



Dear Friends of AFEM,

Above all, the AFEM committee hopes that this letter will find you in good health, you and your beloved ones.

Our lives have changed dramatically over the past few months and you many of you are probably wondering how this dreadful pandemic is experienced in Madagascar.

First cases and direct consequences

On March 17, the government announced that all international flights and regions are suspended for at least 30 days from March 20.

On March 20, 2020, the first three cases of COVID-19 are confirmed at Madagascar. They were all women. Strict containment measures are implemented in at least two cities.

Stockouts and shortages

The prices of basic necessities rose as soon as the announcement of the pandemic and containment in Madagascar.

For fear, an easy fringe of the population and many wholesalers have generated a phenomenon of over-storage of rice, sugar, oil as well as fruits and vegetables, creating stockouts in supermarkets that have been literally robbed.



This phenomenon of over-storage occurred without considering the most destitute who can only pay for what they consume on a daily basis with their meager salary, which they still await payment at the end of the month, nor for the needy who collect their daily rice every day.

A worrying situation for the poorest

The two largest cities of the island, Antananarivo (Tananarive) and Toamasina (Tamatave, Madagascar's main port) have the highest

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number of confirmed cases. At present, the state of health emergency and the curfew are maintained throughout the Red Island.



But it is almost impossible for many Malagasys, already living in insecurity on a daily basis, to comply with the measures prescribed for COVID-19, and in particular confinement, because of the daily search for essential food and the lack of living space within their own homes.

News from our contacts in Madagascar

Bakoly, the president of NSAM, wrote to us June 11: "Madagascar has 1203 cases confirmed COVID-19 including 312 cured and 10 deaths (mainly in Antananarivo and Toamasina). Do these cases confirmed, from samples of targeted contact cases and identified patients, truly reflect the reality in Madagascar

Containment and significant challenges for schools

The two primary schools, the CEG and the high school were closed from the start

containment. Direct consequence: NSAM could no longer carry out the distribution of the daily snack while the stock of Koba flour Tsinjo (KT) was over 600 kilograms, with a due date in May 2020

Resuming snacks after a long break

Fearing to lose this large amount of flour, Adéline, Bakoly and Justine (members of the NSAM committee) struggled to be able to use and distribute before the deadline.

Bakoly wrote to us on April 28: "We are very concerned about the respect of this deadline, we are still waiting for any proposal of Nutrizaza, our supplier, for the recovery or sale of our stock to other customers. Nutrizaza's "verbal" response on the consumability of KT until a month after the deadline doesn't really reassure us. "

Bakoly told us on May 11 that she had been able to renegotiate with the Director of Anosizato Andrefana's EPP the agreement to cook and distribute the KT in the school grounds by ensuring compliance with barrier gestures. " Finally, we are all happy that some students and Supported Students (as well as their families probably) were able to benefit from the 614 kg of Koba Tsinjo in stock. A great relief! "



Distribution of Koba Tsinjo in the schoolyard (May 15, 2020)

Containment and patients supported by NSAM

On March 30, Toly informed us that she was confined but continued to take care of patients already taken care of while ensuring compliance with procedures fence. Bakoly confirms that several members of the staff of the Joseph Ravohangy Andrianavalona University Hospital Center are affected of COVID-19, which further complicates healthcare operations.

Tuberculosis patients undergoing treatment should both go to weeks at Fenoarivo hospital (15 km from Anosizato) for a medical check-up and receive their medication. They now report to Toly's portal to receive their travel voucher. As with us, all operations

programmed are postponed sine die. In mid-June, some of the sick taken in charge of NSAM have just been operated. Beneficiaries of food and dairy products come to receive them on the agreed date but without direct contact with Toly or anybody else.

The AFEM committee salutes the work of the whole team at Anosizato Andrefana and particularly the constant and active presence of Bakoly who, despite her condition of health (she must undergo a “open heart” operation, which can not be realized in Antananarivo) has not left her home since the start of confinement. The pandemic has plunged many Malagasy people into despair and poverty.



The Independence Day
Special celebration
festivities
60 years of independence
of Madagascar

The celebration of the 60th anniversary of Madagascar’s independence washeld this Friday, June 26 in a particular and unprecedented context.

While President Andry Rajoelina initially planned a celebration of this 60th anniversary with fanfare, the health crisis linked to COVID-19 has imposed a celebration behind closed doors, any gathering of more than 50 people not yet authorized in the Big Island.

To allow the beneficiaries of the association to celebrate with dignity this symbolic anniversary, AFEM offered a “Festive Basket” to the students and accompanied families. **The families all expressed a deep recognition for this gesture!**

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Tsilavina's mother, a pupil, dared to remove her mask to show her joy in receiving his "Festive Basket" containing food to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Independence day.



The Accompanied Students helped to food transhipment

Adéline and the membres of the NSAM committee are welcoming Those who are going to receive the "Festive Basket"





The “Festive Baskets” contained oil, soap, pasta food, rice and pork

- Long live NSAM and AFEM!
- People really in difficulty would have liked to dance while receiving their basket but the recommendations prevented them from doing so
 - Beneficiaries
- Glad to see the joy of people who applauded saying “We’re going to party like it should be!”
- Grateful to God because we were able to distribute
 - Committee members

NB: When this circular was finalized (mid July 2020), the Council of Ministers decreed on July 4 the total reconfinement for the Analamanga region (Tananarive) until July 20 again.

On August 17, confinement extended to all major cities. Hospitals are overwhelmed and large numbers of health caregivers are affected by covid 19

SOME KEY FIGURES in 2019 & 2020

Families

47 patients treated, from September 1 to date by NSAM. The number of treatments has decreased because of the health and logistical constraints related to confinement

School

75 Supported Students are supported to date, and are distributed as follows:

EPP by Anosizato Andrefana 8 girls + 17 boys

EPP Antandrokomby 10 girls + 15 boys

CEG 10 girls + 7 boys

High school 5 girls + 1 boy

LTP (Technical and Professional High School) 1 girl and 1 boy

New members of the AFEM committee

2 new members joined the AFEM committee in June:

Carine Tivollier: Teacher in the Orientation Cycle of Versoix, which is willing to resume accounting of AFEM and provide us with its teaching skills.

Koloina Rakotomalala: Communications Consultant, who will work with Herisoa to optimize our communications (cf. circulars, brochures, etc.)

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Our solidarity is useful here but also far away!
Thank you for your loyalty!



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President of AFEM

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