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MADAGASCAR

[30 December 2003]

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I. TERRITORY

A. Geography

1. Madagascar, called the Red Island because of the colour of its laterite soil, is situated in the tropical region of the southern hemisphere, between 11°57' and 25°30' south latitude and between 43°14' and 50°27' east longitude. Straddling the Tropic of Capricorn in the south-western Indian Ocean, Madagascar is separated from the south-eastern coast of Africa by the Mozambique Channel.

2. With a surface area of 587,051 square kilometres, Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island after Greenland, New Guinea and Borneo, is considered a subcontinent owing to its size and insular character. The island is 1,600 kilometres long, extending from Cape Sainte-Marie in the south to Cape d'Ambre in the extreme north; it measures nearly 570 kilometres at its widest point. It has a coastline of over 5,000 kilometres; in the west it is bordered by the Mozambique Channel and in the east by the Indian Ocean.

3. The capital is Antananarivo. The most important other cities are: Toliara, Mahajanga, Fianarantsoa, Toamasina, Antsiranana, Taolagnaro, Antsirabe and Morondava.

B. Administrative organization

4. Madagascar consists of six autonomous provinces, which are subdivided into several prefectures, subprefectures and urban and rural communes. The communes are composed of several districts, which are subdivided into sectors.

Table 1

Area and administrative information on each province

Autonomous provinces	Area (km ²)	Number of		
		Regions	Subprefectures	Communes
Antsiranana	43 056	2	9	140
Antananarivo	58 283	6	19	296
Toamasina	71 911	5	18	223
Fianarantsoa	102 373	7	23	397
Mahajanga	150 023	4	21	230
Toliara	161 405	4	21	272
Madagascar	587 051	28	111	1 558

II. POPULATION

A. History

5. The first inhabitants of Madagascar were the Vazimba. Following the arrival of new immigrants from Asia (Indonesians, Malays) and Africa (East Africans, Arabs), the Vazimba moved from the coast into the interior of the island. Other population groups (Indians, Chinese, Europeans) came later. Before Europeans arrived in Madagascar, several kingdoms were established between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. France colonized the island in 1896 and occupied it until 1960, when Madagascar gained independence.

B. Ethnic groups and language

6. Madagascar's population is composed of several ethnic groups united by the same official language, Malagasy, whose various dialects have been shaped by geography, history and culture.

7. The 18 main ethnic groups are: the Antefasy (Farafangana); the Antemoro (south-east of Manakara); the Antesaka (south-east); the Antakarana (Ambilobe, Antsiranana); the Antambahoaka (Mananjary); the Antandroy (extreme south); the Antanosy (Taolagnaro); the Bara (from Ihosy to Mandabe); the Betsileo (south of the Mania river and Matsiatra); the Betsimisaraka (from Antalaha to Mahanoro - east coast); the Bezanozano (Moramanga - Mangoro region); the Mahafaly (Ampanihy, Betioky); the Merina (Antananarivo province); the Sakalava (from Morombe to Analalava); the Sihanaka (Lake Alaotra); the Tanala or Antanala (from Ifanadiana to Iakora); the Tsimihety (the Sofia region); and the Vezo (Toliara).

8. Certain ethnic groups contain subgroups, such as the Tanalana (subgroup of the Mahafaly); the Sara (subgroup of the Vezo); the Mikea (subgroup of the Masikoro); the Zafimaniry (subgroup of the Tanala); the Betanimena (subgroup of the Betsimisaraka); and the Zafisoro (subgroup of the Antesaka).

C. Foreign communities

9. Madagascar also has a number of foreign communities: French, Italian, German, Greek, Norwegian, British, Chinese, Korean, Indo-Pakistani, African, Arab, Mauritian and Comorian.

III. DEMOGRAPHY

A. Main demographic characteristics

10. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the population of Madagascar was estimated at 2,242,000; until 1950, the growth rate was low - 1 per cent. The increase in natural growth is therefore a relatively recent phenomenon in Madagascar. Natural growth reached 2.2 per cent in 1966, and 2.7 per cent in 1975.

11. Because Madagascar is an island situated far away from major world migration flows, there have been very few population exchanges between Madagascar and the outside world. International migration is negligible.

12. The population of Madagascar, which was 6,462,000 in 1966 and 7,603,790 in 1975, was 12,238,914 in 1993, when the last General Population and Housing Census (RGPH) was held. The National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) estimated that in 2003 the population of Madagascar was 16,441,000.

B. Distribution of the population

13. With regard to the distribution of the population, the level of urbanization was 16 per cent in 1975; it reached 23 per cent in 1993. Most of the population lives in rural areas.

14. According to the 1993 General Population and Housing Census, the average population density was 21 inhabitants per km². This figure conceals the great disparity among regions: population density varies from 62 inhabitants/km² in the province of Antananarivo to 9 inhabitants/km² in the province of Mahajanga.

Table 2

Population structure by sex and by area of residence; projections based on the mean variant (1993)

Area of residence	Population by year (in thousands) ^a										
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Madagascar	12 239	12 596	12 990	13 393	13 803	14 222	14 650	15 085	15 529	15 981	16 441
Women	6 151	6 327	6 522	6 721	6 924	7 343	7 559	7 778	8 003	8 211	7 132
Men	6 088	6 269	6 468	6 672	6 879	7 306	7 526	7 750	7 978	8 230	7 091
Urban areas	2 800	2 930	3 077	3 230	3 391	3 562	3 741	3 927	4 122	4 327	4 544
Women	1 432	1 497	1 571	1 649	1 730	1 907	2 001	2 100	2 203	2 313	1 817
Men	1 369	1 433	1 505	1 581	1 661	1 834	1 926	2 022	2 124	2 231	1 745
Rural areas	9 439	9 666	9 913	10 163	10 412	10 661	10 909	11 158	11 407	11 653	11 897
Women	4 719	4 830	4 951	5 072	5 194	5 436	5 558	5 679	5 799	5 917	5 315
Men	4 720	4 836	4 963	5 090	5 218	5 473	5 600	5 728	5 854	5 980	5 346

Source: RGPH 1993 Demographics and Social Statistics Office (DDSS)/INSTAT.

