



MADAGASCAR COUNTRY ACTION PLAN  
FOR THE WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The USAID Women's Legal Rights Initiative (WLR) is a task order under the Women in Development (WID) Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC), which was signed by Chemonics International, Inc. on September 30, 2002. The WLR project is designed to contribute to the Office of Women in Development (EGAT/WID) Strategic Objective 3 (SO3) goals and intermediate results – *Women's Legal Rights Increasingly Protected* – and strengthen USAID Mission strategic objectives, particularly with regard to democracy and governance.

The WLR project team, in coordination with the USAID Africa Regional Bureau, USAID/Madagascar, and EGAT/WID, selected Madagascar as a focus country for WLR activities in the Africa region. The WLR team will work closely with USAID/Madagascar's Democracy and Governance Team to identify constraints and gaps in women's legal rights programming and design activities to address them.

To begin designing activities for USAID/Madagascar to implement with WLR, a two-week assessment and analysis trip to Madagascar was conducted from October 12 to October 25, 2003. It included visits to the capital city, Antananarivo, and the second largest city, Fianarantsoa. The team met with individuals, USAID/Madagascar staff, other international donors, government officials, and representatives of civil society. WLR submitted a draft analysis and assessment report along with a draft action plan to the USAID/Madagascar in February 2004. Follow up visits to Madagascar were undertaken by WLR in April and July 2004 to consult with the Mission's Democracy and Governance Team and NGOs and hire and train local staff. In August 2004, WLR submitted and USAID approved an interim action plan for activities from August 1 to October 31, 2004. The implementation of the interim action plan allowed WLR and USAID to allocate limited resources to more closely mirror what women have identified as priority areas affecting their participation in the economic, political, and social aspects of life and set a sound basis upon which to design activities for this action plan.

**Overview.** Women in Madagascar and those working on women's issues in Madagascar have many challenges to contend with in their struggle to establish a viable role for women in various sectors. Among these, some, such as corruption and political stability, are being addressed; the government's efforts after the recent political crisis offer many opportunities to improve the situation for the Malagasy population, particularly women and girls. There have also been improvements recently in the process for changing the legal framework to support women's legal rights, including work being undertaken at the Ministry of Population and the Ministry of Justice. However, deficiencies remain. Compliance with international standards and norms for women's rights is poor and judicial capacity to enforce women's legal rights is weak. In addition, civil society generally lacks institutional and organizational capacities and demands for women's rights protection is a low priority when the whole country is experiencing hardships. To address these obstacles, WLR will endeavor to identify the main issues raised by Malagasy women as constraints to their full participation in civic life, while focusing on raising public awareness, building civil society capacity, and promoting sustainable judicial education.

**Public Awareness.** Public awareness activities will address issues pertinent to women's legal rights and women's access to justice, including the priority issues on gender equality. WLR will

research documentation in Malagasy and use multiple channels of distribution, as well as help develop media contents that educate on women's rights. Law infractions such as discrimination and violence will be addressed. The results of the first pilot survey aimed to determine the attitudes, practices and perceptions of women and men relatively to family law and violence against women, and analysis under the perspective of women's participation in good governance and democracy will be published and could form a basis for further research and advocacy. All the activities will use information and communication technologies (ICTs), rural radio, literacy training, and brochures. Regard for the rural/urban divide as well as for linguistic and cultural differences will be considered in the locations selected. WLR will support the USAID/Madagascar MISONGA Good Governance Project by providing technical assistance and content to staff and selected CSO platforms. The main message conveyed will be the need to incorporate the awareness that protecting women's rights will improve the whole society and bring a more equitable development.

***Civil Society Capacity Building.*** A critical issue often raised in Madagascar was the lack of capacity within civil society stemming from a range of historical reasons. All activities undertaken by WLR on women's legal rights will build capacity and train civil society to improve the ability of civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for women's legal rights; address the pervasive issues of discrimination against women; and achieve greater sustainability in terms of capacity, membership, accountability, and fiscal resources. To consolidate resources, the CSOs focused on will be those working on issues of women's legal rights, human rights, and rural women. Legal training alone is not sufficient, it is imperative that citizens are aware of their rights and have the tools necessary to demand that the courts enforce their rights. Empowerment is a critical issue that must be instilled in the community and remain long after the WLR program is completed. Empowerment to pursue one's legal rights includes a well-informed citizenry with the resources and ability to pursue their rights.

***Judicial Education.*** When women decide to assert their rights, they need assistance to access the legal system and to take their cases to and through the courts, if necessary. Unless the people in the justice sector understand that women have rights and what those rights are, women will continue to be blocked and treated unfairly. WLR Madagascar, through implementing partners, will promote women's legal rights through the training of justice sector professionals on women's legal rights in general and the practical application of the family law in particular.

WLR's activities will strengthen the women's rights aspects of USAID/Madagascar's existing programs, and build relationships and gender awareness across sectors. In this way, WLR Madagascar's activities will contribute to EGAT/WID's goals and intermediate results, and strengthen USAID/Madagascar's strategic objectives. The WLR team will work with NGOs, government, international donors, and USAID/Madagascar to avoid duplication of effort and materials, and build on what has already been done successfully.

## SECTION I

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### Introduction

#### **A. Women's Legal Rights Initiative (WLR) – Who We Are**

The Women's Legal Rights Initiative (WLR) was developed to strengthen and promote women's legal rights worldwide and enhance women's participation in economic, social, and political life. WLR works to end restrictions on women's human rights, women's lack of access to and control of resources and knowledge, and women's limited participation in political decision-making.

WLR works with USAID and country stakeholders in Guatemala, Albania, Madagascar, Rwanda, Benin, and the southern Africa region including South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Swaziland.

#### **B. WLR – How We Work**

The Women's Legal Rights Initiative team is headquartered in Washington, DC. WLR sets up local offices in focus countries to implement action plans to empower and improve the status of women. The USAID Office of Women in Development (EGAT/WID) selected Chemonics to work with USAID missions to advance the legal, civil, property, and human rights of women through WLR by working on any one or all of the following:

- Facilitating the development of legislation supportive of women's legal rights by providing legal drafting assistance and training on international human rights standards.
- Enhancing justice sector capacity to interpret and enforce legislation that protects women's legal rights through high-impact assistance to justice sector officials in areas such as violence against women and property rights.
- Strengthening civil society organizations' ability to advocate for women's legal rights by introducing innovative and sustainable advocacy training projects and approaches to the provision of legal assistance.
- Increasing public awareness of women's legal rights through legal literacy campaigns that inform women and the public about women's legal rights and mechanisms for redress.

To determine what specific activities to support, WLR collaborates with EGAT/WID, USAID Regional Bureaus, and selected Missions worldwide. We seek guidance from and coordinate with local civil society organizations, community leaders, government ministries and agencies, international donors, and the private sector, to develop and inform our strategies to address the subordination of women.

## SECTION II

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### Key Assessment and Analysis Findings

The WLR team worked closely with USAID/Madagascar to identify potential partners and organize activities for the initial assessment and analysis visit, as well as project start-up and design phases. Members of the democracy and governance team at the Mission provided guidance and assistance in identifying on-going programs, constraints to women's legal rights, gaps in knowledge and practice, and the current social, political, and economic context. Consultations were conducted with government agencies, civil society groups, international organizations, and other stakeholders to identify priority issues, potential partners, and existing activities.

