

Annual Report 2022

Doctors *for* Madagascar



Dear friends, supporters, and donors of Doctors for Madagascar,

Madagascar is a nation of stunning beauty and rich cultural diversity, yet its people face extraordinary challenges. With 75% of the population living on less than \$1.90 per day, poverty is widespread, compounded by the devastating effects of climate change. Droughts and crop failures have led to rising malnutrition rates, while limited access to basic healthcare has contributed to alarmingly high rates of maternal and infant mortality. In addition, limited resources of an already overburdened health system make it difficult to combat infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria.

In light of the current situation, Doctors for Madagascar remains committed to improving healthcare access and quality in southern Madagascar. In 2022, we joined forces with over 100 health centers and several hundred community health workers to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes, while actively combatting the region's two most prevalent infectious diseases: tuberculosis and malaria. Our work also aims to prevent medical impoverishment and ensure equitable healthcare access, particularly for marginalized communities. We are equally committed to training healthcare professionals, providing vital medical equipment and supplies, and rehabilitating and building health facilities to enhance working conditions for health workers and ultimately the care they provide.

We invite you to explore our annual report to discover the remarkable accomplishments and activities of our partners, and team throughout the year 2022.



A daily market scene in rural communities: merchants offer diverse goods for sale.

Our year in pictures

Our year was marked by two significant highlights. Firstly, we participated in the first International Congress of GIZ's Hospital Partnerships and the World Health Summit in Berlin. This provided our Malagasy team with an exceptional opportunity to collaborate internationally and bring even better solutions to improve healthcare in Madagascar.

Secondly, we celebrated our 10th anniversary with a three-day event in Tulear – finally, after COVID-19 forced us to postpone our celebrations! The entire team came together for workshops, sports events, and an exhibition showcasing the activities of each project. After the pandemic made it impossible to meet last year, this was a wonderful occasion for all of us to finally meet and celebrate together.

116 partnering health centers

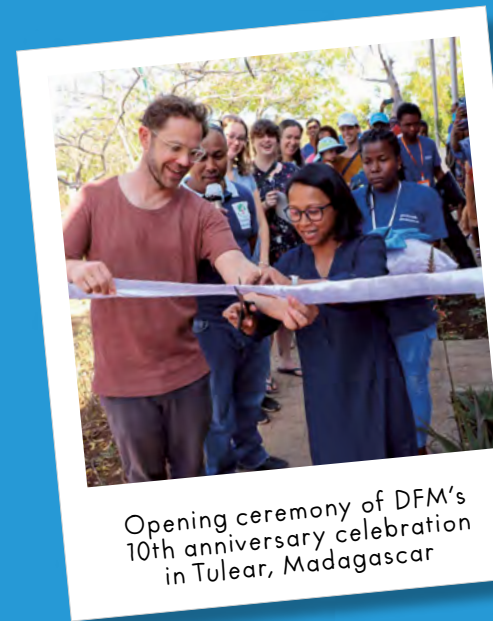
22 partnering referral hospitals

100,000+ beneficiaries

4 local sites: Ejeda, Fotadrevo, Manambaro, and Antananarivo



Delegation from Madagascar participating in the World Health Summit in Berlin



Opening ceremony of DFM's 10th anniversary celebration in Tulear, Madagascar



DFM team gathering at a beach in southwest Madagascar



Unveiling of the commemorative plaque for DFM's 10th anniversary during the celebration in Antananarivo



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Editorial

This year has been a resounding success for Doctors for Madagascar. We have expanded our efforts to ensure equitable access to quality healthcare in southern Madagascar, collaborating with over 100 CSBs and hospitals in 4 regions of the country. Our community-centered activities focus on improving maternal and child health, fighting infectious diseases (especially tuberculosis), enhancing the quality of care and infrastructure in CSBs and hospitals, facilitating financial access to care, and responding to emergencies such as the recent famine.