^a The data for 1993 are from the General Population and Housing Census; the data for all other years are projections.

Table 3

**Population structure by province and by sex from 1993 to 2003;
projections based on the mean variant (1993)**

Population	Population by year									
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Antananarivo										
Total	3 601 127	3 705 000	3 821 000	3 940 000	4 063 000	4 318 000	4 450 000	4 585 000	4 723 000	4 862 000
Men	1 803 483	1 855 000	1 914 000	1 974 000	2 036 000	2 164 000	2 231 000	2 299 000	2 368 000	2 439 000
Women	1 797 644	1 849 000	1 907 000	1 966 000	2 027 000	2 154 000	2 219 000	2 286 000	2 354 000	2 424 000
Antsiranana										
Total	954 733	979 000	1 006 000	1 034 000	1 063 000	1 124 000	1 156 000	1 189 000	1 222 000	1 256 000
Men	471 409	484 000	497 000	511 000	526 000	557 000	573 000	589 000	606 000	623 000
Women	483 324	495 000	509 000	523 000	537 000	568 000	583 000	600 000	616 000	633 000
Fianarantsoa										
Total	2 550 190	2 636 000	2 731 000	2 830 000	2 931 000	3 144 000	3 255 000	3 369 000	3 486 000	3 606 000
Men	1 261 640	1 305 000	1 353 000	1 402 000	1 453 000	1 560 000	1 616 000	1 674 000	1 733 000	1 794 000
Women	1 288 550	1 331 000	1 379 000	1 428 000	1 478 000	1 584 000	1 639 000	1 695 000	1 753 000	1 813 000
Mahajanga										
Total	1 364 793	1 404 000	1 447 000	1 492 000	1 538 000	1 634 000	1 683 000	1 734 000	1 787 000	1 841 000
Men	681 764	701 000	723 000	746 000	7 68 000	816 000	841 000	867 000	893 000	921 000
Women	683 029	703 000	724 000	747 000	769 000	817 000	842 000	867 000	893 000	920 000
Toamasina										
Total	1 995 461	2 059 000	2 129 000	2 202 000	2 276 000	2 431 000	2 512 000	2 595 000	2 680 000	2 767 000
Men	995 943	1 028 000	1 063 000	1 099 000	1 137 000	1 215 000	1 255 000	1 297 000	1 340 000	1 384 000
Women	999 518	1 031 000	1 066 000	1 102 000	1 139 000	1 217 000	1 257 000	1 298 000	1 340 000	1 383 000
Toliara										
Total	1 772 610	1 820 000	1 874 000	1 929 000	1 986 000	2 105 000	2 167 000	2 230 000	2 295 000	2 362 000
Men	873 878	898 000	925 000	952 000	981 000	1 040 000	1 071 000	1 103 000	1 136 000	1 170 000
Women	898 732	923 000	949 000	977 000	1 005 000	1 064 000	1 095 000	1 127 000	1 159 000	1 192 000

Source: RGPB 1993 - DDSS/INSTAT.

Table 4
Population structure by sex and age in 2003

Age	Total	Men	Women
0-4	2 864 081	1 451 221	1 412 860
5-4	2 509 224	1 273 040	1 236 184
10-14	1 918 155	962 297	955 858
15-19	1 582 879	799 192	783 687
20-24	1 465 226	740 200	725 026
25-29	1 315 007	645 249	669 758
30-34	1 065 063	517 926	547 137
35-39	853 742	414 876	438 866
40-44	740 342	365 319	375 023
45-49	584 626	295 175	289 451
50-54	444 248	222 024	222 224
55-59	294 818	140 967	153 851
60-64	261 931	123 540	138 391
65-69	200 973	95 089	105 884
70-74	162 058	77 408	84 650
75-79	94 296	46 494	47 802
80 and over	84 128	40 831	43 297
Total	16 440 797	8 210 848	8 229 949

Source: RGPH 1993 - DDSS/INSTAT.

Table 5
Structure by major age groups and by sex in 2003

Age	Per cent		
	Total	Men	Women
0-14	44.3	22.4	21.9
15-64	52.4	25.9	26.4
65 and over	3.3	1.6	1.7
Total	100.0	49.9	50.1

Source: RGPH 1993 - DDSS/INSTAT.

15. The population of Madagascar is very young: one Malagasy in two is under 20 years old (the median age of the population is 16.3).

C. Main demographic indicators

1. Birth rate, fertility rate and mortality rate

16. The various sources of data, namely RGPH 1993, the 1992 National Demographic and Health Survey (ENDS 1992) and the 1997 Demographic and Health Survey (EDS 1997), indicate that Madagascar has a high fertility rate and that fertility begins early. The total fertility rate is 6 and the number of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 who have already begun their fertile life is rather high (30 per cent according to EDS 1997).

17. The mortality rate decreased between 1950 and 1970. The most recent studies (ENDS 1992, RGPH 1993, the 1995 Multiple Indicators Clusters Survey (MICS), EDS 1997 and MICS 2000) estimate the mortality rate to be 93 per thousand.

