

Newsletter April-September 2022

A LIBRARY FOR A GIRLS' SHELTER NEAR AMBANJA

The highlight of this semester was the creation of a library for Casa Pasquale, a girls' shelter situated in the rural village of Maherivaratra, about 25 km North of Ambanja. The shelter hosts about 80 girls and 10 boys, who attend St Joseph school in Maherivaratra. Most girls in the shelter have no family or their families cannot take care of them. Although some of them are very young, most are teenagers.

The newly formed library contains about 150 books in Malagasy and French, all carefully selected by Boky Mamiko to be suitable and respectful of the local context. It also contains dictionaries, maps, an inflatable globe, some puzzles and games that are particularly appreciated.

Having a library at hand is a rare luxury in rural Madagascar. All the girls and boys seem to have perceived the value of this opportunity and go to the library every time they can!



The library of Casa Pasquale is densely populated!



Playing in the library of Casa Pasquale

A FIFTH SCHOOL JOINS BOKY MAMIKO'S NETWORK

As the network of schools supported by Boky Mamiko keeps growing, our impact on education quality in rural Madagascar reaches out to more communities. In the school year 2022-23 Boky Mamiko started supporting a school for young children (preschool, grade 1 and grade 2) in the village of Beramanja, about 50 km North of Ambanja, bringing up to five the number of schools supported by Boky Mamiko.

For children living in this village, the closest primary school is 45 minutes walk away. The presence of a school for the youngest children is therefore welcome by the parents, who otherwise preferred not to send their children to school. Around 100 children attend this school in 2022-23.

Boky Mamiko contributed to the repair of the school building and will support the new school with books, didactical materials, and a teacher's salary.



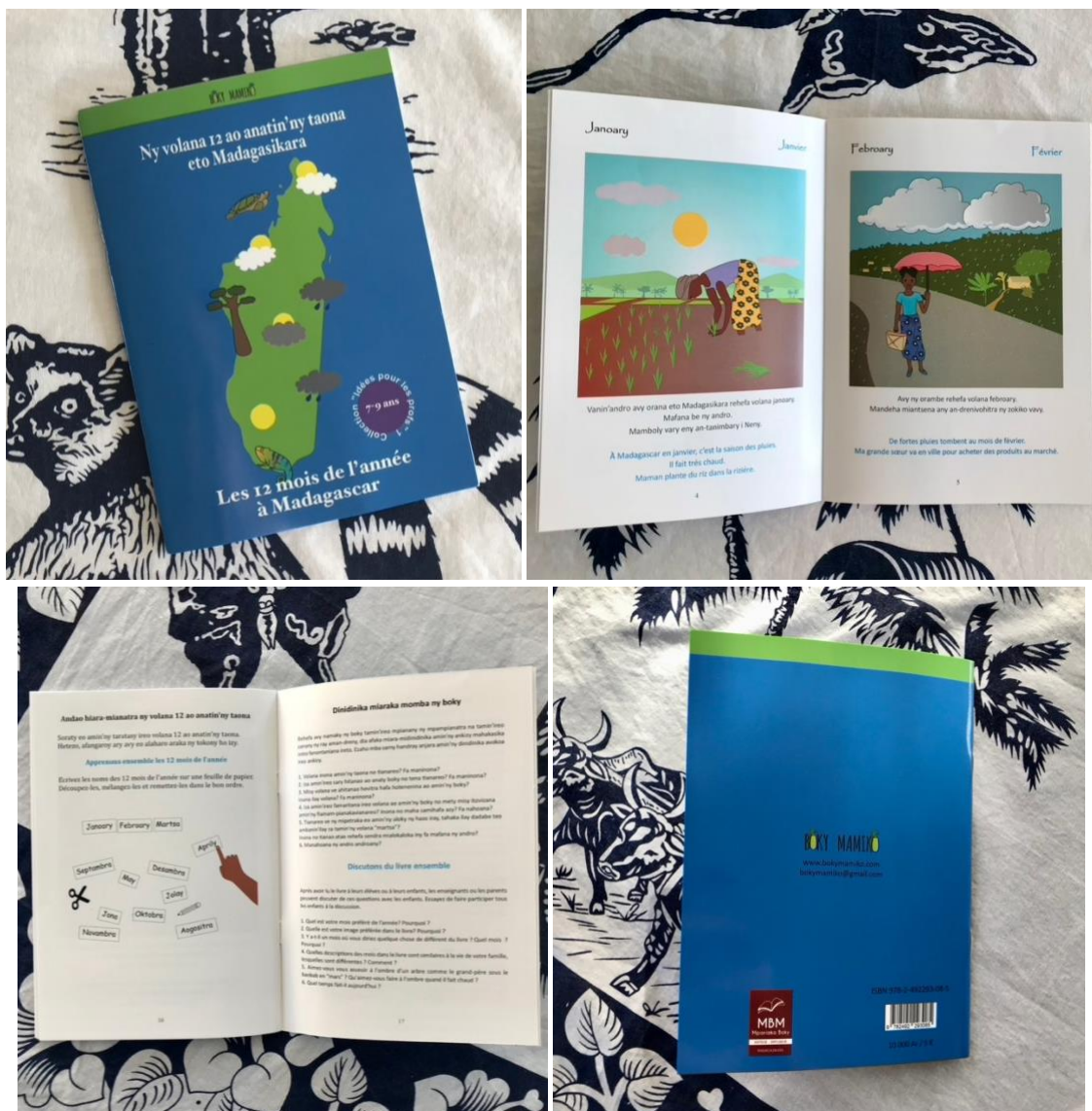
School takes place in Beramanja's church while waiting for the school construction works to be completed

