



Engaging men and leaders on GBV risk mitigation in emergency: the case of post-cyclone Madagascar

East and Southern Africa Regional symposium on gender transformative approaches to engaging men and boys in GBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings

28 June 2022

Rossella Albertini, Gender Programme Manager – UNICEF Mozambique ralbertini@unicef.org

Sederaniaina Lalason, consultant, sed.lalason@gmail.com

Against a pre-existing context where inequitable masculinity is jeopardizing efforts for change....

Net attendance rates at lower secondary cycle

23%



Early pregnancies (<18)

32%



Child marriage (<18)

40%



Women experiencing physical violence (>15)

32%



Author of physical violence: husband or partner

88%



% children with whom the father was involved in 4 or more activities

3%



Access and control of resources and assets

Control on women/girls sexual and reproductive life and rights

Control on intra-household decisions (health and well being), community and national decision making

Disengagement from unpaid care work and ECD

Monetization of harmful practices and sexual exploitation

Physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence

In emergency: disengagement as breadwinners and from parenting duties

...UNICEF structured an approach for engaging men in deconstructing toxic masculinity and embedding a new dominant model

UPSTREAM

Supporting **Government** and **civil society** for a transformative **national gender policy** that **engages men** and promotes a **positive, non violent masculinity** + winning their commitment for its implementation

MIDSTREAM

Committing local, traditional and religious leadership in community-led oversight mechanisms, social pacts and committees against GBV and harmful practices

DOWNSTREAM/GRASSROOT

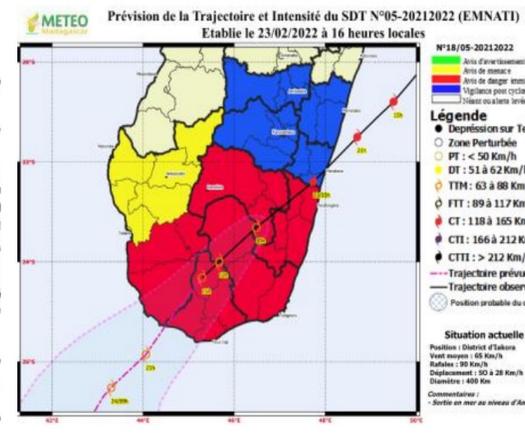
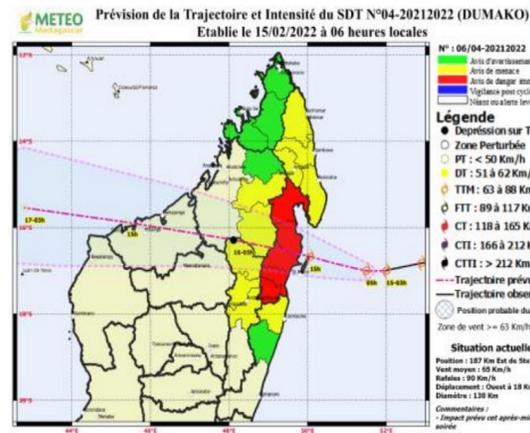
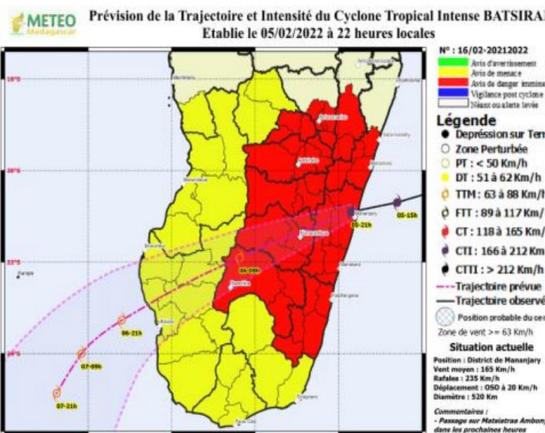
Raising **awareness, adherence and engagement on a different model of men/father** + **empowering men/fathers** for spreading a new model of masculinity and parenting through peer support and community dialogue



... when a series of emergencies hit the center, east and south of Madagascar....

After tropical storm Ana, cyclones Batsirai, Dumako and Emnati make landfall on the Eastern and Southern areas of Madagascar, with wind speeds approaching 200 km/h, provoking massive rains, floods and destruction

Initial assessments indicate that **187,000 people are affected, including 43,000 displaced and 131 killed**, while infrastructures including roads, schools, health centres, protection services and homes across several regions are damaged or destroyed





...calling for immediate, multisector approaches to GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response in a challenging context ...

