



News from Madagascar

Marche 2020

Providence Solidarity



Dear Friends, Families and Sisters,

It is with joy and gratitude that we give you news of our projects and activities.

Some information about the country:

A Southern African island state, located in the Indian Ocean east of Mozambique, Madagascar, is the 5th largest island in the world with an area of 587,000 km² and 25.6 million inhabitants. Despite significant natural resources, the country faces one of the highest poverty rates in the world.

Political background

The presidential elections, which took place peacefully in January 2019, marking political change in Madagascar. Having received 55.6% of the vote, President Rajoelina leads the country with his Prime Minister, Christian Ntsay and 22 Ministers. Several departments have been merged to improve the efficiency of public administration. The Malagasy government is preparing its new Emerging Plan 2019-2023, based on 13 targets to boost growth and reduce poverty.

Economic situation

The economy remains dynamic but has shown some signs of weakening in 2019. After growing by 5.1% in 2018, driven by export-oriented sectors as well as transport, finance and construction, economic activity slowed in the first half of 2019 due to a combination of weaker external demand and a slowdown in public spending performance as a result of the new government's entry into office.

Social context and development issues

Despite sustained growth in recent years, poverty has reportedly decreased only slightly, from 77.6% in 2012 (the latest official measure) to an estimate of 74.1% in 2019.

The agricultural sector, which employs a large majority of the population, plays a decisive role in the combatting of poverty in Madagascar. However, growth in agricultural production has remained too weak and volatile in recent years and has generally been lower than that of the population. Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world with 75% of the population living on less than \$1.90 a day (in purchasing power parity). Its human capital index is also one of the lowest in the world. Madagascar is the fourth country in the world with the highest rate of chronic malnutrition, with nearly 50% of children under five suffering from stunted growth. And it is estimated that in 2012, about 1.4 million children left primary school. Finally, living conditions remain difficult for a very large majority of the population having limited access to electricity (13%). Madagascar is one of the countries in Africa most affected by the consequences of climate change and experiences an average of 3 cyclones per year.

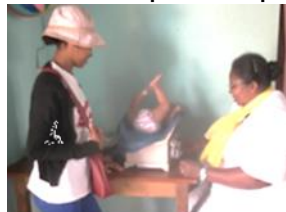
World Bank, latest update 22 Oct. 2019

The Sisters and their benefactors, together in the service of the people

MANDRITSARA

The Fanantenana Health Centre "Hope"

Number of patients per month: 175 to 230



Dispensary consultation: 150 to 200, outpatient prescriptions: 20 to 30

Continuous treatment: about 5

The number of patients increases when there is an epidemic, e.g. at the time of the measles outbreak, the number of patients was between 230 and 300.

Baby tracking: Number per month: 31 to 45, those taking milk: 6 to 15, for weighing: 20 to 30

Frequent illnesses: January to March: measles - 68%, from March: dermatoses-75%, diarrhoea - 10%, coughs and colds - 15%. 70% of patients are children under the age of 5. Thank you to everyone who helps us.

Sr Noëline Manjana



Literacy

73 students attended literacy classes during the 2018-2019 school year and were supported by 3 teachers and a cook who prepares lunch for the children. Two volunteers gave us a hand. The teachers meet every Friday night. The parents' meeting is set every 3 months. 43 children are sponsored by our Benefactors. All sponsored children and youth who took exams passed everything. *Sister Julienne Bodo*



Social activities – prison

We continue to work in the prison with the Missionary Fathers of Paris (MEP) and the Catholic Chaplaincy of the Prison. We also work closely with prison officials. There are 480 inmates: 18 women aged 18 to 59, 34 minors aged 13 to 17, 428 men aged 18 to 76.

Our activities at the prison: preparing meals twice a week, listening to and accompanying inmates, giving catechism, organising free time activities..., celebrating Christmas with them, the New Year, Independence Day on June 26th. We take care of the medicines, the meals of those who are hospitalized and give clothes and bedding to those who do not have them. We contact their families who are far away by phone.

When possible (some live too far away), we pay the travel costs so that once they are released, they can return home. Thank you to everyone who helps us financially and materially. *Sr Louise*

John Paul II High School



We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to our partners for the computer equipment received, which is so important and indispensable for our students and our school. This year, the sixth form college has 311 students. We have 6 classes including two first year classes, two second year classes

(scientific and literary) and two senior classes (scientific and literary). Our success rate in the Baccalaureate (A level) exams continues to improve. In 2018-2019, we had a 93.61% success rate, while the success rate was 91.75% for the 2017-2018 school year. Our problem is the decrease in enrolments due to the pass rate of the exams equivalent to O' level, which determines the number of students who can



access the A level classes. Despite this problem, we continue to apply ourselves to the best of our ability and maintain good discipline, so that our school is a dignified and preferred school among other public and private institutions. Our high school is recognized as the best among the institutions in the District of Mandritsara, whether in terms of success in the BACC/A level exam, or by guaranteeing discipline in school. We renew our gratitude; we know that we can count on you to continue this partnership.