BOKY MAMIKO'S FIRST PUBLISHED BOOK!

We are proud to announce that the local publisher Mpariaka Boky accepted for publication Boky Mamiko's book "*Les 12 mois de l'année à Madagascar*" ("*The 12 months of the year in Madagascar*") which was published in June 2022!

This bilingual Malagasy/French book is about the different seasons in Madagascar and how these evolve around the rice agricultural cycle and other activities relevant for the Malagasy families. It also contains tips for the teachers to utilize the book in the classroom by actively involving the students. Conceived by Boky Mamiko to fill a gap in the children's literature, the book is based on illustrations made by the students of the Mamiko school in Djangoa.

As Mpariaka Boky is a publishing house recently created by a woman entrepreneur from Antananarivo, this project aims also at supporting the local publishing industry as well as local women entrepreneurship.



MEET OUR 2022 HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Mirella, Muriello (missing photo), Ermina and Franklin from Mamiko school in Djangoa



Sabrina, Yollande, Alexandre and Michaelis (missing photo) from Docenda school in Anjanajano



Elmina, Francinette and Auduste from Saint Laurent school in Beandrarezona



Monica, Judith and Clarisse (missing photo) from Saint Joseph school in Maherivaratra

This year **14 students received a Boky Mamiko scholarship to attend high school** for the next three years, bringing the total number of our high school bursary students to **30**. The scholarships include tuition fees, school uniform and appliances, transport costs, medical care and for 23 students also room and meals.

All our bursary students come from rural areas of North Madagascar and were selected based on their academic results. None of them could attend high school without financial help. For instance Judith (15) ranked 44th out of 420 students who passed their junior secondary school final examination and qualified for entering high school in the district of Ambanja this year.

As school started in September, our 14 new bursary students joined the more senior Boky Mamiko scholars, who, by the way, were all promoted to second and third year of high school! Some of the eldest students this year share a nice house in Ambanja, which was rented by Boky Mamiko for them.



Judith (15) ranked in the top 10% students in the district of Ambanja./The house rented for the bursary students



The bursary students living at Casa Pasquale in Maherivaratra in school year 2022-2023

*MEET DELICIA, OUR HIGH SCHOOL BURSARY STUDENT
TOP OF CLASS 2021*



Delicia is one of the students who received a scholarship to attend high school in 2021 and is now attending the second year of high school (Grade 11) at St Joseph in Maherivaratra, where she lives in the girls' shelter Casa Pasquale.

Delicia comes from Beandrarezona, a tiny village in a remote inland region of North Madagascar. She is the eldest of four children and only their mother takes care of them. Without a scholarship, she would not have been able to attend high school. And yet, she is a brilliant student, consistently scoring at the top of her class. Her grades are particularly high in maths, physics, natural sciences, and English.

Delicia doesn't know yet what she would like to become in the future. She probably never had a chance to think that she could become something different than her mother, who is a farmer and cultivates her small field for a living. However, while discussing with us about different professions during our latest visit, she seemed particularly excited at the idea that she could "protect the environment" in her future career!

We wish Delicia and all our high school bursary students the best for their studies. We will make everything that is possible to turn their dreams into reality.

FRENCH LANGUAGE HOLIDAY CAMP FOR OUR BURSARY STUDENTS

From 18th to 29th July an immersive **French language holiday camp at the Alliance Française of Ambanja** was organized by Boky Mamiko for 31 bursary students.

Students were divided in two groups based on their initial level of French, as tested by the Alliance Française. Each group attended three hours of French class every day, focusing on conversation more than on grammar (conversation is much less of a focus than grammar at school). According to students, they learned a lot from this course and they wish to have again this opportunity in the future.

At the end of the two weeks to celebrate the end of the school year Boky Mamiko organized a school trip for all the students and teachers to the National Park of Ankarana, another exceptional opportunity for children of rural Madagascar.