We have established a passionate and dedicated team to manage our activities and made significant progress in capacity building, training, and learning to empower our partners and team to achieve tangible impacts on the communities we serve. Our commitment to long-term healthcare improvement remains unwavering and we seek not only financial and material support but also capacity building to achieve our mission.

Our goals align with the Sustainable Development Goals, including maternal and child health, stopping tuberculosis, financial access to care, universal health coverage, and good working conditions for health workers. We're proud to work with local and international organizations who share our mission and inspire us to do better. None of

our work would be possible without the support of our valued funding partners, who believe in our mission to reach more communities and patients. We're extremely grateful for your support and invite you to join us as we continue our journey to improve access to quality care for all in Madagascar.



Hortensia Ramasimanana
Country Director



Towards better maternal and child health

Transporting a newborn with febrile convulsive seizure from Analapatsy commune to Manambaro hospital.

In Southern Madagascar, the lack of quality healthcare infrastructure for pregnant women and young children is a grave concern, resulting in alarmingly high maternal and neonatal mortality rates. Over the past eight years, Doctors for Madagascar has been working to address this issue by supporting rural health centers and reference hospitals to improve access to quality care for pregnant women and children under five years old.

Our **Maternal and Child Health Project** features several initiatives including community sensitization campaigns to raise awareness about safe pregnancy and delivery, mobile ultrasound services to detect and treat obstetrical complications early, improving family planning access and education, and an emergency referral service utilizing our Land Cruiser ambulance vehicles.

In 2022, we extended our activities to children's health. We provided health worker training to improve pediatric case management and expanded our ambulance services to include rapid evacuation of pediatric patients to referral centers. Our commitment to children's health also involves preventive measures such as mass sensitization, supporting vaccination campaigns, and distributing food support to malnourished children.

Without the generous support of the Bayer Foundation, ALTERNAID Foundation, and Munich Re all of these activities could not have been possible. Thank you for your support!



« If DFM wasn't here, I would be dead right now. The DFM Ambulance transported me from Ampanihy to Ejeda with a ruptured ectopic pregnancy. I received an emergency C-section at SALFA Ejeda and I am in good health right now.

» Tarana from the commune of Androka



« I am 30 years old and thanks to DFM, I had an obstetrical ultrasound twice during my last pregnancy. I was diagnosed with a transverse presentation of my baby. The DFM team made me aware of the need to give birth at the SALFA hospital in Ejeda. I complained that I didn't have the means for transportation and food and then they offered to take care of all this since my case was complicated. I thank DFM very much because you saved my life and that of my child.

» Tameantsoa from Kotovogne in the commune of Beahitse



58,894 antenatal care visits

91 partnering health centers

19,460 mobile ultrasounds

301 ambulance transfers

9 referral centers supported

915 complicated cases detected during ultrasound

17,311 safe deliveries

Patient evacuated by ambulance to Hopitaly Zoara in Fotadrevo.

Protecting the most vulnerable from medical impoverishment



In Madagascar, around 75 % of the population lives in extreme poverty, making healthcare expenses unaffordable for most. This dire situation often forces individuals to forego essential care or sell their last means of livelihood, such as animals or land, to cover medical costs, further pushing them into poverty. At Doctors for Madagascar, we are committed to providing essential healthcare services to all – free from any financial barriers.

For four years, our maternal health wallet has enabled many pregnant women in the three districts of Analamanga to access medical services. Using the 'mTOMADY' platform, pregnant women were encouraged to save mobile money on their phones for medical examinations and treatments. We extend our gratitude to our partners, including the Regional Health Directorate Analamanga, Medical Inspectors of the districts Avaradrano, Atsimondrano, Tana Centre, the

responsible for maternal health of the region and the district, the health centers, and referral hospitals, and all community health workers who helped to make this project a success!