- Non-operational GBV-structures at national and regional level
- Lack of centralized data collection and case management system
- Limited, segmented capacities of GBV referral systems, particularly on the coastal and rural areas
- Lack of national standards for GBV case management
- Lack of integrated, gender and child responsive centers in the affected areas
- Persisting traditions/customary practices on locally-arranged responses to GBV
- Risk of stigma, social exclusion and retaliation for survivors seeking assistance, support and justice outside the customary forms



...that's where working with men and local authorities became part of the emergency response, to :

- Involve local authorities of the affected areas in the **prevention of and protection** from various forms of violence, including GBV and PEAS
- **Train the security forces** on the principles and standards for case management and referral of survivors to other services
- **Raise awareness and engage men** in shelter sites and affected areas on non-violent masculinity, prevention and reporting of GBV, SEA and violence against children

...with the support of experienced expertise on positive masculinity, GBV and first-hand, in-depth knowledge of malagasy context ...



...unveiling additional challenges... from the security forces perspective



- Partial awareness of the GBV legal framework and architecture (local child protection network and GBV platforms)
- Members of the security forces in the area had never been trained on GBV
- Resistance of traditional leaders

- Psycho-social support needs for GBV responders
- Lack of infrastructures and human resources in other services of the referral system
- Limited population awareness of existing services and lack of extensive information campaigns



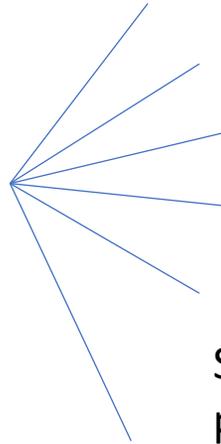
... and from the local leaders perspective...

- Pockets of resistance from community members to reporting and referral : chiefs of village are exposed to risks if required to witness on GBV/SEA cases in front of authorities – and there are no protection measures that can be adopted locally to prevent retaliation
- Expenditures incurred by local authorities to assist survivors referral need to cover for displacement (fuel) of security forces and health centers provisions.
- Role of the local wise in influencing decisions being instrumental for the succes in GBV reporting and referral
- Local authorities are generally unaware of the legislative framework on GBV



...how we did it...

1. Looking at men's role in GBV prevention and risk mitigation



Gatekeepers of social norms

Potential perpetrators

Community influencers/leaders

Family members of potential survivors

Security forces / service providers

Peers and potential champions of change

2. Involving and addressing different groups of the affected population



3. Including displaced groups



4. Ensuring gender balanced sessions in terms of facilitation and audience



Peer-to-peer talks



Trainings



Community theater



Life skills / Youth engagement



Information on reporting and referral services

...what we achieved ...

Women, girls, men and boys were more aware of different forms of gender based violence, where to report them and where to find assistance

AND

Security forces became acquainted with GBV case management, survivor based approach, the referral system and the legislative and legal framework on GBV

AND

Local and traditional leaders were sensitized on GBV and its consequences, informed on the legislative/legal framework and mobilized for GBV prevention

AND

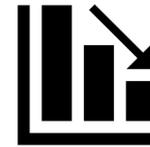
Men and boys were informed, mobilized (challenged?) to a new form of non violent masculinity, promoted within the community, not stigmatized by peers, not unfamiliar to local leaders and collectively accepted (stepping stone for embraced?)



Acceptance of GBV



Impunity for perpetrators



Stigmatization for survivors



Association violence – manhood



Quality of service for reporting of GBV



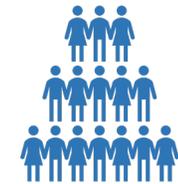
Population awareness on options and rights



Synergy between local powers and security forces against GBV

...and what will/should come next...

- Enhancing inter-agency and inter-organization collaboration on GBV, PSEA and +M
- Establishing local vulnerability charts and mapping during risk preparedness and response
- Designing and sharing image boxes for low literacy groups
- Exploiting radios for spreading the message on behaviour and social norm change
- Working with different existing platforms with an important men presence (religious leaders, traditional leaders, scouts...)
- Engaging the private sector to invest at scale on trainings and awareness raising on positive masculinity and GBV prevention



unicef 
for every child

Thank you.

unicef 