Our bursary students at Alliance Française in Ambanja and at the National Park of Ankarana

OUR UNIVERSITY BURSARY STUDENTS OF PEDAGOGY STARTED THEIR SECOND ACADEMIC YEAR

Last year, after the graduation of Lucia (the first recipient of a Boky Mamiko scholarship for prospective teachers) two new bursary students, Warda and Angelisca, started to attend a three-years teacher training university course at I.S.P.A. (Institut Supérieur Pédagogique d'Antananarivo) in Antananarivo.

Warda and Angelisca come from a rural village in the district of Ambanja. None of them could afford to study in the country's capital, where life is much more expensive than in the countryside. Their scholarship covers for tuition fees, extra-curricular activities such as language private tuitions or cultural excursions, books, school supplies, rent, food and transports costs. The girls can also count on a local collaborator of Boky Mamiko, living in Antananarivo, who acts as their advisor, logistics coordinator and point of reference in case of difficulties.



Angelisca and Warda attend their second year of teachers training university course in Antananarivo



Visit to the photography museum in Antananarivo

TWO UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NURSING STUDENTS ASSIGNED IN 2022

Working as nurse is one of the few possible job opportunities that young people in rural Madagascar have access to, and it is a socially important profession too. Since a good nursing school is present in Ambanja – the capital of the region where Boky Mamiko is active – in 2022 we decided to include a university scholarship program for prospective nurses.

We are happy to introduce our **two new bursary students**, Daura (20) and Winoc (19), who started their studies at I.S.P.S. (Institut Supérieur des Paramedicaux Sambirano) in March 2022. The three-years course alternates classroom learning with hands-on internships in hospitals and medical centers to provide the students with both the theory and practical experience needed to become qualified nurses.

Daura and Winoc are very serious and motivated students. Their attitude is praised by their teachers and their grades so far reflect their efforts and motivation. We are very proud of them. 😊



Daura and Winoc, Boky Mamiko's nursing students 2022

TEACHERS' TRAINING

In 2022 Boky Mamiko organized several training opportunities for the teachers of its partner schools.

In April, the teachers of Docenda and Mamiko school attended together a pedagogy training offered by the CISCO (regional school authorities) in Ambanja. In the same month, the Mamiko teachers received their certificates of completion of the 4-weeks pedagogy training organized by Boky Mamiko in December 2019 and September 2021.

At the request of the teachers themselves, in 2022 Boky Mamiko's teachers' training actions focused on French. We organized three intensive French language courses attended respectively by the teachers of Docenda, Mamiko and St Josph schools. It is heartwarming to see how these teachers are ready to sacrifice a period of holiday to work on their learning and improving their skills!



Docenda and Mamiko teachers at a pedagogy training in April 2022 in Ambanja



The Mamiko teachers received their certificates of pedagogy training in April 2022



French language training for the Docenda teachers at the Alliance Francaise in Nosy Be, July 2022



French language training for the Mamiko teachers in Djangoa, August 2022



French language training for the teachers of St Joseph school in Maherivaratra, September 2022

HEALTH AND NUTRITION :
HEALTHY MEALS FOR CHILDREN AND EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS

Every year Boky Mamiko finances meals in school canteens between January and March, which are the three most difficult months for Malagasy families.

This year we decided to continue financing the school canteen of the St Laurent school of Beandrazona, as many children were going to school irregularly, due to their families' extreme poverty. On average about 50 children eat at this school canteen every day.

In order to support the children's diet with vitamins in an economically sustainable way, we also financed the creation of a vegetable garden for the school. Moreover, to maximize the impact of our actions on the local community we pay a salary to a student's mother to work as cook in the canteen.



*The school canteen in Beandrazona is daily attended by over 50 children.
It also provides an employment opportunity for the students' mothers.*

HEALTH AND NUTRITION : ECO-FRIENDLY TOOTHBRUSHES

In collaboration with the Humble Smile Foundation, who donated us 400 eco-friendly bamboo toothbrushes, we supplied our partner schools with toothbrushes and encouraged the school directors to reinforce the message of the importance of oral hygiene as well as that of the respect of the environment.

The toothbrushes were received with enthusiasm by the girls and boys of the shelter Casa Pasquale. With festive mood, each of them wrote their name on their toothbrush and proudly uses it every day. ☺



The new toothbrushes are very welcome at Casa Pasquale!

Thank you very much for your interest and support to Boky Mamiko!

Your donations allow us to do what you read in the Newsletter and to continue doing so in the future.


<https://www.bokymamiko.com/donations>

If you have any questions or wish to share an idea, we are happy to hear from you:

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Follow us on Instagram or Facebook!

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