

The Friendly Haven

Annual report 2016



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2016 was a very positive year as regards the stabilization of our organization in Togo, the very good atmosphere within the orphanage, with radiant children.

We managed to:

- start up our agricultural and breeding programme which will progressively contribute to the financial self-sufficiency of the orphanage,
- carry out two drillings, which are essential to the water supply of the orphanage.

However, we had to cope with harsh adverse circumstances. Some were of natural character. This was the case with periods of drought followed by heavy downpours generating landslides causing damage to some parts of the orphanage, a regional epidemic of conjunctivitis which affected adults as well as children, and an epizootic disease of ovine rinderpest which killed two-thirds of our new flock of goats being part of our breeding programme. Other adverse circumstances were of “human” making. Due to an uncertain and difficult environment for world financial markets, some of our important donors suddenly and massively curtailed their donations to The Friendly Haven in 2016. This had two consequences for us. On the one hand, we had to drastically cut our expenses, focusing on what is absolutely essential and postponing all the rest. On the other hand, we have made considerable efforts to find new individual generous donors, and have undertaken a crowdfunding operation. These efforts were successful, while some members of the Board of The Friendly Haven, on a personal basis, made exceptional important donations.

1. Actions undertaken for the children in our “Hope Foster Home” orphanage in Togo

In this report we are providing many details on the various aspects of the orphanage. It is not our intention to draw up a list which would be a sort of inventory. Our purpose is to emphasize what the operation of an orphanage means in the practical reality. It is not only a collection of enthusiastic good intentions, generous ideas, and emotional feelings. It is also a huge work of management and logistics at every moment, consisting in ensuring that everything works well, giving **due attention to detail**, and precisely identifying what may be lacking. If this huge work is not performed, there cannot be a **sustainable** development of the orphanage, and that would be to the detriment of the children.

Please go hand in hand with us in this endeavour and, whenever possible, also bring your contribution and your help, including in matters of detail (for instance, we kindly ask you to send a number of staple items that we have summed up in this report, such as medicines, hygiene items, kitchen utensils, some types of clothing, directly to the orphanage in Togo).

You will hereafter find a personal profile of each of the children of the orphanage. These children cannot be introduced only through statistics (29 children of whom 22 boys and 7 girls; between 6 and 13 years old; of whom 11 have good learning capabilities at school, 9 have average capabilities, and 9 experiencing great difficulties). **Actually, they represent 29 different individual cases of children who, for each of them, have experienced a dreadful tragedy. Our orphanage endeavours to give them a second chance in life ... or merely to give them a chance —the chance they never had so far.**

Here are these children :

	SURNAME	Name	Gender	Age	Brothers / sisters	In our orphanage since	School level	Comments	Family situation	How to get back to family
1	ABOTCHI	Marcelin	M	8		Apr. 2014	Form 2	Cannot yet read. Great learning difficulties	Limited information available. Father alive, mother deceased. 2 sisters in Kpalimé	Need to find the father
2	AGOUDA	Adjovi	F	13		July 2016	Form 3	Cannot yet read. Great learning difficulties	Mother deceased. Father and one sister living in Benin	Going back to her grandparents in Douffion at the end of the school year, or to her father in Benin, are considered
3	AKAKPO	Jonas	M	10		Sept. 2015	Form 4	Great learning difficulties	Lost both parents. Has maternal grandparents and a brother of 13.	To return to his grandparents who can afford to bring him up
4	AKAME	Petro	M	10	BROTHERS	Sept.2015	Form 5	Average learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother lives in Atakpamé with their 2 young brothers	Returned to family achieved in October 2016 (mother assisted and supported financially)
5	AKAME	Nestor	M	9		Sept.2015	Form 3	Good learning capabilities		Return to family planned soon