Table 6
Main demographic indicators

Indicators	Autonomous province						Madagascar
	Antsiranana	Fianarantsoa	Mahajanga	Toamasina	Antananarivo	Toliara	
Population (in 2000, estimated)	1 156 000	3 255 000	1 683 000	2 512 000	4 450 000	2 166 000	15 085 000
Density (inhabitant./ km ²)	26.85	31.86	11.22	34.93	76.35	13.42	25.71
Sex ratio	98.28	98.6	99.88	99.84	100.54	97.81	99.56
Prevalence rate for modern methods of contraception (%)	10.8	5.1	5.3	9.4	15.9	5.4	9.7
Age of mother at first birth (year)	18.6	19	18.4	19.9	20.4	19	19.5
Age of first sexual relations (year)	16.1	16.6	16	17.3	18.3	15.4	16.9
Total fertility rate (TFR)	5.21	6.87	6.61	5.61	5.37	6.18	5.97
Infant mortality rate (‰)	72.9	120.9	112.4	104.1	72	114.4	99.3
Demographic growth rate (%)	2.5	3.2	2.7	3	2.8	2.6	2.7

Sources: ENDS 1997. INSTAT, *Projections et perspectives démographiques* (RGPH), 2000. INSTAT, *Inventaire des Fivondronana* (1999). National Planning Office.

2. Life expectancy

18. In 1993, life expectancy at birth for Madagascar as a whole was higher for women (53.3 years) than for men (51.3 years). This indicator varies from province to province.

Table 7

Life expectancy at birth by province and by sex

Province	Sex	
	Men	Women
Antananarivo	56.68	59.99
Antsiranana	52.84	56.48
Fianarantsoa	43.7	44.62
Mahajanga	52.24	54.85
Toamasina	52.02	53.02
Toliara	51.9	53.45
Madagascar	51.3	53.3

Sources: Demographics and Social Statistics Office (DDSS),
RGPH 1993, INSTAT.

IV. INFRASTRUCTURE

19. While most communication infrastructures have deteriorated, a number of them have been renovated:

(a) Main airports the operation of which was later assigned to a private company (Aéroports de Madagascar (ADEMA), since 1995);

(b) Main national roads benefiting from the State-run Road Maintenance Fund;

(c) Railway network: while the Fianarantsoa-East Coast line has benefited from Madagascar's cooperation with technical and financial partners, its level of use has not returned to that of the 1960s;

(d) Dock work equipment: partly renovated; some vehicles have been replaced.

20. While road renovation projects are continuing, much remains to be done. The northern part of Madagascar's national railway network (RNCFM), which was nearly inactive for a decade, was chartered to the Madarail company in July 2003. Its activities were limited to the transport of chromite and graphite ore to Toamasina. Madagascar is currently attempting to restore heavy freight transport on the Tananarive-East Coast line.

21. The semi-navigable Pangalanes canal is being maintained by the Malagasy Innovation Institute (IMI); however, in spite of its potential, the canal is little used.

Table 8
Madagascar's road network

Administrative class	Length by class (km)	Service levels					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
National primary roads	2 560	2 560					
National secondary roads	4 685		3 088	1 279	181	115	22
National temporary roads	4 479		1 201	1 157	1 043	908	170
Provincial roads	9 651			126	220	1 940	7 365
Unclassified roads	10 024				14	510	9 500
Total	31 399	2 560	4 289	2 562	1 458	3 473	17 057

Source: Ministry of Public Works.

Table 9
Railway network infrastructure

	Tana	Moramanga	Moramanga	Vohidiala	Tana	Fianarantsoa
	Moramanga	Toamasina	Ambatosoratra	Morarano	Vinaninkarena	Manakara
1. Total length of track						
Main	123	250	168	19	169.3	163.4
Secondary (Branch)						
2. Structures:						
Tunnels						
Number	28		-		7	55
Length (m)	2 736.45		-		1 027.11	5676.05
Reinforced concrete bridges						
Number	15		14		17	58
Length			297		1 876.35	1 715.4
Metal bridges						
Number	70		63		8	1
Length (m)	1 925.45		595.7		55	12
Culverts and pipes						
Number	898		425		252	893
Length (m)	11 661.77		4 835.58		3 220.6	11519.7
3. Maintenance and repair						
Track improvement (m)						35 665

Source: Département Etudes/RNCFM MTM/SG/SST: November 2002.

22. Madagascar's port infrastructure comprises four main ports and nine secondary ports, including one international trade port (Toamasina) and an arsenal serving as a military base (Antsiranana).

23. The airport infrastructure comprises 29 airfields with surfaced runways, including 6 international airports for regional aircraft, with the exception of Antananarivo airport, which is for international aircraft.

V. GENERAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE

24. Since the last report (1993), important political changes have taken place in Madagascar. Socialist ideology has been abandoned, political pluralism has been recognized and censorship has been lifted. The Third Republic, which is based on a parliamentary system, has been established in anticipation of the restoration of a strong presidential system.

25. The organization of the State is set out in Title III, article 41, of the Constitution, which provides that the structure of the State includes the President of the Republic and the Government; the National Assembly and the Senate; and the High Constitutional Court. The three functions of the State - executive, legislative and judicial - are exercised by the aforementioned institutions and by separate bodies.

26. The Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and their jurisdictions, as well as the High Court of Justice, carry out the functions of the judiciary. The 1998 revised Constitution provides for the principle of separation of functions instead of the conventional separation of powers contained in the 1992 Constitution. The reason for this is that the effective exercise of judicial power was discussed at great length before it was rejected by the revised Constitution.

27. In Madagascar, the freedom and democratic nature of presidential, legislative and local elections are monitored by the High Constitutional Court, the Electoral Tribunal and the National Electoral Council. The participation of members of civil society in monitoring the regularity and honesty of the voting led to the establishment of the Election Observers Committee. Madagascar does not place any restrictions on the participation of international observers to monitor the electoral process.

