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DU BUREAU DU COORDONNATEUR RESIDENT



SPOTLIGHT:
**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S
FUND IN MADAGASCAR**



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Dear readers,

I would like to congratulate the newly elected members of the National Assembly and especially its new President, Ms. Christine Razanamahasoa. I wish her success in the exercise of her functions. Congratulations also to the government, people and institutions of the republic for successfully concluding the legislative elections. I take this opportunity to reiterate the availability of the United Nations system to support the National Assembly and Madagascar in the consolidation of democratic culture, good governance, socio-economic development and peace.

Peace and security are at the forefront of the UN priorities and values. The UN Peace building Fund (PBF) continues to support the effort of Malagasy government to consolidate peace in the country. A first phase of the PBF funding for Madagascar is coming to an end, stakeholders are currently preparing for the second phase.

In the context of the cooperation framework between the UN system and the Government of Madagascar, known as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), a meeting of the Joint Steering Committee was held in June to assess progress and discuss prospects for the development of the future cooperation framework to follow the current one.

During this period, two high level UN officials visited Madagascar. They included the UN Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Deputy Vice President of IFAD. The two UN personalities came to see for themselves the great strides that Madagascar is making and reiterate the continuation and acceleration of UN support and partnership.

One important example of projects implemented by Government in partnership with UN Agencies in Madagascar is the building of water pipelines in the south to transfer water from highly productive areas to those where it is scarce. You will read more about this in this newsletter.

As the month of June is dedicated to children, UNICEF is highlighted in this issue. As usual, we endeavor to present the work, achievements and perspectives of the agency in its cooperation program with the people and government of Madagascar.

We are grateful to you, our readers for the continued interest in our work (your work) and we invite you once again to continue to share with your questions, comments and suggestions. These contributions help us to improve this bulletin and tailor it to your information needs.



Violette Kakyomya
United Nations Resident Coordinator
Madagascar





SPOTLIGHT

Interview with Mr. Michel Saint-Lot, Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund in Madagascar

Could you tell us about the mandate and the comparative advantages of UNICEF? ?

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents from 0-18 years, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. In that capacity, UNICEF has been working in Madagascar since 1961 to support health, nutrition, education, access to water and sanitation, social protection policies, and community mobilization in both development and “humanitarian” contexts.

UNICEF has many comparative advantages since its mandate enables the organization to carry out integrated actions in these areas, but also in crosscutting areas such as gender, climate change, adolescence, early childhood, rural and urban approaches, etc.

With a staff of over 170, a third of whom are field-based, UNICEF Madagascar has the capacity to act across all administrative and geographical levels. The scope of our work ranges from advocacy to support public policies and capacity-building at all levels.

Because of the trust we have developed and maintained with our donors and the private sector, we have significant resources (staff, budget, equipment) at our disposal to deliver large-scale results. Our supply division based in Copenhagen allows us to rapidly provide affordable, quality assistance to children in Madagascar.

Our participation in the “Delivering as One” mechanism is sustained by operational, monitoring, communication and logistical support. UNICEF serves as the lead coordinator for water and sanitation, nutrition, education, social policies as well as the monitoring and evaluation



Mr. Michel Saint-Lot, UNICEF Representative in Madagascar, during the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October 2018 at Stade d'Alarobia

group. It also manages or participates in several joint projects and partnerships with its sister agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, the private sector, the media, civil society groups and the academia.

This coordination role combined with our capacity to intervene allows us to operate within the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) while also responding to Madagascar's many emergencies, such as cyclones, droughts and epidemics. This capacity is regionally recognized, and our staff is regularly called on to support other countries as part of the South-South cooperation framework, as was the case this year for cyclones Idai and Kenneth.



H.E. the President of the Republic visiting the pipeline in Beloha in January 2019 (c) UNICEF



In the last four years, UNICEF has provided water to over 700 000 people in Madagascar (c) UNICEF

What major results were achieved in 2018 and the first semester of 2019 thanks to UNICEF's work in Madagascar?

At the top of the list is so far this year is the inauguration of the Ampotaka pipeline, the result of three years of work, which will bring water to 40,000 people in the south, as well as our responses to the cyclones in 2018. In the health sector, I would highlight our contribution to stopping the measles epidemic by providing 8.5 million doses of vaccines, restoring the cold chain with more than 630 solar refrigerators and providing care for 20,000 adolescents. These successes, however, can only last if health systems, including at the decentralized level, are strengthened.

Responding to and preventing malnutrition remains a priority and it is an area where we are now working with the World Bank. Together with our partners we tested more than 250,000 children in the south to prevent severe acute malnutrition. Some 3 million children were covered by Mother and Child Health Weeks, which were 80 percent financed by UNICEF.

In education, we supported the construction of more than 50 classrooms, the provision of educational and social support to 260,000 children and adolescents, and the provision of pedagogical support to over 5,000 teachers. We also have a leading coordination role as secretary of the Global Partnership for Education and through our technical support to the Education Sectoral Plan.