6	AKPOVI	Happy	F	11		Sept. 2014	Form 5	Good learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother in Atakpamé with 3 children, aged 7, 9, and 12	Desirable to organize return to family at end of school year
7	ASANTA	Love	M	11		Sept. 2015	Form 3	Average learning capabilities	Father has disappeared. Mother in Ghana. One brother living with an aunt	To be maintained in the orphanage until form 5. Subsequently, transfer to his aunt's home to be considered
8	ASSOUMANOU	Foulera	F	7		Sept. 2015	Form 2	Great learning difficulties	No parent. One uncle in Atakpamé + 1 elder sister (where ?)	To be maintained in the orphanage until form 5
9	ATTIOGBE	Merveille	F	6		Sept. 2015	Form 2	Good learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother in Niger (remarried ?). There is a grandfather and a paternal uncle	To be maintained in the orphanage until form 5. Try to locate the mother
10	BOKO	Augustin	M	10		Sept. 2015	Form 5	Good learning capabilities	Mother deceased. Father in Atakpamé + paternal grandmother.	Return to the father at the end of the school year is considered.
11	DOTCHOU	Atchou	M	12	BROTHER AND SISTER (twins)	April 2014	Form 4	Great learning difficulties	No parent. One brother in the bush + 1 uncle in Atakpamé	To be maintained in the orphanage until age of apprenticeship. See with the uncle if he will be able to take the children.
12	DOTCHOU	Obé	F	12			Form 4	Great learning difficulties		
13	KADJIA	Innocent	M	7		Sept. 2014	Form 2	Cannot yet read. Great learning difficulties	Father deceased. Mother in Atakpamé + 1 sister of 20 ans + 1 of 12 (not living with the mother)	Support to the mother (rent+ income generating activities) to be organized for family return
14	KENOU	Mawudenyoy	M	9		Sept. 2015	Form 4	Average learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother in Saada + 2 brothers	Desirable to organize return to family at end of school year
15	KOFFI	Dovené (Dové)	M	8		Sept. 2015	Form 2	Average learning capabilities	Father in Nangbeto and mother in Anié + 1 brother + 1 sister	Support to the mother (rent+ income generating activities) to be organized for family return
16	SAKO - KOSSI	David	M	11		Sept. 2015	Form 3	Average learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother is back in Atakpamé since Oct. 2016	Support to the mother (rent+ income generating activities) being organized. Return to family considered at end of school year
17	SARMA	Anasse	M	11		For 2 years	Form 6	Good learning capabilities	Mother deceased. Father in Atakpamé + 1 brother + 1 sister + 1 uncle	Support to the father (rent+ income generating activities) to be considered so that return to family can take place at end of school year
18	SIGBEGNO KOSSIVI	Julio	M	10		June 2015	Form 5	Average learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother + 1 sister of 12 living in Atakpamé	Return to family done in October 2016 (with support to the mother)
19	SOWOUGBO	Mawussi	M	7	BROTHERS	Sept. 2015	Form 2	Average learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother in Nigeria (returning end 2016) + maternal grandfather in Atakpamé	Support to the mother (rent+ income generating activities) to be put in place when she comes back from Nigeria
20	SOWOUGBO	Mawuko	M	10		Sept. 2015	Form 5	Good learning capabilities		

21	TETE	Atsou	M	8	BROTHERS (twins)	Sept. 2015	Form 3	Good learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother in Atakpamé + grandmother and aunts	Return to family done in October 2016 (with support to the mother)
22	TETE	Etse	M	8		Sept. 2015	Form 2	Average learning capabilities		
23	TOSSA	Dieudonné	M	11		July 2015	Form 4	Good learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother remarried, has 2 children (Atakpamé)	Return to the family at the end of the school year to be considered.
24	YAWO	Célestin	M	11		Sept. 2015	Form 4	Average learning capabilities	Father deceased. Mother + 2 sisters (6 + 17 with a baby) + 2 elder brothers	Support to the mother (rent+ income generating activities) has been provided. Return to family at end of school year
25	ASSIETAY	Mawupémo	F	10		Feb. 2016	Form 3	Good learning capabilities	Father in Témédja + 2 brothers	Support to the father (rent+ income generating activities) has been provided. Return to family at end of school year
26	SEIBOU	Inoussa	M	11		Aug. 2016	Form 2	Average learning capabilities	No parent + 1 brother deceased	Child to be maintained in the orphanage until form 5
27	ASSASSE	Mamadi	F	9		Aug. 2016	Form 1	Cannot yet read	Father disappeared. Mother alive but psychotic. 1 sister in Glei	Child maintained in the orphanage while we try to trace the sister in Glei
28	AYOTE	Yasmine	F	7	Half brother/sister	Sept. 2016	Form 1	Good learning capabilities	Mother deceased. Father in Sokode but has not acknowledged paternity	Child maintained in the orphanage while we try to trace the father.
29	AYOTE	David	M	11		Sept. 2016	Form 1	Cannot yet read. Great learning difficulties	Half brother of Yasmine. Father + mother deceased. Paternal uncle wishes to take charge of the child (pending)	Child maintained in the orphanage. We have to wait for the court ruling following the uncle's request



