

The Letter

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Asmae Association
Sœur
Emmanuelle

**CAP JEUNESSE:
PROMOTING THE EDUCATION
AND PROTECTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**LEBANON: GIVING CONFIDENCE
TO YOUNG PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**



EDITORIAL

“Helping a little man to study is giving him the chance of a lifetime. A successful education is the foundation for a successful life.”



15 years already and millions of lives transformed!

Sœur Emmanuelle left us in 2008, but her legacy and the impact of her actions continue to grow. She created Asmae to support and train dozens of local NGOs and hundreds of professionals who strive for the protection and education of children in France and around the world. This unwavering torch is carried by our teams, our board of directors...and you. Sœur Emmanuelle also played a key role in the lives of millions of people who felt inspired, supported and guided. We see the evidence of this every day.

What is the current situation with the child rag pickers in 2023? What have Sœur Emmanuelle and Asmae changed?

I was startled to come across a young rag picker in the centre of Cairo on her cart being pulled by a donkey...this image from the 80s reminds us that we have to double down on our efforts, but it is a waning image. Sœur Emmanuelle has won her access to education challenge, because children's school attendance has increased from less than 5% in the 1970s to 95% today! Sœur Emmanuelle also introduced water, electricity, healthcare and the first recycling workshop to transform waste into sources of income. The rag pickers no longer live in huts surrounded by rubbish and pigs but in "solid" constructions. Rubbish, at the heart of the Zabbaleen's economy, remains central to the life of the district with the incessant coming and going of trucks groaning under mountains of multi-coloured sacks.

What is Asmae doing in Cairo?

In the rag picking districts, our priority is to protect children from all forms of violence and to build lasting protection mechanisms by involving children as agents of change. We are also making a difference so that young people with disabilities may access employment. Isn't it wonderful, but normal, to see these young people with disabilities learning a trade and gaining access to their fundamental rights?

The fight continues thanks to your support. On behalf of the Asmae teams, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Adrien Sallez

Director General



Sœur Emmanuelle

For 43 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 firmly in mind.
- **To strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders** working in the field of child development, improving synergies between them and maximising their social impact.
- **To champion children's causes** by raising awareness and speaking out.
- **To experiment, expand and share information.**

ASMAE IN FIGURES

- **39,300 beneficiaries** (children and families) through **24 projects** in **8 countries**
- **23,129 donors**
- **52 partner** associations
- **133 professionals** worldwide
- **36 volunteers**

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AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION

LEBANON: A PROJECT RESTORING CONFIDENCE TO YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Faced with the economic crisis, Lebanon continues to struggle. Today on the front line in the face of this crisis, people with disabilities and their families are suffering from a lack of public policies and appropriate structures, despite representing 15% of the Lebanese population. In 2022, Asmae launched the “Socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable young people” project. It aims to give young people with disabilities or who are vulnerable access to education, so that they can enter the working world.

A training centre for young people with disabilities

Asmae is leading this project in partnership with the National Rehabilitation and Development Centre (NRDC). It is a specialist centre that works with young people with disabilities, regardless of their origin or religion. The project has already helped 135 young people aged 14-25, including 40% Syrian refugees with disabilities, 55% Lebanese people with disabilities, and 5% vulnerable Lebanese young people. The aim is to improve their access to vocational training. The beneficiaries coexist harmoniously and agree that the training centre allows them to meet new people and open up to others. Zena, a beneficiary of the project, says “I have met excellent teachers and made some incredible friends, who I stay in touch with by phone and on social media”. Among the beneficiaries, 5% of the children and young people don't have disabilities, which ensures an inclusive approach. Young people can thereby learn and train in conditions that promote interaction and inclusiveness.

Developing the autonomy of the most vulnerable young people through income-generating activities

Taking the vocational training courses allows the beneficiaries to have an income by selling the products made through their work: making soap, candles, creating mosaics, sewing, basketry. Zena tells us, “This project was a great opportunity for me to find my vocation. I love basketry and working with straw. I am happy to have learned a new skill that can help me achieve financial independence later on.”

The project helps to identify employment opportunities for young people with disabilities so that they can integrate and become independent. Basic courses in literacy and numeracy are organised in an environment that is favourable to socialising younger people: “My daughter loves attending the classes, especially the soap-making class. She has been involved in the project for 8 months and I can see that she has gained academic skills and is more relaxed socially. This project is very important for my daughter because it allows her to learn a trade that can help her in the future,” explains Rana, mother of a beneficiary.

The centre also enables young people with physical disabilities to increase their autonomy in everyday movements: “The physiotherapy sessions have helped me a lot. I'm now able to walk long distances, with the help of my walking frame, whereas I could only walk short distances before,” explains Zena.

