



# LESECHOS

DU BUREAU DU COORDONNATEUR RESIDENT



**SPOTLIGHT ON THE  
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME (UNDP)  
IN MADAGASCAR**





Dear readers,

*Following the recent presidential elections, Madagascar finds itself at a pivotal point in its history, where development issues are even more to the fore.*

*The United Nations system intends to remain a strategic partner of Madagascar in the implementation of its National Development Plan, the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

*Along with its partners, the UN system continues to provide multisectoral responses to help vulnerable households in the South of the country cope with the effects of drought. Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, who visited Madagascar in March, echoed the plea for increased investment in the nutrition of vulnerable women and children in this region.*

*The celebration of 8 March, which puts women in the spotlight, was one of the milestones of the first quarter of 2019. The UN system was closely associated with the organization of the national celebration in Mahajanga, which included multiple activities under the theme “Women’s rights and responsibilities in the development process”. Indeed, the achievement of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depends on achieving SDG 5, which focuses on women's equality and empowerment as a precondition to sustainable and inclusive development.*

*During the same period, Madagascar unfortunately faced a major measles outbreak. The United Nations system would like to commend the personal leadership of the President of the Republic and that of the Government in responding to the epidemic and expresses thanks to all partners that work tirelessly in supporting the Government's efforts to combat this disease.*

*As in previous issues, a UN agency is placed in the spotlight in this edition. We hope that our readers will get to know more about the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), its activities and major achievements in Madagascar through this issue.*

*Since this newsletter is intended to keep you informed of the work of the UN in Madagascar, we welcome your comments and views on the events highlighted in this issue, and on topics you would like to read in future issues, by email to [rasoaniaina@un.org](mailto:rasoaniaina@un.org). We look forward to receiving your feedback, which will help us improve our communication efforts and better inform you about what we are doing.*

*We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and thank you for your support and interest in our work.*

***Violette Kakyomya***  
**Resident Coordinator**  
**United Nations**  
**Madagascar**

## Interview with Marie Dimond, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Madagascar

### 1. Could you tell us about UNDP's mandate and advantages?

For more than 50 years, UNDP has worked in about 170 countries and territories, becoming one of the leading multilateral development agencies helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion.

In Madagascar, UNDP's actions aim to promote good governance within institutions and communities, all while supporting a transition to sustainable development in which economic growth benefits all, and where irreversible damages to the environment are avoided. To reach this goal, UNDP provides effective and equitable services to citizens, especially poor and marginalized groups, and supports democratic and governance institutions to be more inclusive, transparent and effective.

With the majority of our projects reaching national coverage, UNDP works in partnership with the government, both at the national and local levels, the private sector, and civil society organizations, prioritizing actions that transform the lives of the most vulnerable, including women and youth. Personally, I strongly believe in this mandate which allows us to support the Government of Madagascar and its people to tackle the deepest structural causes of poverty rather than treating only the symptoms.

In many countries, for example, the issue of poor governance is often at the core of delays in development. It is imperative that the administration and its branches function in an efficient, inclusive and responsible manner to foster growth to the benefit of all people.



Mrs. Marie Dimond  
UNDP Resident Representative in Madagascar

For this reason, an important aspect of UNDP's mandate is to support governments in promoting what we call good governance with the inclusive participation of civil society, the private sector and other partners. This requires, among other initiatives, support for democratic transitions of power through the organization of transparent, credible and inclusive elections; decentralization and local governance; strengthening the rule of law with a focus on the fight against corruption; and necessary reforms to the security sector.

We believe that long-term sustainable development efforts require a multi-sectoral, integrated approach, that the various development issues are addressed in a complementary way rather than considered separately. For example, an out-of-school girl can be indicative of a lack of financial



Beloha is one of 58 municipalities in the Androy Region which receive support from UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization. The zebu market has been extended and the premises of the city hall have been renovated to improve efficiency. This "full support package" approach demonstrates that with small investment, municipalities can become more autonomous and inclusive in mobilizing their own resources and improving services to taxpayers.

means from families, the lack of safe roads to school, cultural practices, failing administrative services or even the lack of access to water because of climate change.

With our teams deployed in the capital and in the provinces, we also support initiatives aimed at reducing poverty by promoting inclusive growth and protecting biodiversity, adaptation to climate change and the promotion of renewable energies; sectors that complement and reinforce each other.

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

In Madagascar, there is great need across all sectors to reduce the different types of vulnerabilities, yet at the same time it is among the countries that are the lowest recipients of official development assistance. Given this context, one of our biggest challenges is to carefully identify, based on sound analysis, the most strategic areas of intervention to maximize impact. This approach can only be effective with the participation of all national, local, private and international development partners.

As we strive for a future where women play full and equal roles in social, economic and political life, the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment runs across all interventions.

To accomplish these tasks, we work in direct collaboration with national institutions and in support of the priorities set by the country that benefit the people first and foremost.