1.1 Health and hygiene, food and clothing

HEALTH and HYGIENE

- **Actions undertaken in 2016**

The most important action has been to strengthen our partnership with the health clinic in Avédjé, located about half a mile from the orphanage and that is of great help in emergency situations.

We have obtained that a local pharmacy donates us some medicines (Paracetamol, Albendazole, and Metronidazole) which is a most welcome donation in view of the very high cost each time we need to buy medicines in Togo.

Analyses and blood tests have been performed for each child as well as a consultation by a medical doctor.

All children have been treated during the regional epidemic of conjunctivitis in September 2016.

As far as hygiene is concerned, towels have been purchased and our seamstress has crafted small bags so that the children can tidy up their toiletries inside them.

- **Our urgent needs**

In addition to our partnership with the health clinic in Avédjié, we would like to set up a small infirmary in our orphanage. It would have a medical consultation table, a cabinet, and some basic medical equipment. This would make it possible to the nurse of the Avédjié health clinic to perform consultations and to a medical doctor to come and examine the children on a bi-annual or annual basis.

Regarding basic medicines, our priority remains with the Paracetamol that we cannot obtain in boxes of 1,000 tablets.

Regarding hygiene, in-kind donations from our generous donors would be highly appreciated (e.g. a batch of toothbrushes, solid combs, flannels [face cloths], and middle-size towels). We kindly request donors to dispatch them directly to Togo (with specific mention: « pour la Maison de l'Espoir »), to our local partner: Association CRAC, 1016 avenue Jérémie Moran, BP 425, Atakpamé, Togo. Please do not send them to our office in France.

FOOD

- **Actions undertaken in 2016**

We have hired a new cook. New better balanced and varied menus have been introduced with the help of the staff. We have bought new cutlery.

At the end of 2016, we have begun to benefit from the first results of our agricultural and breeding programme which has procured corn, potatoes, and eggs for the orphanage.

- **Our urgent needs**

Our orphanage has unfortunately no household electric appliance which would allow us to keep the food fresh. A large refrigerator would make it possible to properly conserve eggs and fresh produce (chicken, beef meat, fish, vegetables and condiments). This would also contribute to further improving the variety of menus. Moreover, it would help us to be in better compliance with the prevailing hygiene regulations in Togo applicable to social care institutions.

*Purchasing a freezer could also be considered, should we have enough money to buy it. Additionally, it is difficult in Togo to find sets of kitchen utensils of satisfactory quality and therefore we would very much appreciate if we could receive a set of current kitchen utensils, such as knives, cleavers, and peelers... **We kindly request donors to dispatch them directly to Togo, as indicated hereabove.***

CLOTHING

• Actions undertaken in 2016

We have purchased a complete set of clothes for each child : underwear, tee-shirts, tracksuits, shorts, short trousers, dresses, skirts, sportswear, sandals, and two school uniforms.

We have bought a sewing machine, and hired a washerwoman/seamstress.

Shelves have been made to place the clothes.

• Our urgent needs

The purchases of clothes we made in 2016, as mentioned above, are unfortunately not sufficient to satisfy the real needs, which are recurrent needs. This is the list of our recurrent needs :

- Underwear
- Tee-shirts with short sleeves (November to May) and also long sleeves for the rainy season (June to October)
- Sportswear (shorts and tee-shirts) football-type
- Tracksuits (or combination of track pant + sweatshirt) when evenings are cool
- Bermuda shorts, short trousers.
- Skirts (not too short)
- Bras for teens
- Flip-flops, sandals with Velcro fastener
- Belts (not too large)

Help from our donors in terms of clothing for the children will be highly appreciated (please see note ¹ below).

