

# LA LETTRE

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THE GUIDE ON  
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2016-2017 REVIEW

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**SPECIAL REPORT**

India:  
20 years of support  
and projects

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 \* Engagement
- \* An Ideal of Justice \* Freedom
- \* Respect \* Solidarity

### ASMAE IN FIGURES

- \* **45,000** beneficiaries (children and families) through **86** projects in **8** countries
- \* **1,100** sponsors
- \* **59** local partners
- \* **110** professionals worldwide
- \* **103** volunteers in France and on international solidarity sites



## Let's act together for the sake of children's education.

We cannot happily see in a new school year while there are still children on the streets. Is access to school for all still an inaccessible dream? Certainly, we are aware that this change will not happen overnight, and that we need to make step-by-step progress towards measured support in order to inspire long-lasting change. While school is essential for children to blossom, and an important element of their growing up, it is not enough alone, and they must also be able to benefit from a caring family background.



© Corinne Mairaud

Sabine Gindre

The figures published by UNICEF are still terrifying. If nothing is done globally to fight against inequality from today onwards, 167 million children will be living in extreme poverty by 2030.

Since 2010, the number of refugee and migrant children living alone has multiplied by five. On the occasion of World Refugee Day on 20 June, Médecins du Monde (MDM), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and UNICEF France united to condemn the tragic situation facing unaccompanied minors in France, estimated at 10,000 in metropolitan France.

This report on the situation of children in France and all over the world would be discouraging for actors such as Asmae if not for the progress made and the successes achieved. This is what we invite you to discover in this issue of "Letter", with some wonderful stories of success achieved with our partners

In Lebanon, the relationship of trust based on a common vision and values that we have shared with our partner, AFEL, since 1986 has enabled us to fight together for the prevention and care of children at risk. It has allowed the development of a guide to combating abuse, designed for childhood professionals.

In India, a country with over one billion inhabitants and home to more children than any other country in the world, Asmae has been working with other organisations for 20 years to enable them to acquire the knowledge and skills they need to avoid forced labour, abuse, and many other violations of their rights.

We would also like to highlight the fantastic success achieved by our project launched in 2014 in the Ile-de-France region, "Yalla! for Children's Rights", which aims to raise awareness of children's rights and is designed for primary and secondary school-aged children.

To avoid suffering the consequences of a more divided and unfair world, we must unite so that no child is ever left behind again.

We are also delighted to announce that Asmae has been granted the "Donate in confidence" label by the Charter Commission. This is a guarantee that we are transparent and that your donations are correctly managed.

**Sabine Gindre**

Chair of Asmae

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# PREVENTION AND CARE OF CHILDREN AT RISK

The concept of “abuse” is summarised as all the types of ill-treatment to which a child may be exposed: physical or psychological abuse, negligence, sexual abuse and exploitation.

At-risk children live in conditions that jeopardise their health, their safety, their education or their physical, emotional, intellectual or social development. Working with at-risk children is a priority for Asmae.

In order to grow and develop happily, all children need confidence, a secure environment with available adults, and comprehensive support. This is why Asmae is committed to preventing and fighting against all forms of physical, sexual or psychological abuse to enable children who are ill-treated to rebuild themselves and become tomorrow’s citizens, and responsible members of society.

## 2016 key figures

- 2,967 beneficiaries
- 9 partners
- 10 projects
- 4 countries of intervention: Burkina Faso, India, Lebanon, Philippines

## LEBANON: LAUNCH OF THE GUIDE ON ABUSE, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

In Lebanon, Asmae has been working with its partner AFEL since 1986. This collaboration has led to the development of a solid relationship of trust based on common values, and has enabled us to fight together for the prevention and care of at-risk children. Within the context of this partnership, AFEL, with the support of Asmae, has developed a guide on child abuse aimed at childhood professionals.

### ★ A CO-PRODUCTION.

This guide was born out of a joint process of reflection between AFEL and Asmae, and following a collaborative effort lasting 15 months. This period enabled our partner to formalise and deepen its expertise in abuse. This work was based on a close collaboration between all of AFEL’s professionals and Asmae’s Technical Advisor specialising in child protection, Catherine Daubrège.