All our initiatives are carried out at the request of, and in close consultation with the Government. Multi-stakeholder exercises like the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission undertaken last year can help the UN, the Government and other actors identify what we call 'accelerators' and 'drivers of change'. These are areas where our support can have the most impact in helping a country recover from delays in development.

Another key challenge in Madagascar has of course been political fragility. Instability has led to the recurrent weakening of institutions and has impeded the Government from assuming its full responsibilities. In this regard, we are encouraged by the recent peaceful democratic transition and the stability it has provided.

Along with the clear determination and commitment of the new Government to deliver tangible results quickly, it provides a propitious environment for development activities to take hold.

### 3. What major results were achieved in 2018 thanks to UNDP's support in Madagascar?

Without a doubt, the highlight for UNDP was to be able to support the preparation and organization of the presidential elections, and now the legislative elections. We are very pleased with the peaceful way in which the process was conducted, making the 2018 presidential elections historic for Madagascar. This marks the first peaceful alternation of power between two democratically-elected presidents since the 1960s, and is a great success for the country.

With the support of our major donor partners (European Union, USAID, Norway, France, South Africa, United Kingdom, South Korea, Switzerland and Australia) and thanks to the excellent collaboration with the CENI, we were able to assist with key aspects of this process, such as review of the legal framework, upgrading of the database, voter registration, sensitization and communication campaigns, and, of course, a wide range of logistical services, such as the printing and transport of ballots.

Another highlight for us was certainly our role in supporting the setting up of the first 'Pole Anti-corruption' (PAC) to help overcome the limits of the existing anti-corruption chain. The PACs are responsible for the prosecution, investigation, and adjudication of corruption and related offenses, as well as money laundering, as provided for in the international instruments ratified by Madagascar and the national legislation in force.

In the spirit of 'leaving no one behind', we also focused on promoting recovery and resilience-building of some of the most vulnerable populations in the Androy region, all while strengthening the capacity of local authorities to play a larger role in promoting the development of this historically-neglected region that has been subject to recurring humanitarian crises.

In this regard, a key achievement was also support to the development of the Government's Integrated Development Strategy for the South (SIDGS) that seeks to break the vicious cycle of crises and dependence on humanitarian aid that regrettably continues to define this part of the country. Once validated by the new Government, this Strategy will guide the Region's unique development planning framework, and synergistically link all initiatives in this area, with a strong on supporting improvements to infrastructure, access to water and renewable energies.



Since 2018, UNDP has supported the establishment of the first Anti-Corruption Pole (PAC) of Madagascar as part of its governance programme. This new jurisdiction will strengthen the repression of corruption and financial offences. Another PAC is planned for the province of Mahajanga, to become the spearhead a nationwide fight against corruption.



The Electoral Cycle Support Project in Madagascar (SACEM) has prioritized the participation of women and young people in order to establish exhaustive voters' list that are representative of the population. Thanks to the two major nationwide outreach campaigns carried out in 2018, women represented more than 46 percent of the electoral roll for a total of 4,565,539 voters.

#### 4. What are UNDP's support priorities for 2019 and beyond?

2019 is another very exciting year for us. As a result of ongoing reforms, it marks the first year in which the UNDP Resident Representative function is fully de-linked from the UN Resident Coordinator, allowing UNDP to focus on its work as a full-time development agency.

In Madagascar, this new beginning coincides with a new chapter for the country, following the election of the new Government. Among our top priorities are to support and accompany the new Government to best meet the high expectations of the Malagasy people. Our top areas of focus in the short term include support for the upcoming legislative elections to help consolidate the democratic electoral process; support for the development of the 'Plan Emergence Madagascar'; support for the organization of a round table for resource mobilization for the South, following the approval of the aforementioned development strategy (SIDGS); support for the localization of the

Sustainable Development Goals starting in five priority regions, including in the South; support for the establishment of a baseline report against which to measure progress towards the 2030 Agenda; and support for the establishment of a second 'Pole Anti-Corruption' in Mahajanga.

As the misuse of public funds has been a major factor in impeding Madagascar's development, we will continue to focus on supporting all possible efforts to help ensure the equitable application of the rule of law, a factor which has been identified as critical in contributing to the success of truly sustainable development in other countries.

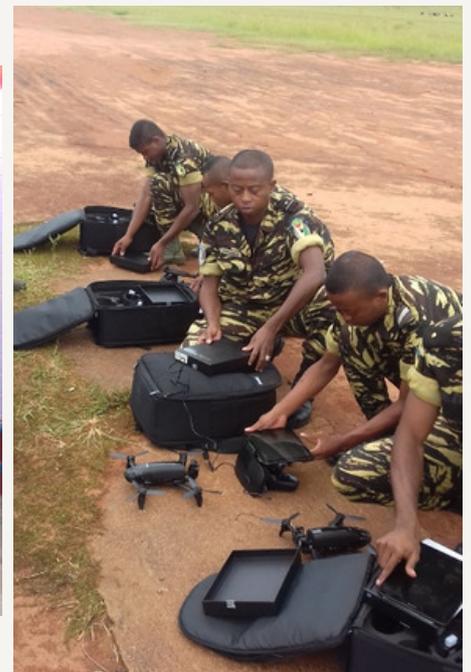
## 5. Any final words ?