1.2 For education, transportation to school, and leisure

EDUCATION

• Actions undertaken in 2016

Our actions have been focused on two aspects :

(1) Work in conjunction with the schools attended by the children of the orphanage:

There have been problems with outbreaks of physical violence and insults exercised on the children by a teacher. Our team has reacted by denouncing such acts so as to ensure that our children no longer attend the class of this teacher (and that this teacher be taken away from the school). This has called to mind the need to create a protective schooling structure inside our orphanage (see paragraph “our urgent needs” hereafter). Unfortunately, severe physical violence exercised on children in schooling system is commonplace in Togo.

(2) Work inside the orphanage :

We have organized a tutor, in addition to the work done by our volunteer Mathilde Bouron (the spouse of the head of the orphanage from January to November 2016) twice a week with two groups of children having learning difficulties. Such tutoring has been necessary as the teaching quality in small schools is very low and too little attention is given to children, due to overcrowded classes and difficult conditions resulting from poverty.

1. We kindly request donors to dispatch directly to Togo (with specific mention: « pour la Maison de l'Espoir »), to our local partner : Association CRAC, 1016 avenue Jérémie Moran, BP 425, Atakpamé, Togo. Please do not send them to our office in France.

Mathilde has also helped in the field of body language to help children learn better.

In terms of material, we have bought schoolbags, notebooks and reading books corresponding to the level of form 1. Benches and tables were made (so that the tutoring can be made in our central straw hut), as well as two blackboards (one in the canteen, one outside). Geographical maps (Togo, Africa, world) were purchased. During his field trip, Alexandre Desclaires from the Athéna Montessori high school of Paris, brought in very good material for the new Montessori activities. He also trained our staff who subsequently took over.

- **Our medium and long-term needs**

*Considering on the one hand that, as mentioned on the previous page, the children of the orphanage are often very badly treated physically and morally, and, on the other hand, that we wish to provide them with teaching methods based on benevolence and non-violence, **we would like to host a small school within our orphanage**, subject of course that local regulations allow it.*

There is no need to create new large-scale structures. We could just complete the existing buildings still under construction. Part of the necessary funds have already been requested from the Non-Violence XXI foundation, which has agreed to finance the training of the educational staff in terms of non-violence.

TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOLS

- **Actions undertaken in 2016**

We succeeded in reselling our former bus. Its breakdowns were too frequent and repairs more and more difficult and costly. We subsequently bought a 15 seater minibus for the round trips to school, a much more efficient solution for the children.

In the interim period between the major breakdown of the former bus and the purchase of the minibus, we used the orphanage service car every morning/noon time and evening to carry the children through a series of rotations.

LEISURE

- **Actions undertaken in 2016**

Books were distributed to the children in October. We reorganized our library.

We have put in place body language workshops.

We bought marbles, skipping ropes, etc. We have been organizing ball games in the afternoons.

We acquired a large television set and organized cinema evenings during the week ends.

We also bought a radio-CD player.

We have been organizing activities on the occasion of birthdays for all the children.

- **Our urgent needs**

*Even as it has benefited from donations of children books, our small library remains insufficient in view of the real needs. **We would very much appreciate further donations of books, especially discovery books (universe, earth, sea, animals, landscapes...), books on Africa, and African tales. We are also highly interested in documentary films, National Geographic-type (through USB keys or any other simple medium).***

Besides, we are badly short of educative and recreational games, such as jigsaw puzzles, card games, boxes of multiple games (draughts, ludo, etc.), Memory (animals) or whatever other simple games suitable to the context (e.g. Lego).

We would also be delighted if we could have drawing books and sketch books, as drawing is an activity that children love to practice. It also promotes awakening and mind concentration. Additionally, educational and pedagogical material conducive to improve coordination would be of high interest.

We would also appreciate to receive balls as it is difficult for us to replace them periodically, balls in Togo being expensive and of substandard quality.

As far as toys are concerned, donation priorities would be model cars, marbles, small dolls, pearls, and skipping ropes (for the dispatching, please refer to note 1 page 6). Important : please do not send teddy bears and cuddly toys : we already have a number of them thanks to you .