The goal for the future is to increase the number of beneficiaries in order to provide access to school and vocational training for people with disabilities.

Asmae would like to thank our partners who contributed to funding this project: Monaco's Department of International Cooperation, the Alma Foundation



Project participant with a member of the local Asmae team



SPECIAL REPORT CAP JEUNESSE

Beneficiaries of the “Cap Jeunesse” project during its work in Egypt

PROMOTING THE EDUCATION AND PROTECTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

Young people are the future of every society, but many are in vulnerable positions connected to an often difficult school curriculum. To help break this pattern, Asmae launched “Cap Jeunesse”, a multi-country programme started in 2021 for a period of 3 years. Its main objective is to promote young girls’ and boys’ rights to education, training, protection and inclusion, while 20% of young people worldwide are out of school, unemployed or not in training. It enables them to strengthen their abilities to become agents of change in their society. The programme runs in 5 countries: Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Lebanon, Egypt and the Philippines.

■ Difficult operating environments

The changing socio-economic and security situations of the countries in which the program is implemented are carefully monitored and adapted to by the Asmae teams. Egypt and Lebanon are really struggling with the rise in global inflation, which exceeded 30% in April 2023 in Egypt*, compared to 21.3% in December 2022. In Burkina Faso, the threshold of 2 million displaced persons** was crossed at the end of March. Despite these difficult contexts, Asmae continues to operate in these countries and, through the “Cap Jeunesse” programme, continues to facilitate young people's access to quality education or training.

■ Improving integration, as well as educational and professional support for young people

Over the past 24 months, the “Cap Jeunesse” programme has helped to strengthen existing support systems for young people on disjointed educational paths and/or in socio-economically vulnerable positions. This is by training 380 educators and teachers in teaching methods and tools in Burkina Faso and in Egypt and through 1,741 peer-to-peer tutoring sessions that have taken place in Burkina Faso. Activities related to social and professional integration include refresher courses, literacy, life-skills building and individualised psychosocial support. Furthermore, several good practices have been identified within the countries, in particular the creation of teen clubs in Burkina Faso, the development of a micro-business module in Madagascar and the implementation of community initiatives by young people in Lebanon.

■ Supporting young girls and boys to realise their right to protection

The programme supports young people to realise their right to protection, thereby making it possible to guarantee a safe environment in which they can develop whilst being listened to and supported. Parents, teachers and community members have been made aware of the specific issues affecting young people and have been encouraged to adopt protective and caring behaviours. As such, 10,840 parents and community members have followed awareness-raising initiatives in Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Egypt, the Philippines and Lebanon. Young people involved in the programme can also take advantage of psychosocial support*** to help them deal with the various problems they may encounter; 1,361 young people and adolescents have benefited from this.

Between now and the end of the first phase of the programme, particular attention will be paid to increasing professional integration activities, such as company visits, job information sessions and monitoring by a guidance counsellor, to ensure the young people can integrate into the labour market. Finally, youth engagement activities will continue. For example, in Lebanon, young people will set up new community initiatives, focusing on supporting visually impaired children and combating drug use.

*RFI

**National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CONASUR)

***Consists of helping a person in their psychological development and their interaction in a social environment.



INTERVIEW ANAÏS TARTARIN, multi-country programme and monitoring and evaluation support officer

A joint mission between Asmae's Madagascar and Burkina Faso teams took place last October as part of the “Cap Jeunesse” programme. The meeting, which took place in Madagascar, was aimed at strengthening internal expertise through face-to-face knowledge-sharing workshops, in addition to working groups usually carried out remotely. Anaïs Tartarin was present at this mission, and answers our questions.

► What were the key topics broached during this joint mission?

The joint mission helped to identify and share good practices as part of implementing the Cap Jeunesse programme's activities. During eight days of workshops, meetings and visits to partner organisations and other stakeholders, such as local and international NGOs and the French Embassy, the Asmae teams from Burkina Faso and Madagascar discussed practices and innovative approaches and tools that have been trialled. Topics such as training and professional integration, psychosocial support for vulnerable young people and youth engagement were all worked on.

► What is the advantage of this type of mission?

Joint missions promote the skills development of Asmae teams both on a technical and organisational level. These missions provide dedicated face-to-face time for reflection and discussion on the quality of the projects and the way in which the activities meet the needs and expectations of the young people and professionals supported. They also enable teams to talk with the project management daily – about managing teams, time, material and financial resources, etc. – and to be involved with local partners (training, monitoring, etc.), which is at the heart of Asmae's work. Finally, joint missions support team cohesion, a mutual understanding of Asmae's mandate and the vision of the Cap Jeunesse programme.

► Were the objectives met?