### ★ TRAINING PROFESSIONALS TO ENSURE BETTER CARE FOR CHILDREN.

This publication is intended for all professionals working with children, offering them a better understanding of the issue of abuse, and therefore better expertise for recognising the signs of abuse and acting on them.

AFEL and Asmae have this common conviction that, in order to be able to intervene effectively, we need to have a perfect understanding of the subject in its entirety, and also to provide comprehensive, long-term support with a multidisciplinary approach that includes professionals and families.

AFEL (Association du Foyer de l’Enfant Libanais) works with vulnerable children from all of the country’s communities. It provides protection for the young children it cares for, supports their integration into society and intervenes with parents to facilitate family relations. The Association has 220 families and 510 children under its care.

### ★ LAUNCH OF THE GUIDE IN ARABIC.

The first version of the “Guide to abuse: Prevention and treatment”, written in French, was published in 2009.

On 22 March, Catherine Alvarez, Director General of Asmae, visited Beirut to take part in the launch ceremony for the Arabic version of the guide. Patronised by the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs, this ceremony brought together many actors from the field of child protection.



Children cared for by AFEL sing a song entitled “I’m a child of Lebanon” to close the ceremony. © AFEL

**“This work with AFEL is an assertion of our commitment to promoting and guaranteeing the safety of all children, including the most vulnerable, from all forms of violence and abuse.”**

Ceremonial speech by Catherine Alvarez, Director-General.



## INDIA: 20 YEARS OF SUPPORT AND PROJECTS

### Asmae in India in 2016

- 23,736 beneficiaries
- 10 partners
- 18 projects

India, with over one billion inhabitants, is home to more children than any other country in the world. Due to a lack of education, millions of them are unable to acquire the knowledge and skills they need.

The challenges are enormous, with 17.7 million children still not attending school. Without an education, once they become adults they in turn will struggle to support their families.

Many factors are detrimental to the effective schooling of children in India: overcrowded classrooms, a shortage of materials, teacher absenteeism, illiteracy and child labour. Officially, child labour is illegal and under Indian law – The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986 – it is clearly repressed. In 2010, the government also implemented a programme focused on education for all, but there are still many difficulties. Several international organisations are working with local associations and the government to provide an effective and sustainable response to these problems: by making efforts to raise awareness among communities of the importance of education, providing training for teachers on educational methods and tools, setting up libraries, promoting extra-curricular activities or even starting up and supporting children's clubs.

For over 20 years, Asmae has been supporting projects related to education and child protection led by local associations in the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

## SPOTLIGHT ON TWO PIONEERING PROJECTS

### ★ DOOR STEP SCHOOL (DSS) - “READING CLASSES” TO REDUCE ILLITERACY.

In India, millions of children finish their primary school education without being able to read short paragraphs or do very basic sums. Door Step School was created in Mumbai in 1988, to meet the huge literacy needs in slums and state schools. Asmae supported its “Growing up with books” project from 2002 to 2016. It aimed to enhance children's reading skills from a very young age. This support took 3 forms: setting up a network of local associations, providing financial support for project activities, and sending 5 Technical Advisors who developed tools used within the “Reading Classes” programme, as well as training local professionals. Delivered by “book fairies”, reading classes allow children to reinforce their reading and expression skills. These fairies are women from the community, trained in play-based and educational learning techniques by the project's coordinators.

They visit state schools once or twice a week to deliver reading classes.

From 2002 to 2014, Asmae supported 10 partners throughout the states of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, representing over 17,500 beneficiary children from 83 schools, including 10 schools for DSS. In 2013-2014, in view of the autonomy and skills acquired by the partner, Asmae funded the project for a second time in 4 schools, covering 21 classes, and benefiting 2,181 children and covering an allowance for 6 “Book Fairies”. Asmae is now continuing its collaboration with DSS in the form of a “resource partnership”.

