection on the atrocities committed in Rwanda, so that history should never repeat itself. Over one million people lost their lives during the genocide, and estimates suggest around 250,000 women were raped and the massacre left over 150,000 orphans. A minute of silence was observed during the ceremony, followed by candle lighting to symbolize the souls of those no longer with us, and the importance of remembering.

In her speech, Mrs. Violette Kakyomya, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Madagascar, shared the message of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, condemning acts which are “an affront to our values, and threaten human rights, social stability and peace” and denouncing hate speech and discrimination.

During her address, Mrs. Kakyomya also invited the audience to be ambassadors for the promotion of peace and the respect for human dignity and to denounce any and all forms of discrimination.

The representative of the Rwandan community thanked the Malagasy government for hosting the event in the Ministry of foreign affairs. In his speech, he noted the resilient strength of the Rwandan people, who managed to rise up from their tragedy and find a path to reconciliation.

The Minister of national defense, who represented H.E. the President of the Republic of Madagascar at the official ceremony of the 25th commemoration in Rwanda also made a testimony during the event.

Finally, the Minister of foreign affairs expressed the solidarity of the Malagasy Government to the people of Rwanda, and invited the people of Madagascar as well as those present to preserve peace and maintain a spirit of tolerance to live in harmony and attain sustainable development.

The UN system and the Rwandan community in Madagascar are grateful to H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his leadership in organizing this event.





# WORLD HEALTH DAY: "UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE: HEALTH FOR ALL, EVERYWHERE"

The celebration of the 2019 World Health Day (WHD), organized under the theme of "Universal Health Coverage: Health for all, everywhere", was marked by a large exposition at the Colyseum of Analamahitsy that brought together all stakeholders working in the health sector. Visitors were offered free HIV/AIDS and diabetes testing, among other things. A carnival kicked off the celebration, from Andranodevava to the Colyseum stadium.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is one of the World Health Organization's (WHO) three strategic priorities along with health security and health promotion. By 2023, an additional three billion people should benefit from improved health upon achievement of these priorities.

*"At the national level, only 30 percent of the population have access to basic health centers. To attain the SDGs, this number has to increase in Madagascar,"* said the Minister of health, Dr. Julio Rakotonirina, in his speech. The membership in the national fund for health solidarity (Caisse nationale

de solidarité pour la santé, CNSS) not only offers access to the healthcare package in basic health centers but also allows the members to benefit from services such as surgical operations in public hospitals.

On a global scale *"half of the world's population is still unable to obtain the essential health services they need,"* declared UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in his message for WHD. *"Universal health coverage is about changing this and ensuring equitable access to health services for all, without people experiencing financial hardship as a result,"* he added.

The UN SG also outlined that *"we must invest in people. We need highly trained and skilled health workers who can educate and advocate for their patients. We need empowered individuals who know how to take care of their health and that of their families. And we need communities to have access to health care when and where they need it".* This will enable us to reach our goals and attain universal health coverage.



**Free diabetes testing during the exposition organized on the World Health Day at the Colyseum of Analamahitsy (c) UNIC/Emadisson**



# INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPER'S DAY 2019: PROTECTING CIVILIANS, PROTECTING PEACE

"Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace" was the theme of the 2019 International Peacekeepers Day. Therefore, on the morning of 29 May, cadets at the military academy attended a presentation on maintaining peace by the Human Rights Advisor of the United Nations system. This presentation highlighted the issues of respecting human rights in the peacekeeping process.

In the same afternoon, two former Malagasy peacekeepers, now police commissioners, shared their experiences in peacekeeping missions in Africa during a conference organized by the United Nations Information Center (UNIC). They gave a detailed recount of how they were recruited, the different tests they had to pass, the two year mission and the sacrifices they had to make.

In a video message projected at the start of the conference, the UN Secretary General stated: *"Today we honor more than one million men and women who have served as United Nations peacekeepers since our first mission in 1948. We remember the more than 3,800 personnel who paid the ultimate price. And we express our deepest gratitude to the 100,000 civilian, police and military peacekeepers deployed around the world today, and to the countries that contribute these brave and dedicated women and men."*

The members of the United Nations Club spoke of the history of the International Peacekeepers Day, and high school students presented cultural activities to entertain the audience.