Recommendations from the visits and consultations are incorporated into this action plan to address obstacles to women's empowerment, meet the needs of USAID/Madagascar, and comply with the scope of work of the WLR task order. The Madagascar action plan targets issues to be addressed using local and international resources to achieve the determined goals and objectives that strengthen women's legal rights, reinforce USAID/Madagascar's objectives, and dovetail with ongoing activities in Madagascar.

#### **A. Women's Legal Rights Status and Constraints in Madagascar**

The Women's Legal Rights Initiative researched four areas to determine the legal status of women in Madagascar: the legislative framework (whether there are laws in place to protect and promote women's rights); judicial capacity (whether the justice sector has the knowledge, authority, and independence to enforce women's rights); civil society (whether there are civil society organizations present, and if they have the freedom and resources to protect and promote women's rights); and public awareness (whether the general public knows that women have legal rights, what they are, and that the government has the obligation to enforce them).

##### **A1. Legislative Framework**

Unlike many other countries, Madagascar in its constitution states that: "All nationals are equal in right; enjoy the same fundamental liberty; are protected by the same laws with no discrimination based on sex." This is a solid legal base upon which to build a legislative framework promoting gender equality. Since early 2000, laws reforms repelling articles flagrantly discriminatory in legal marriages have occurred. A new section pertaining to sexual assault and sexual harassment was added to the penal code. The country has also ratified a number of international human rights instruments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), that consequently have legal status equal to national law.

However, implementation of the laws is severely lacking and gaps remain in the legal framework. There are inconsistencies in the family law, customary and traditional law conflict, and compliance to international standards and norms is not complete. For example, gender discrimination still exists in the Malagasy Family Code, where specific and different obligations

for women and men are defined. Customary law and practices continue to be a barrier to women's equality in marriage, support, maintenance, divorce, succession, polygamy, and guardianship of children. And even where the legal framework is positive, the issue remains that the citizens of Madagascar are not aware of their rights, especially the women. This key finding leads to the central focus of the WLR program on public awareness of women's legal rights.

## **A2. Justice Sector**

There are massive structural problems within the justice sector in Madagascar; they stem from a severe lack of resources, poverty, and historically have been compromised by corruption. There are not enough personnel, let alone trained personnel, or resources in the judicial system. There is only one forensic laboratory for the entire country; some police stations have neither paper nor typewriters. There is no centralized information system, and since most of the rural areas do not have access to telecommunications, information is difficult to access. Addressing corruption should allow for reallocation of resources to the judicial system, which is responsible for enforcing the laws that affect women.

There are only 35 tribunals in the whole country and they are difficult if not impossible for rural women to reach. With illiteracy rates that are estimated as high as 80 percent among women in the rural areas, even those who could access a court or tribunal would undoubtedly be unable to understand or participate in the proceedings in a meaningful way. Legal advice centers, operating with volunteer staff at NGOs, have been established in Fianarantsoa and Antananarivo, but operate with little resources. Initially established by the Ministry of Population, which oversees the implementation of the National Plan of Action on Gender and Development (PANAGED), the lack of resources and dependency on volunteers have not allowed for sustainability to be created.

## **A3. Civil Society**

Civil society organizations (CSOs) working on issues of importance to women have limited capacity to advocate for women's legal rights. In fact, civil society has only recently emerged in Madagascar. Many of the civil society organizations, or NGOs, are comprised of one charismatic leader without a membership base or any constituency. This has changed significantly in the past two years, but the sector itself is extremely weak and does not yet play a major role in holding the government accountable or participating in policy reform or enhancement of citizenship. The WLR team met with many civil society organizations, and found that most rights projects work in the population centers of Madagascar because of the difficulty and expense of travel and communication to the south and north of the country. This leaves the population in the south and north without the benefits that CSOs offer. Funding for these organizations is typically provided by the international donor community. Given the poor economic situation in Madagascar, it is difficult for CSOs to find local financial support. Most depend on volunteers. All civil society organizations complained that the lack of local resources made it hard for them to successfully complete their missions and tended to make their programs donor-driven and unsustainable. Capacity building for the sector, for NGOs, CSOs, and CBOs, as well as individuals who are attempting to participate in Madagascar as advocates and activists, is a critical requirement of developing democratic governance. USAID/Madagascar has recognized this in its extensive work to build up the civil society sector. WLR works with CSOs

that are addressing issues of women's legal rights by building their capacity in a number of ways: exposure to the advocacy work of international NGOs to expand their understanding of civil society; sharing of best practices and lessons learned; and assisting them in taking local issues and concerns into institutional changes at the national government level through legislative and policy reform.

WLR selected the following CSOs as partners: (1) Association of Women Journalists, (2) SOS aux Victimes du Non Droit, (3) SALT/Maky Madagascar, (4) ARIF-Tana Ouest, (5) Collective des Associations des Femmes de Fianarantsoa (CAFF), and (6) L'Association feminine MAZAVA. Another CSO in Fort Duaphin will be selected in collaboration with the MISONGA program. All the WLR partner CSOs were recommended to MISONGA for possible inclusion in their sub-grant program.

#### **A4. Public Awareness**

The population at large is unaware of their rights under the law, let alone recent amendments. There is significant lack of infrastructure throughout Madagascar, particularly with regard to information and communication technologies (ICTs). National radio and television coverage reaches 60 percent of the country. Different newspapers are printed daily but are read by a small number, mostly in urban areas. Literacy is a huge issue and illiteracy among rural women ranges from 50 to 80 percent. . Outside major cities or towns, Malagasy is the language spoken, so materials produced or broadcast should be in that language. The primary means of public awareness in Madagascar appears to be local rural radio, and remains one of the best forms of information dissemination for people in rural areas and therefore to get information to rural women. This resource will be capitalized on for public awareness activities.

#### **B. USAID/Madagascar Programs and Partners**

In the five-year Country Strategy of Madagascar, FY 2003 – FY 2008, a new democracy and governance strategic objective (SO) has been created: *Improving Governance in Targeted Areas*. The key Mission program is called MISONGA - Managing Information and Strengthening Organizations for Networked Governance Approaches - and implemented by PACT and CRS. It has three components that USAID/Madagascar believes correspond to the needs of an effective democracy and governance program:

- *Strengthen the capacity of civil society*: Increase the ability of civil society (including media) to act as an effective advocate while also strengthening the institutional capacity and sustainability of targeted CSOs and associations.
- *Increase the flow of information*: Improve the exchange of information between CSOs, citizens, and government using both traditional and modern means of communication.
- *Increase government responsiveness to citizen demands*: Enhance the capacity of government to respond to citizen concerns in an accountable and transparent manner.

This new formulated to lend integral support to the Mission's other strategic objectives in strengthening civil society, disseminating information, and working to make local government

more responsive in priority zones. In an effort to move beyond rhetoric about “synergies” and “cross-cutting” issues, the new strategy incorporates common democracy results indicators for all the new SOs. As well, the two cross-cutting themes throughout this SO are “anti-corruption” and “improving the application of Gender lenses to development and advocacy issues”. A portion of funding from each of the Mission’s other SOs will be channeled into this good governance program. Results achieved under this SO will be shared across the Mission portfolio.