The joint mission, the first of its kind at Asmae, was a resounding success! The Burkina Faso and Madagascar teams were able to put their activities into perspective with those implemented by another national office and other stakeholders, on the same topics. In very practical terms, they were able to use new tools, for example, a psychosocial support tool for young people was shared

by the Madagascar team and will now be used by the Burkina Faso team. At Asmae, it is also important that the teams cultivate caring and sharing, to promote work that is as efficient as it is enjoyable.

► Are there any more such meetings planned?

Building on the success of this first meeting, another joint mission will take place before the end of 2023. It will bring together teams from three other countries running the Cap Jeunesse programme: Egypt, the Philippines and Lebanon. It will have the same aims of sharing expertise and good practices whilst promoting additional topics that the activities carried out in these three countries focus on. For example, the topic of inclusion of young people with disabilities or the protection of young people, in particular against gender-based violence.



The teams from Burkina Faso and Madagascar during the joint mission.

Asmae would like to thank our partners who contributed to funding this project: AFD, the Sawiris Foundation, Thousand and One Meals, Sancta Devota Foundation, Valoris Foundation, A.L.P., the Air France Foundation.

MADAGASCAR: REINTEGRATING AND SOCIALISING STREET CHILDREN

In Madagascar, there are very few structures for street children and an estimated 1.5 million children of primary school age who are not in school. Asmae, with the help of its local partners, provides sustainable access to education for these children through the “Ankizy” project (phase 2). Currently in its third year, the project aims to improve the school and social integration of vulnerable children in Antananarivo.

Reintegrating children excluded from the school system

The challenges are many: reintegrating children excluded from the traditional school system, monitoring their reintegration and proposing participatory practices to educators. Almost 1,164 children – 576 girls and 588 boys – have been supported in preschool or literacy classes and benefited from socio-educational activities. The project has also enabled 22 educators to improve their practices in the areas of literacy, preschool and socio-educational activities. Parents also receive support on managing and monitoring their children's education. For example, they have benefited from parent education sessions, home visits and had their awareness raised on the importance of their children's education. All children of primary school age have been integrated into the mainstream school system. The project has thereby helped to improve school integration systems by strengthening the educational support of children, facilitating their transition to school (via their reintegration into literacy and preschool classes) and improving their monitoring once the children are reintegrated into preschool.

Socialising and facilitating children's learning

Socialisation has helped children to begin their basic education. The children we met agree that the project has made a difference, particularly in terms of manners. A general improvement in good citizenship has been observed alongside a reduction in vagrancy and begging. To facilitate the children's learning of language and mathematics in literacy and preschool classes, a picture book, the ‘Sary Festy’, was created during phase 1 of the project. It is accompanied by teaching sheets to help educators use it. The Sary Festy was distributed to help children in their learning.

“Further to the discovery and training workshop on how to use the ‘Sary Festy’, it was decided to include the tool in the Class Kits which were distributed from September 2021. We believe that the tool is both relevant as well as being fun, eye-catching and full of pictures, ideas and messages, and we highly recommend its wider rollout to facilitate student learning.”

Junny Cordyah Razafitsimiovatsara, Head of the Inclusive Education Service, Ministry of National Education



Children from the “Ankizy” project

ZOOM SUR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (MEN) AND ASMAE

71 professionals from the MEN and its departments took part in meetings and workshops organised by Asmae. Three training workshops were held on Ankizy's flagship tool, the ‘Sary Festy’, and on the discovery of other tools co-built as part of the project. The collaboration continues in order to raise awareness among the institutions about the contributions made by Asmae and its partners, and thus to facilitate the social and educational integration of the beneficiaries we support in Antananarivo.

Asmae would like to thank our partners who contributed to funding this project: AFD, Monoprix, IDEA Topaze Télévitale, Sancta Devota Foundation.

FRANCE, ILE AUX ENFANTS: A NURSERY THAT CARES ABOUT THE WELL-BEING AND HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

“L'île aux enfants” is a family nursery that is part of the “La Chrysalide” facility, which houses a mother and child centre for very vulnerable single mothers. The nursery accepts all children from the centre who are old enough to attend nursery, but also children referred by the town of Bobigny. Childcare professionals ensure the well-being and proper development of the 29 children whilst adopting a caring, attentive and respectful stance. Bénédicte Maupu, head of “l'île aux enfants”, tells us about the new features and successes of the nursery.



Sensory discovery activity

What new activities are on offer at the nursery?

The most frequent are sensory-awakening activities, which are provided to help the child take ownership of their body and their environment. These activities involve providing trays of objects at their height to respond in an appropriate and personalised way to each child's need for attention as they take their first steps of sensory discovery. The trays can be filled with different materials: sand, water, chestnuts, milk bottle tops, “magic” sand, etc. In the same vein, activities such as a “handling pool” or “ball tent” have been introduced.

