

## Independence of the Sexual Health and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Network

To bring together passionate SRHR activists across Madagascar, Project Safidy launched the national SRHR Network Initiative (Network) in 2019 to unite civil society organisations working in the field of SRHR across the country. The Network now has 34 member organisations, reaching 23 regions, and aims to strengthen the implementation of SRHR advocacy work by encouraging SRHR actors to share resources and work together to reinforce positive SRHR values.

Within the first two years of operation, the Network has convened eight coordination meetings, disseminated two interpellation letters in two prominent daily newspapers, hosted ten capacity-building and skills-sharing sessions, presented ten radio broadcasts, and launched a [Facebook page](#) with over 2,000 followers.

When asked how involvement in the Network has impacted member organisations, members described feeling more connected to other SRHR organisations and empowered to advocate for quality and resilient SRHR education in partnership with fellow members. Representatives from one organisation explained that due to the SRHR Network, they often collaborate with other Network members to incorporate all dimensions of SRHR in their project implementation. Network members also highlighted adopting a more holistic approach to SRHR as a direct result of participating in Network activities.

**“Previously, we tended to deal only with sexual and reproductive health issues, but lately, we are making more of the link with rights.” - SRHR Network member.**

Based on the success of the Network, members have begun considering the Network’s future and ways to guarantee its sustainability. Through interviews with members and an analysis of the context of the Network, it was agreed that the Network must become a formalised structure and an independent entity. Members are now excited about the future of the Network and share a vision for a productive, collaborative, and mutually beneficial forum.

**“I see the SRHR Network becoming a national network, a key player in all initiatives in favour of SRHR, and a credible interlocutor for the authorities and all other stakeholders.” - SRHR Network member.**

Moving forward, Network members expressed a desire to work more closely together and advocate for SRHR at the national level. They emphasised a desire to continue with capacity-building sessions to facilitate knowledge exchange and skills sharing. As a platform that has succeeded in bringing together key actors in SRHR, the Network will now work towards becoming an institutionalised structure and continue to channel the capacity of Madagascar’s civil society to protect and empower the SRHR of the country’s most vulnerable populations.



*A celebration of the second anniversary of the SRHR Network.*