

## Dear friends of Vakoka Vakiteny

After a long and cold dry season in Madagascar, school has started again and the libraries are filled with new and old students who love to read.



We in Vakoka Vakiteny had the pleasure to attend the annual meeting of the association "Madagaskar Schul- und Kinderbücher e.V." which once again was held in Herrenwies in the Black Forest, South-western Germany. As we already reported in our last newsletter, five members of the association were in Madagascar in April this year and at the annual meeting they once again shared their experiences. We hope that also our Malagasy colleague and most important member of the Vakoka Vakiteny team, Mrs Hanta Nirin'i Joa Rakotondrainy will be able to come and visit Germany. Unfortunately, due to visa problems, she could not come this year.

We want to thank the association for their support and for encouraging us to continue the work. Some of the projects that were approved at the annual meeting have already been carried out, such as the writing and illustration workshop and the translation and printing of the book "A Beautiful Day".

We wish you a lot of fun with our news updates and pictures.

Best wishes

*Mparany Rakotondrainy*

Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**



The library in Ambohimambola became the venue of the creative writing and illustration workshop in August. The picture shows all the participants and the facilitators outside of the library.

## A Creative Week

One week in mid-August, 11 girls and 4 boys met at the library in Ambohimananambola to write, paint, play and be creative. The workshop was held by Hanta together with the principal at the school, Ny Avana, the author Saholinirina Fetison Bernadette and two young artists who have been with us before, Hoby and Fanomezana.

The main aim of the workshop was to help the young participants between 10 and 16 years to develop their creativity. This was done not only by writing and drawing or painting, but with games, oral story telling and many other creative activities.

The topics of the workshop were environment and girls' rights. The young people created poems, short stories and illustrations. These may later be published in a small booklet.

The participants were very eager and happy to get this opportunity. The workshop, which they enjoyed a lot, was a stark contrast to their daily chores and the regular school classes. For many, it was a new experience, which also means that the quality of the texts and illustrations produced require some reworking. Nevertheless, it is impressive what they could produce in such a short time without much prior experience.



The library was the perfect venue to be creative with words and colours



Left:

When dividing into groups, the classrooms of the secondary school nearby were used in addition to the library



Below:

The school compound was used for creative exercises and activities. On the picture, you can see Ny Avana and Sa-holy with a smaller group doing a story-telling exercise.





On the right and below there are two of the pictures produced under the topic "environment"



Fanomezana and Hoby, the two young artists who co-facilitated the workshop



Ny Avana addresses some of the participants in the school yard

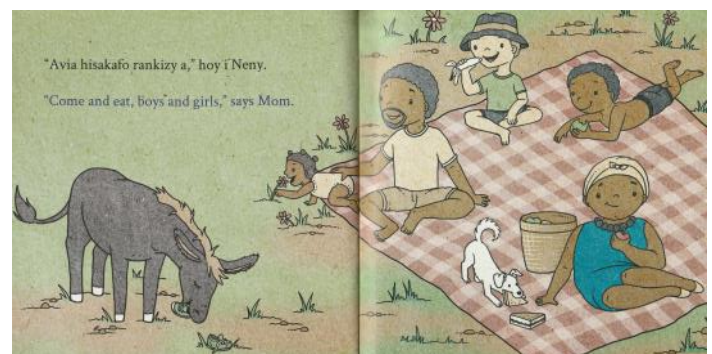
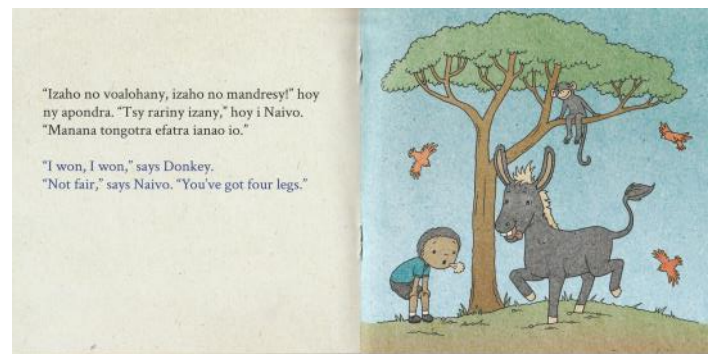
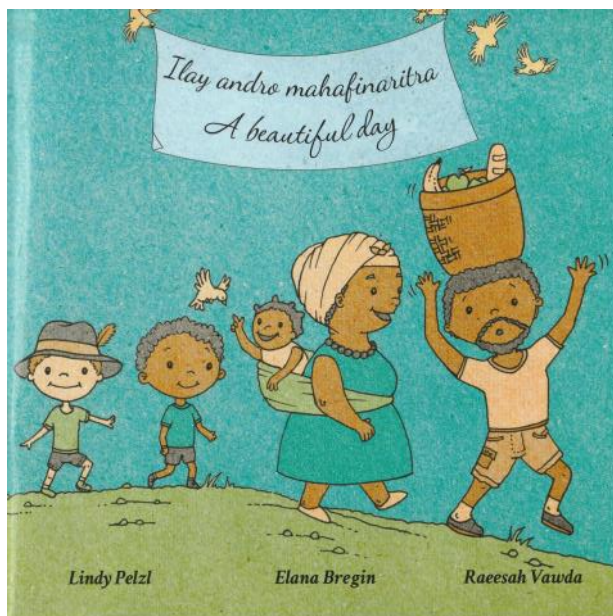


