**Rary Aro Madagascar : A fight against human rights violations**

Launched in January 2021, the project "RaryAroMada - Support for the protection of young human rights defenders and peace-builders, a guarantee of social peace and community cohesion", implemented by UNESCO and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) under the aegis of the Office of the Resident Coordinator for Madagascar, began its second phase of implementation with the establishment of nine regional human rights observatories in March 2022.

The objective of the Rary Aro Mada project is to improve monitoring of human rights violations in the selected regions and provide accurate data and information on the situation of human rights in Madagascar. It also aims to create a network of you human rights defenders to actively engage on human rights and peacebuilding.

These regional human rights observatories cover the nine project intervention zones, namely Antananarivo, Antsiranana (Diego), Fianarantsoa, Mahajanga, Morondava, Sambava, Toamasina, Taolagnaro (Fort-Dauphin) and Toliara and are under the responsibility of the National Platform of Civil Society Organizations of Madagascar (PNFOSCM). Their main missions are to :

- Document cases of human rights violations by conducting investigations and fact-finding missions

- Monitor human rights by collecting and analyzing information and transmitting it to the Peace Committee.

- Conducting advocacy campaigns for the protection and promotion of human rights in the region.

These observatories will contribute to a better follow-up of cases of human rights violations in Madagascar (monitoring and reporting) and to strengthen the role of youth as human rights defenders. Thus, among the young people trained in September 2021 by the human rights team in Madagascar, 9 young people, including 5 women, have been designated as Observatory Coordinators at the regional level.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT TAUGHTS**

 *“A country that disregards human rights cannot evolve. The youth has to be motivated to act. We are willing to work side by side with the Regional Human Observatory to make sure the Human Rights are not violated in any way or anywhere.”* **– Head of Regional Department of Youth and Sport of Morondava (Region of Menabe)**

*“Here in the Penitentiary Administration, the human Rights are very much respected. The Regional Human Rights Observatory exists to help us lead the prison with transparency at all times. We consider it as our direct ally. Together we make sure human rights are no longer violated.”* **– Head of the Penitenciary Administration of Fianarantsoa (Region of Haute-Matsiatra)**

*“The Police Departments duty is to protect the people and their possessions. Of course we also do make sure all the citizens can enjoy their rights fully. This means we look forward working with the Regional Human Rights Observatory because we have the same goal, which is to make sure peace remains in local level. We very much encourage the Observatory to achieve their very important missions and we are here to give our entire devotion and help as much as needed.”* **– Defense and Security Forces of Menabe**