1.3 Buildings and equipments

Currently, we have :

- 2 dormitories containing 4 and 8 bedrooms (15m²) respectively
- 2 offices + 1 large store place
- 1 bedroom + 1 small library + 1 canteen
- 1 kitchen
- 1 store place for the kitchen + 1 laundry place + 1 kitchen awning
- 2 outside blocks comprising 3 showers
- 2 outside blocks of 8 toilets (of which only 4 of them are currently in use following the damage caused by landslides)
- 1 central straw hut being used as a playground, a place for exchange and celebrations

• Actions undertaken in 2016

They have been numerous due not only to the magnitude of the needs but also to all the important repairs and reconstruction following the large extent of the damage caused by the landslides.

These are the works which have been completed:

- **water.** Two drillings have been made. The first one had a limited capacity and then the landslide obliged us to make a second drilling, which takes over from our two wells which turned almost dry at the time of the drought in the first quarter of 2016. A water tower was erected, making it possible to constitute water reserves in polytanks. Washbasins with running water were installed for the children. For them, it was a sort of revelation, a near-revolution!



- **electricity.** Our electrical system has been partly renovated. This was necessary to operate our two drillings. A new electrical meter has been installed.

- **dormitories and bedrooms.** They have been reorganized. Corridors to access bedrooms from inside the building have been created. This proves very useful in rainy times to get closer access to the bathrooms, but it also helps in terms of surveillance to better keep watch over the children and ensure good order. The girls have been transferred to the lower dormitory and the boys to the upper one, which is larger (as there are more boys than girls). Allocation of children to the different bedrooms has been made according to age groups. New second-hand mattresses, bedsheets and blankets have been purchased for each child. A mosquito net has also been provided to each child, a necessary precaution in view of malaria risks. Shelves, coat racks, dustbins, laundry baskets, and small stools have been installed in all the bedrooms
- **furniture and kitchen.** Furniture items have been made : two new benches for the canteen, and one for tutoring in the straw hut, four tables of which a large one, a big crate and a food safe for the kitchen, which becomes an inside kitchen while an awning and a passage way at the back of the kitchen have been set up.
- **laundry.** A laundry has been created, with a passageway at the back and a drying area.
- **walls.** The wall of the goat stockyard adjacent to the orphanage has been rebuilt as the landslide had broken it.
- **vegetation.** Trees —including fruit trees— and shrubs have been planted. This contributes to make the environment of the orphanage nicer.

- **Our urgent needs**

It is necessary for us to repair or renovate some parts of the orphanage in 2017, which had been weakened or damaged. This relates especially to the central straw hut which might collapse should a new landslide happen, and therefore needs to be consolidated, but also to the 4 toilets which were deteriorated by the landslide in 2016. A request for funding these works was made to the U.S. embassy but we have not yet received any feedback and it is not sure at all that eventually it will be positive.

1.4 Return of some children to family members' homes

The purpose of the orphanage is to help children who have lost their two parents, or one of them but with the remaining parent unable to take care of the child (because of poverty or health condition). The orphanage endeavours to provide the children with a calm transition which may last a couple of months or a few years, depending on each individual situation. Our objective is eventually to make it possible for the children to return to a family structure. When a return to family members takes place, this gives us the possibility to subsequently welcome new orphans.

The Togolese Department of Social Affairs, with which we have been working hand in hand, especially since 2016, strongly recommends us to organize in such a way that children could return to their remaining family members within a period of 1 to 3 years.

- **Actions undertaken in 2016**

Our action unfolded in two phases. The first one consisted in making extensive research on the family history for all the children. Then we organized an information meeting with family members, followed by individual discussions with them, being father or mother, uncle or aunt, or even grand-parents.

In the second phase we developed an outline of a “Return” project. A selection of the potential candidates was made. The implementation has begun, with already 4 children returning to family members: 3 in October and 1 in December.

- **Subsequent continuation of the project implementation**

We look forward to being able to continue our project to organize the return of a number of children to family members. However, it is obvious that we are facing two major challenges. First, it is sometimes very difficult to find surviving family members. Secondly, the return of a child to family members implies that we financially support this family, and we have to find the corresponding resources (please refer to the Financial Report).

1.5 Income-generating activities and cost savings

AGRICULTURAL AND BREEDING PROGRAMME

- **Actions undertaken in 2016**

This programme has been made possible by a generous donor. Its purpose is not only to provide the children in the orphanage with a more diversified food but also to bring new resources to progressively contribute to the orphanage financial self-sufficiency.