USAID/Madagascar believes that this new democracy and governance project is an excellent vehicle for addressing some of the most pressing needs related to women’s legal rights. Subsequently, WLR is fully integrated into MISONGA as a means to strengthen the goals of both the Mission and the WLR project. WLR activities will directly contribute to the Mission’s democracy and governance SO, particularly intermediate result (IR) 1 – “Deeper and Stronger Civil Society.” Coordination with USAID/Madagascar and MISONGA is addressed in detail in Section IV.

## SECTION III

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### General Approach to Action Plan Implementation

#### A. The WLR Approach

WLR Madagascar began this project by gathering as much information as possible about Madagascar: the culture, the people, the legal system, the status of women, and the most prevalent obstacles to women's legal rights. We then conducted an assessment visit for two weeks, meeting dozens of people from all segments of society, to determine what should be done to most effectively promote women's rights in the Madagascar context. The WLR team worked closely with USAID/Madagascar to identify partners and activities that will strengthen and promote women's legal rights. WLR paid follow-up visits to Madagascar in April and July 2004 to get feedback on a suggested action plan, to propose working relationships with several NGOs, and to get further guidance on the priorities of local people working on women's issues, and on whether proposed activities had a real chance of success, that is, of making an impact on women's lives. Input received during the follow-up visits is incorporated into this action plan.

WLR did not come into Madagascar with a predetermined plan, or with any agenda aside from the determination to provide assistance and support for the best ways to promote women's rights and empowerment we could find. The activities set out in this action plan are responsive to the requests of individual women, women's associations, and government agencies working on women's issues. WLR is also responding to the needs of USAID/Madagascar, and has incorporated their suggestions into this action plan. WLR intends to reinforce the Mission's relevant strategic objectives and complement mission activities. The action plan provides activities that will achieve the stated objectives, provide the timeframes for achieving those objectives, the responsible parties, and the benchmarks that will be illustrative of the expected results.

#### B. What WLR Madagascar Will Do – Activities with Local Partners

This action plan will guide the WLR Madagascar through September 30, 2005. After much discussion and consultation, we determined activities to promote women's rights that we think will, taken together, have the greatest impact for the amount of support we can provide. These activities fall into three categories: public awareness campaigns and activities, civil society capacity building, and judicial education.

**Public Awareness:** The public in Madagascar is generally not aware that women have rights. Communities have followed customary law for generations, which allows or tolerates domestic violence, prohibiting women from inheriting property, and a general lack of self-determination for women. One focus of our project activities will be to educate the public about women's legal rights through public awareness campaigns.

**Civil Society Capacity Building:** A critical issue often raised in Madagascar was the lack of capacity within civil society stemming from a range of historical reasons. All activities undertaken by WLR on women's legal rights will build capacity and train civil society to

improve the ability of civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for women's legal rights; address the pervasive issues discrimination and the still silent issue of violence against women; and achieve greater sustainability in terms of capacity, membership, accountability, and fiscal resources. To consolidate resources, the CSOs focused on will be those working on issues of women's legal rights, human rights, and rural women. While activities, such as legal training on issues of women's legal rights, will provide the legal community the necessary skills to effectively handle these cases, it is imperative that citizens are aware of their rights and have the tools necessary to demand that the courts enforce their rights. Empowerment is a critical issue that must be instilled in the community and remain long after the WLR program is completed. Empowerment to pursue one's legal rights includes a number of components addressed in the WLR program including appropriate legislation that complies with human rights standards, well-trained justice sector professionals (including judges and lawyers,), and a well-informed citizenry with the resources and ability to pursue their rights.

**Judicial Education:** When women decide to assert their rights, they need assistance to access the legal system and to take their cases to and through the courts, if necessary. Unless the people in the justice sector understand that women have rights and what those rights are, women will continue to be blocked and treated unfairly. WLR Madagascar, through the School of Magistrates, will promote women's legal rights by developing a sustainable women's legal rights curriculum and training judges and other justice sector professionals on women's legal rights in general and the practical application of the family law in particular. Women's access to justice will be increased through building positive jurisprudence by rendering decisions in women's favor.

### C. How WLR Will Meet USAID's Strategic Objectives

The Women's Legal Rights project is designed to contribute to EGAT/WID's SO3 - Women's Legal Rights Increasingly Protected. The project will be reported under the following WLR intermediate results:

- **IR 1 – “Improved Legislation to Protect Women’s Legal Rights.”** Laws that are not enforced and ignorance of the law weaken the legislative framework and respect for rule of law. WLR Madagascar public awareness and educational activities will result in a more informed public and judiciary about women's rights in general, and particularly the Family Code. This in turn will compel the government to be more accountable for women's and men's equality in future legislation, *strengthening the legislative framework* in Madagascar. As more women are able to access opportunities as a result of changes in the law, more women will become involved in the political process. While the participation of women is not synonymous with equity, it is a prerequisite to equality and a representative legislature.
- **IR 2 – “Enhance Justice Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Legislation that Protects Women’s Rights.”** WLR Madagascar will support continuing legal education courses to enhance and *strengthen the role of judges* to make informed decisions on women's rights issues as required by the Family Code. Training for justice sector professionals will increase the chances that cases involving women's rights will be decided fairly. WLR-supported legal training will provide greater access to legal

assistance and knowledge of the law to women, men, and communities through trained paralegals and intermediate-level actors in the legal system, which will also strengthen and professionalize the judicial sector.

- **IR 3 – “Strengthened Civil Society Organizations Ability to Advocate for Women’s Legal Rights.”** WLR Madagascar outreach activities will *increase civil society capacity* to engage in advocacy by building cross-sectoral programmatic partnerships and networks designed to increase awareness of women’s rights. WLR Madagascar will work with local groups to encourage them to share information, best practices, successful strategies, and their networks, for the widest possible dissemination of newly revised materials. As women begin to exercise their right to participate in areas of the society previously closed to them, more women will join and/or start civil society organizations, and eventually the entire society, will become more responsive to women’s concerns.
- **IR 4 – “Increased Public Awareness of Women’s Legal Rights.”** WLR Madagascar will support *public awareness* campaigns on women’s legal rights. Radio spots, brochures with simplified legal text in Malagasy, and publicity around judicial education and CSO capacity building will raise public awareness and begin to create a sense of entitlement to equal rights that will be the impetus for change. All those who receive training will also contribute to an increase in public awareness of women’s legal rights issues. In addition, this increased awareness will foster increased capacity for the CSOs to carry out their advocacy activities.

As presented above in Section II, WLR activities will also significantly contribute USAID/Madagascar’s democracy and governance SO. Specifically, WLR’s IR 3 and IR 4 directly complement the Mission’s IR 1 – “Deeper and Stronger Civil Society.” Results achieved and reported under WLR’s intermediate results will therefore add to the Missions overall goals. In documenting impact on the ground, WLR will submit quarterly progress reports to USAID/Madagascar with significant results and success stories.