A major demographic survey (MICS) provided the first updated household data on Madagascar since 2012. Together with the World Bank we supported 11,000 households through our cash transfer activities. The implementation of a policy for tackling early marriage and support to more than 6,000 children who were victims of violence, partly through the "Centre Vonjy", enabled us to reach the most vulnerable children.

The pipeline of Ampotaka will bring water to 40,000 people in the south.

What are the main constraints and challenges encountered by UNICEF? What solutions would you propose?

Although one of our priorities is to make the international community more aware of the plight of children in Madagascar, now is not the time for pessimism. In Madagascar, there is a desire for progress, and a new faith in the future, as we all saw in the amazing journey of the Barea football team, which has partnered with UNICEF's to fight against violence.

I am convinced that the mobilization of all actors, under the leadership of the government and on clearly identified issues, and strategies tailored to

the expectations and particularities of different communities, will lead to rapid, concrete and sustainable changes for the population and particularly children.

Some of the difficulties we and our partners face relate to issues around access, communications and supply, the difficulties in setting priorities, the recurrence of natural disasters as well as human resources-related issues in a rapidly changing world.

UNICEF, in partnership with its sister agencies and development actors, is striving to strengthen systems and reach more equity in the allocation of resources.

We are convinced that alliances are necessary to address the greatest constraints. Such alliances need to be built between sectors (in environment and health, for instance), between partners and between modes of operation, such as by reducing the sometimes artificial gap between emergencies and development.

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Screening of acute malnutrition at Maroalimainty health center in 2017 (c) UNICEF



One of the "Centre Vonjy" established in Nosy Be, an integrated support centre for child victims of sexual violence(c) UNICEF

What are UNICEF's priorities for 2019 and beyond?

UNICEF operates within the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as well as our country program which was recently extended to 2020, with a view to deliver concrete, significant and sustainable results. 2019 will be the beginning of the next programming cycle for all UN agencies. An evaluation of our country program will also take place to identify key lessons learnt, areas where consolidation is required, those where our actions need to be scaled-up or, on the contrary, where our actions or approaches need to be scaled-down.

The new Madagascar' Emergence Plan will provide an opportunity to ensure synergy with government priorities.

At the program level, we are pursuing our actions at both political and operational levels, preferably on a large scale, at both sectoral and cross-sectoral levels, on development issues and emergency response.

Innovative actions will be launched, such as the forum held in early July on the impact of various types of pollution on children in Madagascar. Our gender approaches will also be strengthened and will benefit from the support of a permanent international staff.

New initiatives will be launched, including the renewal of the BNGRC's UAV fleet, the testing of the UReport system, which gives adolescents the opportunity to regularly inform about their situation. The scalarization of our programs will be intensified. MICS data will be cross-referenced and will help to refine our understanding of multifactorial causes, such as the impact of school drop-out on early marriage.

We will continue to support the government in a systemic manner, such as the ongoing review of the education sector plan, and we will pursue our efforts to build alliance with other development partners including the private sector, the civil society, but also children and adolescents themselves.



L'appui de l'UNICEF dans le sud a pu bénéficier à plus de 840 000 élèves dans le préscolaire, primaire et le secondaire dont 54% sont des filles. (c) UNICEF

Some final words?

We are confronted with multiple and sector-specific constraints and challenges. Some of them are of structural nature while others are temporary or circumstantial. The cross-cutting challenges we face include the lack of baseline data in most sectors, which the recent MICS survey results will help to address.

Poverty and insufficient allocation of government resources, governance issues, especially at decentralized level, are major bottlenecks which we are trying to address with our partners.

The weak international support for Madagascar, which is inexplicable in view of the appalling social indicators in some sectors, can be reversed through better advocacy and communication as well as the pursuit of programs with large-scale results to mobilize donors, whether they are present in the country or not.

But we need to be strategic and transparent, fair and innovative, coordinated and persistent. Such approaches seem obvious but require an ongoing commitment in our day-to-day work! And we must act fast!

Every reform postponed, every action delayed, every opportunity missed increases the burden on Madagascar's children, adolescents, mothers and households, especially the most vulnerable.

UNICEF will do its best to continue supporting the government of Madagascar and all development actors, the populations themselves and particularly children, until our work is no longer needed on this great island.

Every reform postponed, every action delayed, every opportunity missed increases the burden on Madagascar's children, adolescents, mothers and households, especially the most vulnerable.



FOCUS PAGES

Water in the South: A dream comes true for 40,000 people

Beloha : - "Water, water...this is real water," said Beamby. He left Marovato village early that morning and had come to Beloha to witness the opening of a new 180-kilometer-long water pipeline that will make this precious and rare resource widely available to 40,000 people living in a region severely affected by drought.

Water is a luxury in this part of Madagascar. The southern region has the lowest water coverage of the country and suffers from the impacts of climate change, including frequent and intense droughts. People living in remote areas must travel 5 to 25 km to fetch water.

