



Women Economic Empowerment and Gender Responsive Budgeting

The Government of Madagascar strives to establish sustainable policy and developments which mainstream gender equity and equality across all sectors. Hence efforts to build on such initiatives are backed by the adoption of legal frameworks that focus on gender and development. Madagascar is part of such agreements and policy within the international as well as the regional platform. In line with the rest of the world, Madagascar is a signatory to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Sustainable Development Goals. At continental level, it is party to the AU Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights as well as the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa.

Madagascar

Total Population mid-2018	24,933,000
	49.7% women
	50.3% men
Adult Literacy	72.3% of women
	77.2% of men
Maternal Mortality Rate	353/100,000
Infant Mortality Rate	33.7/1,000
Total Fertility Rate, per woman	4.1
Annual GDP (2018)	US\$13.904 billion
GDP Annual Growth Rate (2018)	5.3%

Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women

Women with account at financial institution or mobile money	16.3%
Mandatory paid maternity leave	98 days
Proportion of:	
Parliamentarians who are Women	19.2%



Pertaining to the SADC region, Madagascar has also signed and over the years, implemented the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. This is evident through the outline of the Madagascar socio-economic blueprint, the National Development Plan (PND) 2015-2019 to guide development. This plan is premised on inclusive growth for sustainable development and acknowledges that women have been left behind in most development processes in the country (SGDM, 2018).

Productive Resources and Property

Access to productive resources and property in Madagascar is mostly limited to men despite the various legislative instruments set in place to bring balance to ownership of resources. Due to customary laws, women are side-lined and most societies in Madagascar are dominated by patriarchy hence it becomes difficult for women to break barriers hindering them from accessing productive resources that can help empower their positions in society.

In constitutional, marital, property and inheritance law, as well as in land law, the rights of women are explicitly defined and stated to be equal to those of men, yet observation shows that, in practice, these laws are not really applied and women do not have equal status with regard to land and property rights. Women either do not inherit land at all or receive only a small portion from their parents when they get married. Land is not given to women as their property but for use only. Parents may provide land for daughters who are single mothers. Widows have access to their husband's land through their children's inheritance if they stay in their husband's village, if a widow returns to her home village, she may or may not receive land for cultivation from her parents or brothers. Divorced women do not have access to their husband's land even if formally married. However, if a divorced woman goes back to her native village, she may obtain a piece of land from her parents or brothers.

Customary practices are changing and adapting to new economic and social realities in Madagascar, this can be seen by an increase in the number of women owning land, at times more women than men are owning land in different areas.

Agriculture

Farming, fishing, and forestry form the backbone of Madagascar's economy, accounting for 26 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) (GSMA, 2015). These stand as the major contributors of agro-based productivity in the nation. For Madagascar, as in other countries across Africa, securing access to and control over land is a key issue of economic development, poverty reduction and household and national food security. Within the Malagasy population 80 percent live in rural areas, implying that their primary source of income and means of survival is agriculture.

According to the Madagascar Economic Outlook 2016, approximately 50-90 percent of total household income comes from agriculture depending on the regions and year. Agriculture is often affected by natural disasters and low funding particularly for smallholder farmers.

Regarding women, 72 percent of them work in the agricultural sector, working primarily towards subsistence (FAO, 2016). Women cultivate close to half the area of land that men cultivate yet ownership is low due to being disavowed by customary law. The closest form of access to agricultural land for women is through the sharecropping system. Despite legal instruments being placed to allow citizens to legally access land, acquiring a land certificate is by no means easy as the acquisition fee can be up to MGA 60,000 (US\$350), which is more than the annual wage of many farmers. Hence with women focusing their profits mostly towards family upkeep and other household expenses there is little left for purchasing of certificates as well as land taxes (Enviro-Reach, 2015). With women being at the epicentre of agricultural subsistence in Madagascar, there is need for policy review and resource allocations targeting the work that women do in the agriculture sector.