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I greatly appreciate having the opportunity, in my new capacity, to support the new Government during this historic time for the country, with the unwavering motivation of my entire team. UNDP, along with our United Nations sister agencies and other development partners, has a key role to play in supporting Madagascar at this critical time.

Madagascar is a country of great potential and its people deserve a Government that is equipped to take on its role as the primary service provider to improve living conditions and help set the country on a path to become an economic leader in the system

Madagascar has all the resources at its disposal to turn around its trajectory and transform into a flagship country in the region. With the right political will and leadership, marked by integrity and a genuine desire to improve the lives of the Malagasy people, and with continued support from the international community, I have no doubt this is possible.



The training of Defense and Security Forces is an integral part of the strengthening of State authority in areas presenting security risks for the populations. In Betroka (Anosy Region), Gendarmerie members received training in piloting and handling drones supplied by UNDP through a funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

# DROUGHT RESPONSE IN THE SOUTH: THE FLASH APPEAL HAS RECEIVED OVER 50 PERCENT OF FUNDING

Three months after its official launch by the Government and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the Flash Appeal has currently received over 50 percent of funding. Several partners responded to the appeal, including the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to the tune of \$4 million.

13,450 people had access to drinking water through the truck delivery operation, including 821 households through “water cards” distributed at the health center level (140 households with children suffering from severe acute malnutrition; 70 post-partum and 611 pregnant women).

A multi-sectoral evaluation will be carried out in March 2019, on the one hand, to prepare the next situation analysis through the Integrated Food

Security Phase Classification (IPC) and, on the other hand, to assess the impacts of humanitarian interventions at the household level.

Moreover, an El Nino did not happen in the South and rainfall continued until January 2019, thus providing the opportunity to promote recovery and resilience actions at community level.

Lastly, the second phase of the measles vaccination campaign targeted six districts (out of eight) most affected by the effects of drought in the South, including Ampanihy and Beloha. 423,728 children have been vaccinated. This will greatly contribute to increase measles resilience of these children even though they have been weakened by nutritional insecurity.

## Key achievements as of February 2019



## MADAGASCAR TO BENEFIT FROM THE “GET AIRPORT READY FOR DISASTER (GARD)” PROGRAMME

*Experiences from tropical cyclone Enawo of March 2017 point that Madagascar's airports are not prepared to handle the surge of international aid should a major disaster strike. Bottlenecks were identified in all areas (equipment, personnel, procedures) and airports were rapidly overwhelmed by the receipt of a large volume of incoming relief goods. Many issues that could delay or even stop the delivery of life-saving goods were detected.*

*The "Get Airport Ready for Disaster" (GARD) programme, led by UNDP, DHL and OCHA at the*

*global level, is designed to be a solution for countries highly prone to natural disasters. The neighboring islands in the Indian Ocean, namely Mauritius and Seychelles, have already benefited from this programme.*

*Madagascar's request was formally approved in early 2019. The GARD workshop will be held from 20 to 25 May 2019 to assess the capacity of one of Madagascar's airports to receive international aid and develop an action plan to increase the surge capacity of the selected airport.*

# JAPAN SUPPORTS THE SOUTHERN PART OF MADAGASCAR THROUGH THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Since October 2018, the Southern region of Madagascar has been in a situation of urgent need for humanitarian aid, with 890,000 people classified in emergency and crisis phases according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

Consequently, a "Flash Appeal" was launched in December 2018 by the Government of Madagascar and the Humanitarian Country Team, which includes the United Nations system. The "Flash Appeal" was accompanied by a letter from the Prime Minister, Head of Government, making an appeal to technical and financial partners to support the Government of Madagascar's efforts to minimize major humanitarian risks, by filling the financial gap estimated at \$32.4 million for the provision of humanitarian assistance until May 2019.

In response to this appeal and the alarming humanitarian situation, the Government of Japan decided to contribute a funding of \$ 2.6 million channeled through the UN System, particularly three UN agencies that are the World Food Program (WFP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF). The projects will last 12 months and will target the most affected districts of the South:

- The WFP project, with a budget of \$ 1 million will provide food and nutrition assistance to 10,500 vulnerable people including 3,360 children aged 6 to 23 months and 750 pregnant and lactating women in districts affected by severe food insecurity. The project will also support the care of over 2,500 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and provide technical assistance to national partners

- The UNFPA project, with a budget of \$ 800,000, will enable vulnerable women and girls to access free quality sexual and reproductive health services, and will contribute to strengthening the resilience of the health system in the target area
- The UNICEF project, with a budget of \$ 800,000 will enable health centers in target areas to provide care for 5,000 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and maintain nutritional surveillance system in 8 drought-prone districts.

Between 2016 and 2018, Japan has provided humanitarian aid worth \$ 9 million for the Great South through eight UN organizations, in order to deliver humanitarian assistance along with capacity building activities, with a view to supporting sustainable and inclusive development.

