

**A**mis des  
**F**amilles et des  
**E**coles de  
**M**adagascar



## Activities report 2019 - 2020

Dear friends of AFEM,

In August 2011, I'm walking around the Jaun pass, when I receive an urgent call: a 3-year-old girl has a right eye retinoblastoma (cancer of the optic nerve Toly is asking us for immediate funding, in order to proceed urgently with the ablation of this eye and replace it with an ocular prosthesis. The splendor of the Alps and the relaxation of the holidays has given way to a strong emotion, which I immediately shared with all of you. And many of you have responded to Toly's call. Princia has been operated successfully and, thanks to you, she leads a normal life. *She just passed the Primary and Elementary Studies Certificate* and her prosthesis was changed for the second time during a surgery that went well on October 6<sup>th</sup>.



Princia & her mother in 2012



Every other day she must change her bandage

*This little story illustrates the usefulness of your commitment within AFEM.*



Princia is also one of our Students Accompanied! She passed the CEPE and can enter CEG (equivalent to the Orientation Cycle)

You are probably wondering how this year, so special for everyone in the world, went in Madagascar and more particularly in Anosizato Andrefana. Much of the following information was sent to us by Bakoly Rafaralahisoa, president of NSAM:



Madagascar has suffered severely from the **economic and social consequences** of Coronavirus pandemic. The application of **restrictive measures** has **disrupted the daily life of households** especially in confined areas, including Analamanga. In order to manage the health crisis linked to Covid - 19, the Malagasy State has taken measures among others:

◇ **Proclamation of a state of health emergency** on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 with a total confinement for the most affected regions. Thereafter, every 15 days, the sanitary measures to be observed / taken are revised to comply with the emergency situation at a national and regional level;

◇ **Daily report on the Coronavirus** situation in Madagascar (new confirmed positive cases, recovery and death...);

◇ After Toamasina (Tamatave), in the east of Madagascar, **Analamanga (in red on the map)** has become the epicenter of the Covid-19 pandemic leading to confinement and the following restrictive measures including:



◇ Reinforcement of respect of barrier gestures;

◇ Obligation of community services for the recalcitrant ones;

◇ Suspension of urban public transport, unsafe due to overcrowding and non - strict respect of barrier gestures, particularly between Anosizato Andrefana and the downtown Befelatanana hospitals and Joseph Raseta University Hospital Center

◇ **Aid distributed / launched by the State**, to support populations affected by the Covid 19 relatively relieved the beneficiaries. Some households, which consider themselves vulnerable, didn't benefit from it, it's the case for several families in Anosizato Andrefana: Basic policy, bad organization or embezzlement.

◇ **Vulnerable households**, whose living conditions were already precarious and have clearly deteriorate since the pandemic, are mainly paying the heavy price of the economic and social crisis generated by Covid-19 by :

- ✓ Losing their job (business closures, households financial problems deprived of resources);
- ✓ Deterioration of their health and inability to take themselves in charge;
- ✓ The increase of violence, especially within the family;
- ✓ The difficulty of complying with the recommended measures, including confinement, caused by the promiscuity in their places of residence:
- ✓ The obligation to look for a daily job in order to be able to feed families.



**6-7 people confined  
in 8sqm<sup>2</sup> ?**

Although there isn't any official number of Covid-19 cases in Anosizato-Andrefana, most of existing cases preferred to treat themselves at home, instead of going to a Treatment Center Covid 19, because they were afraid.

The school year was deeply disrupted across the country. Schools closure from March 23<sup>rd</sup>, reopening at the end of April then, new confinement from July 6<sup>th</sup> followed by a second reopening of classes preparing for CEPE, BEPC and Bac the last week of August until the exam dates that have been postponed. Exam subjects have been limited due to the closure of classes.



*The school year has been reduced to 5 months!*

A ministerial note decreed "**Zero repetition / Automatic transfer**" to the next higher level for students in intermediate classes who have an average of less than 10/20 !

**In accordance with the principle of maintenance, NSAM considered that this measure does not justify maintaining Accompanied Pupils that did not achieve the required 10/20 average.**

NSAM will therefore select 26 new beneficiaries for the next school year, since 52/75 scholarship holders for the year 2019-2020 move on to the next degree.

The Ministry of National Education has created a national television review program for students preparing for official exams (CEPE, BEPC and Baccalaureate). But, according to the information collected, only a few pupils from disadvantaged families, including Accompanied Pupils (AP) were able to follow these broadcasts.

*Madame Adéline was unable to intervene for months with the AP*

The start of the school year took place on Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> 2020.

63 patients were treated between September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and August 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (including 9 cases taken care of during the previous fiscal year). Therefore 39 patients less and the equivalent of 6,500 Swiss francs less than in the 2018-2019 financial year.

No support between April and July 2020, because hospitals were overloaded with Covid-19 patients and there was no transport. All suspended operations have gradually resumed as soon as the confinement is lifted.

It has been observed that many people make the effort to pay for their first medical expenses themselves before seeking help from NSAM. The cost of food packages (rice, sugar, oil and soap) keeps increasing, not to mention the increase in drugs and medical costs! ... while dairy products (yogurt, canned cheese and butter) remained stable.



**RAKOTOMANANA 80 years old**, underwent surgery in February 2020 for bilateral inguinal hernia and prostate. He came in person and told that he had suffered for over 36 years from this illness and that now he was doing very well.

**He wanted to personally thank NSAM / AFEM for funding his operation.**


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This pandemic has accentuated the situations of poverty and food insecurity!  
Thanks to each of you, our Malagasy team could distribute basic necessities to the beneficiaries of our actions:  
« rice, oil, sugar, salt, dried beans, candles and soap ». The pictures speak for themselves!

*Your loyal support is increasingly needed and useful  
and we thank you with all our* 

**ATTENTION**  
Due to covid 19  
our general meeting of  
November 18 is canceled

Pour le comité de l'AFEM