



MADAGASCAR



Ialfine Papisy, Country Manager

Zotonantenaina Razanadratafa, Programme Assistant

Claudia Rakotonirina, Programme Officer

FACT FILE

Country	Madagascar
Staff Members	Ialfine Papisy - Country Manager Zotonantenaina Razanadratafa - Programme Assistant Claudia Rakotonirina - Programme Officer
When registered	30 June 2011
Alliance focal network	FPFE
How many governance COE's	31
How many media COE's	11
Key partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program SAHA • Association of Elective Gender Sensitive • UNESCO • UNFPA



Angele Liditte

"I came to know Gender Links through their first workshop in our council, in August 2010. Since then, our council is one of Gender Links Centres of Excellence. Gender Links arrival to our council has brought changes not only in the council's management, but also in people's vision of gender. Many members of my association have participated in Gender Links workshops, and their knowledge has improved considerably." Follow link to read more; <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/angle-liditte-2012-05-18>

Registered in 2011, the Madagascar office supports 31 local government councils and 11 media Centres of Excellence. Thanks to its partnership with the Swiss-funded Programme SAHA, Madagascar worked with 15 Councils last year while Programme SAHA managed another 16. Due to the large number of entries (45) for the 2011 summit, Madagascar blazed the trail in organising the first national summit back in 2011. Learning from this experience, that raised the profile of local government work and broadened partnerships, GL has held six country summits prior to the April 2012 Regional Summit.

In light of local government elections scheduled for November 2012, GL is taking the opportunity to skip to the campaign modules of the COE process through stages of the COE model to mount strategic 50/50 campaigns in 62 councils (the current 31 COE councils as well as an additional 31 using the current COE's as trainers for neighbouring councils).

Key achievements

- Official launch of the Madagascar office in June 2011.

- Strengthened donor and partner relations, with part funding from the UNFPA and UNDP in 2012/2013.
- Requests from other municipalities who wish to become COEs.
- 30 councils have a Gender Action Plan as well as a Gender Based Violence Action Plan.
- National summit organised from 12 - 14 March 2012 with more than 200 participants, 12 winners represented Madagascar at the regional summit in Johannesburg http://gemcommunity.genderlinks.org.za/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=12853
- Official launch of gender policies in eight media houses.

Key challenges

The unstable political situation in Madagascar.

Key priorities for 2012

Cascading the COEs to 31 new councils using an innovative peer learning model that involves existing councils each adopting a neighbouring council to work with. This "each one teach one" approach will be a first at GL.

"We have worked with Gender Links for so long and you have helped us to be what we are today," says Eva Ravaloriaka, Mayor of Manjakandriana when GL recently verified the Centre of Excellence in the build up to the national and Regional Gender Justice and Local Government Summits that took place in March and April (2012). Although GL targeted the local council, doctors, nurses, trainers and so forth also attended showing the level of commitment. Manjakandriana is currently one of the best performing COEs in Madagascar and also participated at all the three Regional Summits and the first ever National Summit. Manjakandriana won the first ever prize in the COE category at the regional summit in 2011.

In 2008, GL undertook the first comprehensive study on the impact of women in politics in local government in Madagascar. GL profiled the Mayor in "*At the Coalface, Gender and local Government in Madagascar*" (<http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/at-the-coalface---gender-and-local-government-in-madagascar-2010-06-30>). The research found that local government is a sadly neglected area of the gender and governance discourse with only 4% female mayors and 6% the female councillors. From the launch workshop, GL in partnership with other local government stakeholders developed a local government strategy that sought to address some of the findings of the report and also map a way forward for rolling out the COE model.

As a result of becoming a COE, "the concept of gender is well understood and GL can be proud that both men and women not only work hand in hand in this locality but stereotypes are being challenged," says the Mayor. "There is no male job or female job. With the support and all the training we got from GL, there are now six women heads of fokontany and four women deputy heads of fokontany in the locality."