

PASS IT ON! **AND ON, AND ON...**

Issue 4 - 2022

DECIDING TO START A FAMILY (OR NOT)

- A right and responsibility, p.1
- What's in it for us? p.2
- A right protected under the law, p.3

HEALTH IS OUR RIGHT!

YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES, p.6

HEALTH

- A right for all ages, p.4
- Dr. Sata explains the law, p. 5



DECIDING TO START A FAMILY (OR NOT)

A right and responsibility



Do you want to start a family someday?

Mamy: Well, I have thought about it and came to the conclusion that it's not for me.

Thierry: I would love to! I can't wait.

Nivo: Yes, I'd like to, but I need to be in a position where I can provide for one.



When do you think you will be starting this family?

Thierry: If I can, as soon as I am an adult. I'm just waiting to be physically, mentally, and emotionally ready for it.

Nivo: I'll complete my studies first then maybe work for a year or two? By then I should have what it takes to start and provide for a household.

Do you plan to have kids immediately after you start your household or wait a bit?

Thierry: Immediately, of course! That's the whole point of starting a household, why put it off?

Nivo: I think I will wait a year or two. As a new couple starting a household we will need some time to establish our relationship and a good home for our kids, that does not happen overnight. Also, it takes quite a bit of savings to have children and raise them!

HEALTH IS OUR RIGHT!

How many kids would you like to have?

Thierry: Just two - no more for me. Life's tough nowa-days, "seven sons and seven daughters" would be a curse instead of a blessing. I would like a little boy and a little girl that we can care well for.

Nivo: I love a big family so if I am going to have kids, I want lots of them. Maybe five or six? That's why I am studying so hard. Once I get a great job and can provide for all of them, even if I go as far as seven, it should be all right...

PASS IT ON!

EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE:

- if they want to start a family or not.
- if they want to have children or not.

THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO START A FAMILY AND/OR HAVE CHILDREN ALSO HAVE A RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE:

- how many kids they want to have.
- when they want to have them.



What measures do you plan to take to achieve those plans?

Mamy: I will take responsibility and act responsibly. And I will complete my studies so I can be independent and self-sufficient.

Thierry: I will take due care until I officially am ready to start a family. Then I will do what it takes to adequately space the birth of my children. That way, both the kids and their mother will enjoy good health. Life's not easy, you must face it head on. How many years again is enough spacing between births?

Nivo: At least two years, I think. In my case, it will depend on how ready our household is to welcome a new member. Once our relationship is strong and we have financial stability, we will take a break from family planning and have a baby. And then we will go back to family planning and so on...

DECIDING TO START A FAMILY (OR NOT)

What's in it for us?

WHEN EVERY SINGLE PERSON TAKES RESPONSIBILITY for voluntary family planning - i.e. whether they will start a family or not; have children or not, and if so, when and how many - then:

- They can pursue and prolong their education,
- They can secure work that aligns with the goals they have set for themselves,
- They can enjoy every stage of life, i.e., childhood, adolescence, and adulthood,
- They can be a stable pillar of their family if and when they start one, and
- They can ensure a better life now and for generations to come.



PASS IT ON!

ADOLESCENTS NEED A RANGE OF SUPPORTS to remain well, to transition safely into adulthood, and to adopt lifelong healthy behaviors. This includes comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information.

WHEN ADOLESCENTS GO TO THE HEALTH CENTER, they deserve support in decision-making and respectful treatment from a qualified health professional. With access to support and services, they can grow into well-rounded adults.

WHEN INDIVIDUALS ACCESS VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING and improved opportunities in life, the benefits ripple through families and communities, and across society and generations. This contributes to a more prosperous nation where every single person can have a happy life and family.

DECIDING TO START A FAMILY (OR NOT)

A right protected under Law #2017-043



THE DECISION TO START A FAMILY OR NOT, have children or not, and where applicable, their number and timing, is a right protected under the Madagascar law.