Mining

Mining is a key economic mainstay for the nation of Madagascar. The contribution of the mining sector to the country's GDP was estimated to be at 2.12 percent in 2013, increasing to 4.6 percent by 2016. Artisanal and small-scale mining operations (ASM) employ over 500,000 people across the country and concentrate mainly on gold, precious and semi-precious stones (EITI, 2017). Women face different economic challenges as a result of the lack of access to, use of and control over resourceful land and other productive resources, licences, finance, and geological data. In many cases, traditional beliefs prevent women from accessing finances which can contribute to their inability to invest in mining equipment and technology necessary for a successful business. At policy level, the existing discrimination against women often puts them at a lower order in policy decisions affecting them.

Due to the traditionally influenced legal constraints to owning or inheriting land and mineral rights, many women end up operating while unregistered. This increases their vulnerability in the current global efforts to promote formalisation, which, in itself, is characterized by arduous requirements many women are unable to fulfill. Strong cultural norms have influenced legal approaches to gender issues resulting in subtle and, at times, open legal discriminations against women. Thus, legal and cultural discriminations, domestic and childcare responsibilities, and lack of education have relegated women to passive participation, making it difficult for women to openly air their concerns and ideas in front of men. This lower status has meant women have little to no power or influence in actively participating in key decision-making processes. As a result, women's views, needs, ideas and potential to contribute to solutions are overlooked. Women's groups which could represent women's interests in most cases get off to a good start, only to struggle due to lack of organisational structure and institutional capacity, competition for power, weak leadership and corruption. In addition, low remuneration in the ASM sector in Madagascar makes women end up making a living through engaging in sex work with male miners in order to increase their earnings and support their families. Hence such activities increase the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and infections among the women.

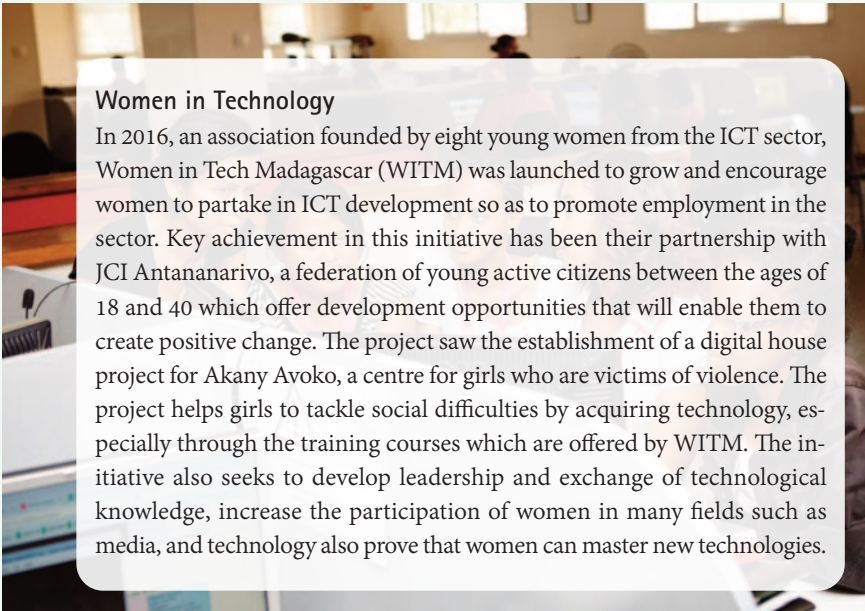
Credit

Policy and law development on micro credit has failed to materialise into the expansion of micro credit institutions in Madagascar with no record of an established women centred bank, hence the frequency of access to credit for women in the island nation remains relatively low.

The majority of women are employed in the informal sector and offers for loans and access to commercial loans is difficult due to the perceived inability to pay off credit facilities offered to them. The majority fall victim to informal moneylenders who impose excessive interest rates on loan returns. However, growth and improvement can be noted due to private sector players who have since chipped in with micro finance facilities to help ease out the level of credit accessibility for women. Institutions such as the Premiere Agence de Microfinance (PAMF) have been working towards funding and training farmers in rural areas mostly targeting women. With over 30 branches which are spread across rural Madagascar and a robust mobile financial service scheme, PAMF has managed to change the means of access to credit for both women and men. The ownership of mobile money accounts has risen from 11 to 54 per 1,000 adults between 2013 and 2016. More so, the volume of lending in the microfinance sector has increased with total credit at 1.9 percent of GDP in 2016, having more than doubled since 2011 (Madagascar Economic Update, 2018).

