

KARAKORY

(WHAT'S THE NEWS?)

From the Health, Population and Nutrition (HPN) Office

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USAID/JULES BOSCO B.

EMPOWERMENT



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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FROM THE HPN OFFICE DIRECTOR



Daniele Nyirandutiye
HPN Office Director

EMPOWERMENT is a word that means different things to different people. In early December, I had the privilege to visit communities throughout Madagascar and meet people who are empowering themselves, their families and their communities. These included parents attending our launch of long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to better protect their families from malaria as well as young women visiting our rural mobile outreach family planning clinics to get information about what contraceptive options best meet their needs.

In Moramanga, I met an incredible community health volunteer named Julienne. Her work supporting families in her community and providing them with basic health services led her to be named president of her village (or fokontany) and gave her the opportunity to make a difference in how her community operates. For fifteen years her drive and determination has enabled her to empower herself and others.



PHOTO: USAID

In our first edition of Karakory for 2017 we bring you a few inspiring stories of Malagasy citizens making a difference in their own lives and whose attitudes and accomplishments are truly empowering. USAID has worked closely with Madagascar for over 30 years and we know the empowering effects of helping people meet basic health care, hygiene and sanitation, nutrition, and family planning needs. We hope you find these stories inspiring and encourage you to share your stories of empowerment with us.

NEWS



PHOTO: USAID/A.G. KLEI

COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR HEALTH (CCH) PROGRAM LAUNCH

The USAID-funded Madagascar Community Capacity for Health Program (CCH), locally known as Mahefa Miaraka, was launched October 6, 2016 with the aim of increasing access to and use of key health services, including maternal, neonatal and child health, family planning and reproductive health, malaria prevention and treatment, water, sanitation and hygiene, and nutrition. The five-year Mahefa Miaraka program will be implemented by [JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. \(JSI\)](#), in partnership with FHI 360, Transaid and ASOS, and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health. Mahefa Miaraka will operate in the seven regions of Diana, SAVA, Analanjirifo, Sofia, Melaky, Boeny and Menabe.

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES: CLARA'S SUCCESS STORY

Tovognany Sahondra, known as Clara, is a community health volunteer (CHV) in the fokontany Andranovoribe, in northeast Madagascar's Melaky region. Clara now feels empowered by her work with the community, but when she first volunteered for the position in her fokontany, she was uncertain about the program.

That was before Clara went through CHV training for the position, which included a practicum supervised by the head of the local health facility. During the session she received equipment, supplies and an initial medication kit from the USAID Community Capacity for Health Program, known locally as [Mahefa Miaraka](#), which made her very excited about her job. As a result of this training, Clara felt more confident and looked forward to providing services to women and children in her community. After working with her community, she began to feel empowered by the new skills she learned and because she had a new way to support her family.

“Before becoming a CHV, I was only a farmer. I grew vegetables for sale at the market. My income depended on the crop and my sales. Now, my main income comes from being a CHV. I make a small profit from service fees, sales of family planning and other health products, as well as from water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) products including water treatment products, soap, empty bottles to make tippy tap, etc. I have never regretted my decision to become a CHV. My family life has improved because now I am able to spend more time at home instead of in the field.”

In the seven regions where Mahefa Miaraka is active, 9,800 CHVs like Clara work on a volunteer basis to provide basic health services in their community.



PHOTO: USAID/JSI

“One night a worried parent woke me up because her child had a bad case of diarrhea. I treated the child according to the protocol, and counselled the family on nutrition and the importance of good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices. The next day, during the follow-up visit, I was feeling so much joy to see that the child was better. I feel so proud that I could help the family,” Clara, CHV.



PHOTO: USAID/JSI

Clara set up a shop to sell Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) products as a way to promote good WASH practices and earn additional income.

NEWS

USAID MATERNAL AND CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM (MCSP) DONATION WILL SAVE LIVES

The USAID-funded Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) donated MGA 575 million worth of medical equipment and supplies to Madagascar's Ministry of Public Health on December 20, 2016. This equipment includes newborn resuscitation kits, blood pressure monitors, family planning kits and other medical supplies that will be used in over 400 health facilities across 15 regions. Madagascar has made great progress towards reducing maternal and neonatal deaths, but mortality rates for both mothers and infants remains high. These materials will empower and improve the skills of nurses and doctors and contribute to the survival of mothers and newborns.



PHOTO: USAID/JEMIMA ANDRIAMIHAMINA

USAID MISSION DIRECTOR VISITS MELAKY REGION TO LAUNCH MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH WEEK

USAID Mission Director Michelle Godette and the Minister of Public Health, Latiana Andriamanarivo, traveled to the Northwest region of Melaky to celebrate maternal and child health week. This campaign will benefit over 4.7 million children ages five and under by vaccinating them against measles, providing them with vitamin A supplements, de-worming and checking them for signs of malnutrition. USAID Madagascar pledged their continued support of Malagasy mothers and children throughout many regions of the country.



PHOTO: JSI/CHUANPIT CHUA-OON

IMPROVING UMBILICAL CORD CARE BY SETTING AN EXAMPLE IN MADAGASCAR

In remote communities of Madagascar a major innovation is taking place that is greatly reducing the number of newborns dying after birth. Community health volunteers (CHVs) are using the umbilical ointment chlorhexidine, an antiseptic and disinfectant that prevents deadly infections and eases the healing process.

Child mortality remains an important challenge for community health in Madagascar, with a rate of 50 deaths per 1,000 live births. Remote populations lack access to basic health care and they often rely on health services provided by CHVs. In these places many families still use traditional methods, such as covering the baby's navel with a piece of cloth soaked in alcohol.