Japan and the UN system stand in solidarity with the Malagasy population, and hope to bring tangible and lasting support to the most vulnerable segments of the population through this additional assistance, as well as to strengthen their resilience to natural disasters



Joint visit of a delegation composed of the Government, donors including Japan, and representatives of the United Nations System, in the Anosy and Androy Regions in August 2017

## \$5 MILLION FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE ACTIVITIES



The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), managed by UNOCHA, has just released \$ 5 million to help the Malagasy population face the various humanitarian emergencies that have affected the country since the last quarter of 2018.

The allocation has been divided into two parts, including \$ 1 million for the measles response and \$ 4 million for the drought response in the South, following Flash Appeal launched by the Government jointly with Humanitarian Country Team.

The United Nations system commends the Government's actions, under the leadership of the President of the Republic, in responding to the measles epidemic that has affected the country since October 2018, reaching its peak in December 2018.

The \$ 1 million allocation will be used for vaccine supplies under the ongoing vaccination campaigns and will contribute to cover the operational cost of these campaigns, although a financial gap remains to be covered in terms of operational costs. UN agencies, namely WHO and UNICEF, are making an active contribution to these campaigns together with other national and international partners.

As regards the drought response in the South, particularly in Beloha and Ampanihy which are the priority districts of the Flash Appeal, UN agencies, namely FAO, WHO, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, play an active role in the multisectoral response, under the leadership of the Government and in collaboration with humanitarian actors.

Response activities target 460,000 people, including 100,000 children under the age of five, and cover different areas such as agriculture, education, water/sanitation/hygiene, protection, nutrition, health and food security.

It is to be noted that the CERF allocated \$ 1 million in October 2018 for early actions to prevent an outbreak of pneumonic plague in urban areas, which helped to mitigate the impact of the epidemic in the ongoing season.

The UN system reaffirms its commitment to work with national authorities and all the other actors in the prevention and response to humanitarian emergencies, thanks all partners for their contributions and encourages the involvement of all interested parties to cover the unmet humanitarian needs.

# PRINCESS SARAH ZEID SOUNDS THE ALARM ON THE HEALTH AND NUTRITION SITUATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE SOUTH OF MADAGASCAR



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan, Special Adviser on Nutrition to the World Food Programme (WFP), was on official visit to Madagascar from 17 to 22 March 2019 to advocate for the fight against malnutrition in the country.

While in Antananarivo, HRH Princess Sarah Zeid met with Prime Minister Christian Ntsay; the Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Minister of Public Health; the Secretary General of the Ministry of National Education, and Technical and Vocational Training; the Secretary General of the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Advancement of Women; as well as the National Office of Nutrition (ONN). The meetings with the Malagasy authorities provided an opportunity to discuss the importance of the Government's commitment to combat malnutrition as well as the importance of a multisectoral approach to end malnutrition in the country.

“My role is to persuade political leaders and partners that it is crucial to invest in the nutrition and health of vulnerable women and children, such as those I met in Ambovombe and Amboasary. Partners are ready to support but the Government must take the lead,” said HRH Princess Sarah Zeid.

Mother and child health and the fight against malnutrition are priority issues for the Government of Madagascar. The first visit of Andry Rajoelina in his quality of President of the Republic was to the south of the country, a region affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. This is a strong signal of the Government's commitment.

HRH Princess Sarah Zeid also met with the donor community, the United Nations Country Team in Madagascar, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions.



HRH Princess Sarah Zeid traveled to Amboasary and Ambovombe, in southern Madagascar, accompanied by Mr. Moumini Ouedraogo, WFP Representative; Mrs. Hasina Rafamantanantsoa of the ONN; and Mr. Rija Rakotoson, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA.

During her field trip, she visited projects implemented by WFP in collaboration with its partners, including a cassava processing unit in Bevala, a tuberculosis treatment center in Amboasary and a community nutrition facility in Berano, Amboasary District. In Ambovombe, she visited the health center's maternity unit and the public primary school of Beabo where a multisector project to support education and nutrition is jointly implemented with the community by UNICEF, ILO, FAO and IFAD.

"My visit to Madagascar reinforces my determination to advocate for the health, well-being, and particularly the nutrition of women and children living in extremely difficult conditions, such as the southern Madagascar. In this region, 1.3 million people do not have access to enough food. Seeing firsthand once is better than reading a thousand reports and what I saw on the ground deeply shocked me," concludes HRH Princess Sarah Zeid.

At the end of her stay in Madagascar, HRH Princess Sarah Zeid had an exchange with the press at the Carlton Hotel of Antananarivo on Thursday, 21 March 2019 in the presence of Mrs. Violet Kakyomya, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Madagascar, Mr. Lalazarizaka Andriantsarafara, Head of the Monitoring & Evaluation Department of ONN, and Mr. Moumini Ouedraogo, WFP Representative.

# MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN RESPONSE TO THE MEASLES OUTBREAK



As of 4 March 2019, 86,988 cases of measles and 1,141 deaths, including community deaths, were recorded in 104 health districts of Madagascar.

The country faced the largest measles epidemic in more than a decade. Coordinated interventions are required for an effective response, which include the vaccination response campaign, case management, surveillance, logistics, community response and risk communication.

In total, more than 7 million children aged 6 months to 9 years were targeted by mass vaccination campaigns, the first phase of which took place in October 2018. Two campaigns were organized in January and February 2019, and the last one is planned before the end of March.

The 3 phases that took place between October 2018 and February 2019 were a success and helped vaccinate more than 3 million children in 47 health districts. Despite a few refusals, especially in large cities, more than 95 percent of the targeted children have been vaccinated to date.

More than 4 million children in the 67 other health districts of the country still need to be vaccinated.

The data recorded at the level of the Ministry of Public Health clearly show that the situation has improved, particularly after the vaccination campaigns. The numbers of measles cases and deaths have decreased in recent weeks.

Resource mobilization has been an important part of the measles outbreak response. In addition to the resources from the Government and traditional partners in the health sector, including WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, USAID, the Measles Rubella Initiative (MRI) has largely contributed to the financing of the first phase of the campaign. Moreover, the UN CERF, AfDB, the World Bank and the private sector humanitarian platform have also contributed to the response

The measles epidemic also benefited from a commitment at the highest level since the campaigns was officially launched by the President of the Republic, Mr. Andry Rajoelina.

## VISIT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE UNESCO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EASTERN AFRICA



The Regional Director of the UNESCO Office for Eastern African, Ms. Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, paid an official visit to Madagascar from 11 to 13 February 2019, at the invitation of the Country Team to attend the retreat of its retreat.

During her stay, the Regional Director of UNESCO, accompanied by the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, Ms. Violet Kakyomya, had the opportunity to discuss with the Minister of Communication and Culture in Madagascar for better mobilization of the culture sector for sustainable development in Madagascar.

As part of its support to the country, UNESCO is working closely with the Ministry of Culture to implement the project on "Preventive conservation of the royal collections stored in the Prime Minister's Palace Museum (Palais d'Andafiavaratra) and development of the royal collections from the Queen's Palace Museum complex (Palais de Manjakamiadana)". The project is financed through a counterpart fund of the Government of Madagascar from the Japanese Government.

The objective of the project is to contribute to the preventive conservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage of Madagascar and to make it more accessible to the population.

The Regional Director of UNESCO visited the museums of the Palais de Manjakamiadana and the Palais d'Andafiavaratra, which are the focus of the project financed by the Japanese Government for the safeguarding of the royal collections of the Palace Museum, rescued from the 1995 arson that destroyed the Queen's Palace.

The site visit provided Ms. Ndong-Jatta the opportunity to assess the progress of the project's works, aimed at making the building weatherproof and creating reserve rooms that can be visited, so that a permanent exhibition of part of the collections could be developed. In this regard, a capacity-building workshop in the organization of reserve rooms (RE-Org Programme) is also planned at the Palais d'Andafiavaratra in June 2019 and will also benefit a dozen other Malagasy museums.

**Photo account of the visit of the UNESCO Regional Director,  
11 to 13 February 2019**



Courtesy call on the Prime Minister, Head of the Government



Visit of the Palais d'Andafiavaratra and the Rova de Manjakamiadana to assess UNESCO's cultural support to Madagascar through the rehabilitation phases of the two palaces



Retreat of the United Nations Country Team in Madagascar, 12 February 2019

# A FUTURE FOR WOMEN IN MADAGASCAR: CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 8 MARCH



*"On this International Women's Day, let us ensure that women and girls can design policies, services and infrastructure that affect our lives, and support women and girls who remove barriers to creation. a better world for everyone."*

António Guterres, Secretary-general of the United Nations, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, 8 March 2019.



The 2018 theme for International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated annually on 8 March, was "Think equal, Build smart, Innovate for change". This theme stirs reflection in all countries on innovative ways to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. For 2019, the IWD celebration was presided by the First Lady of the Republic of Madagascar, Mrs. Mialy Rajoelina.

The United Nations system (UNS) was closely associated with the Malagasy Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Advancement of Women in the preparations and the national celebration of the IWD in Mahajanga, under the national theme "The rights and responsibilities of women in the development process".

The UN system was naturally involved in the event given its commitment to support the achievement of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 5 (Achieving Gender Equality and

and empower all women and girls) and SDG 4 (Ensuring access to quality education for all, on an equal basis, and promoting lifelong learning opportunities).

According to their specific commitments, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) provided support to the organization of an exhibition on women's know-how "Magnangy Mahefa", a luncheon discussion to advocate on the theme "Investing in women's human capital: a contribution to the capture of the demographic dividend" and to the sharing of success stories from women of exception benefiting from programmes implemented by the government with the support of partners, including UN agencies.



