

Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo and Akany Avoko Bevala

October 2021 Newsletter

Greetings from Akany Avoko Children's centre. It's been a challenging year but we are happy to tell you that we have come through it OK....

The current situation is much better in Madagascar. COVID-19 health restrictions were lifted during early September and there are almost no positive cases reported at present. Whereas during the winter, the number of cases was high, reaching up to 1,200 COVID-positive cases on one day. At AAA, the children and the whole team were not affected by the virus. However, at AAB, 5 staff members tested positive. Fortunately, the children remained healthy not showing any symptoms.

Currently, we educate 170 children, providing a safe, comfortable home during this pandemic. The number of children increased markedly as the economic crisis led to a social crisis. So many children have been victims of physical and moral abuse, abandoned by their families due to the lack of financial resources, a situation which will take considerable time to change.

The Centre has an official capacity of 120 children. However, as the number of children at risk increased considerably this year, we have accepted more children as they have nowhere else to go. As a result we now care for 170 at our AAA and AAB sites. To house the ever-increasing numbers of children, our 5 guest houses were turned into dormitories to provide accommodation. We have mobilised more teachers to educate and monitor children throughout the day.

Increased numbers also meant more babies and we added 3 new beds, obtained through "changeclickers" a donor project, which also funded 8 bunk beds. The Lion's Club Analamanga Association offered us beautiful classroom benches for Ny Avoko primary school, in order to be able to welcome more children.

Although there were disruptions, the majority of our children have achieved good results and moved on to the next grade. CEPE, which is a secondary school entrance exam, success rate was 100%. All these children are students from the Centre's primary school, and the success rate for the baccalaureate was 80%.

Five young women engaged in vocational education obtained their Diplomas in Hairdressing, and two completed catering training.

The staff team currently has over 45 members. This year, we have welcomed 2 new gardeners who are in charge of growing vegetables, a nurse who is always looking after the children and an educator for the toddlers.

New projects during the year included starting horticulture activities. We plant and take care of pot plants and flowers for sale. This activity generates income to assist with the running of the Centre, as well as providing an example of a possible activity for young people to duplicate in their life post AAA.

We keep 100 hens that lay eggs every day which makes us self-sufficient in eggs and allows us to sell the surplus to staff. The Centre's restaurant was renovated to provide a better setting for our future visitors. We are not yet ready to reopen but preparations are in place.

My name is Famenontsoa, at the moment I am happy because I have just passed my baccalaureate. I am going to start my higher education soon and am looking forward to it. I want to become a nurse. I like helping people and want to do it all my life, as long as possible, and think that being a nurse could achieve this. This is because I recognise that without the help of the Centre I would not even be able to study and graduate from high school. So, I am very grateful to Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo, as well as to all the people who contribute so that the Centre can continue to exist.



Returning from school Famenontsoa is on the left



My name is Tahiana and I am 14 years old. I arrived in the middle of the school year so I couldn't join the school. Instead I joined AAA's vocational training programme. I learned a lot of practical skills like hairdressing, sewing and cooking. Now I am happy to be back in school, continuing my studies.

I am a bit old for my class but am not embarrassed. I am grateful to have the opportunity to attend school.

Tahiana returned to secondary school in September 2021



Supporting Mirana to have a bright future hairdressing around Ambohidratrimo - Alakamisy

The Centre encourages and financially supports every child to receive an education and training. We assist them in finding the best solution to obtain work and provide for their family.

After beginning study at ISTS University Mirana moved into hair dressing training. Initially starting as a beginner at the Vola Ambohidratrimo Hair Salon, Mirana moved began a beauty course at the DDR Training Centre Mandrosoa Ivato. Mirana is now working as a professional hair dresser. Because of the PADEM project we were able to pay for her training and travel expenses as well as provide a hairdressing kit that enabled Mirana to practice her trade at home.

The Director of the hairdressing School, enthusiastically supports young trainees and wisely choose a quality hairdressing kit for Mirana. We also bought Mirana a mobile phone and provided business cards. Our aim is to ensure that trainees become fully autonomous.



Lala big sister to everyone at AAA and AAB



Vocational Education Team



My name is Forentin, I am 12 years old and currently in the 5th year of secondary school. My dream is to become a mechanic, I know that I will be able to do it. At the moment, I am in charge of the tools at the Centre, I often receive them as gifts because I guess I am the only one who is passionate about this. I'm trying hard at school to make it happen. Also, I carry out small repairs in order to train myself.

Rounia (below) says *'The moment I liked the most this year was the holiday at my father's place because it was the first time I went there. I went with my three other brothers and my father prepared a delicious rabbit dish for us.'*



At Akany we survived another year, during which we were not alone. You, all the donors of the Centre, were by our side to support us and help us to offer the best to Malagasy children. We are enormously grateful for all you have done, for the words and encouragement, the financial support, your thoughts... We could not have done this year without you! Thank you all again to Money for Madagascar and all our supporters who give us hope and strength. With your help we promise to look after and take care of the children.

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