

LA LETTRE

No. 110 - JUNE 2018 - www.asmae.fr

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SPECIAL REPORT

Improving
the living conditions
of street children
and families
in Manila

association **Asmae**
Soeur Emmanuelle
Working for underprivileged children

Increasing the impact of our action to meet ever increasing needs...



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

For 38 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 build the capacity 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

- * **51,000** beneficiaries (children and families) through **68** projects in **8** countries
- * **983** sponsors
- * **53** local partners including **46** overseas and **7** in France
- * **115** professionals worldwide
- * **99** volunteers

Dear Friends,

To meet the needs of the most vulnerable children, ever increasing due to growing inequality and the violence of conflicts, this year we have decided to launch 15 new projects with an impact on 20,000 new beneficiaries in our different countries of intervention.



© Asmae

Alain Barrau

Alain Barrau involves four of our partners. It will have an impact on 1000 children and 400 parents, in a context of there being 1.5 million children living on the streets of Manila. This project will be partly financed by the French Development Agency.

In Bamako in Mali, a new project with our partner COCECM will enable the most vulnerable children aged 6 to 18 - orphans, lost children, children fending for themselves, young girls forced into marriage - to find out about their rights and to access health and education services.

In Lebanon, our priority will be Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese adolescents, particularly those living in the Chatila refugee camp and the Wedi El Zeini Gathering, both of which are severely lacking education and psychosocial services. Over a period of three years, 1990 children, 1200 parents and 135 influencers (influential members of the community) will benefit from this project.

This year of change is also marked by the 10th anniversary of Sister Emmanuelle's death, which will be a chance for us to honour her memory and to ensure her message lives on through the media, the press, the release of a book, a play, the naming of streets after her, and more. These different events will be the opportunity to share our values and to remind people that her fight, our fight and - we hope - your fight is to help build a fairer world which respects children, particularly the most vulnerable.

Yalla!

Alain Barrau

Chair of Asmae

Quarterly newsletter published by Asmae – Association Sœur Emmanuelle; Siret (company registration number): 347 403 156 000 40; APE (business activity code): 8899B; Address: Immeuble le Mèliès, 259-261 rue de Paris, 93100 Montreuil; Tel.: +33 (0)1 70 32 02 50; Fax: +33 (0)1 55 86 32 81; Website: www.asmae.fr; Email: infos@asmae.fr; Chair of the association and Editor: Alain Barrau; Editorial board: Adrien Sallez, Alain Barrau, Alain Juste Ngabo, Catherine Alvarez, Catherine Blanc, Jacques Chaumeil, Louis Moreau. Photo credits: Asmae, COCECM, Kalungan, Ilker Gürer, Mahesh Balasubramanian, JM Gautier-CIRIC; Layout: Olivier Dechaud; Printing: Imprimerie Vincent; Copyright: June 2018, ISSN 1254-2865



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MALI: A NEW PROJECT FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Mali key figures

- 2,500 beneficiaries
- 3 local organisations supported
- 3 projects
- 3 areas of intervention

In Mali, despite the well-developed legal framework in the area of child protection, the problem of children and adolescents in difficulty remains of great concern. We are currently observing an increasing number of vulnerable children in Bamako and in Mali's other major cities.

Most of these children come from poor families. Abuse, child labour and physical violence are still common practice both within the family and in the school environment, or with certain Koranic teachers to whose care the children are entrusted. These elements contribute to making the children even more vulnerable.

Supporting these at-risk children is a priority for Asmae. Since October 2017, the association has been assisting a new partner specialised in supporting this vulnerable population: the Collectif des Centres d'Écoute Communautaire du Mali (COCECM; the Mali Collective of Community Listening Centres, in English). The COCECM is a network of community listening centres (CECs), operating as a membership organisation. Created in 2005, it now comprises 9 CECs spread throughout Bamako. Through its network, this facility welcomes very vulnerable children, listening to them and guiding them towards the most suitable services. Its introduction within neighbourhoods has allowed it to play a genuine information-giving role for children and their families in the community.

The project's main objective is to improve access to a quality protective environment for the children of Bamako, thanks to the introduction of Listening Centres. The COCECM will benefit from Asmae's technical and financial support. In particular, as part of a partnership with the F3E*, Asmae will support the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation process.

"MANY OF OUR LEADERS ARE FORMER BENEFICIARIES OF THE CENTRE; WE HAVE STRONG ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY"

Interview with Souleymane Sidibé, Executive Secretary of the Collective of Community Listening Centres (CEC) of Mali, and Director of the CEC of Sabalibougou.

★ WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES AND HOW ARE THEY SUPPORTED?

CECs welcome children who are usually aged between 5 and 18. They are able to access outdoor games or recreational activities during the day. When a child arrives at the centre for the first time, they are registered by one of the on-call leaders. We try to understand their situation and, depending on the case and with the child's agreement, we meet with their family and find solutions together. If the child's situation falls outside of the teams' expertise, the CEC connects with the appropriate services or facilities. During the three-month pilot project supported by Asmae from September to December 2017, 824 children were welcomed at the Sabalibougou centre.

★ WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM THE PARTNERSHIP WITH ASMAE?

The partnership provides the opportunity to benefit from customised support in order to enhance the organisation and sustainability of the Community Listening Centres within the group. We are also able to benefit from technical support in psychosocial and advocacy activities. I hope that Asmae's work on this pilot project will allow a more global project to be created, providing support to children in all areas covered by the CECs.



Young girls who are beneficiaries of the COCECM.

* Fund for the Promotion of Preliminary Studies, Cross-sectional Studies and Evaluations. This fund is financed by the French Development Agency (AFD), the Fondation de France and the Agence de la Francophonie, and is managed by a network of international solidarity actors, including Asmae.

MANILA: IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF STREET CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN MANILA

It is estimated that there are 1.5 million street children in the capital of the Philippines*.

Some of their primary needs, such as access to healthcare and education, are not met. Living on the streets makes them more vulnerable, facing higher risks of physical and sexual abuse, child labour, early pregnancy, common symptoms of anxiety and depression, drug use, etc.

This situation is worsening as a result of the “war on drugs” declared by President Duterte. Indeed, the death or detention of parents accused of being involved in drug trafficking forces many children onto the streets.

In 2014, Asmae’s partners working with street families and children expressed the need to improve their knowledge of the living conditions faced by these families, the factors that led to them living on the streets, and those preventing them from getting off the streets. There was also a need to produce a map of interventions and services available. Asmae has supported the completion of a study on the subject, conducted by the SENMMAP* network. This study revealed that 50% of mothers and 77% of fathers questioned belong to the second generation of families living on the streets.

The review also highlighted the need to set up a project offering education activities.

Philippines key figures

- 2,000 beneficiaries
- 5 local organisations supported
- 6 projects
- 3 areas of intervention

STREET CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: A PRIORITY FOR ASMAE IN THE PHILIPPINES!

In January 2017, Asmae received co-financing from the French Development Agency to launch a pilot project in Manila over a three-year period. The aim of the project is to contribute to the improvement of living conditions for children and families living on the streets, by building the capacity of local authorities and organisations. This approach will improve the quality of protection and care, as well as access for families to existing services. It also aims to raise awareness of and promote the respect of their rights. From 2018 to 2021, this project will benefit 1000 children, 250 families, 30 local professionals, as well as 1000 other community members or individuals. This project will be run in partnership with four local organisations: KSEM (Kalungan Sa Erma Ministry), Bahay Tuluyan, CHAP (Child Hope Asia Philippines) and NCSO (National Council of Social Development). Each one will benefit from Asmae’s support in building their organisational and technical capacity.

★ MARION MORTEL, PROJECT-PARTNERSHIP MANAGER WITH THE ASMAE PHILIPPINES TEAM, TOLD US ABOUT THE PROJECT AND ABOUT SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES LIVING ON THE STREETS OF MANILA.

What will be the impact of this project supported by the AFD?

The project will promote a better recognition and handling of the situation of children and families living on the streets. They are seen as “invisible” by many people and are not a priority in the action plans of local authorities.

Another expected major impact is the improved capacity of local actors. The emphasis is placed on building the

capacity of staff, because they are directly responsible for the programmes and interventions offered to children and families on the streets. Staff will benefit from training in management, project monitoring and evaluation, and courses on best practice in social work, the gender approach and in other technical fields.

How does Asmae’s work help improve the situation of these vulnerable populations?

Thanks to the capacity-building of local actors, Asmae hopes to find a sustainable way of improving the way in which they work and implement projects for these vulnerable populations. We are also supporting them to form a network so that they collaborate more, creating better synergy and a stronger impact. Asmae will also ensure that children and families living on the streets have access to the information

and socio-economic opportunities that can improve their situation or their living conditions.

★ KANLUNGAN SA ERMA, A LONG-STANDING PARTNER

Kanlungan Sa Erma Ministry (KSEM) is an association created in the Philippines in 1988, which works to protect children. The activities undertaken by KSEM are aimed at street children, orphans, those exploited, abused and abandoned, as well as victims of child-trafficking.