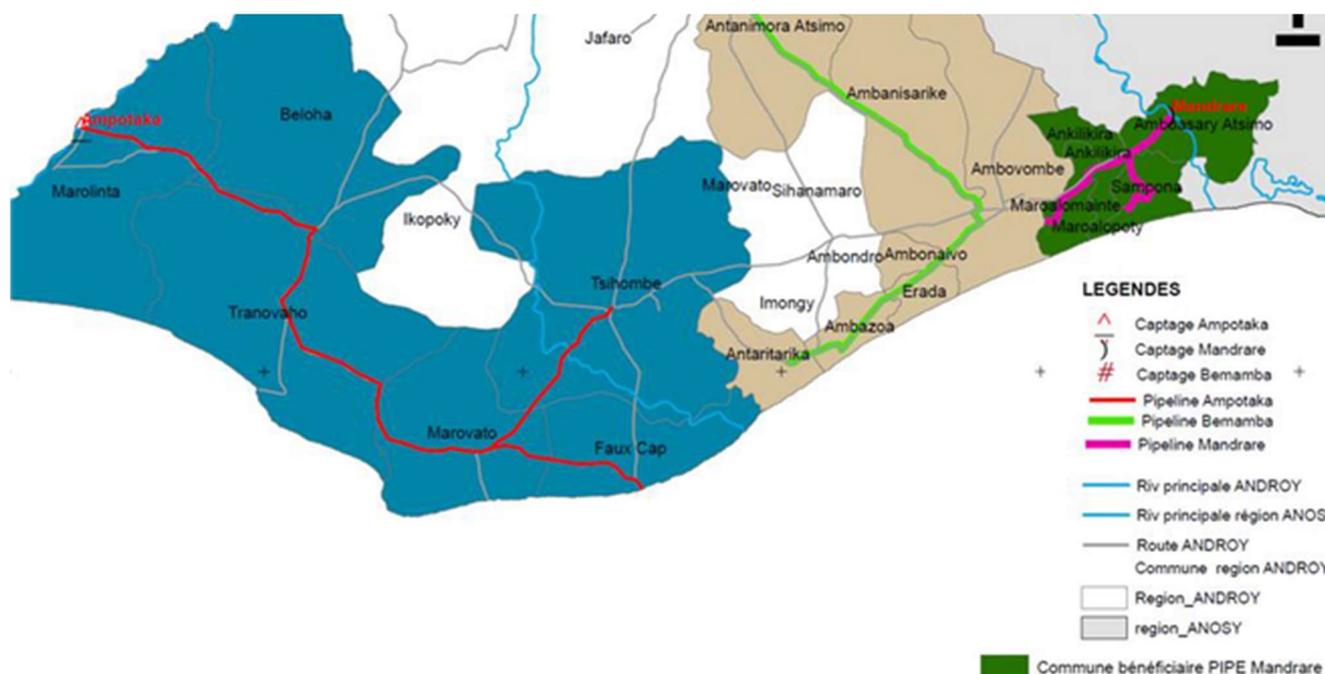
The 20-liter cost generally 200 Ariary and can increase up to 1.800 Ariary, reducing the purchasing power of households for other basic needs. The limited availability and high price of water leads to the use of very poor water sources: almost a quarter of Androy's population uses surface water.

This situation leads to an elevated risk of water-related morbidity and mortality, especially among children. The pipeline infrastructure will provide water to 40,000 people.

UNICEF with the Malagasy government and the international partners has put in place a structural response to meet the challenge of water in the south of Madagascar as it is a challenge to improve the living conditions and resilience of the population in the south in a sustainable way.

One of the solutions is the transfer of water from highly productive sources to areas suffering from water shortage through the establishment of pipelines. The first system was built in 1996 with the support of the Japanese Government in Ampotaka-Tsihombe-Faux Cap. It covers the districts of Tsihombe and Beloha with a total of 7 communes.

Since 2017, UNICEF has worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, Water, and Hydrocarbons (MEEH) for the rehabilitation and extension of this system and increases its capacity and put in place a management structure to ensure a sustainable service to the population.



The Ampotaka-Faux Cap pipeline will bring water to 40,000 people (c) UNICEF

Ravolabe, a mother living in Marovato, now has access to drinking water thanks to the pipeline. She will no longer have to walk miles and miles to get water for her family.

Ravolabe, a mother of five children, said she was amazed to see the plentiful water coming out of the tap at one of the 19 community water points the pipeline supplies. Like everyone living in the Beloha and Tsihombe districts in the south of Madagascar, she previously had to walk up to 20 kilometers to find water – a chore that falls almost exclusively to women – or she was forced to pay for it, spending the equivalent of USD 50 cents for a 20-liter jerry can. The average income per person per year in this region is approximately 50 USD, which is 1 USD per week

Ravolabe had to walk up to 20 kilometers to find water – a chore that falls almost exclusively to women.

