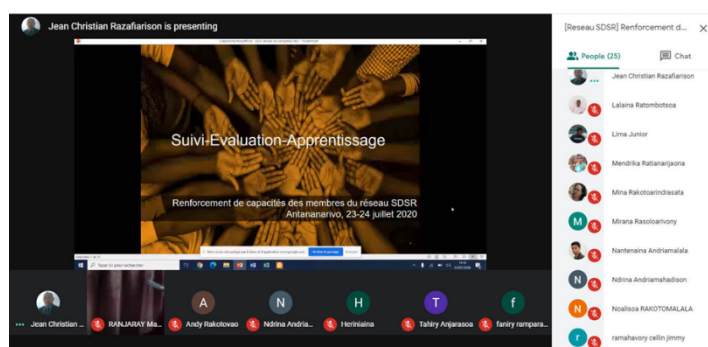


SRHR Network Capacity-Building Sessions

“I have received new knowledge that is helping me improve our project cycle before, during and after implementation.” *Blue Ventures*

Throughout Madagascar, passionate activists are working to champion sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). With over 80 SRHR organisations identified during Project Safidy’s mapping exercises, these groups bring a range of expertise and perspectives crucial for helping young people exercise their SRHR. Despite this potential, research indicates that capacity and coordination gaps prevent Madagascar’s civil society from implementing comprehensive SRHR programming. In surveys conducted by SEED with 36 SRHR organisations, 30.6% of participants reported lacking support from other groups, whilst 25.% affirmed that they are not sufficiently aware of other SRHR activities being implemented nationally.



To address these challenges, SEED launched a network of SRHR partners in 2019, which sought to improve resource-sharing and collaboration across Madagascar. Bringing together 33 organisations, the SRHR network has leveraged the unique strengths of members to host a series of four capacity-building sessions. Informed by assessments with members, these training sessions covered topics ranging from a

rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health to project development and fundraising. Representatives from different sectors, including the United Nations Populations Fund, Marie Stopes Madagascar, and Ran’Eau, have led sessions, sharing learnings from national and international programming.

“[Since attending the sessions,] I have thought about writing a project focusing much more on aspects around comprehensive sexuality education for young people of both sexes and scientific articles around the SRHR theme.” *Genre en Action*

In just four sessions, Network capacity-building has begun to support cohesive SRHR programming. Demonstrating the motivation of members, attendance increased from 12 organisations during the first session to 20 during the fourth. Whilst actively engaged throughout the training sessions, participants widely cited monitoring, evaluation, and learning as their favourite topic covered by the series. Blue Ventures staff explained that the session emphasised that “the accountability of the project leader and stakeholders, including the community, are key for successfully sustaining programmes after grants.” Population Services International representatives discussed their intentions to apply session learnings when disseminating project results. Having already shared lessons with colleagues, partners are innovatively planning to use their new skills to strengthen diverse projects, covering topics from COVID-19 prevention to maternal and child health.

Based on the success of these sessions, partners are integrating capacity-building into standard network activities, with additional training sessions on SRHR advocacy already planned. Using learnings from project development training sessions, the network coordinates proposals and fundraising to support joint SRHR programming. Further topics, such as governance and leadership, gender, and digital health tools, have also been suggested for future capacity-building. As a platform for sharing experiences and skills, the SRHR network will continue channelling the capacity of Madagascar’s civil society to protect the SRHR of the country’s most vulnerable populations.