

# The letter

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Asmae Association  
Sœur  
Emmanuelle



PHILIPPINES:  
WORKING WITH  
THE GOVERNMENT

CAP JEUNESSE:  
ACTIVITIES LAUNCHED





## “Saving children’s lives”



On the night of 4–5 June, at least 132 people were killed in the attack on the village of Solhan in Burkina Faso, close to the border with Mali and Niger. **Twenty children** were among those who were **struck down**, and had their lives taken.

Asmae does not work in that area of the country, so fortunately our teams and partners were not affected. I would, however, like to express **our complete solidarity with the people of Burkina Faso**, with whom Asmae has been working since 1996.

The pressure exerted through attacks by armed groups (whoever they may be) empties villages of their communities. How can they stay, after losing their homes and their livelihoods, with the threat of another attack or massacre hanging over them? Following the tragedy in Solhan, **there are now 7,000 displaced people, including more than 5,000 children**, at the site for the internally displaced in Sebba.

The situation puts us, and everyone working with the communities, and with children in particular, under pressure to step up our efforts to restore equilibrium in this key country within the relative stability of the region, and to protect lives, particularly those of children, **by working to preserve any shift in the destructive cycle of vengeance**.

Education, access to knowledge, freedom of thought and protection against all forms of violence remain the most powerful weapons in the fight for peace. As we all know, they lead to greater respect for others, fairness, justice and social cohesion, and economic and human development.

Our mission, working with local stakeholders and families to support children, is not, of course, a direct response to the consequences of the attacks suffered by the country, or to the need to provide security protection for communities, but it is a **vital ongoing part of the (re)construction of a peaceful society**.

The way a society treats its children is deeply revealing of its investment in its own development. We must therefore endeavour to see **all children as our own** and ensure that their well-being, protection and future are a non-negotiable priority, regardless of their cultural, social or religious background.

It is thanks to your support that Asmae’s teams can carry out this mission, which is so essential in all our areas of intervention. For that, on behalf of Asmae’s teams, I would like to express our deep gratitude.

**Adrien Sallez**,  
Director General



Sister Emmanuelle, France, summer 92

**For 40 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 achieve 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.**

## ASMAE IN FIGURES

- **51,500 beneficiaries** (children and families) through **30 projects** in **6 countries of intervention**
- **22,000 donors**
- **39 partner** associations
- **108 professionals** worldwide
- **40 volunteers**

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## AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION **LEBANON**

## PROTECTING AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR YOUNG REFUGEES WITH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS



A young beneficiary of the “Paces” project in Lebanon

*The “Paces” project, run by Asmae with its partners Basmeh and Zeitooneh and Jafra, involves improving the education and protection services available to vulnerable children and adolescents from Syria, Palestine and Lebanon, and their access to them. This project is run at the Burj El Barajneh and Shatila camps. Depending on the level of interest from young people, they are given classes on subjects such as IT and languages.*

Refugee children are often vulnerable, particularly psychologically. After fleeing conflict and war, they continue to be affected by their experiences every day, in their cognitive, social and emotional development.

*“When I remember those images, I’m scared” - Khaled, 11*

Khaled, 11, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon, came to the Jafra centre to deal with the trauma he had experienced. In Syria, he witnessed extremely violent scenes of war. He says: *“I was scared. I couldn’t sleep at night; I dreamed about punishments [I had witnessed]. When I remember those images, I’m scared.”* Sarah, a facilitator with Jafra, says that he was confused and intimidated during his first few days with them: *“Drawing was an exercise used to help him express himself. That day, Khaled drew a corpse with blood using the colour red. I immediately passed the case to the social worker.”* At the Jafra centre, Khaled and his brothers and sisters were able to benefit from activities and individual support, which helped them to learn to express themselves better, to have the courage to speak up and ask for help, and to help each other. According to Khaled, this support produced real results: *“The Jafra centre helped me to get through this ordeal. I’ve stopped having those dreams. I’ve stopped being scared.”*

*“I stayed at home for two years”*  
Malak, 12

Like Khaled, all the children at the Jafra centre are trying to overcome the ordeals they have been through. Malak, 12, had

decided to stop going to school because of the abuse she had suffered there. She says: *“A boy hit me. I was hurt and bleeding. I stayed at home for two years. During that time, I contemplated suicide.”* She was enrolled at the Jafra centre by her mother, and was able to resume her academic learning. Sarah remembers that *“Malak was always sad; she would burst into tears. I knew straight away that something was wrong and that she needed more support than the other children.”* To help these children rebuild their lives, Jafra’s professional social work team organises group activities, with support from Asmae’s teams. *“At the Jafra centre, we have learned to make sure we are protected and to form friendships”*, says young Malak. Her mother has also been to training sessions for parents to support them in their relationships with their children.