What impact do these activities have on children's development?

We design activities with educational objectives and educational purposes. The central point for any activity is the child's enjoyment, and sharing that enjoyment with the professional beside them, who is observing them, encouraging them, valuing them through how they look at and talk to them. The activities are chosen with the aim of meeting their needs. These offerings are therefore deciding factors in the cognitive, motor, emotional and social development of the child. Furthermore, we were able to notice that the children could encounter various problems such as difficulties in concentra-

tion, attention-span, expressing emotions or language acquisition. As such, it is particularly important to offer personalised educational activities for each child.

The nursery welcomes all children from the mother-and-child centre. How does that intake work?

Like for all the families, the intake of the child and his/her parent(s) is thought out and considered, depending on their age, abilities and development. The first step is to establish a relationship of trust with the parent to foster the calm transition of the child. Our role as a professional establishment is to ensure that this climate of trust is maintained throughout the intake phase by communicating regularly with the parent(s). In terms of their learning journey, the team provide extra support, by setting out the most stable benchmarks and respecting the physiological rhythms and development of each child. Also, the nursery can arrange for one-off or emergency intakes. These intakes are offered to mothers when they are going through difficult times and allow children to have a safe point of contact with the nursery workers. It's a very “supportive” device for those families who make use of it.

Do you have other successes to share with us?

We have set up Child & Parent Welcome Groups (LAEP), workshops for all parents with children between 0-6 years old. A professional and a volunteer deliver a workshop on different topics. The aim is to break the isolation faced by some parents, create links between families and offer them some dedicated time with their children. Families particularly enjoy these moments, because there was nothing similar on offer in Bobigny for very young children.

Asmae would like to thank our partners who contributed to funding this project: The 93rd district council, the CAF, the Town of Bobigny.

BURKINA FASO: MEALS FOR CHILDREN TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES

Burkina Faso is in the midst of a security crisis, which has caused the internal displacement of 2 million people in 2023, 60% of whom are children. Against this background, Asmae has set up the project “Pour une Petite Enfance Epanouie (PPEE)” [For a Happy Early Childhood], which organises child development and protection activities for internally displaced persons and host populations. Children often travel long distances during the day to take part in these activities, which impacts their access to food. To help improve the food offer and ensure the children's active participation and regular attendance at the activities, Asmae provides cold and/or hot meals during the activities. There is a cold snack of biscuits, sweets and cakes and rice or pasta is served for the hot meal.

Asmae would like to thank the partners who have contributed to funding this project: AFD and the Société Générale Foundation



SUPPORT US FOR FREE WITH LILO

GOOD NEWS: ASMAE HAS COME TO LILO.ORG. THE SOLIDARITY SEARCH ENGINE.

The idea is simple: on Lilo.org, every internet search generates a drop of water to support the charity of your choice. By donating your drops of water to Asmae, you contribute to financing the "Grandir Ensemble II" [Growing TogetherII] project in Burkina Faso, which enables the education of children with disabilities in Ouagadougou.

Browsing in solidarity on Lilo.org is a way to support charities that is 100% free (Lilo allows you to regain control over the value of your Internet searches) and respects your online privacy (Lilo does not collect your data and its servers are based in France).

How does it work?



LEGACIES, LIFE INSURANCE & DONATIONS

Kept alive through Asmae since 2008 with a single motto: in the face of all violence, let's help our children become brokers of peace!

15 years after her death, Sœur Emmanuelle continues to act through her charity, which strives for the education of children as a safeguard against violence. For Sœur Emmanuelle, the education of girls in particular was an emancipation tool. By sitting them on school benches, they are able to gain respect. School is a place that demonstrates equality between girls and boys. We firmly believe in the importance of working with local populations, respecting their culture and their rhythm.

These are the principles that persuade some of our donors to leave us a bequest. It is important to them to continue the work of Sœur Emmanuelle after their death and thereby continue the activity she began in 1980. It is in tribute to this great lady and to meet the vital needs of children that donors put this action in place. They think, "after all she has done, this is something I can do too".

Catherine Alvarez, who works with testators, recalls one donor:

"I remember Alice K, a business woman, married with a child. She bequeathed us a sum of money. She first made a significant donation after seeing Sœur Emmanuelle on television. In that moment, she experienced sharing, which made her very happy. She made her first donation to me in person in a restaurant in Alsace. We had a long-standing relationship by telephone."



If you too would like to make a donation through a will, life insurance or gift, you can contact **Catherine Alvarez** who will work with you personally.

You can request a legacies brochure by emailing legs@asmae.fr or telephone +33 (0)6 06 75 89 04 76.



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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