



PHOTO: USAID/A.G. KLEI

“(Here) the premises are clean and welcoming, and there is always a doctor available to receive you at any time of day.”
- Mr. Germain Rabemanantsoa, a patient of the Health Center for All

USAID MADAGASCAR: THE HEALTH CENTRE FOR ALL

Dr. Landisoa Tafangy and her husband, Dr. Yoland Rakotondraibe saw many vulnerable people in the neighborhood of Ankadindravola-Ivato, a suburban area in northern Antananarivo, struggling to access affordable, effective health care.

Dr. Tafangy knew the region because of her other career – as an Air Traffic Controller at the nearby Ivato International Airport. Most of the community members earned their living from small-scale farming and fishing. With low incomes, they had difficulty paying for adequate health care to keep them and their children healthy.

The circumstances of the community moved Dr. Tafangy and her husband. So two years ago, without any business background or available funding, but driven by a strong will to help, they decided to start the health center, naming it “Tobim-pahasalamana ho an’ny Rehetra”, or “Health Center for All” in Malagasy. The name represented their central mission – to provide a clinic that is accessible and affordable for local people. The goal was to improve the health of the local community so that its members could increase their productivity and improve their living conditions.

They designed the Health Center for All to be a one-stop shop providing low-cost general and specialized health care for poor families, including ear, nose and throat (ENT) treatment, ophthalmology, pediatrics, gynecology, obstetrics, ultrasound scanning and dentistry. The center provides low-cost health care with flexible payment options and free health care to those in dire need. Dr. Tafangy calls these “our social medical activities”, which includes special days with free screenings, free consultations and free medication two to three times a year.

The health center works in partnership with Marie Stopes International for family planning activities under the USAID-funded SIFPO (Support for International Family Planning Organizations) program, and is a member of the BlueStar network of private clinics providing family planning methods.

Dr. Tafangy says the health center is thriving, but successfully establishing the health center is just the first of many goals. “I feel proud of myself and my staff for all that we have achieved. But when I consider the extent of the work that lies ahead of us we still have a very long way to go.”