Article 3 of Law #2017-043 clearly states that the choice of if, when, and how many children to have is a fundamental right.

This right applies to everyone in Madagascar and cannot be denied to anyone for any reason. Anyone in Madagascar is entitled to exercise this right regardless of their skin color, age, gender, wealth, creed, and ethnicity.



- **It is our right to speak up in the face of challenges.**
- **It is our right to share our ideas for improvement.**
- **It is also our right to ask about the realization of this law!**

Share your knowledge!

PASS IT ON!

HEALTH

A right for all ages



ARTICLE 5.

Independent of their age, every individual has the right to full services: information, education, communication, care, and referral in matters of Reproductive Health and Family Planning.



Dr. Sata explains the law

In your opinion what is the meaning behind Article 5 of Law #2017-043?

Well, it's our current mission at the Ministry of Health to promote this law so that everyone knows their rights in preventing early and unintended pregnancy.

No matter what age a person

is, no matter if they are male or female, they have a right and responsibility to take care of their future. This law ensures young people are supported to live their youthhood in peace.

Even if their parents do not give permission, we will receive and serve young people at the health center. We give them what they ask for – whether its information, services, or care. That is what is the law says and we cannot refuse it.

What has been done to make youth aware of this law?

We have a copy of the law here at the health center so that all clients here will see it.

What responsibilities do you take on at the health center to ensure youth can achieve their rights?

Our job is to educate and advise young people about these accessible services at the health center. They are reassured that no matter what their needs or questions are, the door is always open for them.



BHCII Talata Ampano, Mahatsiatra Ambony

YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES*



*Story based on the results and recommendations of the scientific study "Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youth in Madagascar: Socio-Anthropological Approach" conducted by Médecins du Monde in 2018

HEALTH IS OUR RIGHT!



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Have you ever worried or hesitated over going to the doctor, like Sarindra? Why?

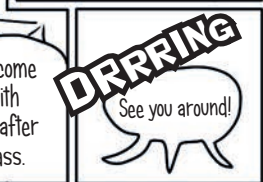
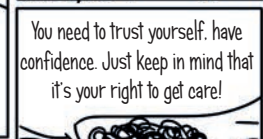
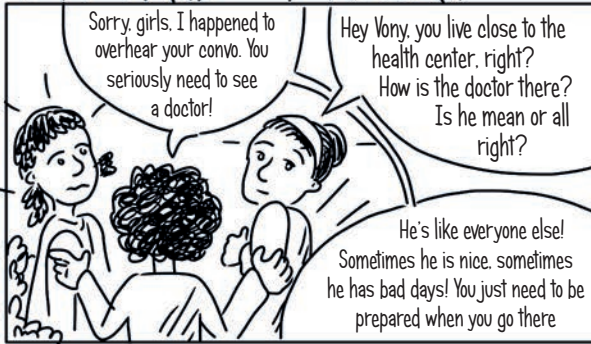
What do you think health centers should do to ensure young people access their rights?

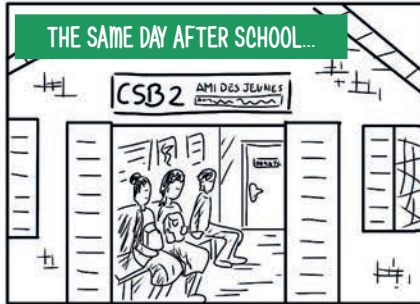
What are your suggestions for improving the way health centers work in Madagascar?



Don't you remember when Sophie and Menja went to the doctor? They left and vowed never to go back! Not only was the doctor mean, but there were also five people in the room that heard everything!





