

## Arlette Ravelomanantsoa, Madagascar

Community Health Nurse Nathalie writes that she and Mme. Arlette both work to protect the health of mothers and children, although they approach their work from different perspectives. Mme. Arlette is with the REMAFI project in Antsirabe in the central highlands. A traditional midwife, she now collaborates with the local Lutheran clinic, where she has received training from Nathalie, and where she refers people in surrounding villages for medical care, including women for prenatal care. Once that connection is made, she can encourage them to return to the clinic for well-baby checks and immunizations. Her connections with people in neighboring villages run deep, an asset for the Community Health Nurses and the clinic.

Arlette has recounted the story of Joseph, a traditional practitioner, treating patients and delivering babies. He had done this for many years, like his parents before him, and initially he was not willing to meet with the local doctor or REMAFI. That changed when he had a delivery with serious complications and needed the help of the doctor in the Clinic. Once he met with local health leaders and saw the positive outcomes for mother and baby, Joseph joined REMAFI. Today, he is the President of REMAFI in his area, and encourages other untrained traditional birth attendants to receive training and join REMAFI in collaborating with the Clinic.

*Nominated by: Nathalie Raharimalala*

