



La Maison des Amis

5 impasse de la Sauvagine

13460 les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, France

Tel : +(33) 6 09 50 44 92

E-mail : maison-des-amis@hotmail.fr,

Website : www.maison-des-amis.org

The Friendly Haven humanitarian NGO 2017 annual and financial report



The year 2017 was a year in which we faced many difficulties and challenges. But it also was a time to show courage and resolution, sparing no effort to safeguard our « Hope Foster Home » in Togo.

At the beginning of the year 2018, the children are more than ever the focus of our concern: dedicated to them, we will never give up, whatever the obstacles.

1. Challenges and achievements in 2017

The year 2017 started well with excellent news for our orphanage in Togo. Following a field survey undertaken by the Togolese government in 2016, our orphanage has been ranked among the top 5 best fostering centres for children in Togo. This comforted us in our work and efforts. We gratefully thank our field team for the way they cared uncompromisingly among the many challenges.

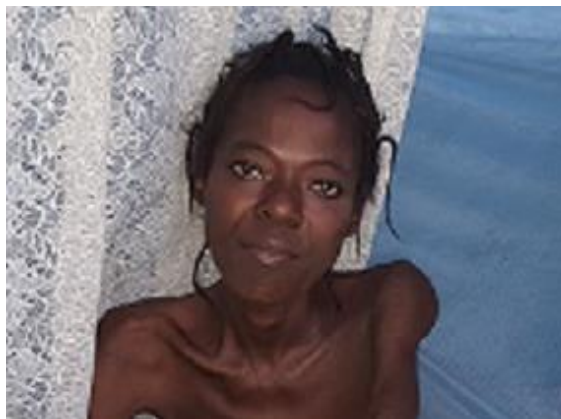
Subsequently, the main objective of our new field manager, Mr. Likiby, from December 2016 to August 2017, was to help the children to get better results at school. Due to the traumatic experiences they had been through previously, most of the children have major difficulties in their schooling. With the support from tutors, Mr. Likiby achieved what seemed impossible: all the children in our local structure completed their school year with flying colours. In the Togolese context, this is an outstanding achievement and we are happy for and proud of the children.

Moreover, we have succeeded after obstinate efforts to obtain that a change be made to the property titles and deeds of the land where we have built the orphanage. When we acquired this land in 2011, we showed over-confidence: the property titles and deeds only mentioned the name of our local partner in the orphanage while 100% of the funds were provided by The Friendly Haven. This has now been put right, and our rights on the land where the orphanage is built are now properly established.

Regarding the country as a whole, the year 2017 in Togo has been characterized by unrest. The opponents to the government in power—i.e. to Mr. Faure Gnassingbé who took over the presidency in a context of violence in 2005—have joined forces in a common opposition movement called CAP 2015. They demand a return to the Constitution of 1992, which included some tokens of democracy. Starting in summer 2017, many demonstrations have taken place in the country, especially in the capital city Lomé, resulting in confrontations between the army and the opponents. Today the situation continues to be tense, especially in Lomé. It is our duty to remain on alert and able to protect the foster families of our children should the situation turn into a major political crisis.

In addition, we had to face a very major challenge related to our local partner. The relationship with our local partner since the beginning, the RAGC—a Togolese NGO chaired by Mr. Yves-Mathieu Amewu —has been seriously jeopardized in 2017. Initially, the whole thing started with the deleterious and antagonistic influence on all our projects of the wife of the chairman of the RAGC, Mrs. Clémentine Amewu. Even after she was ousted in 2015 from any management role following her abusing attitude recorded vis-à-vis the staff of the orphanage and psychological pressures exercised on the children, Mrs. Amewu has continued to secretly influence her husband in the management of the orphanage. She has

persisted in sowing discord among the staff, and harassed our intendant and accountant, being supported in this by her husband. This reached such a climax that our intendant eventually resigned in July 2017. The Amewu couple exercised similar pressure and harassment on our new orphanage manager, Mr. Likiby. The stress was so extreme that it caused him health problems resulting in the desertion of his post and his escape in August 2017. Traumatized by the harassment he had to undergo, he returned to Congo, his home country, to live there. But the worst of all is the embezzlement that we managed to uncover following the courageous testimonies of the widows for whom a financial support had been donated in 2014. It now appears that the widows have been partly dispossessed by Mrs. Amewu of what they were entitled to. The coordinator of the group of widows, Mrs. Séraphine Abadjéné, testified in court in November 2017, just before she died from AIDS.



In tribute to the beautiful and courageous Mrs. Séraphine Abadjéné of the group of widows

Facing such outrageous acts, we have decided not to give up, and to take legal action with a double complaint for harassment/threats and embezzlement.

