



Donor Brief

East and Southern Africa

Regional Launch of the State of the World Population Report 2024

Antananarivo, Madagascar, 11 July 2024

Empowering women, girls and youth in Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles

Our Commitment :

Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles are uniquely diverse in terms of typology, their vulnerabilities and their demographics. Moreover, they are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, natural disasters, economic shocks and other development issues. Yet, there is one major similarity between them -

there is persistent inequalities faced by women and girls.

In Madagascar, despite the notable progress recorded in people's access to integrated sexual and reproductive health services, particularly family planning (FP), factors such as climate change continue to exacerbate inequalities in the same access. Additionally, gender-based violence (GBV) is prevalent with 35 per cent of Malagasy women reporting having suffered physical or sexual violence since the age of 15 (EDSMD-V 2021).

Efforts have been made to break the silence surrounding GBV, but challenges in ensuring holistic, quality care for victims of violence remain, given the increase in reported cases. As for the maternal mortality ratio, it remains very high at 408 deaths per 100,000 live births (RGPH 2018).

The Union of the Comoros, with support from its UNFPA partners, has made significant progress in reducing maternal mortality, estimated at 53 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022, as compared to 172 per 100,000 live births in 2012 (EDS-MICS). The modern contraceptive prevalence rate remains low (8 per cent in 2022); 34.5 per cent of married women have an unmet need for family planning.

Gender inequalities persist at several levels, particularly in the access to basic social services such as education and health, and in decision-making and participation in public and political life. Gender-based violence in its various forms persists. Further investment is needed to build resilient health and protection systems.

Despite economic progress and a large representation of women in the workplace in **Mauritius and the Seychelles**, opportunities are still limited for women in the political, decision-making and professional spheres. The impact of socio-cultural norms on the empowerment of women, girls and young people is still felt, particularly the harmful effects of gender-based violence, which undermine their development, participation and more active contribution to the development of these islands. The promotion and enhancement of rights and people-centered policies should be given particular attention, to enable those countries to make better use of their human capital.

Cognizant of the particular realities in these four diversely different islands - progress is uneven and slow as the needs remain immense and vital. UNFPA's commitment to providing essential maternal and reproductive health services to women and girls, prevention information, and response services to survivors of gender-based violence remain strong.

As we launch our flagship State of World Population 2024 report, we would like to call on you, our technical and financial partners to join us in saving lives, empowering women, girls and younger generations, and building together the foundations for a stable and prosperous future where everyone in Madagascar, the Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles can thrive.



Madagascar

Resources needed: \$34,800,000

Funds met: \$13,200,000

Gap: \$21,600,000

*In Madagascar, we require **\$21,6 million** to provide integrated reproductive health services , family planning and protection against gender based violence to **3 million** women, girls, and youth per year over a period of five years.*



Comoros

Resources needed: \$4,5 million

Funds met: \$2,1 million

Gap: \$2,400 million

*In Comoros, we require **\$2,4 million** to provide integrated reproductive health services , family planning and protection against gender-based violence to **75,000** women, girls, and youth per year over a period of five years.*





Mauritius

Resources needed: \$1,775,000
 Funds met: \$1,475,000
 Gap: \$300,000

Seychelles

Resources needed: \$1,475 million
 Funds met: \$83,330
 Gap: \$1,391,670

*For the next five years in Mauritius and the Seychelles, we require respectively **\$300,000 and \$1,391,670** to promote and enhance the rights and empowerment of women, girls and young people.*

Our support is vital and will ensure that women, girls and young people have access to integrated sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services. This will make them regain their place in society, pave the way to a resilient future, and enjoy their full potential to participate fully in the development of their communities and countries.

The challenges are immense and time is running out. Rapid funding, donor flexibility and the necessary exemptions are essential if we and our partners are to succeed in delivering this vital aid.