

She is completely paralysed when she arrives at the hospital. One of the axe blows on the neck left her unable to move. Emergency neurosurgery was undertaken, hope returns. The sexual assault provokes traumatic fistulas, Diera undergoes genital treatment. The mental and moral impact is difficult to assess.

As of the first days, Diera demonstrates her appetite for life and her will to progress. Extremely conscientious during her kinesitherapy sessions, surrounded by a present and loving family, she quickly returns home. She masters her wheelchair and keeps making efforts to become mobile again.



Physiotherapy is a long, tedious and discouraging process for patients. Not for Diera. Her determination is deeply touching. Only six months after this terrible attack, the young girl is cheerful again.

Only one thing seems to make her shaky: the interruption of her studies. Diera was planning to take the BEPC exam at the end of term. Away from school since the attack, she strongly insists on going back. The fact she is unable to write doesn't allow her to resume her education immediately. The application made to take this exam orally is refused, which provokes some distress in her, a sense of helplessness and anxiety. However, Diera doesn't give up. She is hard-working, and her progress proves the daily efforts she makes at home. She continues to revise by herself and practices writing tirelessly.

In October 2014, Diera moves into her aunt's place in the capital city to be able to resume school. She categorically refuses to miss a minute of her lessons. Her kinesitherapy sessions are moved to Saturdays. As of April 2015, she reaches a new milestone: she goes to school on foot, alone.

In August 2016, it is a relief. Her motivation and assiduousness pay back, she passes her BEPC and is accepted in the first year of secondary scientific education. Until August 2017, Diera keeps progressing at school and in her rehabilitation. She manages her trauma in an impressive way. Kinesitherapists continue to highlight her diligence and constant progress. A single failure will temporarily interrupt her progression. Encouraged to take the baccalaureate as of summer 2017, she fails. The literary topics are less well mastered than the scientific ones. The situation with her aunt is also deteriorating... but her health is good, and medical tests are very positive; Diera requests to go back to her family in the village. It is done in September 2017. She resumes studying with the objective of passing her baccalaureate in 2018.

Diera is a really stunning lesson of life.

Sentinelles's intervention

Thanks to Sentinelles, Diera benefited from a long psychological support during several years; she was given a wheelchair and a kinesitherapist provided care at her aunt's place. Sentinelles also provided food support and paid for thermal cures to improve her mobility. She also received schooling support at her aunt's place because it was impossible for her to go to school.

Every progress costs weeks or even months of effort. Marlyse Morard, the Sentinelles General Manager, remembers: “to help Diera overcome both her trauma and her handicap, a solidarity chain surrounded her during this long and distressing process. To see her standing and smiling was one of the most touching moments of my missions in Madagascar.”