## SECTION IV

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### Detailed Approach to Country Implementation

#### A. Key WLR Madagascar Action Plan Components

WLR Madagascar focus areas, with key activities, their components, implementing partners and targets (expected results) are detailed below. As WLR Madagascar participated in the MISONGA work planning process through October 2004, part of its activities will be integrated into the work plan for the period November 2004 through September 2005. WLR will fulfill this role by providing training and technical assistance wherever feasible and necessary, not only on issues of women's legal rights, but in a gender mainstreaming role as well. Reinforcing capacities of CSOs advocating for women's legal rights and judicial officers implementing women's legal rights will help achieve the stated goals of good governance and democracy. For full descriptions of partner organizations, see Collaborating Partners in Section V.

#### A1. Component One: Public Awareness

*Overview and strategy.* The overall approach for WLR Madagascar is to focus on issues of women's legal rights through the work with the key implementing partners, including MISONGA, women's rights CSOs, and the government through the School of Magistrates and the Ministry of Population's PANAGED program. Different areas of women's legal rights will be addressed in public awareness campaigns and trainings as needed.

Although USAID and WLR identified weaknesses in family law, as described below, Madagascar has a fairly solid overall legal regime when it comes to many of the issues that affect women's rights. It is the implementation that is the issue. Making women aware of their rights presumes that they can then realize their rights, a claim which is more than likely to be false. However, facilitating the connection between the public's awareness of women's rights and its nexus to democracy, good governance and equity; the awareness of the gaps between women's lived experience and the legal and political institutions that can improve the situation for women; the ability of CSOs to advocate for women's rights; and the resources required to do so for the government and for advocates is the overall strategy for the creation of a comprehensive public awareness program.

The first message to be disseminated is that women's rights, like economic rights and labor rights are human rights, and must be protected for equitable development; the second one is that women must be enabled to participate in social life as full citizens in order for there to be good governance and democracy. The laws should be used fully to protect those rights, especially for disadvantaged members of the society.

Violence against women was presumed to be as much of an obstacle to women's full participation in society as everywhere else in the world. WLR conducted a pilot survey with Focus Development, a Malagasy social science research firm, in selected areas of intervention of MISONGA to estimate the incidence and magnitude of the problem and to guide WLR and

USAID in allocating resources to this controversial and contested issue. It will also contribute to advocacy and will provide content to the public awareness program.

The study addressed the following three major themes: the Malagasy family law; the sense and practice of citizenship among women; and the issue of violence against women. Knowledge and application of applicable family law was the cross-cutting theme. The study was conducted using separate focus groups with women, community decision makers, and men.

The survey findings are summarized as follows:

- **On women's status and rights in the family:** The gap between law and practice is wide; customs, traditions, and religion influence practices more than laws. A large majority of interviewees cited complex, time consuming, and costly judicial procedures for circumventing or ignoring the judicial system. Gender inequality persists, as the "head of the family" rule, attributed by law to men in the married couple, results in unbalanced power between husband and wife, which has a spill over effect in all areas of women's life. Denial of equal rights in the process of acquiring assets and resources was also noted with limited opportunities for ownership and management by women. Concerns over the lack of legal protection for non-legally married or unmarried women and regulations regarding domestic violence were raised as well.
- **On violence against women:** All types of violence were reported, but perceived as part of a woman's daily life and not discussed in public. Psychological violence and economic oppression were more readily talked about. The prevalence of violence varies and occurrences seem to depend on the level of education and the woman's status: marital, economic, and social. The main cause cited was the unchallenged authority of men to command and punish, resulting in women's inaction. The interviewees believed that the negative effects of violence on children were more important than the impact of violence on their mothers. Knowledge about legal recourses was rare with the main source of information being radio broadcasts and peers. The support network most reported was the immediate community, *fokontany*, or the church.
- **On women's women participation as citizens:** Voting and attending local meetings were reported as major civic duties lacking participation by women. Financial matters, such as paying taxes, were not a concern for the majority of interviewees. Perceptions that public life is solely for men remain with women limited to a supporting role. Increasing economic opportunities for women was identified as a means to engender society. Political office was rarely sought by women for various reasons; including being forbidden by husbands or male relatives and a real fear of being overburden by additional tasks. Limited examples of women involved in politics and economic life were cited, where success was most often attributed to self-confidence, social standing, and economic status.

Consistent with the findings above, USAID/Madagascar and WLR identified family law as an important area of law to further analyze, as family law has a direct impact on the daily lives of women. The Mission with support from WLR conducted a legal analysis of Malagasy family law to determine its compliance with Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The results of this comparative study of current Malagasy family law and international standards of women's equality will be used as a substantive basis for a public awareness campaign and legislative reform. The resources of the MISONGA project in terms of access to rural radio, information technology, information centers, training, dissemination of materials, will be made fully available to WLR to inform with content regarding family law and women's legal rights. This will provide an excellent mechanism to leverage limited resources.

**Key activities.** Based on the two studies above, key activities related to public awareness will be as follows:

- Disseminate results of women's legal rights survey through press conferences, roundtables, printed material, partner NGOs and CSO's, trainings, rural radio, and during the 16 Days of Action on Violence Against Women Campaign. Survey results and information will be made available as an education tool
- The report on family law will be distributed in French and English, as well as being popularized in Malagasy for wide rural distribution
- A WLR Madagascar brochure will be prepared for wide distribution in Malagasy that will outline the WLR program, the findings of the Focus survey, the results of the family law report, and the activities that WLR will undertake
- Content on women's legal rights issues for dissemination on rural radio will be designed through activities carried out by partner CSOs, for example, a seminar series with Maky Madagascar/SALT in Fianarantsoa, a MISONGA focus region, a public awareness program conducted by ARIF, and work on women's rights and legal resources with CAFF. The materials developed with partner organizations will act as a foundation for other program areas, with the caveat that there are significant cultural differences between the highland and coastal regions and communities

**Resources and partners.** There are many resources available to WLR to carry out public awareness activities in Madagascar. WLR's national coordinator is one of the global Malagasy experts on women's rights and gender violence. She is the author of the first national report on violence against women entitled *Rapport sur la Violence a L'egard des Femmes et des Fillettes a Madagascar* for the government of Madagascar and the United Nations. The USAID/Madagascar Democracy and Governance Office Chief herself has experience on the issue of women's legal rights from her work in Cambodia as well as within EGAT/WID. It was her leadership on the issue of the need for data collection that helped WLR to design the survey research methodology in conjunction with Focus Development. Focus Development is considered to be one of the foremost social science research agencies in Madagascar, and has carried out many of the studies in Madagascar on sexual practices, women in prison, child labor.

The MISONGA project will also prove to be a key resource for the WLR Madagascar program. Access to technology, media and resources of MISONGA will allow the reach of the WLR program to greatly expand its ability to conduct public awareness campaigns, as well as develop

public awareness materials for inclusion in the MISONGA program. Other civil society organizations working on issues of women's rights and human rights will be part of the broader coalition, such as the Association of Women Journalists, DRV, CAFED, CAFF, Maky Madagascar, MAZAVA, SOS, and ARIF. Local resource centers, such as CEDII, will also provide resources for the WLR public awareness campaign on women's legal rights and gender violence, if identified as a priority issue.