Two former Malagasy UN peacekeepers promoting the culture of peace at the conference on peacekeeping organized during the International Peacekeeping Day, on 29 May 2019, IKM (c) UNIC/Emadisson

## VISIT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF UNESCO AND UNICEF, 7 TO 10 MAY 2019

The Regional Director of UNICEF and acting Chair of the Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group (R-UNSDG), Ms. Leila Pakkala, and the Regional Director of UNESCO and R-UNSDG focal point for Madagascar, Ms. Ann-Therese Ndong Jatta visited Madagascar from 7 to 10 May 2019.

The Regional Directors met with Malagasy authorities, technical and financial partners, and the UN Country Team in Madagascar. They also had meetings with organizations supported by the UN, including the Bureau national de gestion des risques et des catastrophes (BNGRC - the office responsible for responding to national disasters) and the Vocational Training Center in Ambohidratrimo, which is, according to Ms. Ndong-Jatta *"a model training center because it promotes both youth employment and gender equality"*

The two Regional Directors also visited the University hospital for obstetric-gynecology of Befelatanana, which benefits from the support of the UN system.

Health, well-being, justice and peace are all part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, the visit to the hospital has figured prominently in the agenda of the Regional Directors's mission. They started with a visit to the "Centre Vonjy" which provides holistic support to children who are victims of sexual violence. Since 2015, the center has provided free medical, legal and psychological services to 2,695 children, mostly girls.

Next, they visited the Mother and Child Hospital and its "Kangaroo Mother Care Unit", which was opened in 2002. The unit provided care for 30 newborns per month in 2018. Thanks to support from the United Nations System, the center was repurposed to be a leader in using the kangaroo care method. The UN system also equipped the surgical bloc, renovated the maternity hall and provided women with delivery kits.



Visit to the Vocational Training Center of Ambohidratrimo  
(c) RCO/Emadisson



Visit to the University hospital for obstetric-gynecology of Befelatanana (c) RCO/Emadisson



## 220 HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS MOBILIZED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS



*The president of the CNIDH visits the human rights monitoring unit established within OHCHR's offices in Andraharo during the legislative elections. (c) OHCHR*

OHCHR is also pursuing the implementation of its “Human Rights and Elections Strategy” to help the Malagasy government preserve the democrating gain acquired since the 2013 presidential and legislative elections, and consolidated by the 2018 presidential elections. The primary aim of the strategy is to encourage participation of national actors in the prevention of electoral violence and human rights violations. In this respect, OHCHR conducted human rights monitoring during the recent legislative

elections in collaboration with the Commission nationale indépendante pour les droits de l'Homme (CNIDH), the European Center for Electoral Support (ECES) as well as entities involved in human rights advocacy human rights violations monitoring and identification active in the 22 regions of the country. The objective was to ensure adequate and immediate responses in case of human rights violations or electoral violations before, during and after the vote.



# UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL CYCLE IN MADAGASCAR

The assistance provided by the SACEM project to the first phase of the electoral cycle received a positive assessment. The support to the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) and the High Constitutional Court as well as the consultation work done by SACEM in 2017 and 2018 have contributed to give credibility to the process and led to the acceptance of results by the electoral stakeholders in both rounds of the presidential election. It thus became important to continue this course of action in 2019 by organizing a credible legislative election, conducted entirely within the legal framework to guarantee stability in the country during the 2019-2023 legislature. The SACEM project also pursued its activities in support of the process throughout all critical and vulnerable operational phases leading to the 27 May election.

