



CONSERVATIONALLIES
partners for wildlife

Volunteer Medical Program Overview

Conservation Healthcare Brigades - Madagascar

Led by Conservation Allies

Program Overview

The Conservation Healthcare Brigades are a field-based medical outreach initiative supporting underserved communities living around protected areas in **Toliara** and **Sambava, Madagascar**.

These remote communities face **extreme poverty, limited access to healthcare, and high maternal and child health risks**. At the same time, they are critical partners in safeguarding globally important biodiversity. This program integrates **healthcare delivery with conservation engagement**, strengthening trust with communities that are essential for protecting surrounding ecosystems.

Each brigade consists of:

- 1 Malagasy doctor (team lead)
- 3 Malagasy nurses
- Visiting international volunteer(s)

Objectives

1. **Expand access to essential healthcare in remote communities**
2. **Improve maternal and child health outcomes**
3. **Support vaccination coverage and preventive care**
4. **Provide family planning and reproductive health services**
5. **Strengthen local medical teams through skills exchange**
6. **Build long-term connections between communities and conservation initiatives**

Core Activities

- Mobile medical clinics in remote villages
- Prenatal, postnatal, and gynecological care
- Pediatric consultations and vaccination support
- Family planning counseling and services
- Basic diagnostics and treatment of common conditions
- Health education (nutrition, hygiene, reproductive health)
- Data collection and reporting for health monitoring

Volunteer Role in the Brigades

International volunteers **embed within existing Malagasy teams**, supporting – not replacing – local capacity.

Key Contributions:

- Clinical support alongside local staff
- Knowledge sharing and mentoring
- Assisting with triage and patient flow
- Supporting maternal and child health services
- Helping strengthen protocols and documentation
- Contributing to health education sessions

Program Structure

- **Duration options:** 2–6 weeks (flexible)
- **Deployment cycles:** Year-round, aligned with brigade schedules
- **Team integration:** Volunteers join active brigades in the field
- **Supervision:** Malagasy doctor + Conservation Allies field coordinator

Geographic & Field Context

- Extremely remote, hard-to-reach communities
- Travel includes 4x4 vehicles, hiking, and traditional cattle carts (zebu)
- Field deployments may involve camping or very basic accommodations
- Hot, humid, and physically demanding environments

Safety & Risk Context

Madagascar is **politically stable with no civil conflict** and generally safe in rural program areas. However, volunteers must be prepared for physical exertion, limited infrastructure, basic sanitation and living conditions, and remote medical settings.

Logistics & Support

Provided by Conservation Allies:

- In-country coordination and logistics
- Field transport and local guides
- Security guidance and protocols
- Basic accommodation (field conditions)
- Cultural orientation

Volunteers typically cover:

- International travel
- Insurance
- Personal gear

Impact

The impact of this coordinated effort will mean direct healthcare access for **thousands of underserved patients**, improved maternal and child health outcomes, strengthened trust between conservation programs and communities, and capacity-building for local healthcare providers.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Conservation Health Brigades team in Madagascar, please read the [Volunteer Opportunity Description](#).