**Component targets.** We expect the following targets to be achieved:

- Women's legal rights survey report published and disseminated
- Radio spots on women's legal rights developed
- Family law brochures in simplified language published and disseminated
- A comprehensive women's legal rights public awareness campaign designed

## **A2. Component Two: Civil Society Capacity Building**

**Overview and strategy.** In Madagascar, civil society has been extremely underdeveloped. Since the change of government in 2002 and the move to democracy, civil society organizations are beginning to grapple with how to represent the interests of their constituencies, who they represent, and how to begin to transform what have been "organizations" run by single charismatic individuals into democratic institutions themselves. How to engage in advocacy activities is also a key issue now faced by civil society in Madagascar.

As presented in Section II, the MISONGA - Managing Information and Strengthening Organizations for Networked Governance Approaches - project is the five year USAID/Madagascar program on good governance. The goal of the program is to work with civil society and all levels of government to promote decentralization, transparency and efficiency. The three objectives of the program are:

1. Deepen and Strengthen Civil Society
2. Increasing Information Flows
3. Increasing Government Responsiveness

The MISONGA project works to ensure that civil society capacity is developed for a wide range of organizations. WLR will benefit from making contact with organizations that will be supported by MISONGA and MISONGA will benefit from the expertise and partnership of organizations working with WLR. WLR and MISONGA will work in partnership to build the capacity of organizations that are focusing their resources on women's rights through advocacy and ICT training and increase the capacity of CSOs that are engaged in all areas of community development to understand the need for gender equality within their organizations and issues.

**Key activities.** The key activities for the civil society capacity building initiatives are as follows:

- Provide capacity building training for women, civil society leaders, local government officials, NGOs and CSOs in the four WLR/MISONGA regions through local “Women’s Legal Rights Institutes” which will be held over the program year in each of the four MISONGA/WLR priority regions of Tamatave, Fort Dauphin, Fianarantsoa, and Antananatovo. These intensive workshops will focus on public awareness, capacity of NGOs to develop and design local content for rural radio, and engage in public dialogue and policy discussions on women’s legal rights. The “Institute” ‘will be a workshop that will be a concentrated training course that will be several days in length.
- Integrate all activities with the MISONGA program including the baseline survey

**Resources and partners.** There are multiple organizations that WLR will work with throughout this action plan period, many of whom are already listed in Section V. WLR will work with MISONGA on capacity building so that CSOs that focus on women’s legal rights will develop the institutional, organizational and fiscal resources to increase their service delivery and advocacy activities on issues that affect women’s full participation in public life so that they may participate fully as equal citizens. Many of the activities that the MISONGA program will undertake in the area of capacity building: advocacy, rural radio content, organizational management, strengthening CSO networks, working with rural organizations, expanding citizen participation in governance, and developing skills and access to information and communication technologies are all areas where WLR will add value and content. By housing WLR within Pact’s MISONGA office, WLR will ensure that resources are leveraged.

**Component Targets.** We expect the following targets to be achieved:

- MISONGA programs on advocacy, civil society capacity building and ICT training integrated with WLR activities
- Capacity building for public awareness activities at four regional “Women’s Legal Rights Institutes” designed and implemented

### **A3. Component Three: Judicial Education**

**Overview and Strategy.** The WLR Madagascar program focuses mostly on issues of public awareness, civil society capacity building, and advocacy for law reform. But women’s legal rights, their enforcement and the implementation of legislation requires an educated, informed and aware judiciary to ensure that their decisions conform to the principles of equality and women’s rights. The world over this has meant that judges and judicial personnel must be trained in international human rights law, principles of equality, and an understanding of the social context within which cases are brought before them. As Canada’s pre-eminent Supreme Court Justice Clare l’Heureux Dube stated: “There is no doubt that equality is a component of justice, just as independence and impartiality are. All three require that judges take into account the social context of facts and law in order to render justice since people are contextual as much as law is ...without social context, there is no justice.”

To enhance justice sector capacity to interpret and enforce women's legal right in Madagascar, WLR will support the participation of a representative from the School of Magistrates, Judge Razafindrakoto, to attend the Second International Conference on the Training of the Judiciary in Ottawa, Canada in November 2004. The Conference will include more than 250 judicial experts and representatives of judicial training centers from over 80 countries worldwide. The agenda includes sessions on designing judicial education curriculum and methods of educating newly-appointed judges, and integrating substantive law, skills development and social context. There will be opportunities for her to expand her knowledge of training resources available, and most of all, develop a peer network that will provide her, and the Madagascar School of Magistrates, with the resources to continue to refine and develop a Malagasy jurisprudence and body of trained judges and judicial personnel to implement women's legal rights. WLR will work with the School of Magistrates to draft the curriculum and training materials on women's legal rights to incorporate into the School's overall training program. Consulting with the CSOs that WLR works with will ensure that there is accountability in the curriculum and the issues that most affect women will be addressed in the institutional program. This activity will build on a similar curriculum developed at the School of Magistrates on the protection of children's rights.

**Key Activities.** The key activities to support the School of Magistrates are:

- Participation of a representative from the School of Magistrates at the international judicial training conference in Canada
- A roundtable to provide information to the press, media, donors, judicial training professionals, other legal professionals, and CSOs on the lessons learned and best practices from the international judicial training conference
- Development of a women's legal rights curriculum with the School of Magistrates
- Implementation of a training program for judges at the School of Magistrates on women's legal rights using WLR training materials designed as part of curriculum development

**Resources and partners.** Participation of a representative of the School of Magistrates at the international judicial training conference and support of the director of the School will assist in ensuring that there will be institutional follow-up after the training in Canada. WLR will develop the women's legal rights curriculum for the School of Magistrates, under the leadership of the WLR national coordinator, along with WLR experts in judicial training. This may be a separate course on women's legal rights or integrated into existing courses material such as family law.

**Component Targets.** We expect the following targets to be achieved:

- Roundtable on results of international judicial training conference held
- Women's legal rights curriculum for judges and judicial personnel at the School of Magistrates designed

- Training program on women's legal rights conducted

## **B. Coordination with Other USAID Projects and International Donors**

In addition to coordinating all activities with MISONGA, WLR will implement the action plan in coordination other U.S. government-funded programs and partners with possible links to women's legal rights in Madagascar. These include:

***SanteNet.*** The USAID SanteNet Project, which is being implemented by Chemonics, is a country wide program that is focusing on issues of national health. SanteNet will collaborate with WLR in several ways: the focus of the 16 Days of Action on Violence Against Women for 2004 is on women and health; as well, SanteNet has a small grants program that some of the WLR partner NGOs will be eligible to apply for in 2005.

***Peace Corps.*** More than 380 Peace Corps volunteers have worked in Madagascar since 1993. In Madagascar, most of the volunteers are female, and many of them work with sex trade workers or on HIV/AIDS issues. None have been trained on women's legal rights, or in fact in any other aspect of the legal framework of the country. Providing such training for current and future volunteers would add value to the WLR program.

WLR will also coordinate with other international donors active in Madagascar. The ***United Nations Development Program (UNDP)*** has been working closely with the Ministry of Population on the National Plan on Gender and Development. As gender is one of the key goals in the Millennium Development Goals, UNDP is ensuring that all its programs, especially literacy, HIV/AIDS, and civil society capacity building will mainstream gender. UNDP published a book in Malagasy on women's rights in the household after research made it clear that women's ability to participate in development was hindered by the fact that the majority of their time was spent in domestic chores. This book *MIRALENTA* has been partly distributed and referenced by the Ministry of Population, and the WLR will work with such existing publications to ensure that all resources are utilized, and not duplicated.