## **Support to update and increase accuracy of voter rolls**

Much like in 2017 and 2018, the project has assisted the CENI in the annual revision of voter rolls (RALE). A targeted awareness campaign was organized by the partner organization EISA, focused on registering young people (18-35) and women to vote. This was done from 1 to 15 February in 107 *fokontany* of 8 districts, selected based on a low rate of voter registration in the year 2017-2018. Using the door to door approach, two-member teams comprising EISA and the Chief of *fokontany* managed to register an additional 2,222 women (20 percent increase) and 3407 young people (approx. 16 percent increase). The voter rolls used in 2019 counted 10,302,194 citizens registered to vote. In view of the next electoral cycle, the CENI is evaluating the possibility of migrating toward biometric voter rolls to improve accuracy.

## **Workshop for ownership of the legal framework by political stakeholders**

In February of 2019, workshops were organized in the respective chef-lieu of the 22 regions to foster ownership of the legal framework by interested candidates and provide training to the members of the Organe de vérification et d'enregistrement des

candidatures (OVEC, the entity in charge of verification and registration of candidates). In April 2019, SACEM pursued its outreach activities by organizing a major information workshop for female candidates to legislative elections as well as female leaders from the public and private sectors, from the political sphere and the civil society, to familiarize the latter with the new legal framework. The aim was to highlight the multiple obstacles women face in politics and in other aspects of society, and to identify solutions and *modus operandi* to overcome gender inequalities and increase women participation in national debates and in the country's development.

With support from SACEM, refresher trainings for Defence and Security Forces (FDS) were also conducted in March 2019 in the districts which face specific risks, to ensure the security of the electoral process before, during and after the 27 May vote.



*Refresher trainings for Defence and Security Forces (FDS). (c) SACEM*

## **National civic education and awareness raising and support to strengthen communication at the CENI**

As the elections approach, the CENI and EISA, with the backing of SACEM, launched another national civic education and awareness campaign. The aim was to inform voters on how to use the single ballot, encourage higher turnout in the elections and share information on the duties of elected representatives in Madagascar.

Support was also provided this year to strengthen institutional communication at the CENI and the High Constitutional Court, through the implementation of a digital communication campaign and the production and distribution of leaflets, banners and posters all over the country. The speeches by the President of the High Constitutional Court were also broadcasted on community radio stations to keep the public as well as the candidates well informed.

### **Training of election agents and support to logistics operations**

Continuing on the work done in 2018 for the presidential elections, the SACEM project supported the first two levels of capacity building of the members of polling stations and the Sections de Recensement Matériel des Votes (SRMV) in view of the legislative vote.

The project also provided support in processing and consolidating the election results, and in operationalizing the telecommunications network for a rapid transmission of electoral data via the 119 SRMV operating at a district level.

### **A peaceful legislative election without major incident**

Voters went to the polls for the legislative elections on 27 May 2019, from 6.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. The polling was conducted in a generally calm atmosphere despite hints of tension. Only two polling stations did not open, and although a few slight delays happened, they have not affected the voting. Delegates for each candidate were present at polling stations and were able to carry out their tasks. The voter turnout during the 27 May elections was estimated at 40 percent.



*The legislative elections took place peacefully despite a decline in voter turnout (c) SACEM*



*Arrival of electoral printed matter, (c) SACEM*

After the announcement of the provisional results by the CENI, the High Constitutional Court will announce the official results in two weeks.

### **Post-election activities to ensure a sustainable electoral process**

With the conclusion of the legislative vote, the 2017-2019 electoral process will be evaluated, an inventory of the material acquired in the framework of the SACEM project will take place, and an archive system will be developed to provide institutional memory and ensure sustainability of the process.





# OBJECTIFS DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE



NATIONS UNIES  
MADAGASCAR



Au service  
des peuples  
et des nations



NATIONS UNIES  
DROITS DE L'HOMME



NATIONS UNIES  
CRUED



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial



Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)  
L'organisme des Nations Unies chargé des migrations

ONU HABITAT  
POUR UN MEILLEUR AVENIR URBAIN

unicef  
pour chaque enfant



UNHCR  
The UN Refugee Agency



Centre du  
Commerce  
International



Investir dans les populations rurales



OCHA



Organisation  
mondiale de la Santé



IAEA  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Atoms For Peace



UN  
Volontaires  
l'inspiration en action



Organisation des Nations Unies  
pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture