



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

25 NOVEMBER TO 10 DECEMBER 2023

Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls

AUDITING THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: The Case of SDG 5.2 in Madagascar

Madagascar, like many other countries, has picked up the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) within the 2030 Agenda. Under goal 5.2 the Malagasy state has defined the National Strategy for the Fight against Gender-Based Violence (NSFGBV).

Madagascar's supreme audit institution (SAI) has taken up this crucial topic in its audit work within its long-term gender journey that it has enshrined in its 2020-24 strategic plan. Within that strategic plan, it has built gender auditing capacities through trainings and exchange workshops with experienced peers from other SAIs, such as Morocco, France, Norway and Gabon. For its first ever self-standing gender audit it has defined, in exchanging with other SAIs of the region, the audit topic as follows:



“Verify the effectiveness of the implementation of target 5.2 of SDG5 through the actions defined in the National Strategy for the Fight against Gender-Based Violence (NSFGBV) for the period from 2017 to 2021.”

After preliminary studying of the field and in exchange with colleagues from the SAI of Norway, the audit objectives to be targeted became clear:

- Ensure that the legal framework for the fight against GBV has been strengthened
- Ensure that the framework for managing the fight against GBV has been strengthened
- Ensure that capacities of actors involved in the fight against GBV have improved
- Ensure that the mechanisms of information, education, and communication around GBV have been strengthened



#NOEXCUSE

To come close to responding to these ambitious objectives the Malagasy audit team defined several audit questions that it seeks to answer by reviewing documents, interviewing state actors and other stakeholders. The audit questions aim towards the availability of effective tools of fighting GBV, monitoring and reporting mechanisms for the implementation of the national strategy, the use of public funds for the benefit of the affected population and finally strengthened awareness among institutions and the population.

Madagascar ranks amongst the poorest countries in the world and, as such, has weak transportation infrastructure. This makes field work for the SAI challenging. Non-availability of data is practically ubiquitous. Most public administrations could not provide the asked-for statistics and where lacking data on the effectiveness of their policies.

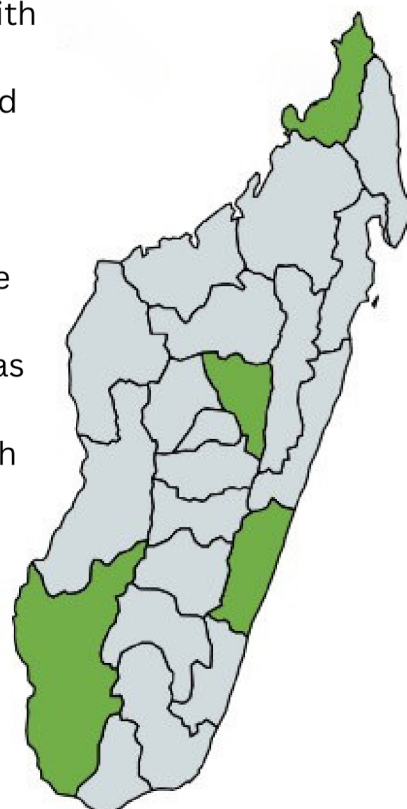
Additionally, in a donor-dependemt country like Madagascar, large parts of the national strategy are implemented with the help of or under the direct control of donors, such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Such donor activities are not under the direct audit mandate of the SAI, data availability is scarce, and their regional managers have not always been able to be responsive to the SAI.

Gender being a cross-cutting issue in the SAI of Madagascar, this audit had not been assigned to one specific chamber but to a team that was recruited from different chambers. While ensuring the required gender-auditing expertise of the team, this posed its own challenges. Audit team members were often required to focus on other audit assignments within their chambers, or take on urgent audits.

Nonetheless, the audit team succeeded in developing an audit plan with a largen number of stakeholders to visit and interview. Madagascar is roughly twice the size of the United Kingdom in surface, with little road connections between regions, so a choice in terms of regions to visit had to be made. To give a balanced picture of the situation the audit team tried to define regions with certain characteristics like those where all structures of the NSFGBV had – on paper – been put in place as well as those where this was not the case. Additionally, the team identified regions where UNFPA was active as the main donor as well as those regions without donor intervention. Finally, the auditors considered the prevalence of GBV in the region as a criterion, although too little data was available for this.

The regions of Madagascar finally chosen were:

- **Analamanga around the capital Antananarivo**
- **Atsimo Andrefana in the South**
- **Fitovinany on the East Coast**
- **Diana in the North, including the separate island of Nosy Be**



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Within those regions a wide diversity of stakeholders was thus visited and interviewed. This started with responsible ministries for implementing the NSFGBV like the Ministry of Population, the Ministry of Health and the Ministries charged with education on different levels.

This continued with Integrated Care Centers and the Listening and Legal Advice Centers - the two main actors in the fight against GBV - but also hospitals, clinics, specialized women's police brigades, women's training centers and other local-level institutions. Finally, the interviewed neighbourhood mayors, traditional and religious authorities, NGOs, and, crucially, survivors of Gender-Based Violence.



The regional diversity and the wide range of stakeholders interviewed could, to a certain degree, make up for the lack of data availability while this becomes a finding of the audit. The SAI is currently finalising its audit report and will be able to present the report early 2024. Audit team leader, Bernadine Rakotoalison Solomampionona hopes that:

“the findings and recommendations will be useful for different state and non-state actors committed to the fight against in GBV, in improving their coordination and continuing to implement the national strategy in a more effective and efficient manner for the benefit of girls and women across the country.”

Images

1. The office of a Listening and Legal Advice Center
2. The audit team meets the prefect of Toliara
3. The audit team meets the Women's Police Brigade
4. Accommodation in the Integrated Care Center of Manakara
5. GBV survivors receive professional training
6. The office of the Women's Police Brigade of Toliara