The ***Frederich Ebert Stiftung Foundation*** will allocate approximately \$4,000,000 over the next five years for its democracy and governance program. Opportunities are likely for complementary programming to build upon the consultation and conference on VAW the FES Foundation was instrumental in funding. The conference report, *Non! To Violence*, was produced by the FES Foundation in association with local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working on ending VAW.

***United Nations Fund on Population Activities (UNFPA)***. UNFPA in Madagascar is concerned with reproductive health and population and development activities. Its most successful educational program is *Education a la Vie Familiale (EVF)* with considerable impact on women and family in areas it was implemented. It has a close working relationship with both the Ministry of Population of Madagascar and many NGOs. There is no right for women more fundamental than reproduction, and the basic premise of development is linked to women's role in reproduction and production. With their work focused so much on women and family, they

would be a natural partner to assist in distributing WLR information on the family law reform activities.

## SECTION V

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### Project Administration

#### A. WLR Country Selection Process for Madagascar

In collaboration with EGAT/WID, the WLR team met in April 2003, with WLR Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO) Ed Lijewski and four representatives chosen from the USAID Africa Regional Bureau, to select countries that could benefit from the Women's Legal Rights Initiative. Meeting participants sent an Africa-wide cable to missions, introducing WLR and asking for responses. WLR developed objective criteria for the country selection process and to measure the potential impact a project could have in a given country. These criteria are:

1. The applicability of the mission's strategic plan to a WLR component
2. The existence of significant local/indigenous grassroots women's or legal reform organizations, especially among current USAID partners
3. Women's rights work already underway, allowing WLR initiatives to build on and strengthen existing activities
4. The potential for substantive (breadth/depth) impact, given the existing political and economic environment
5. The ability to implement activities given the severity and breadth of systemic problems in the legal and judicial systems and customary law regimes
6. The potential for replication in neighboring countries, e.g., in Francophone or Anglophone regions, allowing best practices to be used productively

The WLR team assessed the 11 responses, and in consultation with the Africa Regional Bureau and relevant country desk officers, selected USAID/Madagascar. Madagascar meets all the criteria. USAID/Madagascar emphasizes a cross-sectoral gender strategy that involves all of the mission's Strategic Objective Teams. Madagascar has a number of active civil society organizations in the area of women's legal rights, which have been active in promoting women's rights. WLR will be able to build on the accomplishments already achieved by the government and NGOs, and show significant impact by supporting proven successes. The government of Madagascar and USAID/Madagascar provide an enabling environment for a WLR project. Successful Madagascar-based programs will have great potential for replication in Francophone Africa.

#### B. Collaborating Partners, Leveraging of Resources, and Plans for Sustainability

In order to leverage resources and achieve sustainability WLR will ensure coordination with a wide variety of partners and stakeholders, existing or newly formed. This coordination will ensure that all of our program activities are complementary. The WLR team will collaborate also with a number of local organizations, whose involvement at all stages of the process is necessary to ensure sustainability of the efforts. These include:

***Association of Women Journalists.*** The Association of Women Journalists is 10 years old and has 40 members who work—in radio, television, and newspapers. The representatives are

knowledgeable about how regional cultural differences affect women and seemed to have a good understanding of how to conduct research for media presentation. Their current concerns are education for women, child prostitution, and civil rights. They bring women's issues to public attention and also address them in round tables with local authorities to find solutions. WLR will work with them to develop public awareness of women's rights issues.

***SOS aux Victimes du Non Droit.*** SOS is a well established human rights organization that has achieved some significant goals. SOS will be a key player in advancing women's legal rights issues as it has been chosen by the Ministry of Population to be one of its main partners in its legal counseling pilot program. It has just opened up a legal clinic center in Antananarivo where all, particular women can seek legal advice for free. The Director, Mme. Mathilde Rabary, was one of the participants with WLR who attended the Civicus World Assembly in Botswana with WLR.

***Association of Women Jurists.*** This association, a member of the DRV network, has about 100 members and the overall goal of improving women's knowledge of their legal rights. Their method for disseminating information is to print new legal texts in French in pamphlets; they plan to translate these into Malagasy but apparently lack funding at the moment. DRV will use their pamphlets in rural areas, but the methodology has yet to be decided. The association lacks the time to expand information dissemination to other media, such as radio and television. The association appears to have been inactive, but several members stressed that it would be easy to reactivate it. However, they definitely seem to lack the IEC expertise to work effectively with rural women.

***Akany Avoko.*** Akany Avoko (Safe Haven) is a local women's detention center that has been operating since 1963. It has extensive experience with the Ministry of Justice as a result of its collaborative effort to provide detained women with a healthy learning environment while they await trial. In its 2003 report, Analysis of the Penitentiary System in Madagascar, Catholic Relief Services states that 67 percent of the prison population is still awaiting trial. Many prisoners have exceeded their maximum potential sentence in preventive detention.

***CEDII.*** The Centre d'Echanges de Documentation et d'Information Inter-Institutionnelles (CEDII) in Fianarantsoa is sponsored by PACT. It is a training institute, library, documentation center, telecentre, meeting place, and community center, providing a multiplicity of services to the community. Capacity building for CSOs and NGOs is one of these. CEDII provides information on HIV/AIDS, human rights, environmental issues, capacity building, and other issues of concern to the public. The Center is a perfect partner for the WLR project in the area of public awareness, working in conjunction with the MISONGA Project.

***SALT/Maky Madagascar.*** In Fianarantsoa, an NGO called SALT has been established in partnership with the Faculty of Law and the Lutheran church community to address women's rights. A group of women lawyers have produced two booklets on women's legal rights, one in French and one in Malagasy. These have been distributed locally but not nationally. SALT has created puppet productions and plays to raise public awareness in rural areas, along with dramas, posters and radio broadcasting on VAW. One of the lawyers that helped write the texts, who was affiliated with the Law Faculty at the University in Fianarantsoa, is now a judge of the High

Court with connections to women jurists, lawyers, and government. SALT has used the booklets to hold seminars, talk to women about their rights, and train women's groups in rural areas on how to use the booklets to train other women in a "Know Your Rights" campaign. The Director, Noro Razafindrabe, is one of the participants who attended the Civicus World Assembly with the WLR. **Maky Madagascar** is an NGO affiliated with SALT.

**ARIF-Tanà Ouest**, Association Régionale Interprofessionnelle de la région ouest d'Antananarivo, is a regional organization that focuses on the rights of rural women. They organized 2 conferences respectively in August and November 2003 to see how to improve the statute of women in rural areas. They reported on the recommendations coming out from the conferences and the solutions proposed were the necessity to network organizations trying to promote women and facilitate frank collaboration between the government of Madagascar and CSOs; the increased participation of women in electoral activities; and the development of programs to sensitize rural women on their rights. ARIF's Director, Violette Manjatosoa Ranomenjanahary from ARIF also attended the Civicus World Assembly with WLR.