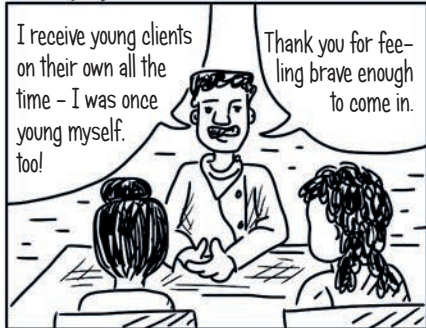


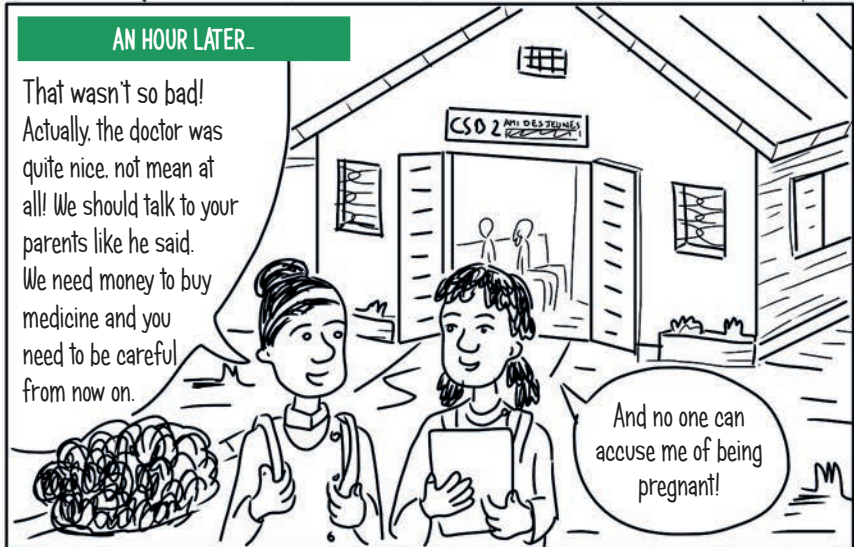
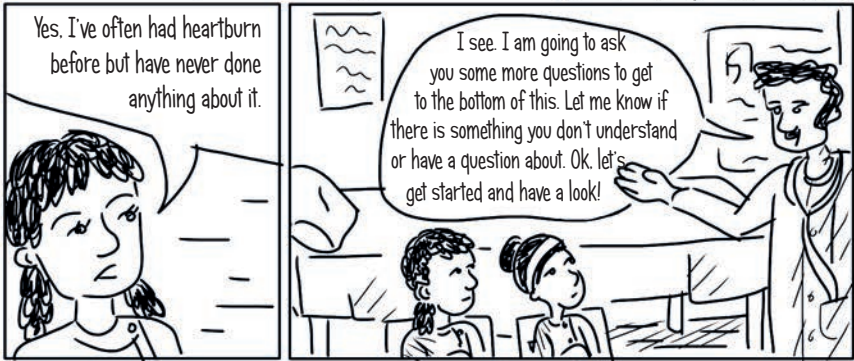
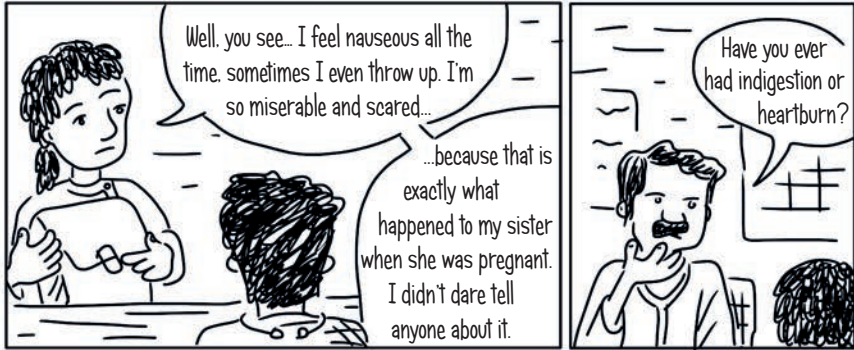
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