VI. GENERAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED

A. The Constitution

28. In its preamble, the Constitution of 18 December 1992 recognizes the International Bill of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the conventions on the rights of women and the rights of the child, which are considered to be an integral part of Madagascar's law. In its article 40, paragraph 2, the 1992 Constitution provides that "the State shall guarantee, through the establishment of specialized bodies, the promotion and protection of human rights". Articles 8 to 16 guarantee the protection and exercise of rights and duties without discrimination. Such protection is limited only by respect for the freedom of others and the need to maintain public order.

**B. Judicial, administrative or other competent authorities
having jurisdiction affecting human rights**

1. Judicial authorities

29. Courts and tribunals are competent to consider human rights violations.

2. Administrative authorities

30. The administrative authorities responsible for maintaining order have the obligation to respect human rights in the performance of their functions. Article 114 of the Criminal Code of Madagascar provides that “any civil servant or government agent or official who orders or commits an arbitrary act or one that infringes on a person’s liberty or the civic rights of one or more citizens or on the Constitution shall be stripped of his or her civic rights”.

3. Other bodies

31. Two other bodies have competence in the field of human rights: (i) the Office of the Ombudsman (*Médiateur*), established by Ordinance No. 92-012 of 29 April 1992, and (ii) the National Human Rights Commission, established by Decree No. 96-1282 of 18 December 1996.

C. Remedies

1. Remedies

32. In accordance with article 6 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which has been ratified by Madagascar, Madagascar provides protection to everyone within its jurisdiction by including in its positive law measures to ensure the effectiveness of such protection. Articles 8, 10 and 14 of the 1992 Constitution provide for the possibility of remedies for all types of human rights violations.

2. Right to compensation

33. Any person whose rights have been violated and who has sustained damages may request compensation from the competent authority.

(a) The various international human rights instruments have been incorporated into the 1992 Constitution;

(b) Madagascar is endeavouring to bring its domestic legislation into conformity with the provisions of the conventions and treaties that it has ratified;

(c) Human rights violations may be invoked by victims before judicial and administrative bodies and must be dealt with by the competent authorities.

D. Information and publicity

34. The various international instruments have been translated into Malagasy in order to make the objectives of human rights conventions and treaties more accessible to the population. The National Human Rights Commission contributes to the drafting of Madagascar's periodic reports in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice.

35. This core document, which supplements and amends document HRI/CORE/1/Add.31 (prepared in July 1993), and the associated periodic report submitted by Madagascar to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/476/Add.1), were drafted in December 2003 by a joint committee composed of representatives of the State, representatives of non-governmental human rights organizations and representatives of civil society. The joint committee discussed the two documents at length before adopting the final texts.

VII. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS

36. In recent years, important changes have taken place in Madagascar's economy: the economy has been liberalized and the State has taken steps to disengage itself from the productive sector. For example, secondary and tertiary sectors (oil, textiles, trade, transport, telecommunications, banking) have been partly or completely privatized.

37. Since 1997, these economic reforms have begun to bear fruit. For the first time in a decade, Madagascar registered a rise in its per capita gross domestic product (GDP) as well as a substantial decrease in inflation. Macroeconomic recovery has been accompanied by a slight reduction in the national poverty level. The number of Malagasy citizens living below the poverty line - defined as the amount of money needed to buy the minimum food basket containing 2,100 calories per person - decreased by 2 per cent between 1997 and 1999 (*Source*: National Institute of Statistics/Household Statistics Department (INSTAT/DSM)).

38. This improvement has affected primarily urban areas. By contrast, the level and depth of poverty has continued to increase in rural areas. Today, over 84 per cent of poor people in Madagascar live in rural areas.

A. Economic indicators

39. The primary sector holds a prominent place in Madagascar's economy since it employs 80 per cent of the active population. However, this sector's contribution to GDP is only 30 per cent.

Table 10
**Gross domestic product (GDP) in nominal and real terms,
and rate of inflation**

Year	Nominal GDP (billions of FMG)	Real GDP (billions of FMG 1984)	Growth (%)	Inflation (%)
1989	4 005.4	1 903.6	4.1	12.0
1990	4 604.1	1 963.2	3.1	11.5
1991	4 869.4	1 839.3	-6.3	12.9
1992	5 637.4	1 861.1	1.2	14.4
1993	6 450.9	1 900.1	2.1	12.1
1994	9 131.4	1 898.8	-0.1	41.7
1995	13 478.7	1 931	1.7	45.1
1996	16 224.4	1 973	2.1	17.8
1997	18 050.8	2 045.6	3.7	7.3
1998	20 349.5	2 126.1	3.9	8.5
1999	23 352.7	2 225.1	4.7	9.7
2000	26 882.7	2 332.3	4.8	9.8
2001	29 843	2 471	6.0	7.3
2002	30 058*	2 157*	-12.7*	15.4*

Source: Economic Analysis Department (DSY), INSTAT.

* Projected.

1. Development of the economy

40. Since 1960, Madagascar's economic history has been marked by three distinct economic policies, which correspond to three major periods: the period when Madagascar was in the free zone (1960-1971), the period of State-controlled economy (1972-1981) and the period of structural adjustment (beginning in 1982).

(a) 1960-1971: economic beginnings of the new Republic

41. During this period, Madagascar was in the free zone, and its macroeconomic characteristics indicate better economic health.

(b) 1972-1981: State control of the Malagasy economy

42. This period is characterized by heavy State interventionism that took the form of (i) the nationalization of almost all large (particularly colonial or multinational) enterprises, (ii) State monopoly over the marketing of basic commodities, (iii) State price-fixing and State subsidies for basic commodities, and (iv) State direct industrial investment programme, called "excessive investment" in the 1980s.

43. This policy led to the stagnation and decline of economic activities and to high inflation. This resulted in the continuous and rapid deterioration of the population's standard of living. During this period, the average annual growth rate of constant per capita GDP was -1.6 per cent. The failure of excessive investment triggered a crisis in the balance of payments.

(c) Beginning in 1982: return to liberalism and economic recovery

44. Madagascar, with the support of its technical and financial partners, established economic recovery policies that were interrupted by two major political crises: the first in 1991 and the second in 2002.

Table 11

Subperiod performance

Subperiods	Adjustment phase	Effect of adjustment	Administrative freeze	New adjustment	Entire subperiod
	1982-1987	1987-1990	1990-1991	1991-2001	1982-2001
Average growth of GDP	1.4%	3.5%	-6.3%	2.9%	2.1%

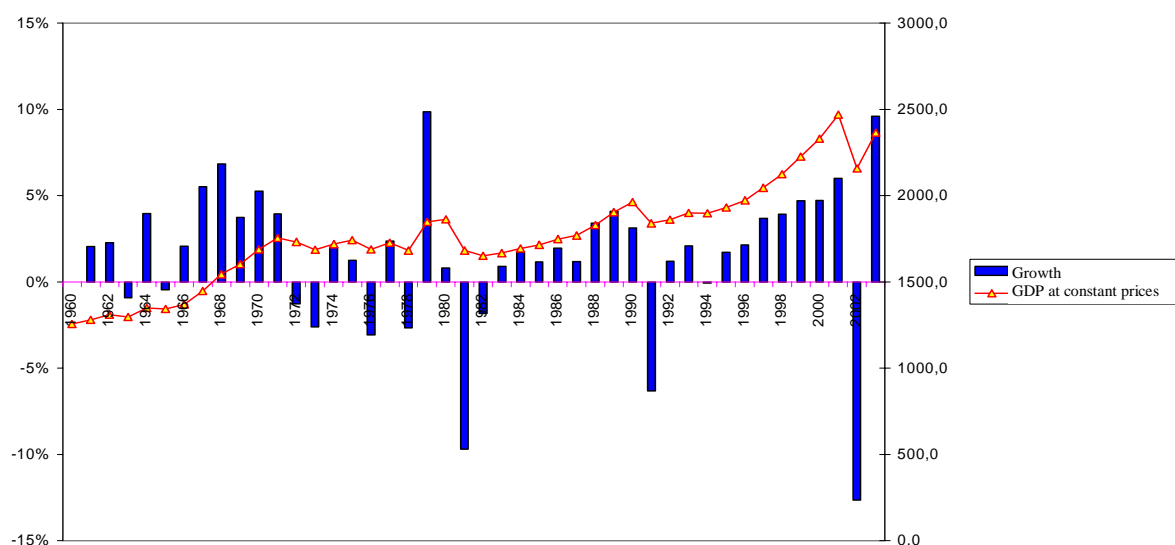
Source: INSTAT/DSY, 2003.

During this period, the foundations of economic development were laid: price liberalization, State disengagement, stabilization of public finances, and devaluation of the national currency.

45. Since 1982, the Malagasy economy has been marked by the implementation of structural adjustment measures. Such measures have had the following effects:

- (i) Slowdown in administrative operations caused by the freeze on the recruitment of civil servants, and the delay in administrative reforms;
- (ii) Unemployment caused by the reduction of salaried staff in the context of the streamlining of enterprises to be privatized, and the dissolution of unprofitable public enterprises;
- (iii) Rapid rise in the cost of living caused by economic liberalization;
- (iv) Dropout rate and educational wastage owing to parents' poverty;
- (v) New outbreaks of endemic diseases, including malaria, caused by reductions in the import of medicines;
- (vi) Successive devaluations of Malagasy currency resulting in a currency floating system.

**Development of GDP (at constant prices) and the growth rate
from 1960 to 2003**



Source: INSTAT/DSY, 2003.

2. The economic situation

Table 12

Share of sectors in GDP

Year	Share of sector in GDP		
	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
1997	29.2	12.4	52.0
1998	28.1	12.5	52.5
1999	27.2	12.5	52.4
2000	31.8	12.5	48.9
2001	25.7	13.5	53.8
2002	29.8*	13.5*	51.4*

Source: Economic Analysis Department, INSTAT.

* Projected.

Table 13
Distribution of the working population by sector
in the main activity (% by area)

	Secondary urban centre	Rural	Total
Salaried - agricultural sector	1.6	2.0	1.8
Salaried - non-agricultural sector	23.0	7.6	12.9
Non-salaried - agricultural sector	53.1	80.2	70.9
Non-salaried - non-agricultural sector	22.3	10.3	14.4
Total	100	100	100

Source: Calculations based on the 2001 Permanent Housing Survey (EPM 2001), INSTAT/DSM.

Table 14
Large macroeconomic aggregates

	Units	1999	2000	2001
Rate of growth of GDP at constant prices	%	4.7	4.7	6.0
GDP deflator	%	9.8	7.1	7.3
GDP at constant prices (1984 prices)	Billions FMG	2 225.7	2 331.1	2 470.7
GDP at current price	Billions FMG	23 383.9	26 242.1	29 843.0
Per capita GDP at current franc	FMG	1 596 168	1 739 617	1 921 761
Per capita GDP at 2001 price	FMG	1 835 039	1 866 546	1 921 761
Rate of growth of per capita GDP	%	1.8	1.7	3.0
Per capita GDP	US\$	254.0	257.0	291.7
Structure (in % of GDP)				
Total consumption	%	93.1	91.4	89.2
Private sector	%	85.7	83.5	80.4
Public sector	%	7.5	7.9	8.8
Total investment	%	14.4	16.2	17.9
Private sector	%	8.0	10.0	11.2
Public sector	%	6.4	6.2	6.7

Source: Economic Analysis Department/INSTAT.

46. The political crisis in 2002 caused a widespread slowdown in economic activity that took the form of high unemployment rates and galloping inflation. The situation gradually improved in 2003 owing to the efforts of the State, technical and financial assistance from donors, and larger tax revenues.