“The community needs drinking water because diarrhoea is one of the most common diseases affecting our children”, explains Andrianarisoa Nambinina, midwife at the

health center of Nikoly .

Andrianarisoa Nambinina, who runs a basic health center in the village of Nikoly, says because of the pipeline patients will now be able to access safe water within the center. Staff at the center is also delighted as they will no longer have to go out in search of often dirty water elsewhere in the community.



Andrianarisoa Nambinina, a midwife working at the BHC of Nikoly
(c) UNICEF



Ravolabe and her son, happy that their village finally has water!
(c) UNICEF

The pipeline is the result of more than two years of collaboration between Government of Madagascar and UNICEF and was made possible through the support of the Government of Japan, Germany and the US and UK international agencies – USAID and UKAID.

Through their support, nearly five million dollars went towards upgrading existing infrastructure, such as a water treatment plant, boreholes and pumping stations, with the pipeline that was already in place being extended by an additional 90 kilometers with a network of water points established across the region. Plans are already in place to further expand the project to reach an additional 15,000 people in an area increasingly suffering because of severe water shortages.

“This is a relief for the whole population who see this as a dream come true,” added Beamby. “We never thought we’d be drinking clear water one day. So long to the chocolate-colored one.”

Cooperation between Madagascar and the United Nations: Final evaluation of the current Cooperation framework (UNDAF) and plans for the elaboration of the next phase

A meeting of the Joint Steering Committee of the cooperation framework between the United Nations and the Government of Madagascar (referred to as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework – UNDAF) was held on 20 June. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

The main topics of discussion included the evaluation of the 2015-2020 UNDAF and the timeline for the elaboration of the next phase of cooperation. The next cooperation framework is expected to be based on the new national development plan (Plan d'Emergence Madagascar or PEM) which is in turn anchored on the global 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

The process and timeline to be followed for the final evaluation of the current cooperation framework was presented to the steering committee and approved. The report of the evaluation, to be presented in August will identify good practices, draw lessons for the future and make recommendations for the next cooperation framework. The timeline for the elaboration of the new cooperation framework was also discussed.

A series of field visits is also planned and the criteria for selection of projects to be visited include UN agency representation, the presence of UNDAF outcomes and sub-outcomes, financial volume, accessibility as well as a balanced representation of successful and less successful projects. The evaluation will cover as many multi-agency projects (joint programs and Peace building Fund projects) as possible.

The preliminary evaluation report will be available in August. It should identify good practices, draw lessons for the future and make recommendations for the planning of the next framework.

The timetable for the formulation of the new cooperation framework was also presented during the meeting. The process will start this year with the Common Country Assessment (CCA). The implementation of the new framework is expected to start in January 2021. As with previous cycles, the process of development of the new framework will be inclusive and participatory in nature.



Meeting of the UNDAF steering committee, co-chaired by the Minister of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, 21 June 2019 (c) RCO

Phase II of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)'s support to Madagascar:

Three new projects in preparation

A priority-setting workshop for Phase II of the United Nations Peace building Fund (PBF)'s support to Madagascar took place on 24 June at the Prime Minister's Office in Mahazoarivo. The workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Christian Ntsay, Prime Minister and Head of Government and Ms. Violette Kakyomya, United Nations Resident Coordinator, and was attended by Ministers, Representatives of the African Union and the European Union, bilateral and multilateral partners as well as implementing partners.

Madagascar is again eligible to present project proposals for the second phase of the PBF to allow the country to consolidate the achievements and positive results obtained during the first phase.

The objective of the workshop was to present and discuss the proposed priority areas in the light of the current context and national priorities, with a view to making the final decision on the focus areas of PBF Phase II projects.

In her speech, the UN Resident Coordinator thanked the Prime Minister and the members of the Government for their leadership on the issue. She also expressed her appreciation to international actors for their commitment to support the government in the peace building process.

Political partners such as the African Union and development partners such as the European Union underlined their commitment to support the peace building process in Madagascar and to work together to pursue efforts on security sector reform if the interest is expressed by the Government.

It may be recalled that Madagascar was eligible for the UN Peace building Fund (PBF) in 2015 and received a funding of USD 11.5 million. Four projects were launched in 2016: "Strengthening State authority in the South (RAES)", "Support to the security sector reform in Madagascar (ARSAMM)", "Support to democratic, credible and

representative institutions (IDIRC)" and "Support to endogenous mechanisms for community dialogue and improvement of economic conditions of vulnerable populations (AME)".

For Phase II, three priority areas have been proposed: the first relates to increased transparency and accountability of governance institutions through better regulation, strengthened monitoring role and adequate judicial procedures; the second is relative to the support for greater stability, security and community management of conflicts in the red zones of the Grand Sud; and the third will focus on youth with a view to contributing to the reduction of juvenile crime and delinquency.

