

Transforming Healthcare in the face of cyclones: A case study of Madagascar

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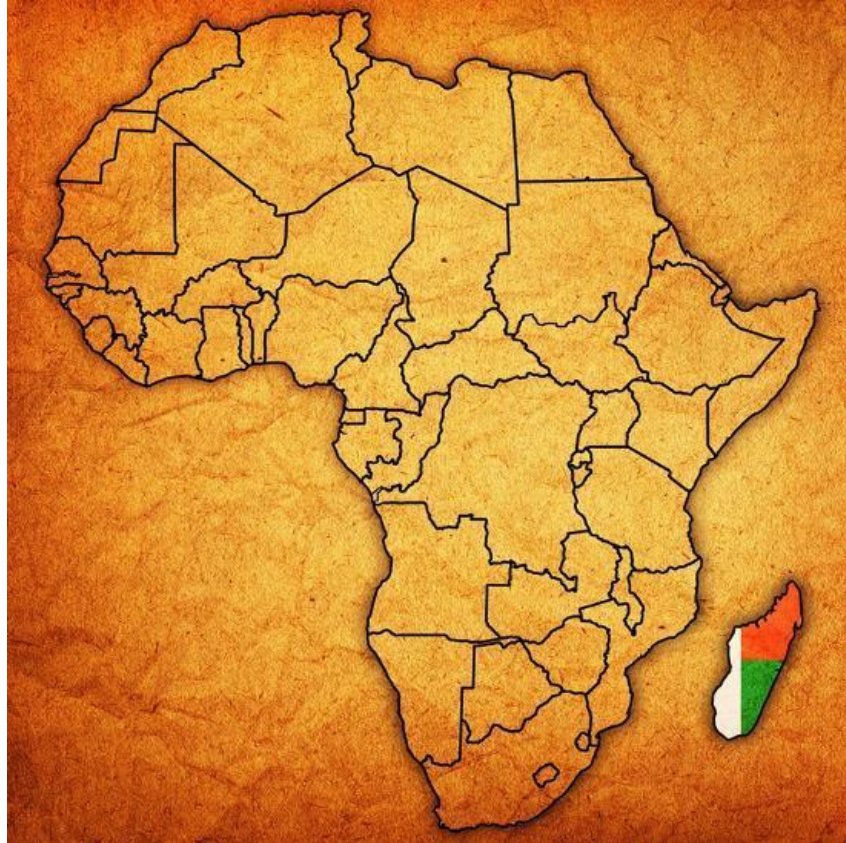
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Introduction: Context



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Context



Health Effects of Cyclones

- ▶ Destruction of health facilities, destruction of transport infrastructure impeding access to essential healthcare services
- ▶ Increase in waterborne diseases (cholera, diarrhoea) and vector borne diseases such as malaria
- ▶ For the fisherfolk communities- poor weather conditions prevent them from fishing therefore limiting access to fish which is a key source of nutrients



Building Climate Resilience through Strengthening Local Health Systems

- ▶ Healthier populations are generally more resilient to the health impacts of climate change
- ▶ A strong local health system that works with the community towards building better health outcomes before, during and after cyclone events contributes towards better community resilience
- ▶ A strengthened local health system is able to quickly and efficiently respond during times of crisis
- ▶ Local actors including local NGOs embedded within the community play a key role in supporting communities to respond when disaster strikes



