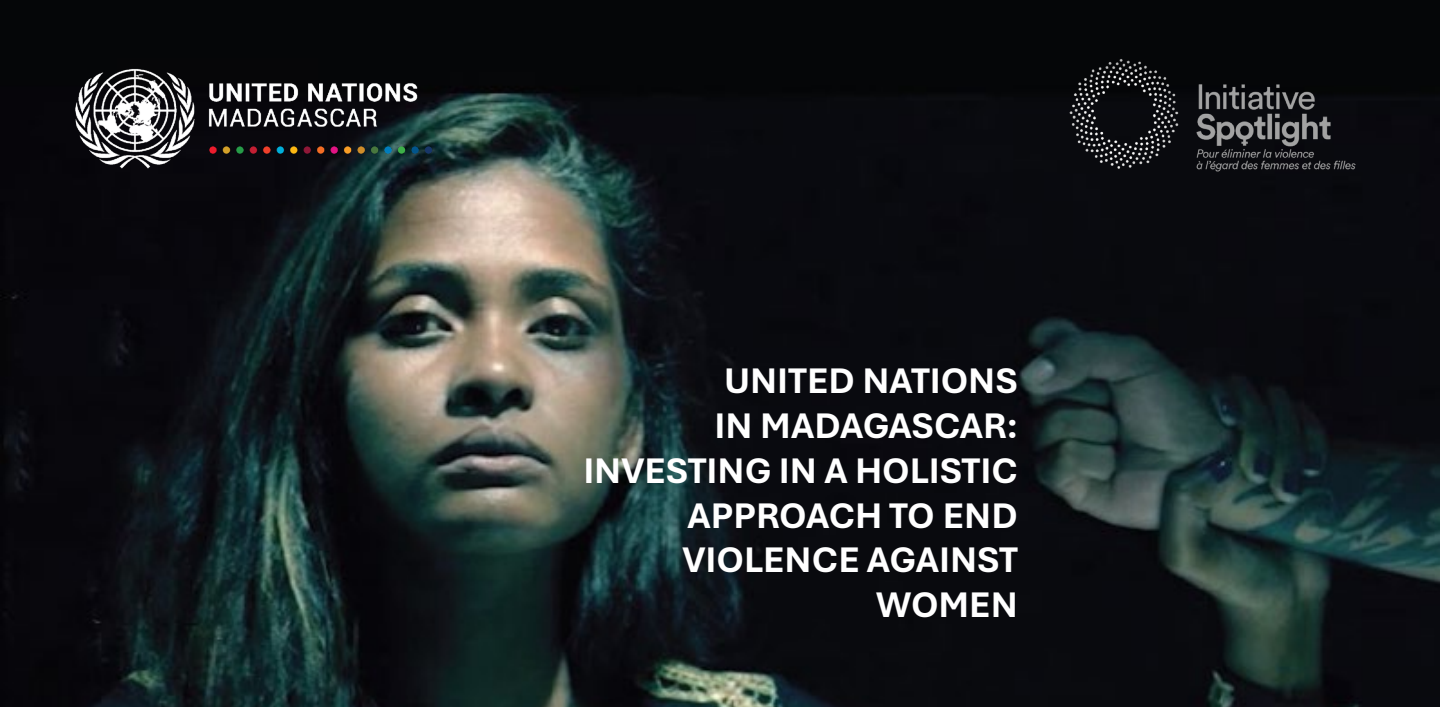




UNITED NATIONS
MADAGASCAR



Initiative
Spotlight
*Pour éliminer la violence
à l'égard des femmes et des filles*



UNITED NATIONS IN MADAGASCAR: INVESTING IN A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Let's Invest to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Madagascar Together toward Transforming the Lives of Women and Girls

Pillar 1 – Laws, Policies, and Institutions

- Advocacy for the development, review and adoption of laws, policies and strategies addressing GBV, including child marriage.
- Capacity building for public institutions and women's organizations on human rights and obligations in the area of gender equality.
- Effective implementation and enforcement of laws against GBV and harmful practices.
- Creation of an enabling institutional environment for the reduction of GBV.
- Strengthening of national and decentralized GBV data collection and management systems.

Pillar 2 – Prevention and Empowerment

- Engagement of community and religious leaders, schools, men, parents and other actors to transform social norms that tolerate GBV.
- Support for the implementation of the national life skills programme for adolescents.
- Promotion of parenting programmes to prevent child marriage.
- Development of women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship strategies.
- Enhancement of women's entrepreneurial, technological and digital skills.
- Engagement of the private sector to improve women's access to finance and technology.

Pillar 3 – Response: Services for Survivors and Accountability for Perpetrators

- Capacity building and deployment of social workers.
- Engagement of community and religious leaders, schools and authorities to promote reporting.
- Strengthening coordination between national and local service delivery structures.
- Establishment of a support fund and income-generating activities for GBV survivors.

Pillar 4 – Women's Movement and Networking

- Strengthening of women's networks, including those led by young women.
- Establishment of resource mobilization units to support networking and alliances between women's associations.
- Improvement of women's movements' digital and financial literacy.
- Promotion of dialogue between women's movements, traditional leaders and public institutions.

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Profile of Women in Madagascar: From their Potential to the Challenges that Undermine Society

Demographic Profile

- Close to 16 million women, representing half of the total population — a vital force for development, yet still undervalued.
- 83% of women aged 15 and above are economically active.

Education and Skills

- 82% of women aged 15–24 are literate. In rural areas, the rate falls to 72%, revealing marked geographical inequalities.

Physical and Sexual Violence

- 35% of women aged 15–49 have experienced physical or sexual violence.
- 44% report domestic violence.
- 25% of girls aged 15–17 have suffered physical or sexual violence.

Child Marriage and Early Childbearing

- 39% of women aged 20–24 were married before age 18.
- 36% had a child before turning 18.
- 27% of girls aged 15–19 are already mothers.

Low Financial Inclusion

- Only 4% of women have a bank account.
- Just 3% have access to formal credit.
- 47% decide how to use their own income, while 12% have no decision-making power.
- 91% work in the informal sector, often without protection or social security.

Political Participation

- Women hold only 16% of parliamentary seats and remain underrepresented in decision-making spaces.



Why Does the United Nations System in Madagascar Want to Act — and what are its comparative advantages?

All Malagasy women and girls deserve to live free from all forms of violence and harmful practices, fully enjoying their rights.

Investing in women, girls and gender equality is the most powerful way to ensure every woman and girl lives in dignity, safety, and freedom from violence.

Such investments also contribute to the country's economy and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through the integrated efforts of UN agencies, according to their respective mandates, significant progress has been made, including:

- 1) Establishment of legal and institutional frameworks to combat inequalities GBV;
- 2) Coordination of actors for GBV prevention and response initiatives;
- 3) Strengthening of capacities of stakeholders and promotion of community dialogues engaging men and local leaders;
- 4) Setting up of a criminal justice chain, with increased involvement of magistrates and Women's Proximity Brigades;
- 5) Implementation of other prevention and response actions.

Programme Highlights: SPOTLIGHT MADAGASCAR

The **Spotlight Initiative** in Madagascar is designed as a **high-impact programme** that adopts a **holistic and whole-of-society approach**. With an emphasis on prevention, it tackles all root causes of violence against women and girls simultaneously. It leverages **innovative strategies** to create meaningful and lasting changes in the lives of beneficiaries. The programme places **the fight against GBV** at the heart of national priorities to accelerate development—building on existing achievements, strengthening prevention and service quality, and empowering local communities with the tools they need to address violence within their specific contexts.

