



COMMITMENT EIGHT

NATIONAL SOLIDARITY

We will continue to forge a strong, unified national identity that honors the multitude of cultures and traditions of all the people of Madagascar and promotes participation and partnership. Our people must be proud of who they are, stand with their heads held high, display confidence in the face of the many challenges facing us, and take full and shared responsibility for guiding the nation into the future.

CHALLENGE 1 > CELEBRATE CULTURAL DIVERSITY, UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT

Current Reality

Madagascar is a country with enormous cultural diversity. Due to the multiple origins of its population and the diversity of the climatic zones, the country benefits from a large number of cultural inheritances: traditions, music, dance, literature, architecture, costumes, craft industry, habits. However, many forms of our culture are in danger due to the lack of care and support.

Goals

1. Worthy heritage and cultural traditions will be honored and safeguarded.
2. Cultural practices which contradict national values, hinder development and impede the promotion of national solidarity will be steadily abandoned.
3. The cultural life of the people in all its diverse manifestation will be supported, provided it does not harm others or the environment.
4. The arts and new cultural expressions will be actively encouraged.

Strategies

1. Draw up an inventory of the sites and practices of cultural inheritances, preserve them and develop them;
2. Preserve Malagasy culture, traditions, history and local dialects.
3. Create cultural institutions that promote culture and the arts at national, regional and local levels.
4. Organize multicultural events that encourage dialogue, sharing of culture and build pride.

PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	PROJECT LEADER
1. Create and improve public cultural centers including reading centers and libraries	Minister responsible for Culture
2. Identify, collect, preserve, develop and promote cultural inheritance	Minister responsible for Culture
3. Professionalize artists	Minister responsible for Culture
4. Create forums for cultural dialogue	Minister responsible for Culture
5. Create a national award in the field of music, dance, fine arts and literature	Minister responsible for Culture

INDICATORS

INDICATORS	2005	2012
National Culture Survey	To be developed	To be developed
Number of national cultural inheritances / assets safeguarded	3	20
Number of national artistic award	To be established	To be established



CHALLENGE 2 >

BUILD SOCIAL TRUST AND PROMOTE CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Current Reality

Due to many years of colonialism and socialism, Malagasy people were not actively involved in community building, civic participation and public problem solving. Since 2005, that has changed with the creation of 22 regions and the decentralization of government services. There already exists a free and independent media with more than 10 national newspapers, but more work needs to be done to build the network of social trust and confidence between the people and their authorities – elected officials and government administrators.

Goals

1. There will be a high level of citizen participation and interest in their community and nation.
2. Civil society will be well coordinated and actively participate in all aspects of social, cultural and political affairs.
3. The media will play a more prominent role in encouraging debate and holding public offices to account.

Strategies

1. Promote citizen participation to ensure a responsive and accountable public service and to reduce abuses.
2. Increase coordination and harmonization of civil society organizations and activities.
3. Regularly survey the needs of people and respond.
4. Mobilize religious organizations to increase their contribution to community development and social cohesion.
5. Further develop a responsible, independent and professional media that constructively contributes to social, economic and political progress.

PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	PROJECT LEADER
1. Develop the civic education of citizens and the Civic Charter	Prime Minister's Office
2. Generate forums for sharing information, engaging in dialogue and contributing to the formulation of public policy	National Leadership Institute
3. Develop a system for civil and community service by high school and university students	Minister responsible for Education
4. Develop mechanisms for citizen training and participation	National Leadership Institute
5. Provide leadership training for District Chiefs, Mayors and Civil Society to better engage their communities in public problem solving	National Leadership Institute
6. Design and implement media development programs	Minister responsible for Communications

INDICATORS	2005	2012
National Participation Index	To be developed	To be developed



CHALLENGE 3 > PROMOTE SOLIDARITY AND PRIDE

Current Reality

Malagasy people are united by a common language and an island status. The country has a rich and fascinating history with many periods of great difficulty and suffering but also times of tremendous accomplishment.

Malagasy people are proud of their tribal heritage and also of their nation. However, the diversity of the ethnic groups may sometimes cause misunderstandings and conflict which could impede effective communication and collaboration.