3. External debt

47. In spite of successive agreements to reschedule external debt with the Paris Club since 1981, Madagascar's debt problem remains unchanged. According to the Central Bank, at the end of 2000, the nominal outstanding external debt was on the order of 3 billion special drawing rights (SDRs).

Table 15

Outstanding external debt and external debt servicing from 1995 to 2000

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Outstanding external debt						
In millions of SDRs	2 887	3 083	2 858	2 829	2 949	2 959
In billions of FMG	18 694	18 134	20 054	20 887	25 316	26 436
External debt servicing						
In millions of SDRs	263	232	122	134	83	99
In billions of FMG	1 704	1 368	856	992	682	881
GDP						
In millions of SDRs	2 082	2 758	2 573	2 755	2 723	3 002
In billions of FMG	13 479	16 224	18 051	20 343	23 390	26 242
Export of non-factor goods and services						
In millions of SDRs	502	565	561	590	664	894
In billions of FMG	3 251	3 326	3 938	4 358	5 703	7 984
Fiscal revenue						
In millions of SDRs	173	234	241	269	301	333
In billions of FMG	1 121	1 374	1 688	1 984	2 580	2 972
Outstanding external debt						
% of exports	575	545	509	479	444	331
% of fiscal revenue	1 668	1 320	1 188	1 053	981	889
% of GDP	139	112	111	103	108	100
External debt servicing						
% of exports	52.4	41.1	21.7	22.7	12.4	11.0
% of fiscal revenue	152	99.1	50.6	49.8	27.4	29.7
% of GDP	12.6	8.4	4.7	4.9	3.0	3.3
Rate of exchange	6 474	5 882	7 016	7 383	8 586	8 934
FMG/SDRs						

Source: Central Bank of Madagascar.

B. Social indicators

1. Household characteristics

48. In 2002, the average Malagasy family was composed of five persons.

Table 16

Average size of households

	Total 2002	2001	2002
Antananarivo	4.9	4.6	4.8
Fianarantsoa	5.1	5.2	5.2
Toamasina	4.8	4.7	4.8
Mahajanga	5.0	4.8	4.9
Toliara	5.6	4.9	5.5
Antsiranana	4.4	4.4	4.5
Madagascar	5.0	4.8	4.9

Source: INSTAT/DSM, 2002.

In rural areas, 23 per cent of households have no furniture and 81 per cent have no household appliances. In the capital, three out of five households have a television set, as compared with only 7 per cent in rural areas. Less than 1 per cent of the population have an automobile, and one person in 10 owns a two-wheeled vehicle (*Source:* INSTAT/DSM/Permanent Household Survey (EPM) 2001).

2. Characteristics of heads of household

49. In Madagascar, 15 per cent of households are headed by women (divorced, separated or widowed).

Table 17

Distribution of heads of household by sex

Sex	Per cent
Men	84.9
Women	15.1

Source: INSTAT/DSM, 2001.

Table 18
Activities of heads of household

Socio-economic group	Per cent
Farmer	62.7
Stockbreeder/Fisherman	2.3
Agricultural entrepreneur	2.9
Trader/Services	5.9
Salaried worker	5.0
Labourer	13.5
Non-qualified rural worker	2.4
Non-qualified urban worker	1.3
Others	4.0

Source: INSTAT/DSM, 2001.

According to the 2001 Permanent Household Survey, there are 911,000 non-agricultural enterprises. Half of those enterprises are involved in trade, one fourth in the agricultural branch and one fifth in the industrial sector. The average age of the enterprises is 8.7 years.

3. Active population

50. The active population accounts for 66.5 per cent of the total population. In urban areas, it represents 55 per cent of the population and, in rural areas, over 70 per cent. Women account for 62 per cent of the labour market; men account for 68 per cent. Unemployment¹ in the strict meaning of the International Labour Office is rather low in Madagascar: 3.6 per cent in 2001 (INSTAT/DSM). Unemployment is primarily an urban phenomenon; in urban areas, the unemployment rate is over 12 per cent.

¹ Unemployed person: Anyone who meets the following four conditions during the seven days preceding the survey is unemployed (according to the International Labour Office):

- (a) Has not engaged in a professional activity;
- (b) Is seeking work;
- (c) Is taking steps to seek work; and
- (d) Is available for work.

Table 19
Unemployment rate in large urban centres

Large urban centre	Sex			
	Men		Women	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
Antananarivo	5.1	5.0	4.7	3.9
Antsirabe	7.0	5.7	7.5	4.5
Antsiranana	5.4	9.7	11.3	16.5
Fianarantsoa	8.6	5.0	5.7	4.2
Mahajanga	4.5	5.7	2.2	5.5
Toamasina	7.1	3.8	10.0	12.4
Toliara	12.8	8.5	10.4	7.1
Total	6.0	5.3	5.7	5.4

Source: Urban Employment Survey 2000, 2001.

4. Poverty

51. Macroeconomic recovery, which began in 1997, has been accompanied by a slight decline in national poverty. Between 1997 and 1999, the proportion of the population living below the poverty line decreased by 2 per cent. The effects of progress vary according to region. The provinces of Toliara, Toamasina and Antananarivo have benefited from greatest reduction in overall poverty. On the other hand, between 1993 and 1999 the poorest provinces - Fianarantsoa, Mahajanga and Antsiranana - registered an increase in the number of poor people.

Table 20
Trends in poverty, by region

Province	Change in %		Level
	1993-1997	1997-1999	1999 (%)
Fianarantsoa	0.9	6.0	81.1
Mahajanga	20.6	2.2	76.0
Antsiranana	2.1	10.3	72.6
Toliara	0.9	-10.4	71.6
Toamasina	1.9	-8.5	71.3
Antananarivo	-1.6	-4.7	61.7

Source: INSTAT, DSM.