With the support of Jafra and Asmae, Malak and Khaled have turned their lives and their futures around. According to Nadeem Khaddaj, Asmae’s country representative in Lebanon: *“These two stories are an example of the struggles that children in Lebanon, and particularly marginalised groups, go through. [...] Asmae is currently broadening these target groups in Lebanon to include groups of young people in social and economic development programmes.”*

Asmae would like to thank its donors, as well as the French Development Agency, the Air France Foundation, Idea Topaze Télévitale and the Mazars Foundation for supporting this project.

You can find these testimonials in Asmae’s video documentary on the Paces project on our website: [www.asmae.fr](http://www.asmae.fr)

## KEY FIGURES

**1.6 million people in Lebanon are refugees. This is the highest number per resident in the world** (European Commission, 2020).

**20% of the population in Lebanon are refugees from Syria** (European Commission, 2020).

**53% of refugees from Syria in Lebanon are children** (UNICEF, 2020).

\* UNICEF, 2020





## SPECIAL REPORT CAP JEUNESSE

# ACTIVITIES LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LEBANON AND MADAGASCAR

**Currently, 1/4 of the global population is under the age of 24, but 90% of 10–24-year-olds live in developing countries. Of those, 630 million 15–24-year-olds are unemployed\* and have no training or education, resulting in vulnerability and high levels of inequality. In Lebanon, unemployment affects 34% of young men and 37% of young women, while 55% of the population live below the poverty line. Furthermore, the economic collapse of the country, political instability, the terrible explosion at Beirut port in August 2020 and its social consequences are significantly hindering young people’s entrepreneurial ventures. The broad objectives of the multi-country Cap Jeunesse programme are to develop these young people’s potential to help them become citizens who are agents of positive change in their society. The aim is also to offer more educational opportunities for refugees and displaced people. In Madagascar, the broad objectives of Cap Jeunesse are to improve socio-professional integration among young people and promote access to employment for them through apprenticeship training, given that 84% of young people are in employment that is insecure, low-paid and often very tough.**

\*sources: ILO, Global Employment Trends, 2014; Cf. études de Plan International ; Rapport Plaidoyer Coordination Sud mai 2020 [International studies; Coordination Sud advocacy report May 2020]

## Youth for Change: young people take action in Lebanon

In Lebanon, the Cap Jeunesse programme in partnership with the local association Nabaa is called Youth for Change. As part of the project, a committee of young representatives will be set up. Young people will also have access to training sessions organised by Asmae’s partner Nabaa. Four vocational training courses have begun: making oriental and Arabic sweets, home care, dressmaking and curtain hanging.

**“The young people are highly engaged in their training and are working hard to obtain their certification” - Malak, Projects and Partnerships Officer at Asmae**

A call for volunteers has been launched to select 150 young people from the Ain al-Hilweh and Nahr Al Bared camps. The

volunteers will be assembled based on their career aspirations and market needs and then provided with guidance by Nabaa, with support from Asmae’s technical advisor on education. These young people will then join a local or international organisation for an internship to strengthen their voluntary and civic engagement.

At the same time, another civic engagement system will be trialled by Nabaa, with the selection of 120 young people to be trained to identify, design and implement one or two community initiatives per year: anti-drugs campaigns, sports tournaments etc. Psychosocial support activities will also be set up soon, alongside activities related to life skills and learning-to-learn skills. According to Malak, Asmae’s Projects and Partnerships Officer in Lebanon, the initial results have been good:

*“The young people have shown great engagement with their training and are working hard to obtain their certification.”*



Young beneficiaries of the Tanora project in Madagascar

## Tanora: young Madagascans take control of their future

In Madagascar, a committee of young project managers will be set up, and will meet quarterly with representatives from our 3 partner associations: Hafa, Gazela and Graines de Bitume. Led by Asmae’s technical advisor on socio-educational support and partner educators, the committee of young people will be consulted on the implementation, monitoring and assessment of activities. The project is intended to assist with young people’s professional integration and help them to prepare for their future.

The training activities have begun and are centred around two types of sessions: refresher sessions on skills such as Malagasy, French, arithmetic, IT and employment law, and introductory or familiarisation sessions on trades, where young people can observe socio-professional environments and activities.

Specific modules on citizenship and gender will be

co-created by partner educators and Asmae’s technical advisor on socio-educational support.

These workshops are intended to help 300 young people in Madagascar gain a better understanding of their civic rights and duties, but also work on their listening skills, their ability to express themselves and their critical thinking. The training sessions will also provide an opportunity to work on gender representations, which often stand in the way of the achievement of certain aspirations and dreams. On the socio-educational side, a support plan for partners will be drawn up soon to help them put their enthusiasm into action to help young people with their professional integration. Finally, a psychosocial technical advisor will work with young people from the second half of 2021.