To aid communities most impacted by famine in southern Madagascar, we subsidized the costs of treating patients at 63 health centers in seven regions of the island: Anosy, Atsimo Andrefana, Androy, Atsinana, Haute Matsiatra, Vakinankaratra, and Menabe. Using the mTOMADY platform, we rapidly implemented and managed the cost coverage scheme, covering 80% of medical expenses for all life-threatening illnesses, illnesses in children under five, maternal health, and accident-related injuries.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of GIZ, Bayer Foundation, and Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung. Thank you!

3,651 pregnant women benefited from maternal health savings wallet

7,631 patients covered by partial cost coverage scheme

137 destitute patient families supported

40 partnering health centers in 7 out of 22 regions of Madagascar

A man uses mTOMADY to transfer money for his wife's delivery bills at the maternity ward of Befelatanana Hospital.



Pregnant women are aware that the money for iron supplements and ultrasound examinations will be deposited in their account and will be able to ensure a safe pregnancy and delivery. We noticed that women are more motivated thanks to the maternal health wallet. Those who used to deliver at traditional midwives prefer to come and deliver at our health center. Before, women were ashamed to say 'I don't have money', they prefer to say 'I can't stand pills', but now, we see that pregnant women take iron supplements because it is free.

Head of a rural health center



Our destitute fund is saving lives!



For several years, our Destitute Fund project has been saving lives by covering the treatment costs for the poorest patients at our partner hospitals in Manambaro and Ejeda.

Thanks to the generous support of the Ein Zehnte! Foundation and donations from individuals like you, we were able to assist 64 patients at SALFA Ejeda and 73 patients at SALFA Manambaro. One of the patients we supported was a one-year-old named Nolan, diagnosed with a postnatal complication due to fetal distress. Despite a family-led fundraising effort, they could only raise 100,000 Ar (approximately €25) for treatment. However, thanks to the Destitute Fund's support, Nolan received the necessary treatment at a referral hospital and was successfully treated.

Bridging the gap: Enhancing community sensitization and treatment quality



Community awareness is our top priority. We collaborate with community health workers to educate the population about preventive measures and disease warning signs using a variety of methods, including mass sensitizations, focus group discussions, and household visits. To convey information effectively, we also use innovative methods such as picture books, radio messages, and songs.

In addition to promoting disease prevention, we educate communities about patients' rights, treatment costs, and financial literacy to promote overall financial risk protection. By empowering communities with knowledge, we can enhance their ability to access quality healthcare and make informed decisions about their health.

Our **ACCELERATE** project worked in the Atsimo Andrefana and Anosy regions of southern Madagascar, collaborating with **63 health centers** to enhance treatment quality and patient safety. Through the use of SafeCare, an established quality-of-care

improvement program, we continuously assessed the centers' needs in collaboration with health workers, developed quality improvement plans, and implemented them. In rural areas, it can be challenging to acquire sufficient quantities of medicines and medical consumables. Therefore, we ensured the supply of medical devices and equipment to the centers and also improved the infrastructure. Health staff received training to manage medicine and consumable orders and stocks for emergencies.

We also reinforced the 5S approach, a standardized quality of care approach originally originating from Japan, in 22 centers to develop knowledge of sustainable hygiene processes among health staff. A competition motivated the staff of the winning centers, who then benefited from training and an exchange visit on quality improvement in the capital, Antananarivo.

We extend our thanks to Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung for their strong support in all these activities!

Maternal health awareness campaign with community health workers in the commune of Mandiso

3,366 mass sensitization events

2,154 focus group discussions

26,493 home visits

36 centers provided with medical equipment

14 health centers participated in a revolving fund to ensure the availability of essential drugs



Our fleet comprises six all-terrain ambulances, which we utilize daily to traverse the challenging tracks in the South. In this photo, one of our ambulances is parked in front of CSB I SAKAMASAY

Continuous maintenance of our ambulances

Our ambulance fleet plays a critical role in providing medical services to the remote South. The LandCruiser Club Germany's mechanics provided their voluntary services on-site and remotely throughout 2022, ensuring that our ambulances remain in optimal working condition. We're immensely grateful for their dedication, which has been instrumental in keeping our ambulances running. Thank you for your invaluable support!