Table 21
Comparison of Madagascar's HDI with that of other countries

Country	HDI (1998)	Rank/HDI	Real per capita GDP (PPA ^a)
Norway	0.942	1	29 918
Sweden	0.941	2	24 277
Canada	0.94	3	27 840
Belgium	0.939	4	27 178
Australia	0.939	5	25 693
Madagascar	0.469	147	840
Burundi	0.313	171	591
Niger	0.277	172	746
Sierra Leone	0.275	173	490
World	0.722		7 446
OECD ^b	0.905		23 569
Developing countries	0.654		3 783
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.471		1 690
Least developed countries	0.445		1 216

Source: World Report on Human Development 2002.

^a Purchasing power parity.

^b Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Table 22
Dynamics of poverty in Madagascar

	Change in %		Level
	1993-1997	1997-1999	1999
Macroeconomic indicators			
Per capita GDP (1 000 FMG)	-0.9	1.3	154
Inflation rate	24.0	8.5	9.8
Incidence of poverty ^a			
National	3.3	-2.0	71.3%
Urban	13.1	11.1	52.1%
Rural	1.5	0.7	76.7%
Depth of poverty ^b			
National	3.3	-0.8	32.8%
Urban	12.1	-8.2	21.4%
Rural	1.6	1.4	36.1%

Source: INSTAT, DSM.

^a Persons whose total expenses do not allow them to buy 2,100 calories per person.

^b Necessary increase in average income that would enable a poor person to move out of poverty.

52. Today, nearly 25 per cent of the population and 16 per cent of poor people live in urban areas. The incidence of poverty among urban dwellers has reached 50 per cent. However, the depth of urban poverty is only half of that encountered in rural areas. In Madagascar, poverty is more acute in rural and agricultural areas.

Table 23**Variations in poverty indicators in 2001 and 2002**

Poverty in 2001	P ₀	P ₁	P ₂
Total	69.6	34.8	20.9
Urban	44.0	18.3	9.9
Rural	77.2	39.7	24.1
Poverty in 2002			
Total	80.7	47.6	32.5
Urban	61.6	29.3	17.5
Rural	86.4	53.0	36.9
Variation 2002/2001			
Total	11.1	12.8	11.6
Urban	17.6	11.0	7.6
Rural	9.2	13.3	12.8

Source: INSTAT/DSM.

5. Health

53. The health policy, introduced in 1995, comprised two major changes:

- (a) Progressive decentralization of health services administered by 111 health districts; and
- (b) Cost-recovery policy or the policy of users' financial participation through users' fees.

54. Among the poor, visits to public health facilities decrease during the *soudure* (period between the time when food reserves run out and the next harvest). Patients use less medicine and rely more on alternative health services. Since the introduction of users' financial participation, patients have been making greater use of traditional practitioners and self-medication.

55. The principal diseases affecting the population of Madagascar are malaria, tuberculosis, bilharziasis, cysticercosis, leprosy, plague, cholera (on the decline) and HIV/AIDS.

56. AIDS has become a national concern in Madagascar. Since the first case of HIV infection was discovered in 1984 by the Institut Pasteur, the disease has increased exponentially (0.02 per cent in 1985; 0.05 per cent in 1990; 0.07 per cent in 1995; 0.16 per cent in 2000); currently, the prevalence rate is 1.1 per cent.

6. Housing

57. Individual dwellings are the most common form of housing. The average Malagasy household occupies a dwelling of 32 m². However, individual houses are generally smaller (28 m²) than modern detached houses (72 m²). The housing shortage is particularly acute in urban areas. For example, between 1999 and 2001 the proportion of renters in the capital rose from 36.1 per cent to 39 per cent.

(a) Access to water

58. The following two tables contain data on access to water for household needs, by area and by province.

Table 24

By area

	Urban	Rural	Combined
1. Industrially treated water			
Indoor plumbing	1.1	0.2	0.5
Indoor tap	9.0	0.4	3.5
Water vendor	2.6	0.5	1.3
Neighbour's tap	1.5	0.4	0.8
Private outdoor tap	3.5	0.5	1.6
Public tap	23.6	10.3	15.2
2. Untreated water			
River, lake, etc.	25.2	60.9	47.7
Rainwater	4.3	5.7	5.2
Neighbour's well	5.5	4.3	4.8
Well with pump	3.1	2.9	3.0
Well without pump	17.9	13.2	14.9
Other	2.9	0.8	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: INSTAT/DSM/EPM2001.

Table 25
By province

	Antananarivo	Fianarantsoa	Toamasina	Mahajanga	Toliara	Antsiranana	Combined
1. Industrially treated water							
Indoor plumbing	1.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.5
Indoor tap	7.4	1.2	1.5	3.3	1.6	4.1	3.5
Water vendor	3.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.1	1.3
Neighbour's tap	1.4	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.8
Private outdoor tap	1.7	2.4	0.9	1.8	1.5	0.9	1.6
Public tap	18.6	12.7	10.0	21.3	13.8	14.7	15.2
2. Untreated water							
Rainwater	4.0	2.7	7.6	12.3	5.2	0.5	5.2
Neighbour's well	4.8	2.3	4.1	8.4	6.6	4.4	4.8
Well with pump	1.2	3.0	4.3	0.2	7.1	2.7	3.0
Well without pump	17.3	10.1	4.1	20.0	24.5	17.3	14.9
River, lake, etc.	34.4	64.1	66.3	30.6	38.3	53.3	47.7
Other	4.7	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.6	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: INSTAT/DSM/EPM2001.

