

# LA LETTRE

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FRANCE:  
EVALUATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE DIVERS-CITÉ  
PROGRAMME.

PAGE 3

A LOOK  
BACK ON THE  
COMMUNICATION  
CAMPAIGN  
"REFUGIÉS DERRIÈRE  
LES CLICHÉS"  
(REFUGEES BEHIND  
THE NEGATIVES).

PAGES 4-5

**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Withdrawal:  
the conclusion of  
a successful support  
programme.**

association **Asmae**  
**Soeur Emmanuelle**  
Agir pour l'enfance défavorisée



Sister Emmanuelle with two young rag-and-bone collectors in the Suez canal (Egypt)

For 37 years, Asmae has been continuing the work of its founder, following her principles.

## OUR VISION

"A fair world where children are guaranteed the opportunity to live and grow up in dignity within their families and their environments to become free men and women who can contribute to society."

## OUR MISSIONS

- \* To promote child development through a global approach. To do this, Asmae also works to support families, with their environments in mind.
- \* To increase the capabilities of local stakeholders in the area of child development, to improve the synergy between them and to maximise their social impact.
- \* To champion children's causes by raising awareness and speaking out.
- \* To experiment, to expand and to disseminate.

## OUR VALUES

- \* Trust \* Commitment
- \* An Ideal of Justice \* Freedom
- \* Respect \* Solidarity

## ASMAE IN FIGURES

- \* **45,064** beneficiaries (children and families) through **86** projects in **8** countries
- \* **1,097** sponsors
- \* **59** local partners
- \* **110** professionals worldwide
- \* **103** volunteers in France and on international solidarity work camps

## Editorial

# Together, let's move towards a better future for children and their families.

Here we are a few days after the General Meeting, which was the opportunity to take stock of the past year and to announce ongoing significant changes, essential for ensuring the continuation of Asmae's work. It is also impossible not to mention the worrying and disturbing climate here in France, in which we have seen a presidential campaign unfold that has left little space for fighting exclusion and poverty, despite many suggestions from the world of humanitarian aid.



© Corinne Mairaud

Sabine Gindre

The situation is so concerning because children and young people bear the full brunt of situations of exclusion, of being uprooted due to forced migration, severe precarity, or even lack of safety due to violence or life on the streets. We want to address all of this within our long-term plans, both in France and abroad.

For 37 years, Asmae has been working for the education and protection of vulnerable children in 8 countries, including France. In the field, the work and commitment of our local partners and our teams are bearing fruit. In the following pages, we invite you to find out more about the experience Asmae has acquired in championing children and their families, through 3 projects that have been operated within different realities by our field teams with the support of the head office team.

In France, the Divers-Cité team has been listening to the concerns of residents' collectives for the past 15 years. These groups are made up of parents and young people from underprivileged areas, and the project empowers them to act. The action research carried out over recent months with the lifeblood of these collectives, confirmed the vocation of the Divers-Cité programme to support them on a daily basis to better "live together".

For those who missed it, we also take a look back on the stunning photo exhibition, "Refugiés derrière les clichés" (Refugees behind the negatives), which was held this winter in the centre of Paris on the railings of the square around the Tour Saint Jacques, with the support of Paris City Hall. It was accompanied by a display in the metro with the support of the Parisian transport authority. How can we fail to be touched by the faces, so full of life and solemnity, of the Lebanese and Syrian children hosted by one of our Lebanese partners?

Finally, much further away, we return to the story of a successful support programme run by Asmae with SIMAG, one of our Philippine partners.

Because these projects have enabled the life of children, young people, neighbourhoods and communities to move on: let's move on together! Together, let's move towards a better future for children and their families. Yalla!

**Sabine Gindre**  
President of Asmae

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# FRANCE: EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIVERS-CITÉ PROGRAMME

## Divers-Cité

- 1,882 beneficiaries
- 82 activities carried out
- 5 residents' groups
- 2 social development agents

Through the Divers-Cité programme, Asmae supports the organisation of collectives comprising parents and residents from underprivileged neighbourhoods. This action fosters the development of their children and their ability to live together better.

Asmae has developed a community development method for supporting residents' collectives from their creation to their independence.

After more than 15 years of the Divers-Cité programme, Asmae wanted to embark on an in-depth analysis of its development. The first stage, completed in 2014-2015, involved an external impact assessment of the programme. It was then complemented in 2016 by a project with residents' collectives, in the form of an action research which has identified strengths and areas for development.

## RESULTS OF THE ACTION RESEARCH

### \* STRENGTHENING OF THE COOPERATION BETWEEN COLLECTIVES.

Support for collectives is evolving towards a new form of relationship, one of cooperation and partnership. This change is a response to economic and social challenges such as the management of public subsidies, the integration of young people, economic precarity and school problems. Needs must be identified that are common to other collectives, and therefore the resources and skills must be pooled by promoting the sharing of experience. This pooling of solutions favours the process by which collectives become independent from Asmae. It also results in the construction of a space for common reflection which enables collaborative work or common challenges to be defined and analysed.