Herilalaina Livarison lives in the commune of Andakatanikely in central Madagascar. He is one of nearly 6,700 CHVs supported by the [USAID-funded Mikolo project](#), implemented by [Management Sciences for Health \(MSH\)](#). Since the project trained him on preventing infections in newborns and children, Livarison regularly educates women of childbearing age on the health services he provides. He provides chlorhexidine on request at a price of Ariary 1,000 (about US \$0.31). The antiseptic is applied to babies' navels right after childbirth.



PHOTO: USAID/JSI

Community Health Volunteer (CHV)
Herilalaina Livarison with his infant son
Princia

More than 4,500 newborn babies have received this innovative umbilical care in the USAID Mikolo project's intervention areas since October 2015.

Livarison's own child is one of those healthy babies, as this committed CHV wanted to set an example and raise awareness among his community.

"The remaining stump of Princia's umbilical cord completely healed in only 20 days. I think it was much faster compared to other cases, thanks to this chlorhexidine antiseptic ointment," he said.

The relatively high price of this product constrains low-income families' access to it. However, the close collaboration with heads of health centers to recommend chlorhexidine has noticeably increased the use of the antiseptic ointment right after delivery. CHVs like Herilalaina help families in their communities help themselves and, along with the thousands of other CHVs, work to reduce the rate of child mortality in Madagascar.



PHOTO: USAID/JSI

CHVs like Herilalaina provide valuable basic health services to remote populations across Madagascar

“Future mothers do not always realize the dangers associated with babies' navels exposed to bacteria. During door-to-door sensitizations I also recommend that they regularly go to the nearest health center for antenatal care consultations, and I teach them how to spot danger signs.”

Herilalaina Livarison,
Community Health Volunteer
(CHV) in Andakatanikely

NEWS

STUDENTS HELP INAUGURATE U.S. FUNDED INSECTARIUM

Students joined USAID and the Minister of Public Health, Lalatiana Andriamanarivo, on December 21, 2016 to inaugurate an insectarium donated by the USAID/President's Malaria Initiative to the National Malaria Control Program's. USAID Madagascar's Acting Mission Director Aaron Bishop said, *"This insectarium will equip the government's Malaria Control Branch with the ability to monitor the behavior and resistance to insecticides of mosquito populations in Madagascar, and use that knowledge to adapt the malaria control strategy, improve responses, and enhance the protection of the Malagasy people."*



PHOTO: USAID/ANNE DAUGHERTY

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITY

U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and Malaria Control Directorate (DLP) collaboration

The Malaria Control Directorate (DLP) ranks vector control as one of its most effective measures for controlling malaria in Madagascar. The recent collaborative Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) campaign is a great example of how cooperation can bring more synergy and mutual capacity building to efforts to eliminate malaria in this country.

The DLP and other government regional and district health offices recently completed, with funding and coordination from the [U.S. PMI](#), a successful [Africa Indoor Residual Spraying \(AIRS\)](#) campaign in five districts in Madagascar's East Coast and South East regions. This IRS campaign was funded by PMI and implemented by [Abt Associates](#) and was especially effective because of the close collaboration between the national and regional DLP staff and the U.S. PMI/AIRS project team, with both partners gaining mutual capacity building. Particularly successful to this campaign was participation by local kings (Ampanjaka/Tanganamena) and chiefs of villages (Fokontany) in the campaign's districts.

As a result of this collaboration, over 1.2 million people were protected against malaria during this campaign and the coverage rate across these districts was 93.5% - well over the 85% target rate.

The cooperative AIRS project represents a great national capacity building model, but malaria control collaboration between the U.S. and Madagascar goes well beyond the IRS campaigns.

In December, the U.S. PMI donated an insectarium to the DLP that will strengthen its entomological analysis and ability to monitor the technical quality and effectiveness of vector control strategies (IRS and long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs)). DLP and U.S. PMI/AIRS teams work together on a variety of malaria control measures, including environmental compliance, entomological monitoring through social mobilization, field operations coordination and training. Together our efforts empower individuals, communities and government entities and help them better control malaria and work towards a malaria-free Madagascar.



PHOTO: USAID/ABT ASSOCIATES



PHOTO: USAID/A.G. KLEI

USAID AND ACCÈS BANQUE PARTNER TO ASSIST MADAGASCAR'S HEALTH SECTOR

USAID launched a partnership agreement on September 16, 2016 between USAID and Accès Banque to encourage health businesses and practitioners across Madagascar to seek out loans to grow their businesses. The agreement will provide health centers, medical practices, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories, doctors, midwives, nurses and other non-governmental organizations working in the health sector with access to bank funding. [SHOPS Plus](#) (Sustaining Health Outcomes through Private Sectors), a USAID-funded project, will bring technical assistance to help develop and sell the loan products. USAID Mission

Director Michelle Godette noted that, "This partnership represents the first effort of its kind to increase lending to health businesses in Madagascar."

9TH POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN TO REACH 4.3 MILLION MALAGASY CHILDREN

HPN Office Director Daniele Nyirandutiye participated in a press conference in November, 2016, along with other partners and the Minister of Public Health, to kick-off the 9th polio vaccination campaign known locally as Fanaovana Vaksiny Faobe (FAV Polio). The campaign will reach 4.3 million children ages 0-5 years with the oral polio vaccine. Over 220,000 vaccinators and mobilizers have been hired and trained to visit homes and raise parents' awareness of the importance of vaccination for children. As Minister Lalatiana Andriamanarivo noted, it is only with close collaboration between governmental bodies, technical and financial partners, civil society, communities, the media and the private sector that we will be able to eradicate polio.



PHOTO: USAID

KEY DATES

February (TBD): Health Policy Plus (HP+) launch

March 22: World Water Day

March 24: World Tuberculosis Day

April 7: World Health Day

April 23-29: World Immunization Week

April 25: World Malaria Day

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