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	Sir Mervyn Brown KCMG	Barbara and Allan Prys-Williams

MfM income in 2013/14 was just under £215,000 which was £151,000 less than the previous year. This is because we were very fortunate to receive a substantial one-off legacy in 2012/13 which boosted our income that year. We spent £272,000 this year so used reserves of £58,000 to fund part of our activities. This was in line with the trustees' decision to use the legacy funding gradually to support the growth of MfM and enable us to do more work in Madagascar than would otherwise be possible.

We sent £216,000 funding to our partners in Madagascar, which was £42,000 less than the previous year. The main reduction was in funding for Akany Avoko which reduced by £34,000 due to the fact that in 2012/13 we paid for some one-off expenditure which has not been repeated.

At the year end the charity had reserves of £287,000 which was a reduction of £58,000 from the level at the end of 2012/13 reflecting the use of both general reserves and Akany Avoko restricted reserves to maintain spending levels.

As in previous years, most of our income has come from committed individual donors who have supported our activities for many years and we are extremely grateful to all these donors for their generosity. We have also secured grants from a number of trusts and these grants have supported a number of our longstanding projects such as Betampona and the school building programme. We would also like to thank these trusts for their support. The needs in Madagascar are enormous and we continue to face difficult choices in deciding how to use the funds we raise to make the lives of Malagasy people better.

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Twenty-eighth Annual Report

concerning the financial year 1st Oct. 2013—30th Sept. 2014



A woman in Alasora delighted to have a reliable source of clean water.

FOREWORD

Looking back at the Annual Reports since the charity started in 1986, what is most striking is the remarkable growth. In the first year we sent a total of £1,400 in small grants to two children's homes and to SAF (our first and still our main partner) for a tree nursery and a chicken-rearing project. In 2013/14 we sent nearly £265,000 to 15 different partners for at least 20 different projects. For the first 22 years MfM was run entirely by volunteers. We are proud of what we have achieved but none of it could have happened without the support of a great number of wonderful donors, some of whom have been with us since the very beginning. The other vital element is of course our partners in Madagascar who deliver amazing results with remarkably little funding. Well done all of us!



CHAMPION FUNDRAISERS

Earlier this year Madagascar suffered a cyclone followed by weeks of torrential rain which destroyed crops and buildings and caused serious flooding. Three wonderful children decided to do something to help. Amelie did a sponsored "bounce" and managed to do 371 hands-free bounces on

her pogo stick. Reuben and Beth did a sponsored litter pick and gathered an impressive amount of rubbish as the picture shows. Between them these amazing children raised over £1,500—enough to buy most of the materials needed to rebuild this primary school.



All that was left after the cyclone



The new building nearly finished

BETAMPONA



A Betampona farmer grew these coffee seedlings in his own tree nursery

MfM has been funding work in Betampona for over 20 years and huge changes have taken place in that time. We have recently done an evaluation of what has been achieved in the past three years and we were delighted to find that our hopes have been well and truly fulfilled.

Following the withdrawal of major international funding following the coup in 2009, Madagascar's health budget was cut by 57%, the education budget by 27% and poverty increased to the point where over 92% of the population was living on less than \$2 a day. By contrast, the income of those supported by the project in Betampona rose an average of 26% over the past three years. Most families chose to spend this on education and health. The number of children in the general population dropping out of school in order to work has risen by 25% nationally since 2009 yet

the numbers on roll in the 14 primary schools in the Betampona area have grown consistently and the number of children dropping out was only 3.3%.

Few people can now afford to visit a doctor since consultations and all treatment must be paid for. In Betampona the number of medical consultations and assisted births has increased over the past three years—an indication of increased prosperity and a



Happy, healthy children who are assured of an education

clear sign that people in Betampona have the ability to pay for services. One of the long-term aims for this project has been to help the people to live in harmony with their environment and use it sustainably. That too has seen positive development over the past three years with the tree cover increased through reforestation and fruit growing. The destructive practice of slash and burn has shown a noticeable decrease. All in all, it is a result of which we are proud and on which we hope to build in the future

THE WEDNESDAY CHILDREN



Just imagine the noise that hundreds of hungry street children crammed into a church can make on a Wednesday morning!

Pastor Helivao and her helpers receive somewhere around 500 children for one day each week of good food, story-telling and medical attention and provide them with somewhere to meet their friends in a safe and nurturing environment.

They are taught good manners and their parents are helped to obtain birth certificates and other necessary documents so that the children can access state education. **MfM** has funded this project for over 20 years and helped thousands of children to a better life.

