



AKANY AVOKO FARAVOHITRA

Refuge for teenaged girls

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



2019 was a very special year for Akany Avoko Faravohitra. While continuing many projects, which began in 2015, many new activities have been undertaken, which we believe will help to achieve the aims of the home, looking after the children in our care.

These are mainly girls who are in difficulty for one reason or another.

Many are from poor families from rural villages who have been sent by their parents to take up domestic work in the capital, Antananarivo. They are very poorly paid and sometimes they are accused of stealing and are then taken to the police. Judges at the Juvenile Courts may then place them at AAF where they can be helped to prepare themselves for a better life in society. This is the only place in Madagascar which takes in young girls who would otherwise have been sent to prison.



Others are children who have been abandoned or abused. These are placed by the social services at the Juvenile Courts.

In 2019, seventy-nine children entered the home – 49 court cases and 30 social cases. Some have since left, having been tried in the courts (and all of them declared innocent), or because a solution has been found for their future in their families. We now have sixty-nine children whose ages range from new-born babies, who arrive with their mothers, to young women 21 years of age. But the majority are teenagers and adolescents.

On arrival, the children have a thorough medical examination. We are fortunate in having specialized paediatricians who check the children's health regularly. Akany Avoko Faravohitra is a work of the Protestant Federation of Madagascar (FFPM), formed of the Malagasy Lutheran Church (FLM) and the Reformed Church (FJKM). The FJKM has a dental surgery where the children have regular checks.

We also try to visit the families of the girls who are placed here. This is fairly easy if the girls come from Antananarivo and surrounding villages. However, most of the girls' families live far away, and often from very isolated village's miles from large towns. But we know it is very important to try to visit the families in order to prepare the girls for reintegration into society.

Some of the children have already been to school so we try to continue their education and help them to achieve paper qualifications, if this is suitable. At the moment 11 girls go to local primary schools, 15 go to local secondary schools and one is at University in her second year of a Law degree. In 2019, three out of the four candidates passed their primary certificate exams; one out of two candidates passed their secondary exam (equivalent to GCE); one passed the Baccalaureate and one completed an English course at the American Cultural Centre.





Others prefer to do vocational training such as dressmaking, embroidery, raffia work and cookery. 32 girls have been following these courses which take place in the home.

IT training is given by the Telma Foundation. And we have volunteers who come into the home to give lessons in French, English and General Knowledge.

Some train outside the home and in 2019 two girls obtained professional certificates, one in hairdressing and one as a beautician.

We have very good links with local churches where girls can join in the activities suitable for children and young people – Sunday school, Scouts and Guides and other activities.

At the moment we have ten full-time members of staff, as well as several volunteers. We endeavour to give regular training to the staff in first aid, youth problems and basic psychology. We all went on a recreational excursion which really helped in bonding us together as a team.

Sources of Income

Local: There has been an increase in the number of organisations, individuals and groups who visit the home and a corresponding increase in gifts of one kind and another.

Organisations and individuals have helped in various ways: Child sponsorship, gifts of money, gifts of equipment, clothing, and cooking oil.

We also have a fund-raising event each second Saturday in December.

External Aid:

There is an increasing amount of external aid for sponsoring children, paying staff salaries, funding small or large projects and financing seaside holidays for the children.

Building Work

Various improvements have been made to the home in 2019: part of the laundry area, the showers, part of the kitchen, the water cistern, the painting of the Dining Room, the provision of beds and mattresses for 20 children, improvements to the garden.

These were funded by Scouts in Scotland and England, the Chinese embassy and many charitable organisations.

The “Manonga” project.

This is the renovation of a very well placed church property, which will contain a dining room, a craft workshop, a craft gift-shop, a hairdressing and beauty salon, a meeting room and accommodation for volunteers. It was officially opened On 1st June 2019 by the Head of the Protestant Federation. On 11th June it opened to receive clients. There is still a lot of work needed to bring the project up to a high standard of quality.

The two aims of the project are; To be a place of employment for the girls who are old enough to work but who have no family; To be a source of income for the Home.





Many organisations have helped in financing this project – Money for Madagascar, Small Steps for Africa, the Consulate of Monaco, Mad-UK 2013, ADRA France.

Projects for 2020

a) Basic needs of the home:

Replace all bed linen; replace the roof of the IT room; replace the tiles in the dining room; construct an indoor shower block; repair the balcony; install a biogas toilet; purchase a 4X4 vehicle.

b) Education: Improve the return of children back into society; improve the “School for Parents”; increase staff training; continue the reception of financial help from the Ministry of Justice.

c) Manonga: Improve the balcony, yard, 2nd storey room, a room for the guardian, more publicity for the project.



In conclusion, we would like to express our gratitude to all who have helped to make 2019 such a memorable and encouraging year: Church leaders in the FFPM for their support and trust; the Ministry of Justice for their help, advice and moral support. Thanks also for all our supporters, past and present, individuals and organisations, local and world-wide. A special thanks to all the staff and volunteers, parents and children who have been part of 2019.



HAPPY
NEW YEAR
EVERYONE!