## The solution is in the environment!

*"I used to look after my house alone in the past and feel sorry for myself. All it took was awareness-raising about the richness of our environment and the importance of a responsible management to make better use of local resources. We also benefited from training and technical support. Since then, our life has changed",* declared Soandraza Mariline before an audience of personalities including the First Lady of the Republic, members of the government and the diplomatic corps and local authorities.

Soandraza Mariline is one of many women from all across Madagascar to share their stories, achievements and challenges with other women during the celebration. Mariline is from the Mahavavy Kikony Protected Area (Benetsy Mitsinjo) and she was able to change her life. She told her story during the event organized at the Ampisikina Sports Complex: *"We, women, when we want it, we can do better and we can change things"*.

Located in the Boeny region, in western Madagascar, the Mahavavy Kinkony Wetland Complex is one of the key sites of the country's network of managed resources protected areas, a programme funded by UNDP and the Global Fund for Environment (GEF) to support sustainable management of the rich biodiversity of this great island in the Indian Ocean. Covering an area of 302,000 hectares, it is one of the largest protected areas in the network. The complex consists of marine and coastal ecosystems/mangroves, dry forests, satrana and raffia which provide abundant water over the territory.

The complex contain several lakes including the second largest lake in Madagascar, namely Lake Kinkony, which was designated a RAMSAR site in 2012. Covering almost the district of Mitsinjo, the new protected area of the Mahavavy Kinkony Wetland Complex is a linchpin for the development of the Boeny region.



Soandraza Mariline pictured during the event organized at the Ampisikina sports complex as part of the celebration of the International Women's Day



**Mahavavy Kinkony women working the raffia**

*"Today I can work the raffia and make various products from this material. With my association, we do not hesitate to plant raphia palms to ensure supply of raw materials. Thanks to this activity, I am now able to provide for my home and take good care of my children, my grandchildren and my mother who live with me," declares Mariline proudly..*

As a result of awareness raising sessions by the NGO Asity, women became active in the community management of the site and over 3000 of them were able to change their lives throughout the network.

Mariline's association "Tsarajoro", with some twenty female members, has undertaken several initiatives to protect this environmental heritage by setting up and managing firewalls, and by conducting reforestation and renewal of raffia palm plants within the complex. Moreover, the technical supervision they received in the responsible exploitation of raffia has particularly enabled Mariline and her peers to develop a new source of income through the transformation of raffia into fashion and decoration items.

This message about women's ability to influence their environment was echoed by all speakers during the celebration of the IWD. For her part, two days earlier, Mariline left her home, her two children, her grandchildren and her mother in Benetsy to travel by cart first to the town of Mitsinjo, where she had to wait until 3.00am before taking the taxi-brousse for a 15 hour-drive to Katsepy. From Katsepy, she travelled by sea ferry to Mahajanga to be on time for the activities of 8 March. She took the same journey back, rich in

experiences and proud to have represented her association and all the women of her locality. During the 3-day exhibition on the know-how of women from the country's 22 Regions, "Magnangy Mahefa", Mariline and her colleagues exhibited their products, which not only symbolize their experience but also represent their new source of income, and sold about twenty products including placemats, purses, hats, lady bags, baskets, and a rug all made from raffia.



Raphia palm forests are important resources for the Mahavavy Kikony Protected Area as they contribute to the conservation of water resources while providing a source of income for the communities who live there.



## Resilience to violence !



*"I told myself that I must get up! I had to do it for myself and for my children".* The story of Marie Madeleine, a 50-year old mother of two in Mahajanga, also impressed the audience during the day devoted to celebrate the success of Malagasy women in Mahajanga. Married for 16 years, the beginnings of positive change in her family life have gone through the ordeal of domestic violence and the handling of her case by the Listening and Legal Advice Center (CECJ) of Mahajanga.

*"My husband always raised his voice. He came back home very late every night. Financial issues had become a very sensitive subject,"* says Marie Madeleine. *"There was not enough money to meet family needs. Whenever my husband gave me money, he always voiced hurtful words and insinuated slyly that maybe I also need to earn money, whereas our initial choice as a couple is that I would look after our house and stay at home,"* she continues.

This ordeal, as she calls it, made Marie Madeleine suffer for two years, and it went from bad to worse. *"I had nowhere to go, so I accepted the situation. I encouraged my children to be patient with the hope that their father will certainly change someday."* However that day never came. The man of the house even left their home and abandoned her and her children. What triggered the turning point for Mary Magdalene was her love for her children and the prospect of their future.

She therefore took the step to consult the Listening and Legal Advice Center of Mahajanga, where she received psychological support and legal advice. *"The social workers help me through the procedure of filing for child support given that I was jobless but had to provide for my children and support their studies. After long-term battles at the courts, we eventually win our case: the court ruled that he will pay us child support every month",* says Marie Madeleine.

The vocational training in cutting and sewing provided by the CECJ to women survivors of violence like her also helped Marie Madeleine turn an ugly page in her history. *"I was able to exploit this know-how by creating various items that I sold on the market. To my surprise, people liked my products, and some of them placed orders. So I earned some extra money to support our basic needs as well as the education of my children."*

Today, Marie Madeleine has a small sewing workshop that employs two women and generates income. *"I built a new life which gives me and my children satisfaction. I would like to encourage all women who are still silent in the face of violence, to dare to denounce and become free like me,"* she concludes, starting a thunder of applause from the audience of Ampisikina.