FOOD AND FUEL IN THE WEST

The area around Maintirano in the far west is dry and the tree cover is much reduced due to the needs of an increasing population for fuel and timber. Our partners, with funding from **MfM**, have tackled these problems in a number of ways. Groups of women have planted hundreds of thousands of trees—fast growing species such as eucalyptus and acacia for local fuel and building use and slower-growing native species which can be used for essential oils and to provide materials for craft work.

Last year a substantial dam was built which has allowed the creation of 150 hectares (about 370 acres) of new ricefields. Provided that the short rainy season comes when it should, they can even get a second crop of rice thanks to this new dam. All this means that the local people now have a secure food supply and malnutrition is greatly reduced. The increased tree cover will also help to secure the future water supply in that area. The trees planted some years ago with funding from **MfM** are already providing fuel and timber so that people do not have to cut down precious native forest.



One of the new ricefields—all dug by hand

HERBAL MEDICINE AND GOOD FOOD

When everything to do with health costs money it is greatly in people's interest to keep themselves as healthy as possible. Our charismatic partner Charnette and her team in Toamasina are helping people to do this in several ways.

Comfrey is a plant that grows well in Madagascar and has properties similar to those of aloe vera. Charnette and her team have developed a way of converting the leaves into an oil that can be used to heal wounds, to treat burns, chest infections and a number of other complaints. They sell this oil at a minimal price to people who cannot afford to go to a doctor.



A comfrey plant and bottles of the oil ready for sale.

A very important way to keep healthy is to eat a balanced diet. The Malagasy are the champion rice-eaters of the world, but imported white rice contains little more than carbohydrate and Madagascar has one of the highest proportions of malnourished children in the world. Charnette's team makes fans (very useful on the hot east coast!) that have become very popular and go a long way to fill the knowledge gap about diet. An ophthalmologist working in the north, to whom **MfM** gave a grant many years ago, told an appalling story of a family that had three blind children whose eye problems were entirely due to a lack of vitamin A and yet they were actually growing vitamin A-rich carrots and feeding them to their pigs. Ignorance can have very serious consequences and Charnette is determined to do all she can to combat it.



Each blade of the fan shows a part of the body or a system (e.g. Blood, eyes, heart etc.) and lists foods that are good for it.

RESTORING THE RAINFOREST

In 2013 we received a large legacy from Pat Knowles, one of our long-term supporters. This was a wonderful gift that has enabled us to do all that is needed for **MfM** to grow and take on more work in a very needy part of the world that the British media has largely ignored.

Pat was a member of the Green Party and a very keen conservationist so we decided to spend a small part of her legacy on a project that was uniquely concerned with conservation. After much research we decided to give a grant for 3 years to an organisation called Mitsinjo that is working to restore the forest by planting corridors of native trees



A Mitsinjo tree nursery where they are growing native species in order to replace lost rainforest.

to link existing National Parks and allow movement of wildlife from one area to another. They currently have five tree nurseries and average 30,000 seedlings of up to 100 endemic species per nursery with a reasonably good survival rate of saplings once planted out. Mitsinjo also runs a captive breeding project for some of Madagascar's critically endangered frogs and is involved in research into ants, spiders and other endemic fauna. We are excited about this collaboration and can't wait to pay them a visit—watch out for more about Mitsinjo in our next Annual Report.

THE GIFT OF WATER

In Madagascar only a third of the rural population has access to clean water which means that 2/3 of the rural population is at risk of disease and early death due to drinking from a polluted water supply. In the past year our partner WDTM, with funding from **MfM**, has installed or restored a much-needed clean water supply in 12 locations in the Central Highlands.



A protected spring and public laundry place near Alasora



THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

In the past ten years **MfM** has funded the building or refurbishment of over 100 school classrooms, the supply of water and sanitation to schools that often had none, numerous school libraries and school vegetable gardens. We have helped with teacher training and environmental education.

The one thing we haven't been able to do is to help with sports equipment so when two of our generous donors wanted to mark their honeymoon in Madagascar by giving footballs to needy schools we were delighted to help. We put them in touch with our partners and a total of six schools received footballs and sets of blue football shirts with which they were absolutely delighted as you can see from the photo.

HELP FOR AN ORPHANAGE

When we were visiting Fandriana in the Central Highlands last year we became aware of a small orphanage catering for 30 children under the age of 10. They had a building but virtually no furniture. Basic running costs for food and clothing were met by donations from local people. **MfM** funded the purchase of bunk beds, tables and chairs.



AKANY AVOKO

MfM is continuing to transfer funds that have been raised independently for Akany Avoko Children's Home. As they no longer have a Development Manager who reports directly to **MfM**, we have employed someone to visit the home twice a month on our behalf to check that funds we send are being properly used for such things as food, clothing, staff salaries up to an agreed maximum and education costs—things that are directly of benefit to the children. So far this system is working well.