The Headmaster of the High School, Father Anselm and Sister Flavienne Vavisoa

St. John's College



Saint John College has 716 students, with 18 teachers and 5 people working in administration. The number of pupils increased from last year (665). Unlike last year, we find that students are more interested in extracurricular activities, especially computer science; despite the inadequacy of computers, we only have eight. A big thank you to Guillaume Panardie, a French volunteer, who came to help us for two and a half months to transform the reading room into a library. He also gave reading and catch-up classes for French in all classes, from the 6th to the 3rd grade.



Sister Emmerentienne and the whole team

Dentistry



The construction of the building for dentistry in Mandritsara is almost complete. Other steps are under way for the opening. THANK YOU to all those who contributed to enable this project to take shape.



MAHAJANGA

KINTANA Health Centre



What news can I give you from my pretty sunny spot? First of all "thank you" to each of you who helps me to relieve, in one way or another, the children, the adults who use the clinic and I send you these multiple and radiant smiles as a thank you. All activities continue: general consultations, dental care, laboratory tests, infant follow-up, only the ultrasound has gone to be repaired (lack of original parts!) One of the big problems during

the last 8-9 months: it's water! We have that from 8:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., it seems that it is coming from the groundwater, hence the processions of people with "yellow cans" at night. For people it's an opportunity to meet and discuss... What is new, since the latest government, is the free enrolment in primary school and in secondary schools.

Sister Marie Le Béchec



Antanimalandy Mahajanga Literacy Classes



For the 2018-2019 school year: 104 children attended literacy in Mahajanga in three classes. We are three teachers: Sister Elisabeth, Sister Nordine and Miss Albertine. A Spiritan intern and candidates from other congregations come to help.



These children who attend the literacy classes are very poor. Most of them do not have breakfast before coming to class. They are hungry and have no strength to attend classes. We give them something to eat when they arrive and sometimes, we give them white rice that they bring home.

This year, a child was hit by a motorcycle. He was hospitalized and we were involved in paying for his medication. Sick students go to the Sisters' clinic for treatment. Many children are orphans, some have their parents in prison. We help them in providing their school stationery. Other parents contribute to tuition fees if they are able. We visit the children's families in the neighbourhoods and encounter several difficult situations.



Schooling here in the literacy classes lasts 3 years. After that, these students continue their studies in public or private schools depending on the choice of the parents. During their first year of school integration, we continue to pay tuition fees and school stationery. To mark Christmas and the end of the school year, a meal is offered to all the children. Thank you for your support. *Sisters Elisabeth and Nordine*

BOANAMARY



Social activities

The distribution of rice for the poor in Boanamary, Amboanio and surrounding villages continues. They get some meat at festival times. My heart goes out to our benefactors.

Sr BE Martine



Boanamary 'Providence' School



In the past school year, we had 190 students, with between 25 and 35 students per class in primary school. In pre-school we had a total of 41 students. We have 6 teachers and 2 administrators. We are all very grateful for your financial assistance in purchasing school supplies for both students and teachers so that they have notebooks to for their lessons. A big thank you also for the help for the construction of the well that is taking place and which we hope will solve our water problem of fetching it 3km from the school.



Sister Eliane and the whole team.

The Cooperative Farm

17 members of the "EZAKA" "EFFORT" Cooperative run this farm. There are 4,000 laying hens, about 1,500 eggs a day. In the past year, some problems have arisen. The cost of feed is increasing, but the price of eggs is not changing.

Sister Emmerentienne Sagara and the Sisters and Families team

MAROVOAY

Health Centre:

In this clinic, where I work and which belongs to the Carmelite Fathers, we encounter several types of poverty. There are families who do not have enough money to buy the drugs, we help them by paying the additional costs, sometimes we take care of them completely: like a young epileptic whose treatment cannot be interrupted, and a young woman of 21 years, arrived exhausted in hospital. We help patients to buy the medical supplies they would have to buy themselves... *Sister Veronique*



Social activities in the village of Morarano Marovoay



We regularly care for 10 poor and lonely people in the village of Morarano in Marovoay in addition to those who are helped at the clinic. Six of them are elderly people who have no children and live alone and can no longer work. The other elderly people are still working, pulling a rickshaw, selling *breds* (salad leaves) at the market but they do not enough to live on.



To help them, we distribute rice every two weeks, some meat at festival times, soap for some and other necessities: oil, some toilet supplies, etc. Sometimes we also help some families with children's school supplies.

Sister Vivienne

The Congregation Farm

15 people work on this farm belonging to the Congregation: sisters, young aspirants on community experiences, employees. There are about 3,500 laying hens giving 2,200 eggs a day. The eggs are sold at the Marovoay market, in the neighbourhood and in Mahajanga (80 kms) once a week.

Sisters Berthe, Vivienne and Colette



ANTANANARIVO

Bethanie Ankasina Centre



The total number of students for the 2018-2019 school year was 579: 321 girls and 258 boys. 75.67% of students passed the entrance exam in 6th grade. After their studies in Bethanie, those who have obtained their CEPE and passed the 6th grade exam



go directly to CEG 67Ha or elsewhere, those who have not passed the entrance exam go either to the CDA Andohatapenaka or to the College Jean XXIII. Former pupils of the Centre who continue their studies elsewhere continue to receive assistance and come to lunch in the canteen.