Join us in fighting against Tuberculosis!

Every year, several million people test positive for tuberculosis (TB), making it the second most common infectious killer disease in the world. The eradication of this disease by the end of 2030 is one of the United Nation's priority goals.

In Madagascar, TB remains a significant health challenge, particularly in remote and rural areas. Limited access to TB care services and the scarcity of health workers trained in TB management slow down the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. The stigma associated with TB also hinders

prevention efforts, making patients reluctant to be diagnosed. Finally, the population is often unaware of TB symptoms and basic prevention measures.

Since 2019, our **MirayTB** project (**'Together against TB'**) has been improving the accessibility and quality of TB care in rural and hard-to-reach areas of the Atsimo Andrefana region. In collaboration with the PNLT (National Tuberculosis Control Program), the DRSP Atsimo Andrefana (Regional Public Health Directorate), the World Food Program, and five TB care centers (Ampanihy, Bezaha,

Androka, Ejeda, St. Augustin), our teams provide community outreach, daily screening, treatment, and nutritional support in the most remote villages for the most vulnerable communities in the region.

In 2022, we achieved a significant milestone thanks to our supporters. We expanded our TB activities to the communities of St. Augustin in the Toliara II district. For years, the population in this area had limited access to TB care services. With our assistance, we established a new center for TB diagnosis and treatment, which included

renovating the out-patient and laboratory facilities. Our efforts have significantly improved access to quality TB care for the community.

We warmly thank our academic and clinical partners, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, GIZ, Spindler Stiftung, the German Embassy in Madagascar, V.I.K.-Stiftung, and apoBank-Stiftung for their continuous support.



28 screening and treatment sites

17,9% positivity rate for the year 2022

5,602 people with presumptive TB screened

1,004 people newly diagnosed with TB received treatment

> 600 mobile sessions performed

589 people with TB cured (from January to June 2022)

Awareness campaign with the support of a local singer using music to convey messages on crucial health topics and issues.

Tuberculosis patients packing the food they received from Doctors for Madagascar. Thanks to the collaboration with the World Food Program, we provide patients with nutritious food during the six-month treatment period, ensuring that they receive the caloric intake they need to recover.

48,866 daily food rations distributed

156 nutrition information sessions conducted

7,404 monthly rations of food for TB patients

Eliminating malnutrition together

Drought is severely limiting food production and access to clean water in the southern region of Madagascar. As a result, the local population suffers from significant malnutrition. Adults with TB are among the most vulnerable to malnutrition, which is why our TB project continues to partner with the World Food Programme (WFP) in its mission to provide nutritional assistance by distributing food and food supplements to the most vulnerable population groups.

Our nutrition program involved screening for malnutrition in the Atsimo-Andrefana region and distributing nutrient-rich foods

and staples such as rice, soy powder, and vegetable oil to people with TB. In collaboration with WFP, we extended our nutrition program to the commune of Bezaha in the Betioky Atsimo district, enabling us to identify and treat more malnourished patients.

In November 2022, we launched an analysis of nutritional support for malnourished TB patients to better understand the effectiveness of nutritional support and improve our project guidelines for similar programs in the future.



In partnership with the World Food Program, Doctors for Madagascar distributed food to people with tuberculosis, following international standards. Each patient received 6 kg of wheat and 600 ml of oil per month to support their nutritional needs during treatment.

Construction and improvement of health centers

Many health centers in rural Madagascar suffer from inadequate and poorly maintained infrastructure. A reliable source of electricity is essential for the proper functioning of health centers, particularly at night when lighting is required. Unfortunately, many health centers lack access to a constant power supply, putting patients' lives at risk and complicating the work of health personnel.