In a first stage, we asked an agricultural engineer, Mr. Moussa Jazi, to come and make a detailed feasibility study to assess which activities would be most suitable. We later on extended his assignment to the supervision of the programme development.

Priority was essentially given at the beginning to the breeding part of the programme, i.e poultry and goats.



Some 650 hens, bought in June 2016 as chicks are bred in the hen house that we have built. Results of this activity are very satisfactory: at the end of 2016, these hens were laying about 450 eggs per day and the figures are growing. A large proportion of these eggs are sold in the markets and bring significant income to the orphanage.

Goats breeding has unfortunately not generated a comparable success, because of an epizootic disease of ovine rinderpest common in Africa, which affected Togo in 2016. It killed two-thirds of our flock of goats. We still have 24 goats in good health continuing to give birth to kids in the shed that we built for them.

Concerning the agricultural part of the programme, the land has been cleared. It has represented a considerable and difficult work as the land had never been cleared before and all the work had to be done with pickaxes and machetes, without the help of any mechanical equipment.

Corn, cassava, and potatoes have been grown. During the first year, corn and potato crops have been good, however below expectations. Conversely, we are expecting an important crop of cassava in March-April 2017. In addition, important efforts are devoted to the

cultivation of cowpeas (so-called ‘niébé’), which are highly appreciated in Africa in their local variety.



- **Our urgent needs**

Among our priorities, we would like to maintain the egg production to ensure the sustainability of this important activity. When the current hens will reach the end of their egg laying period, we will therefore have to replace them with some 650 new chicks. Later on, with the objective of increasing the egg production, we would need to build a second hen house to accommodate 700 to 800 hens in total, subject to obtaining the necessary financing.

Regarding the agricultural part of the programme, we will continue to focus on cowpeas, corn, and cassava and make cultivation trials for different vegetables. As far as potatoes are concerned, they have the potential not only to generate supplies for the orphanage, but also significant income in terms of sales (potato trade is broadly developed in the area). However, it would be necessary to acquire a land specifically adapted to the cultivation of potatoes.

OTHER INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Their purpose is to provide a few additional resources to the orphanage and therefore to contribute to its financial self-sufficiency. We are considering two possible avenues. One would consist in buying a **corn mill**. This is an equipment which would be very useful as part of our agricultural programme, but that we could also lease to villagers in the area. The other one would be to sell water from our drilling at a reasonable price to villagers nearby; however, this would imply an upgrading of our plumbing and electrical systems.

2. Actions undertaken for the sponsorship of children

Children sponsorships have constituted the initial activity of The Friendly Haven in Togo since 2007. It is only in 2013 that The Hope Foster Home was opened.

The Friendly Haven sponsored and has continued to sponsor nearly 300 children in two schools in Atakpamé. The purpose is to allow these children to go to school (by paying their school fees, school books, notebooks, etc.), to bring them food/health/psychological support, and to organize celebrations on some great occasions (Christmas, Easter).

Our work was very challenging in 2016 due to our very tight financial situation and the absolute need to give priority to the orphanage. More generally speaking, in the schools where we intervene, almost all the children would justify to be sponsored. To make a choice between whom to sponsor and whom not to sponsor is a difficult and heart-

breaking decision. This is why, during the distributions at the beginning of the school year and for Christmas, we are always obliged to subdivide our school kits to share them between more children than what was planned!

We are currently in the process of modifying our sponsorship activities to support ALL the children in one school, not through individual sponsorships but through a direct support to that school. For instance, insofar as possible, we would like to help the school in Doulassamé to renovate its electrical system so that this would improve the conditions in which the children study. But this would obviously be subject to the amount of resources which will be made available to us.

This would of course not exempt us to continue to support children that our association has been sponsoring over the years also in other schools.

3. Our field team in Togo

3.1 Local team

Our partner continues to be the RAGC (Reflexion and Action Group for Reconciliation). It has been our partner since the origin, and is represented by Yves-Matthieu Amewu, co-founder of the orphanage. A detailed agreement between The Friendly Haven and the RAGC has been put in place, providing a framework facilitating a serene and efficient work.

