**Activity Report and Future Plan: Women's Shelter in Southern Madagascar**

**The Shelter: A Life-Saving Milestone**

In early 2025, we proudly opened the **first-ever shelter in southern Madagascar** for women and girls who have survived rape, sexual violence, forced child marriage, and other forms of abuse.

Until now, there has been no response: no shelter, no place to escape, and no support system. Public services were limited to daytime complaint reception, no nighttime presence, psychological support, or long-term rehabilitation.

The shelter’s daily operations are led by a **dedicated team of local women**, under the leadership of **Mamy Duata**, co-founder and shelter director. Mamy's personal story as a woman who has faced pain, violence, and survival herself inspires her to help, comfort, and protect others every single day. She leads with courage, empathy, and care, serving as a role model to every woman who enters our shelter.

**The shelter currently provides:**

* **A safe space** for women and girls fleeing life-threatening situations
* **A warm bed, food, clean water, medical care, and emotional support**
* **A temporary home for mothers and their children**
* **A personalized rehabilitation program** aimed at healing and rebuilding

The shelter fills a **critical gap** in Madagascar, where over **30% of girls are married before the age of 18** – often due to poverty, coercion, or rape. Without intervention, these girls lose their childhood, education, and physical safety. Many become mothers at a very young age without any support.

The shelter has already hosted dozens of women and children, including heartbreaking cases:

* An **11-year-old girl** raped by a neighbor
* A **14-year-old orphan** who arrived two weeks after undergoing a C-section following rape

Such complex cases continue to arrive. We may never know how many women we have already saved – and how many more we will save. But each time someone comes, trembling and in tears, we see this shelter is her only line of defense.

These stories are just the tip of the iceberg. The shelter's impact is **immediate and life-saving**.

**Looking Ahead: “Young Women for Young Women”**

We are now launching a **new leadership and empowerment program**, “Young Women for Young Women,” which targets girls aged 15–20.

**The program includes:**

* **Leadership training** to strengthen confidence and voice
* **Education on gender, women’s rights, and civic participation**
* **English, digital literacy, and computer skills**
* **Individual learning paths** based on personal interests
* **Participation in awareness campaigns** about reporting and protection mechanisms

The program is built on **peer learning**, **mutual mentorship**, and **community engagement**. Its graduates will become true changemakers – inspiring others and driving local progress.

**Planned Expansion: Vocational Training and Women's Entrepreneurship Center**

As part of a comprehensive recovery and empowerment approach, we plan to establish a new center for women from the shelter and the surrounding community.

**The center will provide:**

* **Vocational training** in sewing, agriculture, cooking, basic accounting, and more
* **Empowerment workshops** on rights, family planning, communication, and resilience
* **Emotional and legal support** with access to social workers and counselors
* **Business development support**, including mentoring and startup grants
* **Basic education** in literacy, math, and computer use
* **Support for single mothers**, including childcare and parenting support
* **Startup funding and financial coaching** for launching small businesses

The center will become a **hub of hope, opportunity, and long-term change**.

**Strategic Partnerships for Sustainable Impact**

To support program growth and long-term sustainability, we are building partnerships with:

* **International organizations** for resource-sharing, expertise, and donor engagement
* **Local NGOs** to leverage cultural knowledge and logistical capabilities
* **Philanthropic foundations** to provide long-term operational and expansion funding
* **Government agencies** for policy reform and official shelter recognition

These partnerships will allow us to **expand our reach, share best practices, and ensure strong, reliable care and protection systems**.

**How You Can Help**

Your donation helps us:

* Keep the shelter open **24/7**
* Launch the **“Young Women for Young Women”** program
* Establish the **Vocational and Entrepreneurship Center**

Every contribution – **large or small** – builds a future where women and girls in Madagascar are no longer alone in the face of violence and despair.

**Join us – and be part of the change.**