### \* A SPRINGBOARD FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS

The information gathered during the action research shows that collectives are the ideal place for youth participation. Thanks to Asmae's assistance, the collectives have been built on a model of intergenerational operation where young generations, supported by benevolent adults, are engaged and act for themselves and their community. By providing the necessary tools and skills for them to be built, these spaces have empowered adolescents and young adults to act and to be free to engage as citizens.

**"The association is a springboard, a first step into the professional environment."**

Habibatou  
President of the PLD.

### \* RESOURCE PLACES FOR CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION

A 3-day seminar brought together 16 young people and adults in August 2016. Topics debated on the day included: dual culture in young generations, the relationship between secularism and religion, as well as the question of the place for culture and religion in the children's education. Over the course of the discussions, where the absence of dialogue between generations may generate suffering and high-risk behaviour, residents' collectives have demonstrated the existence within them of flexible discussion frameworks. In a relationship of trust and respect, the subjects addressed are those that are essential to young people who require discussion.

**"I don't know whether my values come more from my culture or my religion."**

Fatou,  
EACB Collective



Parents' march for fraternity in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> arrondissements of Paris.  
© Anne Rehbinder

## LOOK BACK ON THE COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN, "RÉFUGIÉS DERRIÈRE LES CLICHÉS"

A communication campaign to raise awareness of and alert the public to the situation of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon.

On Universal Children's Day on 20 November 2016, in the current climate marked by the war in Syria and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of children and families, Asmae has highlighted its action in Lebanon and the situation of vulnerable children. In a context where words are not enough to touch people, Asmae chose images to communicate. The varied elements of our campaign include: a photo exhibition, posters in the Paris metro, articles in the press, and an online and social media campaign!

### Asmae in Lebanon

- 4,624 direct beneficiaries
- 4 areas of intervention
- 6 partner associations
- 9 projects

## RÉFUGIÉS DERRIÈRE LES CLICHÉS: AN INFORMATIVE AND ARTISTIC CAMPAIGN

### \* A PHOTO EXHIBITION ON THE RAILINGS OF THE TOUR SAINT-JACQUES SQUARE IN PARIS.

Developed from a temporary studio project in October, this exhibition has been dedicated to Lebanese and Syrian refugee children, through the commitment of Asmae and its partners in Lebanon, in order to raise public awareness of education and child protection. This exhibition has been illustrated by the photos of Corentin Fohlen, taken in different reception centres and schools run by Asmae's Lebanese partners. These children are now learning to play and to go to school together. Their looks are arresting, and allow the viewer to glimpse another reality: that of their strength and the intensity of the path they are treading.

A location with high footfall, the railings of the square around the Tour Saint-Jacques in the centre of the capital were generously made available for Asmae by Paris City Hall from 14 November to 7 December 2016.

### \* A POSTER DISPLAY IN THE PARIS METRO.

In the Ile-de-France (greater Paris) area, millions of passengers use the metro every day. Thanks to support from the transport authority, which offered the space to Asmae, a hundred posters were displayed in the main metro stations from 16 to 25 November.



Poster from the campaign on display in metro stations. © Sidiese

## FEEDBACK FROM THE ONLINE AND PRESS CAMPAIGN

### ★ A PRESS TRIP TO BETTER INFORM JOURNALISTS AND PUBLIC.

In order to promote the work carried out by Asmae and its Lebanese partners, journalists from the *La Vie* magazine and the *Quest France* daily newspaper travelled to Lebanon in October. Many articles illustrated by testimonials from children, partners and Asmae's teams were published in the print and online versions of these publications.

"Since 1986, Asmae has been doing admirable work to help the most vulnerable populations of Lebanon. Assisting Syrian refugees fleeing war and those sometimes living in total destitution, Asmae is fighting tirelessly for child protection and access to education." Testimonial by Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris.

### ★ WIDER PROMOTION OF THE CAMPAIGN USING SOCIAL NETWORKS AND A DEDICATED WEBSITE.

In order to reach the most people and to encourage interaction, an important device has been implemented online with the development of a dedicated campaign website. Many testimonials from beneficiaries, partners, and many photos are available to view. This content was widely shared on social networks. From 1 November to 31 December, the Asmae website received a total of over 23,000 visits.

During the photo exhibition, Asmae recorded the opinions of visitors. A video was produced in order to share these. Over 30,000 of you watched and reacted to it!



Thank you to everyone for your action during this campaign! Find out (more) at [www.refugiesderrierelescliches.com](http://www.refugiesderrierelescliches.com)

"The deeply moving faces of these children say it all. Putting a face to the statistics allows us to humanise this matter, which is sometimes treated inhumanely" Mathéo on Facebook

"We think of all the immigration happening in Europe, but there are also people trying to survive back in their homeland. It is inhumane and scandalous not to help them." Flora on Facebook

## WITHDRAWAL: THE CONCLUSION OF A SUCCESSFUL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

With the conviction that solutions come from people themselves, Asmae works in partnership and offers long-term, tailor-made support for local actors working in the areas of education and child protection.