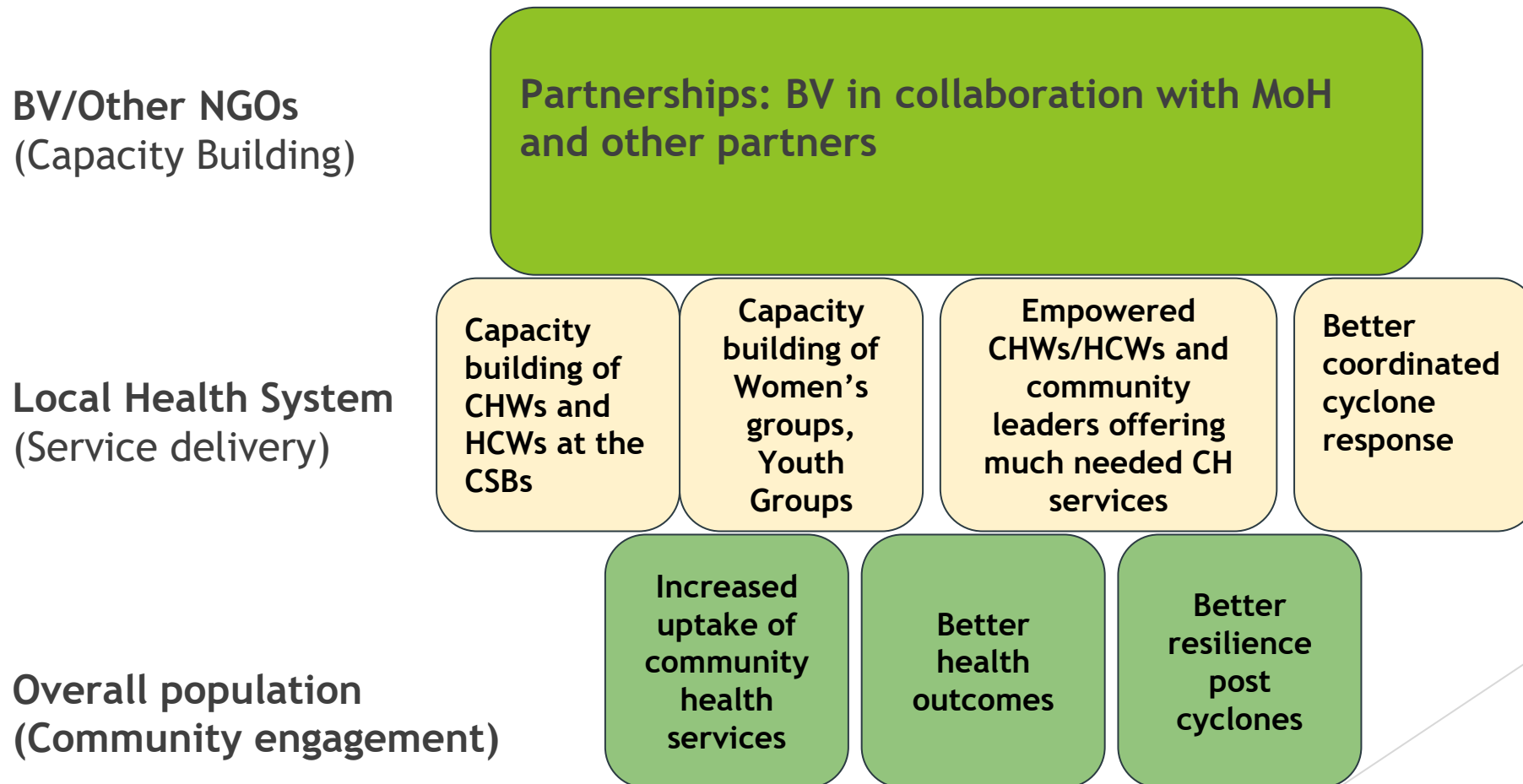
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Building Climate Resilience through Strengthening Local Health Systems: Role of NGOs



Building Climate Resilience through Strengthening Local Health Systems: Role of NGOs



Role of CHWs in ensuring continuity of care During Cyclone Response: Case study of Cyclone Haruna



- ▶ CHWs, together with other community leaders adopted leadership functions
- ▶ They gathered useful information and coordinated response activities with government authorities and disaster response teams

Role of CHWs in ensuring continuity of care During Cyclone Response



- Held community education meetings on post-cyclone health risks

Role of CHWs in ensuring continuity of care During Cyclone Response



- Supported the distribution of supplies such as mosquito nets, water purification solutions and oral rehydration salts for children with diarrhoea

Role of CHWs in ensuring continuity of care During Cyclone Response



- ▶ Ensured provision of SRHR and other health services continued in completely submerged areas
- ▶ Together with other village leaders, oversaw the treatment of wells and guarded them to ensure full treatment and proper use

The role of SRHR in building resilience to climate change



Lessons learned

- ▶ Without effective interventions, climate change has the ability to erase much of the health gains experienced over the years
- ▶ Communities, despite their vulnerability to climate change, have the ability to build resilience to climate change
- ▶ Acknowledging the role of SRHR services in contributing towards climate resilience
- ▶ Response to climate-related health disasters starts with the community and building the capacity of CHWs and other locally based healthcare providers and community groups greatly enhances quick recovery after cyclones
- ▶ Collaboration between various stakeholders is key in coordinating response



Resources

1. <https://blueventures.org/>
1. [Building Community Resilience to Climate Change: The role of a Population-Health-Environment programme in supporting the community response to cyclone Haruna in Madagascar](#)
1. ACAPS. (2022). Madagascar Retrieved from <https://www.acaps.org/country/madagascar/crisis/tropical-cyclones-season-in-2022>



***THANK
YOU!!***