To address these issues, Doctors for Madagascar has made a long-term commitment to support 52 partner health centers in the Ampanihy and Fort Dauphin districts through improvements, construction, and solar electrification based on community priorities. The introduction of solar energy provides numerous benefits for both staff and patients, including safer and more efficient working conditions, proper lighting for essential medical tasks, and the preservation of medication.

Solar energy is beneficial for both staff and patients. With constant access to energy, healthcare workers can have safer and more efficient working conditions without having to rely on limited or unstable energy sources. They will also be able to have adequate lighting, even during low-light hours, to perform essential medical tasks.

Solar electrification also has significant benefits for patients, including more com-

prehensive and timely services due to improved preservation of medications, proper functioning of medical equipment, and availability of emergency medical interventions. Additionally, patients can enjoy improved hospital conditions with the use of fans to maintain a comfortable temperature.

A big thank you to ATMOSFAIR for their enormous support in the realization of this project.

4 health centers electrified with solar energy

3 health centers renovated

1 construction of a new school



Construction and renovation activities took place in 8 communities in Southern Madagascar.



Building a TB laboratory and treatment room in St. Augustin.



Extending and rehabilitating DFM's local office at SALFA Ejeda.



Rehabilitation works at CSB2 Mandiso: Housing for patients' families, latrines, and an incinerator.



New elementary school construction in Mirafy village, a rural municipality of Ejeda.



Photovoltaic system installed for Electrical Power in 4 CSBs I: Ampitanaka, Manakaravavy, Sakamasay, Ankilimivory

Strengthening the health workforce

Again this year, we provided extensive training to a large number of healthcare professionals on various topics such as maternal and child health, infectious diseases, family planning, and financial risk protection in case of illness.

Through a comprehensive train-the-trainers program, health personnel gained new skills and knowledge on obstetric and neonatal

emergencies. We also conducted several training sessions for agents and technicians on improved diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.

To facilitate continuous learning, we organized monthly meetings for health workers to share experiences and stay up-to-date on the latest practices in their respective fields.

3 staff trained in pediatric emergency care

22 health workers trained in the 5S approach

7 heads of rural health centers in Anosy trained in health facility administration

31 trainers trained in obstetrical and neonatal emergencies

646 community health workers trained in maternal and obstetric health

18 health workers trained in the management of tuberculosis patients

43 doctors, nurses, and midwives trained in maternal and child health

Scientific project evaluation

At Doctors for Madagascar, we are constantly strengthening our monitoring and evaluation approach to provide reliable impact measures for our partners and donors. In 2022, we collaborated with international researchers from the University of Heidelberg and Charité Berlin to establish a research team.

To improve our data collection, we introduced a fully digital field data collection system using CommCare software. This system will allow us to measure and share our impact with all stakeholders, and we thank the Ministry of Public Health for their collaboration in the regions of Atsimo-Andrefana, Anosy, and Androy.

Our research team worked primarily on the 4MOTHERS study, which evaluated the impact of a mobile maternal health wallet on the health outcomes of pregnant women in Antananarivo. The study involved over 6,000 women from 125 communities, and the team held regular weekly meetings to communicate progress and receive support and coaching from academic professionals.

All our research activities are being conducted in collaboration with the University of Heidelberg, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin in Germany, the Malagasy Ministry of Health, and the Institut National de Santé Publique et Communautaire (INSPC) in Madagascar.



Patient Satisfaction Survey on Quality of Care



Conducting a Satisfaction Survey

Scientific publications

In 2022, our organization's activities were thoroughly examined by researchers at Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, who published several papers highlighting the impact of our work. Notably, they found that:

- Without our initiative, more than 1,700 people with TB would have missed being diagnosed and treated in 2019 and 2020. A scientific description of our successful approach and its impact was recently published in the scientific journal 'Global Health: Science and Practice'.¹
- They also identified the facilitators and barriers to TB care in southern Madagascar before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.²

- The mobile maternal health wallet was widely accepted and used by pregnant women.³
- The rate of catastrophic health expenditures incurred by women seeking maternal health services in southern Madagascar was extremely high, particularly in complicated cases.⁴
- Stroke is common among the Malagasy population and bleeding inside the brain is more common than in other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.⁵

We greatly appreciate this valuable scientific collaboration, which enables us to continually improve our operations and impact, as well as strengthen our partnerships with academic and policy partners in Madagascar.