Up to 60% of the project funding comes from the French Development Agency. The project is also supported financially by Asmae’s partner companies and foundations, as well as our donors’ generosity.

**The ambition is for young people to become citizens whose engagement, creativity and motivation help to improve their living conditions.**

## KEY FIGURES

## CAP JEUNESSE PROGRAMME IN 5 COUNTRIES

**Direct beneficiaries: 8,150 young people aged between 10 and 22**

**Indirect beneficiaries: 44,410** - brothers, sisters and parents of direct beneficiaries, volunteers, participants at awareness-raising sessions, institutional representatives

**Partner entities involved: 97** - schools and training centres, civil society organisations, parents’ associations, clubs for adolescents



## PHILIPPINES: WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS TO HELP CHILDREN ON THE STREETS

**Physical and sexual abuse are a particular issue for street children. 7 million children around the world are victims of sexual abuse every year, and 98% of them are girls\*. In the Philippines, over a million children live on the streets.**

\* Child Protection Network Annual Report, 2015

### A 3-year project targeting 1,000 children aged between 0 and 18

Through the “Street children” project, which began in 2018 and will run for 3 years, Asmae is helping more than 1,000 children aged between 0 and 18 in Manila. In order to protect these children, support their education and promote their rights, Asmae is working in partnership with 4 local partner associations: KSEM (Kanalungan Sa Erma Ministry), Bahay Tuluyan, CHAP (Child Hope Philippines), NCSD (National Council of Social Development).

### Supporting the social integration, education and protection of children and young people

It is important to train street educators in appropriate teaching methods, best practices etc. The objective is also to be able to identify children in abusive situations, and to mobilise communities and local authorities to protect them and ensure their rights are respected. To give these children an active role in their own development, Asmae supports the work of local public and private organisations that are responsible for their protection. In addition, support programmes are in place, offering psychosocial support for families: regular monitoring, connections with existing services and meeting spaces for families.

### The first government programme to protect the rights of street children is supported by Asmae

In 2020, the Philippine government, along with Asmae and 2 of our partners, Bahay Tuluyan and Child Hope Philippines, finalised a Philippine National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan on Children in Street Situations. This plan is the first government programme in the Philippines designed to respond to the problems of street children, using an approach based on the rights of the child and enhanced cooperation between the various parties responsible. The development of the plan was overseen by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) with technical and financial support from Asmae Philippines, and was made possible by the contributions and tireless commitment of the members of the Sub-Committee on the Protection and Welfare of Children in Street Situations.

The overall objective of the Philippine National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan on Children in Street Situations is that “the rights of children in street situations are respected, protected and fulfilled”, in accordance with the approach based on the rights of the child (as guaranteed by the United Nations Convention) that recognises that children in street situations have the same rights as all other children. Phase 2 of Asmae’s project is scheduled for the next 3 years. The aim is to support the adoption of the plan locally, in the city of Manila and via local and international NGO networks, so that more, better-coordinated resources can be used to benefit these children, thereby ensuring that their rights are better guaranteed.

Asmae would like to thank its donors, as well as the French Development Agency, the Alstom Foundation and TechnipFMC for their support of this project.



Street children in Manila benefiting from alternative academic support

## A CLOSER LOOK AT A MOBILE LEARNING UNIT



To facilitate learning for street children during lockdown, our partner CHAP launched a new mobile learning unit. On a daily basis, social workers travel in a people-carrier equipped with educational materials: books, computers, printers, school supplies etc. The street educators working on board the vehicle help, guide, support and supervise the children. They provide activities such as literacy sessions, academic support and hygiene awareness.

## FRANCE: STUDY ON FAMILIES’ FUTURES FOLLOWING A STAY AT THE “LA CHRYSALIDE” MOTHER-AND-CHILD CENTRE

**The mission of the “La Chrysalide” mother-and-child centre is to provide accommodation and support for pregnant women and those with young children, for the purpose of child protection. The service is therefore offered to women with housing problems who need parenting support. The management of the mother-and-child centre asked the Centre for Research on Education and Training at Paris Nanterre University to carry out a study on the futures of families who have stayed at the centre since it opened. The survey, which was carried out between 2018 and 2019, combined biographical questionnaires completed by 30 former residents who left the centre between 2007 and 2018, and detailed interviews with 14 of them, to get an understanding of how they look back on the support they received.**

### A majority of families in a stable situation since leaving the centre

The study reveals that 25 of the 30 former residents were able to access social housing when they left the mother-and-child centre. At the time of the survey, they were experiencing stable housing journeys. Conversely, 4 families experienced a period of instability in terms of their housing for three to six years after they left.