ICT

In as much as Madagascar experienced a slow economic recovery since the resolution of political challenges from 2009 to 2013, notable progress has been made to develop ICT infrastructure and programmes to cater for all citizens in the nation. To help grow this sector, the government through the Ministry of Telecommunications has managed to mainstream the use of ICT in the education sector. With women being the largest group enrolling in primary and secondary education within Madagascar, their exposure to Information Communication Technology begins from grassroots level allowing them integration into multiple sectors basing on their knowledge and expertise in ICT de-



Women in Technology

In 2016, an association founded by eight young women from the ICT sector, Women in Tech Madagascar (WITM) was launched to grow and encourage women to partake in ICT development so as to promote employment in the sector. Key achievement in this initiative has been their partnership with JCI Antananarivo, a federation of young active citizens between the ages of 18 and 40 which offer development opportunities that will enable them to create positive change. The project saw the establishment of a digital house project for Akany Avoko, a centre for girls who are victims of violence. The project helps girls to tackle social difficulties by acquiring technology, especially through the training courses which are offered by WITM. The initiative also seeks to develop leadership and exchange of technological knowledge, increase the participation of women in many fields such as media, and technology also prove that women can master new technologies.

velopment. The private sector has also made efforts to promote the empowerment of women in ICT knowledge and skills by introducing initiatives such as Women in Tech Madagascar (WITM) which have in return bridged the gender gap in this field and allowed women to become open to new technologies.

Employment and Benefits

The employment sector in Madagascar is mostly informal with most women constituting the greater majority of it, particularly in the agricultural sector. The labour force participation gap stands at 5 percent with men being highly employed at 90 percent as compared to their female counterparts who stand at 85 percent in both the formal and informal sectors. In addition, the estimated earned income between women and men in Madagascar remains unequal as women still earn less than men. Women earn an average high of USD\$ 818 monthly in the formal sector whilst men earn 1.4 percent higher placing them at an average of US\$1,140 per month (MEM, 2011).

Informal Sector Distribution of Employment by Gender (%) 2012

Gender	Public Administration	Formal Enterprise Outside	Informal Enterprise Agriculture	Agricultural Informal	Associative Enterprises
Men	3.4	4.2	14.6	77.1	0.8
Women	1.6	3.5	21.4	73.1	0.4
Total	2.5	3.8	17.9	75.2	0.6

Source: INSTAT 2014

However, for those in the formal sector, the employment field is covered with constitutionally backed benefits entitled to both male and female employees. The length of maternity leave covers 14 weeks with 100 percent salary. The same benefit applies also for the clause on paternity leave benefits, Men are generally allowed up to 10 working days of paid leave for family matters which include paternity leave.

Multiple Roles of Women

Women have multiple roles, often several at the same time, thus multitasking. Besides the biological child-bearing role, society places an overwhelming responsibility of housekeeping, child-rearing and childcare on the shoulders of women (Zibani and Shuma, 2017). Women have notably the following overlapping roles:

- Reproductive role that include domestic work, child-caring and rearing, adult care, caring for the sick, looking for and collecting water and fuel;
- Productive role in which women work for income and subsistence in the formal and informal sector; and,
- Community Work which includes activities primarily undertaken at community level.

Men engage in productive work in the formal and informal sectors, and rarely take part in household chores, although that is changing with the younger generation of parents who want to be involved in raising their children. Madagascar does not have any specific policies that recognise the multiple roles of women neither is there evidence of government conducting any time use surveys. However, a survey by INSTAT show that in Madagascar, women spend 30 minutes a day collecting water while men devote less time compared to women for the same task.

Gender Responsive Budgeting

Madagascar does not yet have a gender budget allocation, but the gender ministerial department in collaboration with technical and financial partners have offered financial support in carrying out the activities related to gender that are included in the annual work plan with budget forecasts. In order to raise capacities for Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB), Madagascar is currently revitalizing the gender focal points of each ministerial department. To complement this, 0.3 percent of the national budget has been allocated to the national gender machinery since 2017-2018.

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