In line with the workshop recommendations, the technical team will review the selected proposals and work on the drafting of documents to be submitted for validation.



24 June 2019 at the Primature (c) RCO



Relief Coordinator of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Deputy Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Ms. Ursula Mueller, and the Deputy Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Mr. Donal Brown, were on a working visit to Madagascar from 2 to 6 June 2019.

The UN delegation made a field trip to the Grand Sud, on 3 and 4 June, accompanied by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. They had the opportunity to discuss with local authorities as well as development and humanitarian actors around the coordination of interventions and the links between emergency aid and sustainable development. They also visited projects supported by the United Nations system, including the newly strengthened local coordination office, the public primary school in Beabo Ambovombe, the basic health center in Manintsevo Berano in Amboasary, the agricultural site in Ankara and the Mandrare pipeline.

Both visitors were impressed by the initiative to decentralize the National Risk and Disaster Management Office (BNGRC), which should be followed by other sectors. They encouraged partnership between UN agencies, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, and thanked the Government for accompanying the delegation to the field, thereby demonstrating its commitment and leadership. They reaffirmed that the United Nations will remain at the side of the Malagasy population, and stressed the fact that development goes hand in hand with humanitarian aid.

In addition to this field visit, Ms. Ursula Mueller also held meetings with the Humanitarian Country Team, which includes international and national humanitarian NGOs and UN agencies, as well as with technical and financial partners and with the private sector humanitarian platform.



Visit to the primary public school in Beabo (c) RCO

Mr. Donal Brown continued on his way visiting IFAD-supported projects in Antananarivo, including the Andranovelona rural micro-enterprise. He also met with young beneficiaries of the FORMAPROD programme in Mahitsy-Ambohidratrimo and visited the Andranovaky-Mahitsy Youth Training Centre (CAFPA) where the learning conditions of young people were improved as a result of assistance from IFAD programme, which also supported the revitalization of centre and its staff.

At the end of the project visits, Mr. Brown, noting with appreciation the promising results obtained, thanked all the actors involved in the implementation of the programme, particularly the MAEP team and all relevant partners. "I hear about youth projects or programmes all the time, but today I had the opportunity to talk directly with you and am glad to see that it was helpful to you!" he said. He further reaffirmed IFAD's commitment to support Madagascar's development and the implementation of the new Madagascar Emergence Plan (PEM). It should be noted that Mr. Donal Brown's visit was part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of IFAD's presence in the country.

During their stay, Ms. Mueller and Mr. Brown also held talks with the Malagasy authorities, including H.E. the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Brown also paid working visits to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Commending the government on its efforts to end chronic needs in the Grand Sud region, Ms. Mueller declared, *"The government, together with international partners, has recorded progress in addressing the root causes of recurrent humanitarian needs and underdevelopment, through the development of the Integrated Strategy for the Development of the Grand Sud."*

The Assistant Secretary-General affirmed her support to resource mobilization efforts for the implementation of this strategy. *"However, more funding is urgently required to meet the humanitarian needs we have been unable to address"*, she added.



The UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Deputy Vice President of IFAD held talks with the President of the Republic of Madagascar (c) RCO



Humanitarian snapshot

July 2019

Food security has improved across the country, but pockets of fragility remain. An estimated 730,522 people were severely food insecure (IPC phase 3 and 4) from June to July 2019, including about 547,000 in the Grand Sud (against 1,261,300 at the same time in 2018 including 833,600 in the Grand Sud), according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.

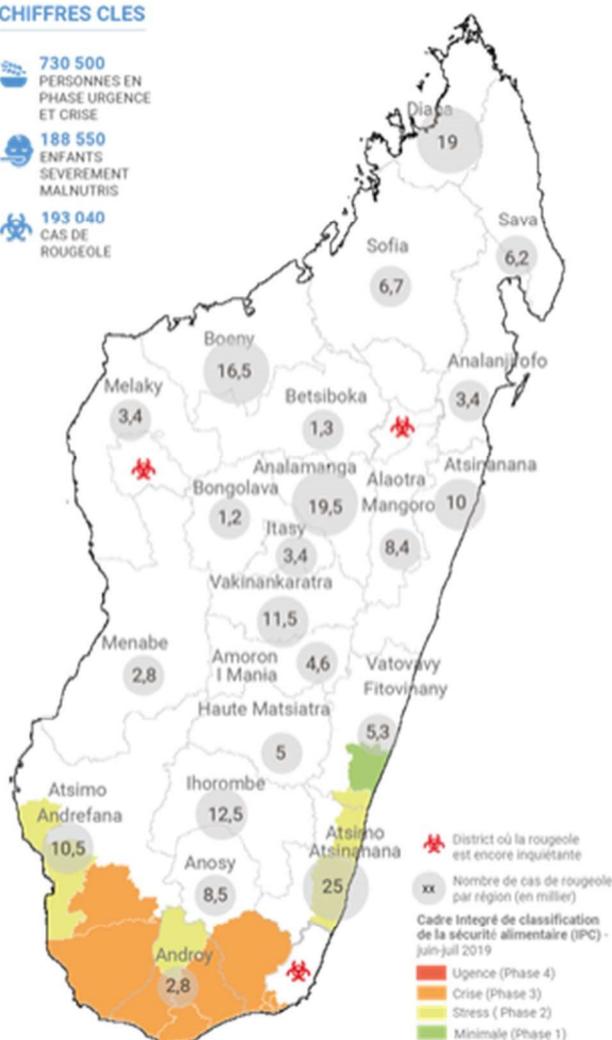
The districts of Beloha and Ampanihy, which were previously in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), improved to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), including due to multi-sectoral humanitarian response packages implemented through the Flash Appeal, and good rainfall during the growing season. However, despite improvements in food security, malnutrition levels in the southern districts remain of concern, including due to the high prevalence of diseases (diarrhoea, malaria, respiratory infections, etc.), persistence of culinary practices poor in nutritious foods, and low immunization coverage.