Goals

Malagasy will be even prouder of their country. They will be united and responsible citizens, participating in all aspects of political, economic and social life.

The diversity of groups will be regarded as an asset in the nation's problem solving processes - in government, private sector and the civil society.

Strategies

1. Improve the existing national events to ensure they promote and celebrate national solidarity.
2. Create new events, symbols, and traditions that further enhance the unity of all the peoples of Madagascar.
3. Harness the common values and aspirations that are shared by all Malagasy.
4. Recognise the accomplishments and contributions of those who make Madagascar a better country.

PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

PROJECT LEADER

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| 1. Celebrate the unique aspects of life, arts, culture as well as the achievements of the Malagasy people | Minister responsible for Culture |
| 2. Promote national and international sports and competition e.g. football, rugby, judo | Minister responsible for Culture |
| 3. Organize and ensure key regional and national events promote national values | Minister responsible for Culture |

INDICATORS

2005

2012

National Solidarity Index	To be developed	To be developed
Number of athletes competing at international level	22	324



CHALLENGE 4 > IMPROVE SUPPORT FOR THE VERY POOR AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Current Reality

Since 2005, the situation of the poorest and most vulnerable population has improved with the distribution of rice, with the program “Food for Work” and with the improved access of vulnerable to basic social services. Still, some people have no shelter and have no access to basic social services. People in some parts of the country are not adequately protected against periodic natural disasters like cyclones, drought and floods.

Goals

The minimum level of vital food, shelter and basic needs will be secured for all people.

Strategies

1. Improve Social Protection management.
2. Improve the targeting and the control of the expenditures in social protection and their impact on the well-being of the most vulnerable people.
3. Facilitate the access of vulnerable groups to the basic social services.
4. Ensure the prevention, fast reaction and the lessening of the impact of catastrophes.
5. Guarantee an equitable and adequate legal framework for vulnerable groups.



PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	PROJECT LEADER
1. Adopt and implement an institutional framework for Social Protection	Minister responsible for Social Protection
2. Adopt and implement an institutional framework for disaster management	Minister responsible for Interior
3. Ensure the legal protection of vulnerable groups especially of women and children (fight against human slavery and trafficking, fight against child labor)	Minister responsible for Social Protection
4. Provide birth certificate for every citizen	Minister responsible for Social Protection
5. Give the vulnerable groups access to basic social services	Minister responsible for Social Protection
6. Make the most vulnerable groups integrate economic growth and poverty reduction: strengthen the actions of education and ensure revenues to vulnerable groups	Minister responsible for Social Protection

INDICATORS	2005	2012
United Nations hazard related vulnerability index (deaths per million inhabitants)	4.2	2.1
Percentage of families with more than three poverty indicators	90%	49%
School enrolment rate for the poorest	61%	90%
Health service access to the poorest	38%	53%
Percentage of youth and children without birth certificates	33.2%	0%

CHALLENGE 5 >

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Current Reality

Malagasy women are very active in their family life. Also, outside the family circle they are highly professional and responsible. Yet, women's presence and participation in public life and in the private sector is still limited.

Goals

Participation of women in public problem solving, decision making and management will be substantially increased; and women's rights will be promoted and protected.

Strategies

1. Integrate gender issues in all the policies, plans, and development programs.
2. Support the access of women to economic opportunities.
3. Increase the number of the women occupying higher positions in local, regional and national government levels.
4. Reduce the abuse of women in all its manifestations: physical, sexual and psychological.
5. Eliminate traditional practices that negatively affect women.
6. Honor and cherish women as the bearers of life.
7. Establish government institution to promote women's affairs.

PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Create an institution within the government to promote the participation and advancing of women and the protection of women
2. Promote women's participation in economic, social and civic affairs
3. Intensively recruit more women in the public sector at all levels

PROJECT LEADER

Minister in charge of Women's Affairs
Minister in charge of Women's Affairs
Minister in charge of Public Service

INDICATORS

INDICATORS	2005	2012
Percentage of women in Parliament	12%	30%
Number of women in the Cabinet	1	6
Proportion of women in local, regional and national institutions (index base 100)	100	300
Gender salary gap in the private sector	36%	18%