It provides psychosocial intervention for these children, as well as those from underprivileged communities, at its day centre. Educators and volunteers from the project “Éducation pour les Enfants de Rue” (Education for Street Children) also go out onto the streets to work with these children.

The aim of this organisation is to provide a place where children can be safe and have access to healthcare (abuse

prevention, healthcare, free meals, etc.), but also a place for child development and participation, through educational and recreational activities. It currently runs three centres, two street intervention programmes and a support programme for children who have been placed back with their families.

Asmae has been acting in partnership with KSEM for 20 years. In 2017, thanks to Asmae’s support, 607 children benefited from the alternative education programme, and 432 from the day centre. 275 parents, 210 local governmental civil servants and 83 parents also benefited from the organisation’s action. In addition, a Technical Advisor appointed by Asmae provided technical support to KSEM. Finally, a French volunteer working at an international solidarity camp raised awareness among the children and community members with regards to protecting the environment.

* Ecpat, DWSD, 2009

** (Street Education Network of Metro Manila Asmae Partners

“Before I found Kanlungan, I lived on the streets with my father. Now, I live at the centre run by Kanlungan and I go to school. In 10 years, many things have changed for me; I know my rights and I have access to education... All children should be born with a smile, with freedom, and access to knowledge. Children need recognition, an education; it is important that they learn so that they can build their future.”

Allan, age 19, Manila, Philippines



Child beneficiaries of the international solidarity camp in 2017, led by a volunteer appointed by Asmae.



This project is co-financed by the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement). The content comes under the sole responsibility of Asmae and cannot be considered to reflect the opinion of the French Development Agency in any way.

DIVERS-CITÉ: SUPPORTING COLLECTIVE ACTION IN UNDERPRIVILEGED NEIGHBOURHOODS TO STRENGTHEN SOLIDARY AMONG RESIDENTS

Key figures for the Divers-Cité program

- 2,220 direct beneficiaries
- 7 groups supported

Created in 2001, the Divers-Cité program takes action on the problems affecting children in the underprivileged neighbourhoods of Île-de-France (the Parisian region), and aims to help people live together better.

The aim is to enhance residents' power to act, through collective action. In this context, Asmae launched a new partnership in 2017, upon the request of a social funding agency, ICF La Sablière. It aims to support the creation of a residents' group in the 17th arrondissement of Paris.

It has now been running for several months, and we look back on the beginnings of this partnership with the main actors involved. Chloé Alauzet, Social Development Worker with Asmae for 2 years, and Mélanie Esteller, Urban Development Officer at ICF la Sablière, gave us the low-down in this joint interview.

"AFTER SIX MONTHS, ASMAE'S SUPPORT HAS ENABLED A DYNAMIC TO BE GENERATED. MANY TENANTS ARE BECOMING ENGAGED TO IMPROVE THE WAY THEY LIVE TOGETHER WITHIN THE BUILDING."

★ Can you tell us about ICF La Sablière and explain to us why you chose to work with Divers-Cité?

Mélanie: ICF La Sablière is a social housing agency with nearly 40,000 housing units in the Île-de-France region. It is a subsidiary of SNCF, which historically provided housing for railway workers. Nowadays, all tenant types are assisted. At 164 rue de Saussure, we have 440 homes.

The partnership with the Divers-Cité programme started following our encounter at many joint association meetings organised by the town council for the 17th arrondissement, which focused particularly on preventing high-risk behaviours.

Within the Saussure apartment block, we hope to unite residents from different generations, living together. There are already actors in this area, but they are not truly working together and other resident initiatives are emerging. We called upon Asmae last summer to support this approach.

★ What is the main objective of this partnership?

Mélanie: It is to offer a space and support to tenants who want to set up projects, so that they can transform their ideas into reality. We mustn't forget that there are 440 homes here and that, consequently, financial, communication and organisational resources are needed in order to implement action.

Chloé: Over one year, the aim is to mobilise people, to assist a residents' group as it structures and organises itself, and successfully takes action for themselves and their children.

★ Chloé, what does your work involve as social development worker?

Chloé: I am there to help with capacity-building; the human resources are there, so I come in to offer support, assistance and guidance so that people's efforts can be converted into action.

★ Specifically, what are the needs expressed and areas addressed by the Saussure residents?

Chloé: What often comes up is the lack of facilities and activities for children, and more indirectly for families, particularly during the school holidays. Another topic is the lack of engagement between neighbours. People don't know each other.