Among the 188,550 children suffering from acute malnutrition across Madagascar, 123,450 are in the Grand Sud, 17 per cent of whom are severely malnourished.

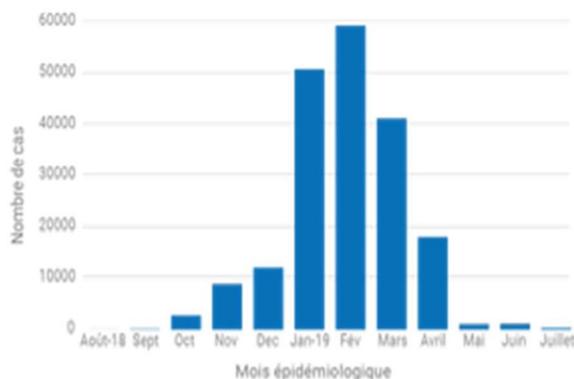
The downward trend in measles cases and deaths has continued. Since the onset of the outbreak on 3 September 2018, 151,581 cases have been recorded in all 22 regions of the country. Three vaccination campaigns have been carried out, reaching more than 7.2 million children countrywide, and 28 districts have declared the end of the outbreak. However, the situation remains worrying in three districts (Amparafaravola, Taolagnaro and Morafenobe), which reported two cases each in the last week of June.

CHIFFRES CLES

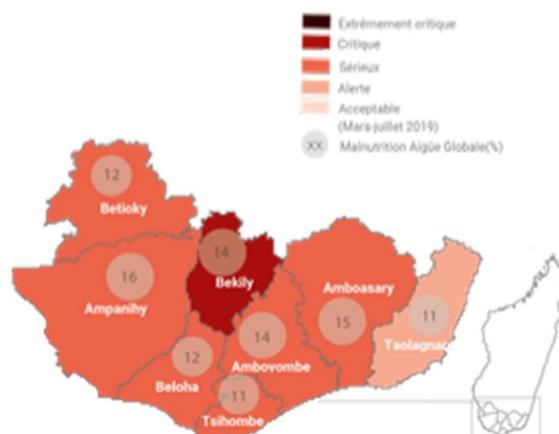
- 730 500 PERSONNES EN PHASE URGENCE ET CRISE
- 188 550 ENFANTS SEVEREMENT MALNUTRIS
- 193 040 CAS DE ROUGEOLE



CAS DE ROUGEOLE



SITUATION DE MALNUTRITION DANS LE GRAND SUD





World Environment Day, 5 June 2019: Beat air pollution!

"Beat air pollution" was this year's theme of the World Environment Day, celebrated on 5 June. In this framework, the United Nations "Going Green" Task Force in Madagascar conducted staff awareness activities during the week preceding the official day. Daily e-mail messages aimed at raising awareness of the issue of air pollution have been disseminated to the staff. Indeed, understanding the different types of pollution and their effects on our health and the environment can help us to take action to improve the air around us, whether at home or at work.

On the other hand, to illustrate the air pollution situation in a practical way, the Going Green task force, in collaboration with Telma Foundation, installed "lungs" in the Zone Galaxy and elsewhere to capture pollution microparticles. The results were posted on the mini-website dedicated to World Environment Day, accessible via the following link:

<http://mg.one.un.org/content/unct/madagascar/fr/home/publications/journee-mondiale-de-l-environnement--5-juin-2019.html>

Furthermore, an exhibition on World Environment Day was held at the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) on 3 June. Visitors were made aware of the dangers of air pollution and encouraged to adopt measures to reduce air pollution and prevent lung diseases. A quiz on environment was also organized, and participants were pictured with SDGs 12, 13, 14 and 15. The pictures were posted on UN social networks with the hashtag #WED2019.

An workshop on air pollution was also organized by UNIC on June 8 in collaboration with the youth association JCI Iarivo, to raise awareness among JCI members on gas emission reduction practices, mask wearing, green energy devices and appliances. Information sheets and statistics were distributed to participants.