Before acting in this way, it was our duty to protect the 25 children in the orphanage to avoid that they might be caught in the middle of a dispute. A « Return to family members » had been initiated by our former orphanage manager, Mr. Bouron. As we explained it in our annual report last year, it began to be implemented in 2016 for a number of children in specific situations. It was extended to all the other children in 2017 following the threats on the children and the nefarious behaviour of the Amewu couple. We transferred all the children to the homes of members of their families (grand-parents when we could locate them, uncles and aunts agreeing to welcome them, etc.), with a subsidy given to each family. Obviously this is not an ideal solution all the more as most of the children were not prepared to leave the orphanage, but it was the only reasonable one to keep them safe in such a tense context. Although the Amewu couple tried everything in order to prevent us to get in touch with the family members of the children, we step by step managed to rebuild links, and we are about to organize training sessions in February 2018 on non-violence and benevolent education for the 25 children and their family members. They are financed by Non-Violence XXI, a French foundation, to which we reiterate our deep gratitude.



Children returning to the home of family members

From the moment that the children were under the protection of members of their families, we hired a lawyer in the capital city Lomé to undertake judicial proceedings. At the same time, the Amewu couple also tried to make a lawsuit to prevent us to get access to the orphanage. A first attempt by Mr. Amewu was rejected by the Court. Despite this rebuff, he is making another try with a different jurisdiction. In order to protect our orphanage and all the hens and goats of our agricultural and breeding programme, we asked the Court to put the site in escrow. The orphanage still breeds some 600 hens and 30 goats and the profits derived from it had been designed to help the orphanage to self-sustain financially. To avoid that the Amewu couple seizes all the animals and sells them for their own personal profit, it is necessary that the Court intervenes. We are proud of our agricultural and breeding programme, and the sale of eggs has been very successful. We reiterate our gratefulness to the main donor who has been supporting us for a number of years for this programme.



Daily egg trays thanks to the agricultural and breeding programme

We realize that the judicial proceedings may take time and that our orphanage, even if protected through an escrow procedure may suffer from the elements (rain, wind, ...). But we are at least protecting the site from greed and malevolence. We are determined to save this orphanage and see justice done. Over the last few months, we have been subjected to harassment, insults and even death threats... this has only resulted in strengthening our intent not to let ourselves be pushed out.

Let us focus on the positive side and sum up the prospects.

A strong point on the ground: the presence of Mr. Jazi, our agricultural engineer who has become our field manager. His courage and tenacity are outstanding. Paying no heed to the threats, he continued to act with unwavering strength. He is our pillar today and we reiterate our gratitude and congratulations for what he does.



Congratulations to Mr. Jazi

Other strong points: even with the legal proceedings and the likely escrow, we can continue to help the children who are now with members of their families. We can follow up on their situation, support the families so that they can send the children to school. The children need us, we will not let them down.

We can also act in favour of the widows, in memory of Séraphine who, before her death, courageously testified in Court despite all the threats and harassment, showing the way to all other widows. We can remedy the injustice they suffered by proposing them again an aid so that they can successfully achieve activities providing them a much needed income.

We can continue to act in Court to ensure a better life for the children and a stable and safe job to our employees.

We can act ... with YOUR support !

As all our attention and money were focused in 2017 on the survival of our Hope Foster Home orphanage in Togo, we could not pursue our other activities in Congo and Rwanda. The Friendly Haven could only make a small donation to support Mr. Kizito Mihigo, the human rights advocate who is still unfairly jailed in Rwanda for his actions in favour of peace.

2. Financial report 2017

Expenses	in €	Resources	In €
		Funds remaining available as of January 1, 2017	13,286
<u>Expenses related to the orphanage and the children</u>	33,627	<u>Resources linked to the orphanage and the children</u>	25,168
<u>of which:</u>		<u>of which:</u>	
<i>Regular expenses for the operation of the orphanage over 8 months (Euro 1,552 per month on average)</i>	12,422	<i>Funds from a number of individual s</i>	2,164
<i>Cost of the programme for the return of children to family members' homes</i>	5,000	<i>Funds from sponsors (foundations, companies and main individual donors):</i>	22,763
<i>Kit provided to the 26 children upon leaving the orphanage (including for summer holidays)</i>	3,700	<i>Companies and banks: 10,000</i>	
<i>Remuneration of the orphanage manager (Mr. Bouron), January 1 to 20, 2017</i>	1,012	<i>Main Individual sponsors: 10,763</i>	
<i>Social charges Mr. Bouron (2016/2017)</i>	2,149	<i>Non-Violence XXI foundation : 2, 000</i>	
<i>Remuneration of the new orphanage manager Mr. Likiby (Jan.-August 2017)</i>	5 860	<i>Subsidy from the French State for Mr. Bouron's salary</i>	241
<i>Severance pay of the local staff upon closure of the orphanage</i>	3 484		
<u>Expenses related to the agricultural and breeding programme</u>	12,596	<u>Special donor for the agricultural and breeding programme</u>	12,596
<u>of which :</u>		<i>Note : The remaining Euro 5,404 Euros from the overall donation of Euro 18,000 made by our generous sponsor were used to cover legal expenses, with special permission from the donor (please see hereafter)</i>	
<i>Agricultural and breeding programme (hens, goats, crops) : only cash income this year – <u>please see note after this table</u></i>	0		
<i>Cost of our agricultural engineer</i>	12,596		
<i>(12 months' salary + 1 month compensation for not taking his holidays + housing allocation)</i>			