**Collectif des Associations des femmes de Fianarantsoa (CAFF)**. CAFF is a collective of Women's Human Rights Associations gathering about twenty-three associations in Fianarantsoa. CAFF worked on various activities dealing with women's issues in Fianarantsoa in terms of training on human rights, women's legal rights, and raising awareness on women's issues. Dr. Diana Razafindrakaso from CAFF attended the Civicus World Assembly with the WLR.

**L'Association féminine MAZAVA** is a women's association based in Toamasina whose main objective is to improve physical well being of women at several level, physical, social, economical and cultural as well as protecting the environment. Their activities are conducted in populous sections of their urban area and focus on health, education and rural development, using door to door or small informal groups to educate the members of their community.

**FEMM Association of Women Mayors** is a newly formed association of elected women mayors of Madagascar. Since they represent a small fraction of the elected government officials, its main objective is to regroup their efforts to uniform their actions in their respective communes and become models of good governance. The members covers a wide area, some communes are hard to reach. MISONGA project has identified this association to support as it will encompass all its intermedatiate results and WLR will offer assistance as appropriate.

### **C. Staff and Management**

The WLR Madagascar national coordinator will be responsible for the coordination of the national WLR program in Madagascar, and will be based in the capital city. The WLR program is housed within the Pact offices, to fully integrate its work with the MISONGA program. The Coordinator will be assisted by the Administrative Assistant who will be based within the WLR office within Pact. Core team members will travel to Madagascar twice a year to check the status of the projects, provide necessary technical assistance, and programmatic troubleshooting as needed. There will be regular communication on a daily basis via e-mail, phone or fax between the WLR national coordinator and the office in Washington, DC. Several local short-term

consultants, in coordination with partner organizations, will identify local experts and organizations necessary to achieve the goals of the project.

#### **D. Guiding Principles**

The WLR project focuses on strengthening and promoting women's legal rights worldwide. We are guided by four key principles:

***Support coordination and leverage resources.*** WLR will build on successful existing projects and initiatives that promote women's rights. Cooperation between and among other donors, government ministries, international organizations, and CSOs are essential to building partnerships, accessing and establishing networks, and leveraging resources to ensure sustainability.

***Provide high impact, results-oriented technical assistance that promotes participation and transparency.*** WLR-designed and/or -supported interventions are linked to well-defined opportunities based on the total in-country picture, involve local partners, are responsive to local needs, and provide the opportunity for the introduction of new approaches and methodologies to women's legal rights.

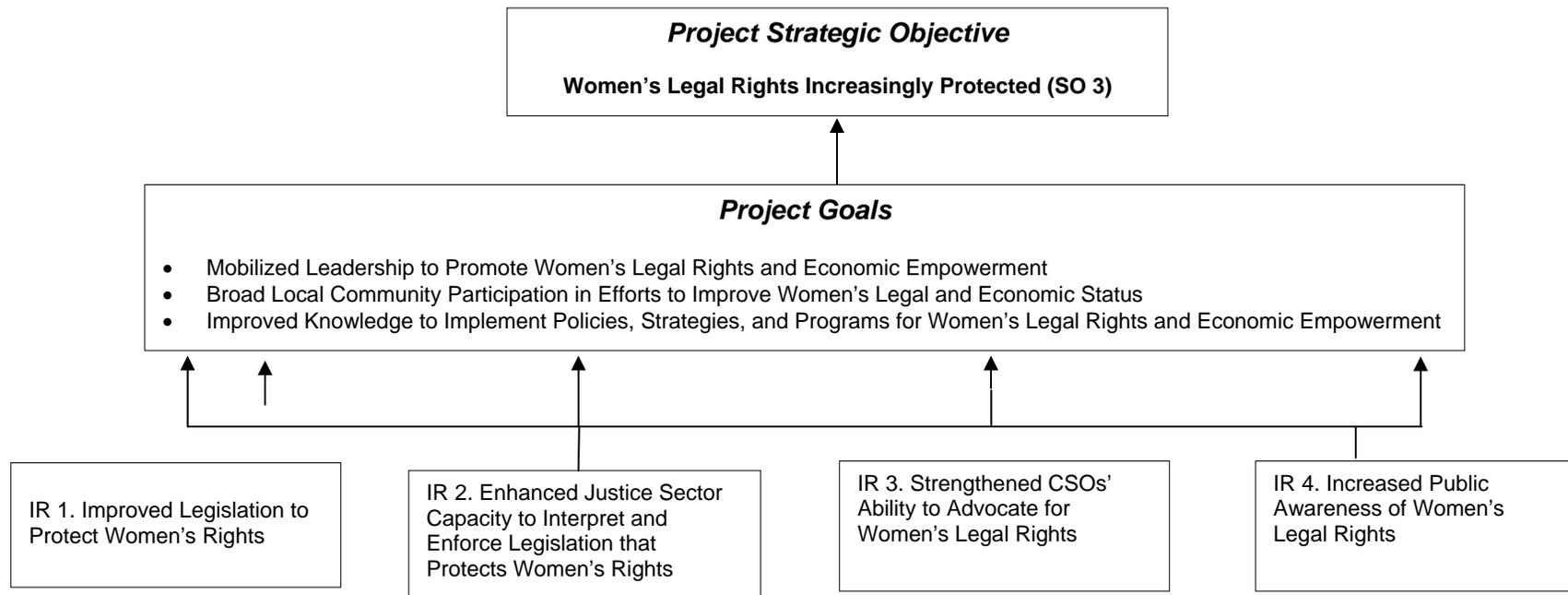
***Foster sustainability through strengthening capacity of local partners.*** WLR is a short-term effort, and as such, it is imperative that project activities strengthen local institutional and partner capacity. WLR projects identify and foster capacity, leadership and ownership in each focus country. Building partnerships and networks is imperative to ensure future funding and other resources, and WLR strives for sustainability for its projects.

***Stimulate discussion and action on women's legal rights and economic empowerment.*** WLR helps stimulate discussion with Missions, project partners, and host-country institutions on the value and critical linkages of strengthened women's legal rights. WLR will emphasize that economic empowerment is key for women to be able to pursue and achieve their legal rights. WLR will demonstrate the importance of women's legal rights and act as a resource for USAID, local and international partners and the donor community.

## E. Results Framework

The chart below presents the results framework, listing overall WLR project goals and IRs.

### Women's Legal Rights Initiative Results Framework



## F. Strategic Objectives and Indicators

Below is a list of indicators for each of the four IRs which will be used to report progress for the project.