Among the orphanage team, relationships which were characterized in 2014/15 by some tensions have subsequently been pacified. This has been proven beneficial to all. We thank all the team for the work done. In terms of organization, a number of procedures have been established, such as a new set of rules and regulations, and new work contracts with a detailed job description.

New jobs have been created (a washerwoman-seamstress, and a bursar). Our co-manager, Victorine Sekom has retired. We did our best to give her some financial support so that she could start her new life of retirement in the capital city, Lomé.

3.2 Team members sent from Europe by The Friendly Haven

They are :

- **Olivier Bouron**, sent from France as co-manager of the orphanage (at Victorine Sekom's side), from January to November 2016. He was coming together with his wife Mathilde who came pro bono. We thank him for the work he performed, close to the children to improve their everyday's life, and for contributing to create solid relationships within the team.
- **Moussa Jazi**, agricultural engineer, sent from Belgium. He had a contract from November 2015 to September 2016, complemented by an additional 3-month contract from end November 2016 onwards. It is our intention to extend this contract until end 2017. He made a feasibility study to define the scope of our agricultural and breeding programme, started to implement it and drove it in all its aspects. He additionally took care of whatever was related to the water drillings. He has performed an outstanding work, in spite of adverse conditions (drought then pouring rain). We are grateful to him for all that he did in a selfless way.

- **Padou-Paul Likiby**, our new orphanage manager since November 2016, when he took over from Olivier Bouron. He comes from Congo-Brazzaville. He is a former member of the International Fellowship Of Reconciliation (IFOR). He has a vast experience in the field of non-violence and psychological support. Additionally, he has been trained in management and accounting.



Moussa Jazi and Yves-Matthieu Amewu

Yves-Matthieu Amewu and Padou-Paul Likiby

3.3 Strategy for 2017

- *It is our plan to continue with the current **local team**, which is efficient and more solid.*
- *Regarding the **staff that The Friendly Haven sends to Togo**, we have realized that even if the French State gave us a subsidy for the employment of Olivier Bouron, social charges imposed on employers are much too heavy for a humanitarian association. This is why we have asked both Moussa Jazi and Padou-Paul Likiby to come to work on the basis of a local work contract, which makes it possible to pay lower charges while at the same time giving our staff a correct remuneration. We thank both of them for their understanding.*

4. Our work at the head office of The Friendly Heaven

4.1 The head office of The Friendly Haven

It remains based in France, in the Saintes Maries de la Mer. There are no rental expenses as the office is located in an apartment belonging to the Chairwoman of the association.

4.2 The board of The Friendly Haven

The Board represents the management team of The Friendly Haven. Changes took place in 2016. While Bénédicte-Fleur Bonaudo-Vappereau remains the founding Chairwoman, Mrs.Françoise Vappereau, who is the representative of the donors and sponsors has been appointed Treasurer, replacing Mrs.Yamina Louarith whom we wholeheartedly thank for

her support for many years. Mr. Alexandre Desclaibes, a field volunteer, becomes Secretary, replacing Mr. Laurent Huault, who was a pioneer since the beginning. We also wholeheartedly thank him.

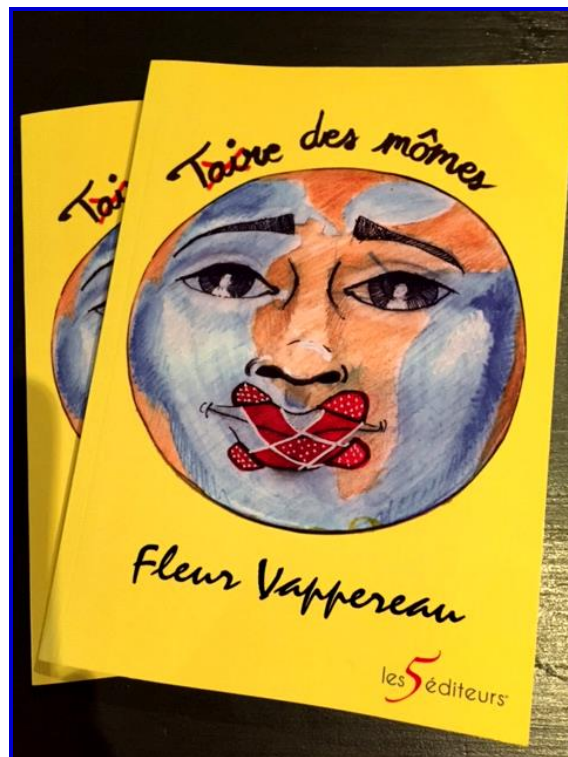
During the maternity leave of the Chairwoman, our Treasurer Mrs. Françoise Vappereau was appointed interim Chairwoman.