In 2014, DSS welcomed the director of ICCV, one of Asmae's partners based in Burkina Faso. This international encounter between those from India and Burkina Faso sparked the launch of an ambitious reading tuition project which should benefit several thousand



“Asmae's contribution has guided the project to where it is today, particularly in terms of several major aspects: its expansion both geographically and quantitatively, the improvement of its quality as well as the development of educational tools. We have grown in strength and will be well placed to continue moving the project forward.”

Rajani Paranjpe, Founder and President of Door Step School

## ★ BSAC: DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS AND THOSE OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

Founded in 1984, Brother Siga Animation Centre (BSAC) is an NGO working to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged children and communities living in Vyasarpadi (Chennai, Tamil Nadu State). The children there are exposed to drug addiction, early marriage, abuse and labour exploitation.

A partner since 2004, Asmae has provided technical and financial support to BSAC to coordinate and encourage the development of "Sangams" children's clubs with the

aim of raising their awareness of their rights, by creating participatory platforms.

They offer children an environment in which they are able to express their thoughts, opinions and feelings. Meetings are organised there every month to discuss subjects that concern young people in their everyday life. These sessions enable them to gain a better understanding of themselves, through the various subjects tackled, such as early marriage, and the dangers they are vulnerable to. They also enable them to build their self-esteem. Today, BSAC supports 22 clubs with around 750 children, who meet regularly. In 2016, 1,493 children benefited from this project supported by Asmae.



In India, children's clubs are helping children to better understand their rights. © JM Gautier - Ciric

## ★ INTERVIEW WITH: LOUIS SAHAYARAJ, ASMAE'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA, EXPLAINS THE CURRENT ISSUES.

### What are the key current and future actions?

We have already begun a review of actions carried out by Asmae in India over the past ten years. In due course, studies will enable us to refine the needs assessment in terms of education and child protection in our states of intervention and other relevant geographic areas.

As a result of this work, new partnerships will be established in the following 4 thematic areas: prevention of school drop-out and under-performance, prevention and care of children at risk, early childhood care and education, and adolescence support.

Asmae will also join existing advocacy networks to share, learn and



Louis Sahayaraj, legal representative for Asmae in India  
© Mahesh B. for La Croix

enhance its intervention in child protection problems in its areas of intervention and at national level.

**In 2015, Asmae formalised its activities in India by creating a liaison office, and a reorganisation is currently in progress. What are the impacts of these changes?**

Thanks to the opening of a "liaison office", Asmae was able to formalise its presence in India and to prepare the ground for setting up new partnerships. In addition, Asmae is forging ties with other national and international associations working in the fields of education and child protection. In order to implement this strategy, Asmae has also expanded its teams in India.

# FRANCE: YALLA! FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS!

Launched in 2014, "Yalla! For Children's Rights" is a project raising awareness of children's rights, aimed at primary and secondary school-age children.

Children discover their rights as inscribed in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and learn about the daily life of the children all over the world, in an interactive way, through participatory, play-based and creative workshops. Asmae encourages children and young people to understand the importance of their rights and educates them about inequalities.

This educational project also offers an environment for reflection, and activities that complement conventional school learning methods. It encourages children to participate, discuss, and cooperate as they carry out a concrete action of solidarity. Pupils take onboard the values of solidarity and commitment to contribute to the construction of a fairer world.

## Yalla Project: key figures

- 25 institutions
- 80 classes
- 2,000 pupils trained
- €10,000 fundraised
- 7 young people in civic service

## A 3-STEP PROJECT

### \* 1 RAISING AWARENESS

Introduction to Asmae and the project through programmes run internationally. The children tackle their first approach to inequalities in the world using role play. At the end of the session, the pupils choose a country, do their own research and find out about a new culture.

### \* 2 DELVING DEEPER

With supervision from young people completing Asmae's civic service, pupils address the issue of children's rights in their chosen country, through a play activity (mock debate, photo language), and discuss the importance of different rights. At the end of this step, the class decides on a collective awareness-raising action that they will carry out themselves, during step 3.