★ What positive changes have you noticed since the partnership began?

Mélanie: This is just the beginning, but we are observing that in the past many tenants had little engagement with life in the apartment building, but are now becoming interested. So Chloé has generated a dynamic approach and it is very positive to see all these people responding to the call to action. The first group has already been created, with a first activity planned for 21 April.

★ What place do children and adolescents have in this initiative?

Chloé: The engagement activities are primarily aimed at children and adolescents. There are therefore different themes, including prevention, mediation and dialogue with them, to see how we can include them in the collective approach.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FIRST GROUP SUPPORTED BY ASMAE IN SAUSSURE (PARIS, 17TH)

Danielle, Verlaine and Mimi are the driving force of the Saussure group. Committed to community life within the building of the same name, they told us about their residents' group and the impact of Asmae's support.

★ Can you tell us about your group and how it came about?

There are 5 active members, and we came together in October 2017 to organise action within the apartment building, with neighbours from every generation, from a mix of cultures, to act as the adoptive parents of the children living in the building.

★ Which problems are you hoping to resolve within the building? Why did you create the group?

Firstly, to do things for young people, to teach them to love and respect each other. To make all residents aware that we are here, and that we can try to change things.

Then, our aim is to help residents get to know each other and create a true spirit of togetherness, a supportive environment both in terms of administration and personal connections.

★ How is the support offered by Asmae's social development worker useful to you? What is the impact of her support on your work?

We really appreciate her support; her position and expertise has enabled her to put us in contact with many organisations, and she also helps us to understand our rights as an association, the budgets we are allowed to have, and we thank her for being here with us.



From left to right: Chloé, social development worker for Asmae, Ourry and Verlaine, residents and members of the 164 group, behind - Mélanie from ICF, Mamadou, caretaker for 164 rue de Saussure and Danielle, resident and member of the 164 group.

Project status update

Spotlight on the project run in Egypt with the support of the European Union

Egypt: promoting the rights of children with disabilities.

Started in June 2017, this project aims to improve the access to and quality of services offered to children with disabilities, as well as to enhance the collaboration between civil society organisations, communities and local authorities in order to better support disability.

Two partner organisations benefit from technical and financial support. A Technical Advisor in specialised education has been supporting them for a year. This project is co-financed by the European Union for a two-year period.



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Asmae is an association recognised to be of public interest, authorised to receive gifts, donations and life insurance benefits that are exempt from inheritance and transfer taxes.

By appointing Asmae - Association Sœur Emmanuelle as a beneficiary, you receive tax benefits and pass them on to help vulnerable children.

A life insurance policy is a savings policy that enables you to deposit a sum of money and transfer it with tax benefits. You can appoint Asmae as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, in full or in part.

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Please do not hesitate to call me on my direct line on +33 (0)1 70 32 02 51 so that I can answer any questions you may have, or arrange to meet you – in strict confidence and without any commitment on your part – if you need personalised advice in order to make the next step in your plans to donate. You can also email me at legs@asmae.fr



We also provide an information leaflet on charitable giving.

3 questions for Tanguy de Belair

Diversity Manager at the VINCI Group.

The Fondation Vinci pour la Cité (VINCI Foundation for the City) has been providing financial support to our Divers-Cité program since 2017. Tanguy de Belair, Asmae's sponsor with the Foundation, told us why they offer this support.

What is involved in your job as Diversity Manager at VINCI?

My role across the whole VINCI group involves designing and rolling out measures to attract many different profiles to VINCI and organising varied career paths once people join the group.

Why did you choose to sponsor the Divers-Cité program?

It is a personal choice. The model appeals to me. Not imposing a methodology but rather supporting the initiatives that the groups, and those who they are working for, wish to implement.

What does this partnership bring to your company?

An immersion in the reality of people who are engaged on a daily basis in aligning their culture with the rights and duties of the Republic. It serves as a reminder that a company can align its commercial ambitions with the societal challenges of the ecosystems in which it operates.

What are the other areas of activity of the Fondation Vinci pour la Cité?

We have many, and the list is not exhaustive. For the Fondation d'entreprise VINCI pour

la Cité, it is about being as close to the ground as possible. It is about acting in the regions as a legitimate and natural partner for local initiatives.

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Working for underprivileged children

Association formed under the French law of 1901 -
Recognised to be of public interest
Authorised to receive bequests
Immeuble Le Méliès
259-261, rue de Paris - 93100 Montreuil
Tel.: +33 (0)1 70 32 02 50 - Email: infos@asmae.fr