4.3 The work of the head office team

The work is 100% voluntary and unpaid, as it has always been since the beginning. 90% of the administrative and communication expenses are personally borne by the Bureau members.

Huge efforts were made in 2016 to raise funds in a difficult international context which resulted in some of our donors from the financial sector to suddenly reduce their donations considerably. These efforts were successful as several new individual donors brought an important support to The Friendly Haven during the 4th quarter of 2016, while at the same time several members of the Board of The Friendly Haven made exceptional donations.

Simultaneously, another large magnitude action contributed to bring additional resources to The Friendly Haven. In September, a fund raising operation was successfully undertaken on the crowd funding website Ulule, with the on line sale of the book “Taire des Mômes” written by the Association’s Chairwoman and of a CD of Togolese stories narrated by the children of the orphanage together with a ‘griot’ (African storyteller).



*If you wish so, it is not too late to order the book and the CD directly from our Association (at a price of respectively 20 and 15 € + 8 € of shipping costs. **All the funds we obtain from the sales are integrally earmarked for the financing of our field work in Togo.***

Our team also organizes some small markets several times a year (Christmas, Easter, beginning of school year, ...) to make our work known and raise funds.



Bénédicte-Fleur Bonaudo-Vappereau and little Romy; our volunteer Rachel Lucas at the Christmas market

Generally speaking, we would like to benefit from the support of more volunteers and donors, whatever their specific competencies and magnitude of donations may be: you all are welcome!

5. Our other actions in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Rwanda

5.1 D. R. Congo



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Despite our strong wish to continue our work with our excellent new partner in Congo, the reception centre and orphanage of Tulizeni, this proved impossible due to our shortage of funds in 2016.

However, be reassured :

- Our friends of the VIVERE Switzerland association have continued their very good work with this centre.
- Numerous new donors recruited by the local Congolese team and its remarkable founder Georgette, helped by VIVERE, came as backup.
- The Chairwoman of The Friendly Haven made a personal modest donation to contribute to the continuation of this outstanding programme. You may remember that this centre on the one hand welcomes nearly 80 children and covers their schooling and medical expenses, and, on the other hand, welcomes and treats women who have survived sexual abuse, in particular those women who became pregnant, to assist them until the delivery and then support them as mothers.

5.2 Rwanda



Kizito when he once received a prize from the wife of the President of Rwanda

We continue to tirelessly support the appeal made in court by the artist and peace activist. The outcome of this appeal is not yet known. We participated in an action on the occasion of Kizito's 35th birthday (July 24) consisting in making a movie honoring him and his work.

5.3 Our needs

If some donors are ready to make donations – whatever their amount— specifically earmarked for our action in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Rwanda, this would be of great help to us.

6. Conclusion

In January 2017, our orphanage has been honoured by the Togolese Government: it has been designated as the best children reception centre in the region and one of the five best ones in the whole country. This was indeed a great honour for us but, first and foremost, it was the beautiful and moving satisfaction to see the acknowledgement of all the work we have already done in favour of the children in this country to get them out of misfortune and give them hope.

We energetically continue to endeavour to always do better, step by step, depending on the financial resources that our generous donors give us. Moreover, our orphanage will in 2017 begin to benefit from the first results from our agricultural and breeding programme, which will bring significant income. Over time, it will contribute to a larger extent to the financial self-sufficiency of the orphanage, regarding its regular operational expenses. Also we have modified the conditions of the employment contract of the orphanage manager and the agricultural engineer, both coming from abroad, which will lead to a reduction in personnel costs in 2017.

We make all efforts to be trustworthy vis-à-vis our donors, to remain transparent and rigorous in our expenses. Everything which has been achieved so far is the result of the simultaneous determination of our field team, volunteers and Board members, as well as the generosity and trust from our donors whom we thank with emotion.