### \* 3 ACTION

It is the pupils' turn to organise: fetes, raising awareness of other pupils, photo exhibitions, cake sales, etc. Civic services assist pupils to think about and put together this act of solidarity; this is their chance to use their imagination and creativity to help the world's children\* and raise awareness of children's rights!

\*The profits from this action are donated to an Asmae project chosen by the pupils.



Raising awareness of Children's Rights as part of the Yalla! Project © Asmae



# 2016-2017 Review

**10** Institutions

**49** Classes

**1,231** Pupils

**€2,246** Fundraised

**134** Hours of activities

**2** Civic services

**83%** of pupils acquired new knowledge

**96%** would be able to explain their rights to others

**97%** liked the mock debate and games

**95%** of pupils recommend our interventions

Are you a teacher, pupil or parent and interested in children's rights?

Asmae is offering you the chance to run the "Yalla! For Children's Rights" project, at no cost to the school!

For more information, contact Antoinette on +33 (0)1 70 32 02 50 / sensibilisation@asmae.fr /

Visit [asmae.fr](http://asmae.fr) to watch the project's presentation video.



"I liked everything during this session because we learnt through games"

Year 10 (equivalent) pupil of ASSP (Social Support, Care and Services), Lycée André Malraux, Montereau-Fault-Yonne

"The pupils often mention the Asmae sessions during class, they really enjoyed them!"

Year 10 teacher of ASSP at the Lycée de Montereau-Fault-Yonne

"Very appropriate for our SPVL (Local Outreach Services) training, with very dynamic speakers!" "In terms of the interventions delivered, I found it really interesting, and introducing the association also enables our pupils to find out more about the opportunities offered by the charity sector."

Teacher at the Lycée Carcado Saisseval, Paris



"A big thank you to Sophie and Rosanne, our 2 "civics" on this project in 2017!" The Asmae Team

## Project status update

Spotlight on the project led in Burkina Faso with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (US-AID).

### **Project conclusion: "Promotion of inclusive and specialised education for blind children in Burkina Faso"**

In 2015, Asmae and its partner the UN-ABPAM embarked upon a two-year project to promote the inclusive education of blind children.

This project allowed children attending the School for Blind Young People to benefit from a quality school environment thanks to access to care and canteen support. The opening of an inclusive preschool class, the first of its kind, has enabled twenty-two children aged 3 to 5, with a visual disability, to learn, grow and blossom together.

In addition, the mobilisation of 2 Technical Advisors specialising in inclusive education has enhanced the skills of 5 instructors but also raised awareness of the issue of inclusion among all professionals and the community.



This project is co-financed by USAID. The content of the publication comes under the sole responsibility of Asmae - Association Sœur Emmanuelle and cannot be considered to reflect the opinion of the American volunteer service in any way.



# LIFE INSURANCE YOUR SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

## YOUR GENEROSITY CAN HELP IN THE FIGHT AND VALUES FOUNDED BY SISTER EMMANUELLE.

A life insurance policy is a savings policy that enables you to deposit a sum of money and transfer it when it matures. You can appoint Asmae as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, in full or in part. Your capital is exempt of tax, including any inheritance tax.

**By naming Asmae as a beneficiary, you leave behind the legacy of a future for thousands of children all over the world!**

### How to appoint the Asmae association as beneficiary of your life insurance policy

Each life insurance policy includes a beneficiary clause that you can complete by indicating Asmae as beneficiary. If you have an existing policy, you just need to amend the beneficiary clause with the body managing the policy.

You can appoint Asmae as sole beneficiary or appoint several of them. The life insurance we receive is directly allocated to our projects in the field. Please give us a call.

### Would you like to appoint Asmae as a beneficiary of your life insurance and do you have any questions?

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**"We would love to receive your call or meet you in person!"**

*Feel free to call me and even arrange a meeting. I would be delighted to meet you, to speak about Asmae's projects and to answer all your questions.*

*I look forward to this opportunity to get to know you better."*

Catherine Alvarez, Director General of Asmae.



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