<u>Legal expenses</u>	<u>4,213</u>	<u>Fonds restants sur la dotation agro-pastorale</u>	<u>5,404</u>
<u>of which :</u>			
<i>Expenses for the lawyer</i>	2,810		
<i>Expenses for the bailiff</i>	743		
<i>Legal expenses for registering our rights on the land</i>	660		
<u>Exceptional support for Mrs. Séraphine Abdjéné</u>	<u>200</u>		
<u>Exceptional support for Mr. Kizito Mihigo (Rwanda)</u>	<u>200</u>		
<u>Banking, administrative and transportation costs</u>	<u>2,025</u>		
<u>of which :</u>			
<i>Banking and Western Union costs</i>	696		
<i>Accountant, website, postal charges</i>	942		
<i>Transportation costs</i>	387		
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>52,861</u>	<u>TOTAL RESOURCES</u>	<u>43,168</u>
		DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR 2017	9,693
		<u>Funds remaining available as of January 1, 2018</u>	<u>3,593</u>

Note : It is worth mentioning that we have not included the Euro 4,672 of local income resulting from the agricultural and breeding programme in the figures for resources. This income is immediately used locally and does not go through the French bank account of The Friendly Haven. The contribution of the agricultural and breeding programme is extremely useful as on the one hand the income it generates helps cover some of the local expenses (thereby reducing the need to transfer funds from The Friendly Haven) and on the other hand it provides some of the food needed by the children, therefore reducing the need to spend money to buy food on the market. You can hereafter find the summary tables for the results of the agricultural and breeding programme:

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME

Crop growing	Crop (bowls)	Crop (kg)	Estimate in F CFA	Estimate in Euros	contribution
Corn	240	600	120 000	183	in kind for the children
Peas	340	1 020	408 000	621	in kind for the children
Tapioca (cassava)	625		470 000	716	for breeding programme
Potatoes		200	140 000	213	in kind for the children

Total : Euros 1,733

BREEDING PROGRAMME (egg-laying hens, sale of eggs)

Month	Income (Euros)	
February	346	Cash for the orphanage
March	205	Cash for the orphanage
April	782	Cash for the orphanage
May	381	Cash for the orphanage
June	432	Cash for the orphanage
July	427	Cash for the orphanage
August	366	Cash for the orphanage
Total	2,939	Cash for the orphanage

3. Budget for 2018

Expenses foreseen for the year 2018	in Euros
Children follow up and support to families <i>200 Euros per child per year for the 30 children who were in the orphanage in 2016-2017</i>	6,000
Legal expenses <i>Lawyer's cost (Mr. Devotsou in Lomé) for the proceedings on the facts</i> <i>Cost of the trips from Atakpamé to Lomé</i> <i>Bailiff's cost (Mr. Atchemi in Atakpamé)</i> <i>Unforeseen</i>	2,960 1,079 381 1,000 500
Escrow cost for the protection of the orphanage and the safeguard of the agricultural and breeding programme <i>11 months, based on 500 Euros/month</i>	5,500
Remuneration of our agricultural engineer and field manager (*) <i>Salary</i> <i>Housing subsidy</i> <i>Cost of home leave</i>	13,296 11,196 600 1,500
Support to the widows <i>150 Euros/widow/year for the widows who were the beneficiaries of our original programme in 2014-2015</i>	5,000
Banking and money transfer costs	700
Maintenance of our internet website	120
Unforeseen	2,000
TOTAL	35,576

(*) Admittedly, costs related to the presence of our agricultural engineer and field manager are significant. However, considering the context, we cannot do without him and his actions. His determination and courage are irreplaceable. Without a solid presence on the spot, we would not be able to protect this orphanage, support the children, nor could we monitor the diligence of the lawyer. Let's keep in mind that all the central staff of The Friendly Haven in France and Asia has been made of unpaid volunteers since the creation of our organization. Moreover, it is legitimate that our agricultural engineer and field manager could return to Europe at least once a year to see his family, hence the need to help him pay the related travel cost.

In conclusion, let us go together through our objectives :

- **To continue supporting the children who were housed in our orphanage to allow them to live decently, continue going to school, receive necessary care and psychological help**
- **To safeguard our orphanage and agricultural/breeding programme**
- **To see justice done, even if it takes time, showing that we do not tolerate any bending of the rules of transparency, strictness and total honesty : these have been our requirements and guiding principles right from the beginning**
- **To be able to support the widows and thereby honour the memory of Mrs. Séraphine Abadjéné**

We are ready to do whatever possible to continue our charity work guided by love and courage: let us do it together!

Your donations will play a crucial role.

Donations

**You can support The Friendly Haven
(its French name is: "La Maison des Amis")**

by bank transfer (preferably in Euros) to its bank account in France:

Bank:	La Banque Postale
Account holder :	La Maison des Amis
Account number:	20041 01008 2153721R029 38
IBAN :	FR 17 2004 1010 0821 5372 1R02 938
BIC :	PSSTFRPPMAR