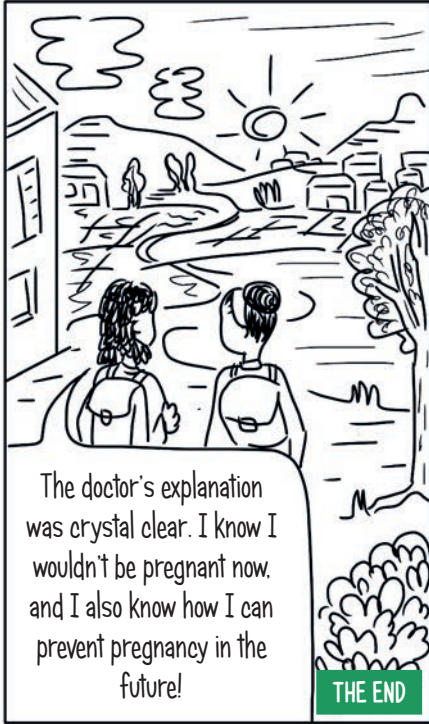
How do you feel about Vony's advice?

Do you have any suggestions on how to help all young people develop a strategy for approaching and communicating with health workers?

What is the role of the community in ensuring all young people achieve their rights?







WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you were in Sarindra and Fara's place, would you be satisfied with the doctor's services?

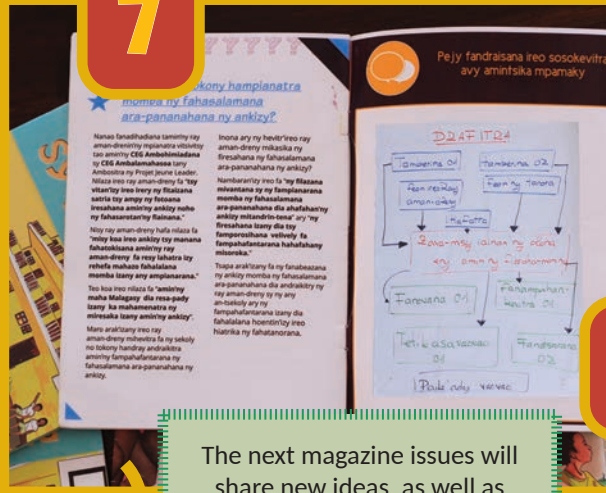
What are your suggestions to help ensure that all health workers have a satisfactory relationship with their clients?

What is the role of health workers in upholding Article 5 of Law #2017-043?

OUR RESPECTIVE ROLES

- **QUALITY HEALTH CENTERS** should provide a safe space for youth to access standard and quality services.
- **IT'S OUR RIGHT** to go to the health center and demand quality services.
- **HEALTH WORKERS** respond to our needs, so that we young people can have a safe, healthy lives.

7



The next magazine issues will share new ideas, as well as thoughts from other communities AND national decision-makers.

1



Pick a magazine issue.
Read and discuss it!

● **Something challenging**

● **Got ideas for improvement
SHARE THEM!**

● **Let's get in touch and
through PASS IT ON!**



6

We will use the common id
a new magazine, this time
decision-makers

They will read and see our ideas.
This will help them make new and
improved services.



2



Share your ideas, comments, and suggestions on the comment paper provided.

3



Return the magazine with your comments and take another issue!

? SPEAK UP!

ment?

discuss

4



All of your comments will be combined into common themes and ideas.

5

ideas to make
for national
S.



Let's Demand Our Right to Health!

To have rights is to be
blessed
So, count your blessings
It means you are not forced
To do what others think
It can slow you down, so
don't hesitate.

It's not too late
If you want to know
Your rights and their stories
So, don't leave
If you haven't heard
All your rights.

If you know them
Then it's possible that
today
Your tears will turn to
smiles
Because here on Earth
We all agree
That you have rights.

**- NASOLO, Youth Leader
from Antsirabe**

