



Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo and Akany Avoko Bevalala



October 2022 Newsletter

Greetings from Akany Avoko Children's centre. It has been another challenging year but we are happy to tell you that we have come through it OK. Akany Avoko is proud to announce that we will soon be celebrating 60 years of caring for vulnerable children, looking after their physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs. Over this time, we have helped thousands of children to grow into strong adults, many of whom now give so much back to their own families and to the wider community. The success and the support of our Akany graduates gives us the courage and strength to continue our mission to help the next generation. We currently have 171 children in our care.

It is my pleasure to share with you below some of statistics and stories that illustrate the children's successes that we have achieved together this year:

- The number of children cared for at Akany this year, who have been able to change their vulnerable situation because they have been able to attend school or training courses is 171 (65% girls, 35% boys)
- The percentage of Akany children who have passed official state exams:
 - CEPE: 100 % = 6/6 (Secondary school entrance exam)
 - BEPC: 75 % = 3/4 (Lower secondary education exam)
 - BACCALAUREAT: 50% = 1/2
 - Three young people supported by AAAB obtained bachelor degrees: 1 in midwifery, 1 in telecommunication, 1 in English language.
 - Six children graduated in vocational training: 4 in hairdressing, and 2 in hairdressing and beauty.



*Miarisoa is not her real name

Miarisoa is one of the children at Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo. She is 14 years old and in her first year of high school in Ambohidratrimo. Since she arrived at Akany, she has always been top of the class. She is an orphan who arrived at AAA in 2018. Her family was in difficulty and no one could guarantee her education.*

Miarisoa is asthmatic and needs extra support to keep on track in her studies. However, she has not allowed her health problem to become an obstacle; her goal is to become a paediatrician.

We are excited to tell you that the FPM management committee has appointed a new Director of Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo and Bevalala (AAAB) on 1 July 2022. Ivelohanta, known to many as 'Hanta', has moved from being Director of AAF girls centre to take up the Directorship of AAAB for a 12-year period. Arriving in post in July Hanta has had a lot to grapple with. Akany is a big centre with over 150 children aged 0-18, over 50 staff from nappy washers to teachers. The centre strives to provide a whole host of activities from food growing to schooling, counselling to sport, preschool to secondary schooling and vocational training.

It is complex and expensive to run. It is a big challenge to find funds to cover all the costs and to ensure that the children receive the best possible quality of care, which respond to their complex and broad ranging needs. Below Hanta shares her own story and what she brings to the challenging new role of being appointed Director of Akany.

"I am fully prepared with the whole team, to rise to this challenge. Akany is an important part of my life. My father died when I was two. I was six years old when my mother died and I started living at the Akany centre in 1991. I did all my studies at the Akany. After finishing my baccalaureate, I took a degree in social work and became a qualified social-worker. I did voluntary work in Wales for a year and that's where I met my Malagasy husband, who was also volunteering. We are now married with two daughters.

When I graduated, I worked as a social worker in Akany for 9 years. Then I was appointed to run the Akany Avoko Faravohitra for 6 years, which was completed in June 2022. Now I start the next phase, posted back to the Akany (AAAB) where I grew up. My choice is to do social work, the Akany is my life, it's not just a job. I'm ready, even though it's going to be difficult. I'm not alone, there are a lot of people behind me and the whole team who support our work. I was already a child of the Akany, and then I was an educator. So, I am convinced that the life-path I have followed will help me to succeed in my work as the new leader of the Akany. Thank you to everyone who can support us old and new!"

As Director, Hanta has already developed a strategic plan with her Church management committee, which aims to strengthen the centre and provide greater security for the children. Five key strategic objectives have been identified:

1. General management transparency.
2. Education which teaches children to be responsible and build their futures.
3. Effective HR management.
4. Strong financial and asset management.
5. Availability of sustainable financial resources.

Achieving these five points will require a lot of support from organisations and individuals willing to back our social work.

- General management transparency requires:
 - A clear financial plan. Currently, the funds received do not cover 100% of Akany's needs but only approx. 47.8% of Akany's operations. This is why we still need more supporters.
- Education which teaches children to be responsible and build their futures:
 - All children going to school or vocational training could be possible if 100% of the children were sponsored. Currently only 56% of the children have full sponsorship. Some have partial sponsorship but this does not cover the all children's educational needs.
 - Eating is a basic right; MfM's Mary's Meals canteen provides 43% of the children's food. This is a great help even if it does not cover 100% of the need.
 - The health of the children is also crucial but the fund allocated for children's health does not cover the need. Many children have toothache and stomach ache due to the poor nutrition they suffered before being placed at the centres. Many children also need psychological support to help them recover from trauma they experienced before arriving at Akany.
- Effective HR Management:
 - Currently we struggle to cover the staff wages, especially as salaries can be a difficult thing to fundraise for. But our staff are vital for providing the care and

education for the children and they too need to be well treated, as they have their own families to support. The aim of this strategy is to ensure that all the Akany staff have reliable wages and enjoy full employment rights to strengthen their security and motivation.

- Strong financial and asset management:
 - Good financial and asset management is one of the principles that the team prioritises. This requires a clear definition of the use of funds while respecting the conditions set by the donors.
- Availability of sustainable financial resources.
 - Akany has an area of land that can be used to generate income.
 - Akany has plots of land for agriculture and livestock.
 - Akany has staff who could be involved in income-generating activities.



“I can’t do it alone, but I have a great team!

.. Together we will care for the children!”



Staff of Akany Avoko Ambohidratrimo-Bevalala with their new director

Hanta meeting Akany parents to learn & share together



Hanta joining in with the children

Akany has great plans and possibilities but there is still much to do to make sure that our strategy will work. Along with our new leadership and staff, we will be working hard to achieve these aims.

Please note our new contact details, which are at the bottom of this page. All the old addresses are no longer valid.

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