There is a major human dimension to Asmae's support. It allows development and capacity-building for its partners by using a method combining technical and financial support, based on the needs defined in collaboration with the partner.

Asmae and the partner therefore work in co-construction, to guarantee relevance and efficacy in local action, benefiting children, their families and their communities. Depending on the results achieved, Asmae readjusts the funds allocated to assist the partner and may decide to initiate a withdrawal phase. Developed in collaboration with the assisted association, a gradual withdrawal plan defines how the support will change, ensuring that the association's work will continue without Asmae's support. This enables a reallocation of funds without Asmae's help to support other organisations working for vulnerable children.

### Asmae's support

- 8 countries
- 5 areas of intervention
- 59 partner associations
- 86 projects worldwide
- + 45,000 direct beneficiaries

## FOCUS ON THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS OF SIMAG FUNDATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

SIMAG Foundation is an aid organisation working with rural communities in the region of Bacolod in the Philippines. Founded in 1987 and supported by Asmae since 1995, it sets up social programmes for vulnerable families employed in the sugar cane "haciendas" in the Silay City and E.B. Magalona districts, where there are 300 farms, both large and small.

### ★ "SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY FOR THE HOUSEHOLDS OF SUGAR CANE WORKERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES"

#### Mission of SIMAG Foundation.

Families live and work on these farms in unstable living conditions, with severe effects on children. In fact, they take part in the field and domestic work, take care of the smallest children, and have unequal access to school. In these areas, the SIMAG team has also noticed many violations of children's rights: physical violence, child labour, school drop-out and malnutrition.

In order to meet children's needs, SIMAG has set up different programmes: education and sponsorship; health, hygiene and well-being programme; fundraising and entrepreneurial activities; environment awareness-raising and conservation.



"Hacienda" children supported by SIMAG Foundation © Asmae

## \* ENHANCING PARTNER SKILLS AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY SUPPORT.

- 1995** — Asmae assists this partner's first initiatives to support access to schooling and healthcare primarily through school-building camps and care missions.
- 2001** — The launch of the partnership is formalised and a sponsorship programme is implemented.
- 2004** — Development of the partnership with the launch of activities aimed at providing global support for children and promotion of their rights.
- 2006** — Asmae embarks upon action to prevent physical and sexual abuse by teachers. It supports SIMAG in funding training modules, mediation, tool pooling, expansion of the "Personal Safety Lessons" method implementation and the project's independence process.
- 2007** — To complement the prevention action, Asmae supports action to raise awareness among families and teams of children's rights. A technical advisor specialising in children's rights and child protection is appointed by the partner.
- 2009** — Launch of the group sponsorship, to complement individual sponsorship, enabling more children to access primary, secondary and university studies. Adolescents get involved in the SIMAG Foundation's projects, including delivering after-school tutoring classes to younger children and taking part in the "Summer Learning Experience", an educational activity project during school holidays, with support from Asmae volunteers on work camps.
- 2010** — An Asmae technical advisor intervenes to support teams to develop their understanding of psychosocial mechanisms and to improve the treatment of children who are victims of abuse.

## \* TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE

- 2014** — In order to assess the partnership between Asmae and SIMAG after 20 years of assistance, an evaluation of the child protection project was conducted by one of Asmae's technical advisors.
- 2015** — A reflective process on the partnership and construction of the withdrawal: it takes place over 3 years with the common development and implementation of a withdrawal plan suited to the partner's needs.
- 2016** — Asmae supports SIMAG in creating an operation manual for members of the BCPC (Barangay Council for the Protection of Children), a local child protection committee in the Philippines.
- 2018** — The withdrawal phase will lead to financial and operational independence for all SIMAG projects supported by Asmae.

### *Project status update*

Each issue provides the opportunity to receive news of large-scale projects supported by public funders. Focus on the project run in Madagascar in partnership with the European Union, the French Development Agency and the Air France Foundation.

#### **Promoting education for vulnerable children outside the formal education system in Antananarivo.**

In the face of education challenges in Madagascar, Asmae and its partners Hardi and Manda are promoting access to high-quality education for vulnerable children aged 7 to 18 who are excluded from the school system. This project aims to strengthen the socio-educational reintegration mechanisms, the technical and management capacity of these 2 partners in their mission to combat school exclusion, the quality and durability of educational provision. In 2016, 15 education professionals, 342 children, 218 families, 21 Madagascan civil society organisations and 20 school or professional institutions benefited from this project. The project began in 2015 and will end in 2018.

Since March 2017, part of this project has also been funded by the French Development Agency. To find out more, visit our website [www.asmae.fr](http://www.asmae.fr)



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