



schools, but the amount can vary. FRAM teachers receive, during school months only, 70,000 ariary, supplemented by a state subsidy of 100,000. However, the state has not paid this amount to teachers since May 2013. No training is provided for new FRAM teachers so they have to make do with the one-day training sessions (9 a year, when they take place) to which all teachers are invited. NSAM-AFEM is aware of how important these training days are for those teachers; that's why we reimburse the expenses of the EPP teachers who attend them.

#### A word of thanks

The committee would like to thank Ms. Bakoly, president of NSAM, and our colleagues Ms. Bakoly and Ms. Toly, who, despite extremely difficult political and living conditions, dedicate themselves entirely to their work.

Finally, we wish to remind you that we will soon be holding our Annual General Meeting, during which we will present our accounts and respond to your questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

For many years, your contributions have been easing the suffering of children, adults and elderly people in difficulty.  
Your help is needed now more than ever.

THANK YOU for your loyal support.

On behalf of the AFEM committee  
Christian Grosclaude

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### Activity report September 2012 – August 2013

The people of Madagascar have had no reprieve from the country's difficult political and economic situation over the past twelve months. The so-called transitional government has been in power for almost 4 years, and the people are hoping that the elections to be held on 25 October will bring about long-awaited changes. But will one of the 33 presidential candidates be able to win a clear majority? A second round has been planned for December, but that is the peak of monsoon season and experts fear this will make many polling stations inaccessible. The majority of the population mistrusts politicians, regardless of their politics. Over the course of at least 8 regime changes since Madagascar gained independence in 1960, the general situation in the country has gone from bad to worse. The reports sent to us by our sister organization in Madagascar, NSAM, highlight the growing poverty amongst the population.

#### Families sector (reports by sector head Ms.Toly)

*“The current situation, in which basic needs are threatened, is pushing the vulnerable population to seek every available support in order to obtain basic care, especially food supplies.”*  
101 new cases were taken on in addition to the 38 cases remaining from the 2011-2012 period. 50 people were hospitalized and 35 underwent operations. 15 requests were refused as they could be handled by the local dispensary. 7 patients we helped care for died. 118 files were ultimately closed during the 2012-2013 period, at a total cost of 21, 5000 Swiss francs (up 2,950 compared with the previous year).

Below is an example of the kind of cases submitted to the AFEM committee following positive prior assessment by NSAM:

*“Hello everyone, I’m afraid I have another case that requires your approval : Narovana Linda Randrianantenaina, 18 months old, suffers from abdominal swelling and has been hospitalized twice, but as her parents don’t have enough money left to pay for the scan the doctors require before they will operate, she left the hospital on 16 September. The doctor from the hospital referred her case to us.*

*Her father is a labourer in the free zones and her mother is unemployed. They live in Anosizato-West lot 143 AZ AI. They already lost one child three years ago and they are desperate. They have asked us for help in getting the scan done and financing her operation. I can only give a rough estimate, but the scan costs 360.000 ariary and if the operation is not too complicated I think we could spend around 800.000 ariary (330 Swiss francs). Please examine her case and send me your answer! Thank you! Have a good day everyone! Toly”*



The “fairly regular” shortage of oxygen in hospitals has meant surgeons have had to postpone operations, leaving patients to our care for longer than planned as they need sufficient food (such as rice, oil, and sugar) and dairy products (yogurt, butter and cheese such as Laughing Cow) before operations and throughout recovery. This does not only apply to post-operative patients; all those taken on by AFEM are entitled to packages of food supplies and dairy products as all of them, with one or two rare exceptions, suffer from malnourishment.

Schools sector (reports by sector head Ms. Adeline)

*“The political crisis is significantly affecting households, especially the provision of basic needs. Most parents spend all their time trying to meet their families’ day-to-day needs and no longer have time to care for their children. As a result, the children must work; they fetch water, wash clothes, transport bricks and go door-to-door disposing of wealthier families’ garbage.”*



Ms. Adeline took over the running of the Schools sector in 2012. She herself was formerly a teacher in a school in Anosizato Andrefana and a member of the NSAM committee for a number of years. (cf. AFEM activity report 2011-2012). She has completely invested herself in her work, and as a result 39 out of the 50 Assisted Pupils (APs) at the public primary school (EPP) have passed the year and progressed onto the next grade. 7 of the 9 students who were put forward for secondary school entry examinations were accepted. As for the 7 APs at the CEG secondary school, 6 of them have progressed to the next grade. Adeline brought all the APs from the EPP together twice a week at break-times to give them advice not only on their studies but also concerning hygiene, manners, basic skills and health. Remedial classes and the preparation and distribution of the morning snack (koba tsinjo) were supervised on a regular basis.

Insufficient financing for public schools

In Anosizato, only 4 of 13 teachers are civil servants. The civil servants’ salaries range from 400,000 ariary to 500,000 ariary (165 to 205 Swiss francs) depending on their seniority. The 9 other teachers are paid by FRAM (l’Association des parents d’élèves – association of student’s parents) which charges a yearly membership fee of 25,000 ariary, around 10 Swiss francs. This practice has been in force in all Malagasy