# Women are not frail and fragile!

Women as homemakers, women in the society, women in the economy, women as actors of the nation's life. In all cases, the participants in the celebration of the International Women's Day agreed to grant a prominent role to women.

*"I wish that 365 days in a year would be dedicated to all women, to their dreams, ambitions, challenges and audacities. Let's take action to transform women's lives,"* declared Irmah Naharimamy, Minister of Population, Social Protection and Advancement of Women. *"Each of us must continue the fight for our personal development. Each of us is responsible for the development of our country. Let's be courageous,"* said Susan Riley, USAID Mission Director. For her part, Violette Kakyomya, United Nations Resident Coordinator, declared that *"the achievement of each Sustainable Development Goal depends on the achievement of SDG 5. Equality and empowerment of women are an integral part of any aspect of inclusive and sustainable development."*

*"Women are not just jewels we forget in a corner of the house. We must stop saying that women are 'fanaka malemy'. Women are not frail and fragile. They contribute fully to the development of the country,"* declared the First Lady of the Republic, Mialy Rajoelina, who has formally committed to fight violence against women during this celebration.

At the margins of the celebration, the UN system advocated for a sustained commitment of political leaders to make Madagascar a country that invests in women's human capital to help capture the demographic dividend. Not only will women be taken into account, but they will also have their say. 24 government commitments on key sectors including health, employment and education to promote women's empowerment came out of the advocacy.

## **Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

*The International Women's Day also gives an opportunity to reflect on how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda and support the effective implementation of its goals, particularly SDG5 ("Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls ") and SDG4 ("Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all ").*

*The most prominent targets include:*

- *By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education (SDG4).*
- *By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education (SDG4).*
- *End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (SDG5).*
- *Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (SDG5).*
- *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (SDG5)*

# INSPIRATION IN ACTION: THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME IN MADAGASCAR

Active in Madagascar since 1988, the United Nations Volunteers Programme contributes to peace and development through volunteerism. The Programme mobilizes qualified, motivated and well supported volunteers to serve under the UN Agencies, governmental institutions and Volunteers Involving Organizations with developmental programs as well as within peacekeeping operations. The programs valorizes the capability and the right of every person to participate to the development. UN Volunteers have the opportunities to bring salutary change and impact positively the lives of the community.

In the beginning of March 2019, 33 volunteers have been mobilized within 3 UN agencies and within the UN Resident Coordinator's office (48.48 percent are women and 51.52 percent are men). From this period, the UN Volunteers team in Madagascar were composed of 17 internationals and 16 nationals, 63.64 of them are specialists and 36.36 percent youth.

The areas of intervention of UN Volunteers range from water and sanitation, election and governance, communication, education, technical cooperation and administration.

## **Key achievements:**

The UN Volunteers Programme encourages and advocates for an environment where volunteering is recognized and valued. The year 2018 is marked by the adoption, by OJ #51/18, of Law 2015-15 on volunteerism, which reiterates the commitment of the State and results from the massive efforts made by IVOs towards a common goal, which is the promotion and valorization of volunteerism.



In collaboration with the Direction de la Coordination Nationale pour la promotion du Volontariat (DCNV), community volunteers are actively involved in various social and community causes including civic engagement and citizen participation of young people in the electoral process during the 2018 presidential elections; awareness-raising on contagious diseases such as plague and measles; blood donation ...

In the framework of collaboration between the UN Volunteers Programme and the DCNV, a joint mission was also organized in Togo and Kenya to strengthen the capacity of the DCNV in terms of volunteering activities and to share good practices between the 3 countries including Madagascar.

The DCNV later became the Volunteering Promotion Unit, which has recently been placed under the authority of the Secretary General Secretariat of the Ministry of Communication and Culture.

## **Volunteerism:**

The UNV Programme offers a multitude of opportunities for people regardless of gender, age, race, political and/or religious affiliation, sexual orientation, physical condition to contribute to peace and development through volunteering.

Please visit <https://www.unv.org/> to learn about UNV's vision, missions and activities in the countries of operation. or contact the Madagascar field unit at [najaina.tovohasimbav@unv.org](mailto:najaina.tovohasimbav@unv.org)

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



On 22nd February, the UN Resident Coordinator and the Human Rights Advisor paid a courtesy visit on the new Minister of Justice. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on the situation of human rights and the rule of law in Madagascar.

The Minister of Justice reiterated the government's commitment to combat corruption, impunity and mob justice through the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Pole, the implementation of awareness campaigns against mob justice, the acceleration of the adoption of the law on illicit assets recovery, the reactivation of the Committee on judicial guarantees, as well as the building of a modern prison in Antananarivo. The Minister also expressed his gratitude to the UN system for its initiatives to strengthen the national system for the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly UN's support to the drafting of the State's human rights report in view of the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The UN Resident Coordinator reaffirmed UN's commitment to support Madagascar in strengthening its national system for human rights promotion and protection.