¹ <https://www.ghspjournal.org/content/10/5/e2200101.abstract>

² <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/iuatld/pha/2022/00000012/00000004/art00006>

³ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0279880>

⁴ <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/12/4/e053823.long>

⁵ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0276199>

Meet the team

'I'm Dr. Johannes Zeller, a volunteer surgeon who recently went on a mission with DFM to Madagascar.'



workshops and provide professional support to trained colleagues as multipliers to ensure sustainability.'

*Dr. Johannes ZELLER
Surgeon*

'I am RAZANAMALALA Jeannette Micheline, midwife in charge of mobile ultrasound and emergency maternal and newborn care at Manambaro.'



My main focus is continuing education for colleagues who practice surgery in Madagascar. Recently, I led a three-week surgical workshop in Antsirabe for mostly young colleagues from 7 hospitals across the country. The workshop covered practical guidance on surgical procedures, theoretical knowledge, and team building. Qualification, professional competence, and expertise are essential elements of good healthcare system quality. Surgical expertise can be achieved through learning practical skills and theoretical knowledge. Unfortunately, opportunities for continuing education for trained doctors in Madagascar are scarce.

During my first visit to Madagascar 40 years ago at the beginning of my professional career, support for this country meant something else to me. Today, after 40 years of working as a surgeon, my concern is the continuing education of colleagues who practice surgery. I plan to conduct more

I have been working at Doctors for Madagascar since 2017. My job is not always easy, there are always many challenges but despite that, I love what I do. I have been lucky enough to witness many successful deliveries and see healthy newborns take their first breath. This fills me with joy and gives me the motivation to continue working hard every day. Working for Doctors for Madagascar has also been an incredibly rewarding experience on a personal level. I have worked alongside some amazing people, including doctors, nurses, and other health professionals, who all share a

passion for helping the most vulnerable. My biggest challenge for this year is to convince even more women to come to the health centers for prenatal exams and deliveries.'

RAZANAMALALA Jeannette Micheline

'Traveling to Berlin for ten days was the best experience of my life.'

I had the chance to make a professional trip to Berlin, the headquarters of our NGO. The trip lasted about ten days during which I was able to attend and participate in the first conference on partnerships with GIZ as well as the World Health Summit which

lasted three days and whose theme this year was focused on: "Taking global health to the next level by moving from alarm to action to build stronger health systems that every person deserves." This trip allowed me to learn about projects similar to ours, new areas of work in health, and other ways of working. I was also able to meet people from all walks of life, and discover the culture and daily life of the country as well as its culinary art. I would like to thank Doctors for Madagascar for this enriching experience and for giving us the opportunity to be part of this great adventure.'

Jenia RAZAFINJATO



Our Malagasy team had the honor of meeting Dr. Tedros Gebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization at the World Health Summit in Berlin in October 2022.

Dear DFM partners, collaborators, and donors,

We would like to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support of our organization and your confidence in our work during 2022. With your help, we made a significant impact in improving the health and well-being of the Malagasy people.

In 2023, Doctors for Madagascar will continue to expand our reach and provide quality health care to more people in disadvantaged regions. Our focus will be on building local healthcare provider capacity through ongoing training and innovative approaches to reach remote communities.

We will also collaborate with other organizations to maximize resources and improve our operations with the latest technology and international quality standards. We look forward to continuing our mission and making a difference in the lives of the Malagasy people.






Dr. med. Julius Emmrich Hortensia Ramasimanana Dr. med. Nadine Muller Birgitta Fink

Please support us!

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