The Health Centre continues its work in the service of the local people with organized programmes for students of the centre: dermatology, distribution of iron tablets, distribution of deworming treatment.

Social Activities:

In collaboration with social workers we select families who really need help with basic necessities. We support 10 families who receive soap, rice, fine salt, beans and candles.

MORINGA TREE Launch Workshops: This production of Moringa seedlings has generated a surplus of income for unemployed families in Ankasina as well as for our employees. In total 7,800 saplings were produced and sold by the BETANIA Ankasina Centre. *Sisters Olga and Alexinah*



ANYMA activities

- Social activities for inpatients in need at Joseph Ravoahangy Andrianavalona Hospital:
 - Help with medication, in-kind or advance funds for patients who cannot pay immediately
 - Social action for children with cancer
 - Clothing help
 - Animation of hospitalized children



- Centre Social ANYMA

The ANYMA Social Centre is in its seventh year of operation, with a team of 12 people

In 2019, 850 people were housed at the ANYMA Social Centre of whom:

- 123 children (44 children in the care of ANYMA, 47 other sick children, 32 accompanying children)
- 613 adult boarders (209 sick, 404 attendants)
- 59 trainees
- 55 humanitarian missionaries (6 locals and 49 foreigners).

The minimum stay at the Social Centre is one night, and goes up to a maximum of 9 months. Sometimes we are forced to decline some requests for accommodation, because our accommodation capacity is insufficient.

There are more and more children in the oncopediatry, so we want to build an extension to our Centre and create the "parents' house" space, to have 32 additional beds.

This "parents' home" space has become a necessity as the public radiotherapy centre will be operational again shortly.

85 new cases of children with disabilities or malformations were taken into care. The support is on four components: care and treatment

Accommodation: for those who come from outside the province

Nutritional support stream

Schooling

- Nutritional support for hospitalized children

This is a nutritional support action that focuses on improving the survival of children hospitalized at HJRA by improving their nutritional status during the duration of their treatment.

Nutritional Support includes:

- Distributions of raw rice, once a week, with a symbolic participation 200 ariary for adults staying for more than 1 month in the hospital, selected by a Social Worker.
- Free distribution of raw rice, once a week for children in Oncology and Trauma and Infant Surgery.
- Daily distributions of broth, a pot of yoghurt and fruit, to the beds of the children in the Oncology wards, Infantile Surgery, Neurosurgery, Infantile Trauma, Cardio-thoracic and Ophthalmology.



Soeur Anne Claire Esquillan

Sister Claire is continuing her work in the oncology wards and Sister Justine is part of the chaplaincy service in the hospital.

TANDILA MORONDAVA

'Victoria Rasoamanarivo' School at Tandila, 'Saint Fidel' in Andrenalafotsy

The number of students in the two schools is increasing. We have been very encouraged by parents who send their children to school. At the Victoire Rasoamanarivo school, there are 257 students with 7 teachers. In Saint Fidele in Andrenalafotsy there are 120 students and 5 teachers. Andrenalafotsy: construction of the extension of the classrooms and the canteen.

The results of the public exams are good: 100% in both schools. The top 4 students of our commune of Bemanonga are our students. The school canteen is working well. Parents continue to cook. The "copy" operation continues because many students do not have birth certificates.



Sisters Martine and Jeannette



Saints Zélie and Louis Martin College – Tandila

There are 84 students with 8 teachers. We started the 3rd grade class this year. A big thank you to our benefactors for the new building where there is the 3rd grade, the head teacher's office, the library and computer science room and a place to eat.

Sister Clementine

Medical centre



The Medical Centre began operations on February 11, 2019. 5 health workers run this centre: Dr. Bodo:

Angelo, the nurse;

Jessika the midwife;

Sr. Euphemie at the pharmacy.



Some decisions were made in agreement with our benefactors.:

- To put security gates for the safety of staff and patients especially at night.
- Building a building for staff accommodation
- Building the incinerator



The life of the Medical Centre



People are getting used to going to the Medical Centre. Number of patients: between 141 and 161 per month

For the Prenatal Consultation: between 21 and 37 per month

For vaccinations: around 35 per month

Number of births: 20 babies up until September.

The sick and difficult deliveries are sent to Morondava, 22 kms from Tandila. The means of transport is difficult and the road is bad especially during the rainy season. The sisters' car has often become an "ambulance."

A new project: adding solar panels to ensure that the equipment works: the refrigerator for vaccines, the sterilizer... This village has no electricity at all.



Sister Euphemie.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the associations and charities who help us in carrying out the various projects and their operation. A big thank you also to the people, groups, and families who, through their faithful support, allow us to continue our activities in the service of the poorest and most needy. Thank you also to all the Malagasy people who are by our side and who work with us.

*Sister Denise Raharimalala, Regional Superior
Sist Sosthine Ratsimanahirana, Project Coordinator.*