"Lungs" installed within the Zone Galaxy and at FAD's premises.



Close-up on air microparticles captured by the "lungs"

SUCCESS STORY

TSARA project: When the creative industry proves to be a sustainable instrument for poverty reduction



In a country where agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for rural populations, it is difficult to engage in daily activities other than those aimed at survival. In addition, and especially for women, single mothers and widows, traditional practices do not help to access land and economic opportunities. In the absence of a recognized social status, women in rural areas often find themselves in a highly vulnerable situation.

It was in this context that the Government of Norway funded the TSARA project in 2015. The project was implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and aimed to create productive activities by diversifying the incomes of vulnerable women in Farafangana.

The project focused on engaging rural women in socially and economically sustainable activities that would enable them to improve their living conditions. TSARA combined the expertise of women basket makers of the South East of the country and of silk workshops of Ambositra region with the know-how of the craftspeople of Antananarivo. The women and craftspeople from remote areas and disadvantaged neighborhoods were trained in production techniques, and the value chain was supported by enhanced access to local and international markets with the support of a renowned international designer (Giulio Vinaccia). The creation and marketing of three collections has made it possible to generate sustainable income and improve the standard of living of the women and craftspeople involved in production.

Thus were born the « TSARA Collections » which have since gained national and international recognition.

Thanks to UNIDO's integrated approach to the project, TSARA was awarded the prestigious "Compasso d'Oro" (one of the most prestigious and oldest design awards in Europe), in particular for using the design industry as an engine for development. Since it is impossible to succeed in the craft sector without ensuring a recognized level of competitiveness, the project created the ecosystem necessary for innovation, creativity and design that connects local talent, training, entrepreneurship, the private sector and markets.

To achieve this aim, it was necessary to address the gap in training by establishing a vocational training program to ensure availability of national talent and encourage entrepreneurship among young people. Accordingly, in 2016, UNIDO and ISCAM, in close collaboration with the ministry in charge of higher education and scientific research (MESUPRES), established a partnership to offer young students and professionals the opportunity to combine creativity, design, entrepreneurship and management through the very first Master's program in "Design and Innovation" in Madagascar. At the same time, with support from the ministry in charge of technical education and vocational training (METFP), TSARA project has made it possible to develop a curriculum on entrepreneurship in technical and vocational high schools in Madagascar, for which teaching tools are available.

Association of retired United Nations staff members in Madagascar (AFNU-MG): An association in action!

As announced in the June 2018 edition of our newsletter, the Association of retired United Nations staff members in Madagascar (AFNU-MG) was founded on 25 May 2018, following the approval of its by-laws and the establishment of its executive committee composed of 9 members at the General Assembly of 26 October 2018. Since then, about 50 retired UN staff members have joined the association, whose achievements so far include:

- The recognition of AFNU-MG at the international level, through its membership in the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) in August 2018;
- The participation of AFNU-MG at the 48th session of the FAFICS Council in Vienna in July 2019;
- The agreement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the creation of the Association and the official recognition of its status;
- The completion of three key activities including the organizational meeting, a general assembly and a recreational day.

In addition, AFNU-MG has developed a work plan for the period 2018-2019. The activities planned for 2019 focus on three major areas:

- Promotion of social activities and members' well-being through recreational and sports events, and assistance to members on various subjects that may be of interest to them;
- Development of training and information activities, in particular through the organization of information sessions for retired and serving staff on the joint pension fund, the emergency fund, after-service health insurance, etc.
- Participation in United Nations system's actions by getting involved in SDGs promotion, official UN celebrations, particularly the United Nations Day, and by organizing information and awareness-raising sessions on health and other topics for members of the association and other relevant audience.

In terms of communication, AFNU-MG already has its Facebook page, a pleasant space for expression and exchange for all, which provides members with the opportunity to interact with members of other associations.

The association also had a working meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator on 19 June, followed by a meeting with the United Nations Country Team on 17 July 2019 to share its main achievements as well as its action plan for the year 2019.

The association recommends enhancing contacts and working relations with the human resources units of UN agencies in order to update the database on retired or retiring staff. A mapping of the skills and profiles of members will also be established, following the recommendation of the UN Country Team.

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Meeting between AFNU-MG executive committee and the UN Resident Coordinator (c) RCO

To date, the Malagasy crafts sector accounts for 8 percent of GDP and more than 2 million jobs. TSARA has offered an innovative approach to revitalize Madagascar's creative industries while providing income for craftspeople, particularly women. It has contributed to increase the competitiveness of craftspeople in the value chain based on a market- and creativity-driven approach, thereby providing an opportunity to translate the Malagasy culture into a sustainable business model and to bring the country's branding to international recognition.