In accordance with Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 of the UN General Assembly and Resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 of the Human Rights Council, the UN system supported the organization of 9 report drafting workshops as part of the UN Universal Periodic Review process (third cycle), including 3 workshops to draft the State report of the Interministerial committee for the drafting of reports on human rights and the monitoring & evaluation of the recommendations from human rights mechanisms; 3 workshops to draft the alternative report by representatives of the civil society; and 3 workshops to draft the alternative report by the National Independent Commission on Human Rights (CNIDH).

The OHCHR office's technical assistance to this reporting work included presentations on the UPR mechanisms and on guidelines and other instructions on the preparation of required reports.

The OHCHR office also coordinated the contributions of UN agencies to the UPR. ■



On the occasion of the celebration of this year's International Women's Rights Day, the OHCHR office distributed 3,000 brochures on the rights of vulnerable groups (women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly) that it has produced, including 1,000 copies to the Ministry of Population, Social Protection, and Advancement of Women, and to the Council for National Reconciliation for distribution at the official celebration in Mahajanga; and 2,000 copies to key stakeholders at regional level, including women's groups, civil society actors, youth groups and school officials. ■

The OHCHR office also facilitated meetings and fora aimed at promoting the realization of women's rights. The office participated in a round table organized on 7 March by the Center for Legal Studies and Research of the Faculty of Law of the University of Antananarivo, during which various topics related to women's rights were discussed. Furthermore, On March 8, during a forum organized by the International Alliance of Women of France and Madagascar (AIFM) under the theme "The identity of the Malagasy woman, her place in the society and her rights", the OHCHR office made a presentation on the identity and the right to participation of Malagasy women.

OHCHR seized these opportunities to distribute hundreds of posters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as brochures on the rights of Malagasy women. ■

# DELIVERY OF MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT IN BETROKA, 15 MARCH 2019



On 15 March 2019, during a joint visit to Betroka, the United Nations system in Madagascar delivered officially to the State Secretariat in charge of the Gendarmerie various materials and equipment. The ceremony took place in the presence of the Minister of Interior, who represented the Minister of Public Security, and the State Secretary in charge of the Gendarmerie. The UN delegation was led by the UN Resident Coordinator and included the Head of the IOM Mission in Madagascar and technical staff from UNDP and UNDSS.

This event was organized under the framework of the project on Strengthening the State's authority in the South (RAES) and contributes to the Result #3 of the Priority Plan for Peace Consolidation in Madagascar. The RAES project, managed by UNDP and funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), handed over to the local Gendarmerie various equipment and materials including 77 motorbikes, 7 night-vision drones, 2 VHF transceiver and 15 portable radios.

In the face of security incidents that resulted in loss of life and have weakened the Anôsy Region, the messages delivered by the authorities and partners were focused on mutual trust and solidarity.

UN staff members working in the area experience the day-to-day realities of the local population they are serving. The staff expressed their gratitude to the UN Resident Coordinator and the authorities as this visit provided them with greater assurance and comfort.

The local population also thanked the Government and the United Nations system since these materials and equipment will help fighting insecurity in this area classified as a "red zone".

It is to be noted that six UN agencies are represented in Betroka, namely UNDP, IOM, FAO, UNFPA, UNESCO and UNCDF. The UN system will continue to support the Government and the local population in improving the security environment, a prerequisite for the development of the region.

# MEETING BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM AND THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR TO MADAGASCAR



On Thursday, 28 March 2019, the UN Country Team in Madagascar, led by the UN Resident Coordinator ai, Dr. Charlotte Faty Ndiaye, met with Her Excellency Astrid Emilie Helle, Ambassador of Norway to Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The Norwegian delegation included Mr. Johan Meyer, Head of Office at the Embassy of Norway in Madagascar and Mr. Krosby Alexander, Programme Officer.

The discussions were focused on the status of implementation of UN reforms and the repositioning of the United Nations to achieve the 2030 Agenda in Madagascar. Major achievements have been made since the country's adhesion to the "Delivering as One" initiative in April 2015 up to the effective implementation of the "UN repositioning", a reform launched by the Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, on 1 January 2019.

The current integration status of the of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the country's development process, supported by the UN system, was also presented together with the

country's development results achieved through the support of the UN system and its partners, as part of the implementation of the partnership framework between the UN system and Madagascar for the period 2015-2019 (UNDAF 2015-2019). The areas of interventions, the results achieved as well as partnership perspectives based on Norway's priority sectors and priority crosscutting challenges were also discussed at length.

The humanitarian situation, as well as the national strategy for a transition to development, elaborated with support from the UN system, have also been widely discussed.

As Norway ranks among the top ten donor countries to the UN and is the 10th largest contributor to development assistance in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the meeting was in line with the strengthening of accountability to donor countries and partnership perspectives with Norway in other priority areas for the country.