### Performance Monitoring Plan

#### Women's Legal Rights Initiative

##### ► SO 1: Women's Legal Rights Increasingly Protected

##### ► IR 1: Improved Legislation to Protect Women's Legal Rights

- Indicator 01: Number of changes to national legislation to comply with international human rights standards and commitments
- Indicator 02: Number of legislative actions taken to embody women's rights in law (new, repealed, reformed bills introduced, debated, committee meetings held, working groups conducted, testimony given, voted on)
- Indicator 03: Number of executive branch policy directives in support of women's legal rights

##### ► IR 2: Enhanced Justice Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Women's Legal Rights

- Indicator 01: Percent of violations of women's legal rights (i.e., cases of violence against women, sexual assault, trafficking) reported to police or prosecutors that are presented in court.
- Indicator 02: Number of legal professionals (i.e., judges, prosecutors, and lawyers) trained in women's legal rights and international human rights law
- Indicator 03: Number of judicial decisions that cite international human rights law
- Indicator 04: Number of mechanisms available for improving access to legal redress (women's bar associations, specialized courts, i.e., family courts, special police cells, units or stations, women in the justice system)
- Indicator 05: Number of legal professionals using project sponsored publications on women's legal rights

##### ► IR 3: Strengthened CSOs Ability to Advocate for Women's Legal Rights

- Indicator 01: Number of CSO representatives trained on women's legal rights and international human rights to advocate for women's legal rights (working in women's human rights research, advocacy, training or legal assistance)
- Indicator 02: Number of CSOs with multiple funding sources
- Indicator 03: Number of CSOs submitting reports to national, regional and international human rights monitoring bodies
- Indicator 04: Number of legislative and/or policy actions taken as a result of civic advocacy (i.e., actions in favor of women's legal rights in cases of rape, violence, land)

##### ► IR 4: Increased Public Awareness of Women's Legal Rights

- Indicator 01: Number of media stories that reference women's legal rights
- Indicator 02: Number of publications or campaigns developed to educate women and the public on women's legal rights

The tables below detail each of the activities for the three components, the relevant IRs, the applicable indicator, and the expected results of that activity:

### Component One: Public Awareness

Activity	Relevant IRs	Indicators	Expected Results
Dissemination of women's legal rights survey results and family law report to wide public audiences	IR 4: Increased Public Awareness of Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 01: Number of media stories that reference women's legal rights  Indicator 02: Number of publications or campaigns developed to educate women and the public on women's legal rights	Wider Malagasy awareness of women's legal rights issues will assist the CSOs to advocate for law reform and implementation of existing laws. Will enable CSOs to reinforce PANAGED recommendations by lobbying government for law reform through broader understanding of gaps and constraints in legal system.
Participation in 16 Days of Action on Violence Against Women Campaign	IR 4: Increased Public Awareness of Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 01: Number of media stories that reference women's legal rights  Indicator 02: Number of publications or campaigns developed to educate women and the public on women's legal rights	Wider Malagasy awareness of women's legal rights issues will assist the CSOs to advocate for law reform and implementation of existing laws. Will provide public awareness on issues of violence against women as one of the many issues affecting women for the first time in Madagascar on this scale with documented evidence.
Develop public awareness materials to be disseminated by information technology, especially rural radio, in collaboration with the MISONGA program. This content will be designed using WLR materials, research, survey results, in collaboration with partner NGOs and CSOs.	IR 4. Increased Public Awareness of Women's Legal Rights  IR 3. Strengthened CSOs Ability to Advocate for Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 02: Number of publications or campaigns developed to educate women and the public about women's legal rights.	Rural radio is the most cost effective method to reach the majority of rural Malagasy women to educate them about their rights. CSOs develop their capacity to produce content on women's rights, provide content to rural radio and MISONGA program, which will result in broad dissemination of information.  Use of information technology by CSOs will expand their reach nationally, educate their members and the public on women's legal rights information, and increase their civic participation on good governance issues
Various activities undertaken by partner NGOs and CSOs in local regions on women's legal rights issues such as rural radio, seminars, pamphlets, etc.	IR 4. Increased Public Awareness of Women's Legal Rights  IR 3. Strengthened CSOs Ability to Advocate for Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 02: Number of publications or campaigns developed to educate women and the public about women's legal rights.  Indicator 01: Number of CSO representatives trained on women's legal rights and international human rights to advocate for women's legal rights s (working in women's human rights research, advocacy, training or legal assistance)	Two main outcomes will result from these activities: their will be greater education and public awareness about women's legal rights issues, and the organizations doing the work will increase their capacity to train, educate and do advocacy work.  More information and awareness will therefore result in more advocacy for law reform of women's legal rights legislation.
Development of Women's participation in Good Governance and	IR 3. Strengthened CSOs Ability to Advocate for Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 4: Number of legislative and/or policy actions taken as a result of civic advocacy	Sustainability for the WLR program will be built by increasing the skills of the local staff, as well as CSOs, to do trainings in advocacy and citizen participation will

Citizenship			have an impact long after the conclusion of USAID funding.
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### Component Two: Civil Society Capacity Building

Activity	Relevant IRs	Indicators	Expected Results
Capacity building with MISONGA CSOs and NGOs, including WLR partner NGOs in MISONGA sub-grant process	IR 3. Strengthened CSOs Ability to Advocate for Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 01: Percent of CSOs utilizing training on women's legal rights and international human rights to advocate for women's legal rights	Increased capacity of CSOs to plan campaigns, engage in public awareness, and influence government policy on women's legal rights issues and strong partnership with WLR will also result in long-term influence.
Women's Legal Rights Institutes – intensive capacity building workshop for CSOs and NGOs on public awareness and advocacy on women's legal rights. . Will be regional in scope, involving at least 35 participants from each of the 4 regions. Participants will return to their communities with a commitment to mentor other organizations and individuals in their regions, and be better equipped to use WLR materials for public awareness, advocacy and citizen participation.	IR 3. Strengthened CSOs Ability to Advocate for Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 01: Percent of CSOs utilizing training on women's legal rights and international human rights to advocate for women's legal rights  Indicator 4: Number of legislative and/or policy actions taken as a result of civic advocacy	The intensive institutes will result in thorough training for women's NGOs and civil society leaders. Improved understanding of advocacy and use of ICTs will build the capacity of the civil society sector. Participants will train members of their communities during the follow up phase on their return, resulting in increased capacity in rural and regional areas to engage in advocacy on women's legal rights. Ongoing monitoring will ensure greater local impact.  Understanding strategic advocacy for women's legal rights and having a long-term plan to implement will ensure that the women's rights CSOs are better able to work with government to create policy change

### Component Three: Judicial Education and Training

Activity	Relevant IRs	Indicators	Expected Results
A Malagasy Judge, Harisma Razafindrakoto, will attend an international judicial training conference.	IR 2: Enhanced Justice Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 02: Number of legal professionals trained in women's legal rights and international human rights law.	The Judge will use her training from this conference to communicate social context training to colleagues. The paper that the Judge presented at the conference will be disseminated through roundtables and press conferences, resulting in increased public awareness of how the Malagasy laws, while seemingly non-discriminatory on the books, have an adverse disproportionate impact on women.
WLR will host a consultative roundtable and a press conference on the lessons learned from the conference.	IR 4. Increased Public Awareness of Women's Legal Rights	Indicator 01: Number of media stories that reference women's legal rights.	Consulting with CSOs about what they want to be in a judicial training course on women's legal rights and promoting WLR's mission in the media will lead to more accountable judicial training.
Development of Curricula in School of Magistrates in	IR 2: Enhanced Justice Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce	Indicator 02: Number of legal professionals trained in women's legal rights	Better understanding of women's legal rights, how to train judges with social context education, sharing of best

Madagascar on Women's Legal Rights.	Women's Legal Rights	and international human rights law.	practices and lessons learned, will ensure better trained judges in Madagascar. Long term institutional change will result from ongoing curricula in the School of Magistrates.
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