The project was officially closed in July 2019 but leaves behind it a solid foundation for sustainability, with the selection in 2018 of a private buyer – HARENANTSIKA – who will be responsible for monitoring production with the craftspeople/workshops and continuing to market products in Madagascar and overseas.



Key figures

- 446 craftspeople trained and equipped, 80 percent of whom are women who have doubled their income; 23
- partner workshops (groups, associations or SMEs), more than half of which are in rural areas;
- 3 TSARA collections developed with more than 250 products designed and 1500 products manufactured, available on www.collectiontsara.com
- Products available for sale on the local market and for export (Switzerland and Italy)
- Approximately thirty students enrolled in the Master's degree in "Design and Innovation" at ISCAM
- 12 pilot technical high schools offering the entrepreneurship curriculum for young people; 35 trainers trained and more than 9500 students trained for school year 2017/2018.



First assesment at the end of the entrepreneurship course delivered at the Lycée technique et professionnel of Mantsoa.(c) UNIDO



Craftswomen of Farafangana in action.(c) UNIDO



Closing ceremony of TSARA project at Carlton Hotel, July 2019...(c) UNIDO

Reopening of the Palais d'Andafiavaratra's museum

Royal collections of the Queen's palace are returned to their rightful place

As part of the project "Preventive conservation and enhancement of the collections of the Manjakamiadana Palace at the Andafiavaratra Palace", the royal collections were put in the spotlight on 21 June through two exhibitions on the theme "The heritage of the Rova d'Antananarivo lives on" at the museum of Andafiavaratra Palace.

The project, which is funded by a contribution from the Government of Japan in 2015, is conducted by UNESCO at the request of the Ministry of Communication and Culture of Madagascar and in collaboration with the National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).

The 21 June ceremony provided an opportunity to present the results achieved by the project in the Andafiavaratra Palace: (i) rehabilitation of the palace's dome, (ii) reorganization of the collections in reserve and (iii) organization of a RE-ORG course for conservation for museum staff, which was led by two ICCROM experts with the support of a national team formed by ICOM-Madagasikara.

The activities at the Andafiavaratra Palace started in February 2019 with the restoration of its dome. The training course, which took place from 11 to 21 June 2019 at the Andafiavaratra Palace, strengthened the conservation capacities of 26 professionals from the twelve national museums using the RE-ORG methodology. The RE-ORG method was developed by ICCROM and UNESCO in 2011 to help museums improve the management of their collections in reserve and their use while respecting traditional know-how, local knowledge and cultural diversity.

Both exhibitions were designed by the participants and trainers to highlight the collections rescued from the 1995 fire of the Rova d'Antananarivo.

"I am delighted with this collaboration between UNESCO and the Ministry of Communication and Culture to revive Madagascar's cultural heritage through this project and this exhibition of royal collections," said Ms. Karalyn Montell, Regional Advisor for Culture in UNESCO's

Regional Office for East Africa, who represented the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Madagascar. *"I am convinced that Madagascar's cultural heritage is a driving force for sustainable development that could contribute to Madagascar's cultural and creative economy,"* she added.

The representative of the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Kei Katagiri, stated for his part that *"the reopening of the Andafiavaratra Palace Museum has a meaning that goes beyond the simple restoration of a national museum. This is a time for Malagasy people to share their historical pride with the rest of the world, and I hope that many young Malagasy people will have the opportunity to visit the Palace and its beautiful collection."*

"We are very grateful for the financial support of the Government of Japan and the technical support of UNESCO, ICOM-Madagasikara and ICCROM, which allow us to ensure the preventive conservation of our royal collections as well as the collections of other national museums for the benefit of all citizens of Madagascar," said Mme Lalatiana Andriatongarivo Rakotondrazafy, Minister of Communication and Culture.

The two exhibitions on the ground floor of the Andafiavaratra Palace are open to the public until the end of September 2019. The museum will be open to the public again in November when a permanent exhibition will be installed.



Partial view of the exhibition at the ground floor of Andafiavaratra Palace. (c) UNESCO

Rotarians taking action for the achievement of the sustainable development goals in Madagascar

Agenda 2030 the most ambitious global plan for human development ever, and calls for the implication of all segments of society for the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Actors include Governments, civil society, private sector, and others. This is why we welcome every opportunity to discuss the SDGs and the role of every actor and individual.

One such opportunity was a meeting between the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Violette Kakyomya and the Rotary Club of Mahamasina at their own invitation. The global 2030 agenda and the SDGs were presented, as well as the experience of Madagascar so far in the implementation of this ambitious global agenda

The rotarians were keen to discuss various subjects, especially climate change and environmental protection. The role of the developed world, versus the role of the developing world was the subject of debate and discussion.

The rotarians shared information on their activities through which they are making a remarkable contribution to providing social services to the population, especially the most vulnerable, thus contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

Ms Kakyomya thanked the members of the Rotary Club for the opportunity to exchange on important development issues, and asked them to take the discussion to the rest of the Rotarians in the country



OBJECTIFS DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE



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