15 women, i.e. half of the women surveyed, had fairly stable careers. 11 others had more unstable careers, alternating between periods of fixed-term and temporary work, unemployment and short training courses. The other 4 women surveyed were unemployed. These women were living with partners whose income was sufficient to support the family.

### Comprehensive support that allows personal development and “growth”

The detailed interviews carried out with 14 of the 30 women surveyed showed that the majority of them highlighted the people skills of the professionals and the importance of their stay at the mother-and-child centre in their journey. 9 of these 14 women noticed a significant personal development aspect to the support:

*“It was a place where I could really settle down, where I could continue my studies in peace, [...] where I could really feel at home. It was a place where they would listen to me, and could help me move forward.” - Ms J., who moved in at the age of 19 and stayed for over two years.*

The women had often faced significant difficulties in their

childhood. They saw their work with the professionals at the centre as a long, painful, but necessary process to ensure that they did not expose their own children to the same difficulties.

### Support seen essentially as help towards securing accommodation

The experience of the other 5 young mothers interviewed was that the support they received from the mother-and-child centre was essentially shelter, followed by help looking for another place to live, during a period of transition. They distanced themselves more from the personal and family side of things. These 5 women had a family network in place at the time of their stay, and they preferred to talk to those people.

### La Chrysalide’s engagement in the relationship with the young mums at the centre

The factors identified as being favourable to personal transformation are therefore a weak primary support network, a desire for their difficulties not to be repeated for their children, timing and support with rehousing. The women also remember the personal engagement of the teams in the relationship, the fact that they felt supported, valued and acknowledged, even during difficult times:

*“Perhaps my family couldn’t be proud of me, but they could [...] they encouraged me.”*

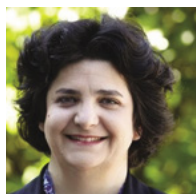
Ms B., who moved in at the age of 18 and stayed for over two years.

## MADAGASCAR: MAISON CLAIRE ET JEANNE

The “Maison Claire et Jeanne” project was developed with the aim of improving education and protection for 490 girls and boys in street and/or vulnerable situations in Madagascar. For this purpose, Asmae is providing technical and financial support to two associations based in the city of Antsirabe: Manorina and Service de Préparation pour la Vie (SPV) Felana. Asmae’s support is intended to help them improve the children’s environment, in particular with the construction and refurbishment of infrastructure used to receive them. An Asmae office has been opened in Antsirabe so that the teams can be as close to the work as possible.

Asmae would like to thank its committed major donor, Hervé Odermatt, who is funding this project.

*“The first Maison de Claire et Jeanne (the names of my late wife and mother) opened in June 2015. Since then, four other houses have been established. My children and grandchildren are committed to continuing to support Asmae and the Maisons de Claire et Jeanne.” Interview with Hervé Odermatt, Banque Transatlantique, March 2021*



Cécile Vic

## 2 QUESTIONS FOR CÉCILE VIC MANAGING DIRECTOR AIR FRANCE FOUNDATION



### What are the Air France Foundation's missions?

The Air France Foundation works for children.

For almost thirty years, the Air France Foundation has been developing, selecting and funding projects to support education for children who are sick, living with disabilities or experiencing major difficulties. For two years, the Air France Foundation has been working to tackle health and social crises and in the area of environmental education. These projects are funded in the countries where the Air France company has a presence.

The Foundation is based on the conviction that access to education, training, leisure activities and culture is the best luggage to have for life's great journey.

### You support Asmae's work. How does this partnership fit in with the Foundation's position?

The Air France Foundation is a long-standing partner of Asmae in Madagascar, working to support the reintegration of extremely vulnerable children into school and society, and more recently in Lebanon, supporting capacity building for those working in the field in the refugee camps in Beirut. The Air France Foundation is proud to support Asmae.

## EVENT

### "YOGA FOR A CAUSE" EVENT IN AID OF ASMAE AND THE CAP JEUNESSE PROJECT

From 21 to 27 June, a new event was held for the first time, bringing together 26 yoga instructors and their classes. In partnership with the Yoga for a cause association, the participating instructors gave classes free of charge and participants were invited to make a donation in return. There was huge enthusiasm from everyone involved. We collected enough money to make a contribution to the funding of the Cap Jeunesse project to help young people with their professional integration in our 5 countries of intervention overseas. An event was held in Paris, at Ground Control (a socially engaged cultural space), with the help of instructor Iris Chasles, who focused her workshop on poses that develop courage and open-heartedness — values that were close to Sister Emmanuelle's heart.

**Thank you to Claire Livingstone for choosing Asmae for the first event for her association, Yoga for a cause! Thank you to all the instructors and their classes for taking part. See you next year!**



### Asmae Association Sœur Emmanuelle

Asmae is an association formed under the French law of 1901. Recognised to be of public interest and authorised to receive bequests, donations and gifts.



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