(b) Sanitation and lighting

59. The following table provides data on these two domestic amenities.

Table 26
Sanitation and lighting

	Per cent of population (%)
1. Sanitation	100
Flush toilet	2.5
Dug latrines	50.3
Mobile latrine	7.2
Other	15.6
No toilet	24.4
2. Lighting	100
Electricity	13.8
Individual generator	1.2
Paraffin oil	74.3
Candles	7.1
Other	3.6

Source: INSTAT/DSM, 2001.

7. Education

60. Successive Governments have always considered education as a priority sector and have allocated a considerable part of the national budget to it. However, owing to the high level of poverty in Madagascar, the efforts that have been made have not met the population's education needs. There are shortages in infrastructure, funding and human resources, particularly in remote parts of the country, in spite of the State's active cooperation with the private sector. In Madagascar, 54 per cent of the population over the age of 4 is literate.

61. The education system comprises:

(a) Basic and secondary education (12 years);

(b) Technical and vocational training, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Secondary and Basic Education, the six provincial directorates and the 111 school districts;

(c) Higher education, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

62. Basic education lasts for nine years; it comprises five years of basic education I (*onzième* to *septième*) and four years of basic education II (*sixième* to *troisième*). Secondary education lasts three years (*lycée*, from *seconde* to *terminale*).

63. Civic education was reintroduced in school curricula in 1992. The Office of Mass and Civic Education, a body under the Ministry of Secondary and Basic Education, was established in 2002 with a view to conducting ongoing training and awareness-raising among the entire population, particularly teachers at all levels, in civics and citizenship.

64. Technical and vocational training is the least developed field of education. In 2002-2003, enrolment in such training was only 3.17 per cent of the total enrolment of students in *collèges* and *lycées*. Higher education includes public universities, State-approved private institutes of higher learning and the National Distance Learning Centre, which is being restructured.

65. The partnership between public and private education was formalized in 1989 with the establishment of the National Directorate for Private Education within the Ministry of Secondary and Basic Education. The National Directorate later became the National Office for Private Education.

VIII. CULTURE AND THE MEDIA

A. Culture

66. Malagasy is the mother tongue of Malagasy citizens and the national language of Madagascar. Although there are regional dialects with slight variations in phonology, this does not pose an obstacle to the mutual comprehension of Malagasy in all parts of the national territory.

67. The programmes of activities of the Ministry of Culture focus essentially on the promotion of cultural identity. Such activities include:

- (a) Organization of cultural dialogues in the six provinces in the context of the observance of United Nations Day;
- (b) Promotion of regional cultural heritage;
- (c) Establishment of the National Office for Culture and provincial art and culture centres in the main town of each province;
- (d) Establishment of arts and culture sections in all of Madagascar's missions in other countries.

68. The Ministry of Culture has taken account of the cultural dimension of development and is publishing and reissuing books in Malagasy in order to make them available to everyone. The objective is to highlight the contribution of diverse cultures and civilizations, which must also be considered in the preparation and teaching of school curricula.

B. The media

69. Censorship of the media was lifted in 1991. The media play an important role in Malagasy social life, and has been instrumental in making *fihavanana* (traditional moral value recognized throughout the country; it includes, tolerance, conviviality, mutual respect and solidarity) a beacon amid social disintegration and other racial or ethnic phenomena. Private initiatives have made it possible to establish many radio stations near the main towns of the subprefectures, and private television channels in large urban centres.

Table 27

Number of private radio and television stations by province in 2001

Province	Radios
Antananarivo	23
Fianarantsoa	19
Antsiranana	10
Mahajanga	11
Toliara	18
Toamasina	18
Total	99

Source: Ministry of Communication.

70. Madagascar's main radio and television stations are listed below. The only public station is Télévision Malagasy (TVM); all the others are private.

Antananarivo

Télévision Malagasy (TVM)
Télévision Fialamboly (TVF)
Madagascar Télévision (Ma. TV)
Océanie Télévision (OTV)
Radio Télévision Analamanga (RTA)
Télévision Record (RTR)
Malagasy Broadcast System (MBS)
Télévision Plus (TV Plus)
Télévision Ravinala

Antsirabe

Radio Télévision Antsirabe (RTVA)

Fianarantsoa

Radio Télévision Manakara
MBS Fianarantsoa

Toamasina

Radio Télé FMA Toamasina
Radio Télévision Toamasina RTT
MBS Toamasina

Toliara

Télévision SAY Toliary
RTA Toliary

Mahajanga

Radio Télévision Kalizy
M. 3TV/M.3FM

Antsiranana

Top. TV
Télé Canal "9" Antalaha

71. During electoral periods or in times of social and political unrest, certain radio or television stations tend to broadcast discriminatory remarks that threaten national unity. Many daily and weekly newspapers are published regularly in the capital and are sent for sale to other regions, sometimes with a delay of several days. The main daily newspapers are *Express de Madagascar*, *Gazetiko*, *La Gazette de la Grande Île*, *Madagascar Tribune*, *Midi Madagasikara* and *Ny Gazety Androany*. The main weeklies are *Dans les Médias Demain (DMD)*, *Imongo Vaovao*, *Ngah* (a humorous publication), *Telonohorefy*, *Lakroan'i Madagasikara*, *Revue de l'Océan Indien* and *Ny Vaovaontsika*.

72. Paradoxically, the proliferation of the media and tangible progress in the field of communication and telecommunications has not had the anticipated effect. In spite of the availability of numerous radio stations and television channels, circulation of information among the population is inadequate. Daily newspapers arrive one or several days - or a week - late, even in large urban centres (except the capital). In rural areas, 81 per cent of households have neither a radio nor a television set; if they have one, they cannot buy the batteries needed to operate them (*source*: EPM 2001). Progress in the field of new information and communications technologies have resulted in the marginalization of remote areas or enclaves while large cities are continuing to develop in this area.