# A Beautiful Day

We continue our cooperation with the South African publisher "Book Dash" (<https://bookdash.org/>). Book Dash is a not-for-profit social impact publisher of cheap but high-quality African picture books for young children. Their vision is that "Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five".

This time, we have translated a small book named "A Beautiful Day" into Malagasy. We kept the original text in English and added the Malagasy translation to help children read English in a funny and easy way. The Malagasy text was translated by Mparany and Sophie and reworked later by the writer Lalao Elina Razanadriaka who has also previously worked together with us.

As you can see on the picture to the right, we have already printed the book. Hanta went to Antananarivo to sign off the test print last month, and now we can hold a copy of the book in our hands here in Germany. The rest of the 1000 copies that were printed will be distributed across Madagascar as usual.



## *New Life for our Book of Games — "Mihisa"*

The Norwegian Mission Society has through one of the projects that cooperates with the Malagasy Lutheran Teacher Training College (SFM) in Fandriana in the central highlands, financed the reprint of 244 copies of the booklet Mihisa. This booklet, originally published in 2007 contains fun games for children in school. With its 56 pages full of different games, it gives teachers and other pedagogical professionals many ideas on how to engage in learning in fun ways and playfully practice new skills with the children.

On Friday, 20th September, Sonja Küspert, who is the secretary of the Association and also an employee of the Norwegian Mission Society, attended the handing over of the books to the SFM. 62 of the books will be given to the graduates from this year and the rest will be kept for graduates in the coming years. This way, every new teacher who graduates from the SFM will have a small, handy booklet with them, that will accompany them in their daily learning and playing with their students.

The principal of the Teacher Training College (SFM) , Mrs Clarisse Jean Marie Tabao received the booklets from the Norwegian Mission Society.



Mrs Clarisse in the middle with the Mihisy booklet addresses the audience and thanks the Norwegian Mission Society for the donation. To the left is one of the teachers, Mr Jao, who will be responsible for introducing the booklet for the students, and to the right is Mrs Sonja from the Norwegian Mission Society.



## Reprint of *Rebila* on hold

The Ministry of Education in Madagascar wanted republish our book *Rebila* from 2008, written and illustrated by Tojo Raheirainy. The plan was to publish a bilingual Malagasy-French version to distribute to Malagasy schools all over the island. We carried out the French translation and presented the final version of the bilingual manuscript to the Ministry in September. Unfortunately, there seems to be some challenges in the Ministry that suddenly made them unable to receive the manuscript. We are now, together with the translator Lalao Elina Razanadriaka, negotiating with the Ministry to have the book reprinted after all, since we have now spent time and money on the bilingual manuscript. Should we succeed, one of our books will be available to many new children.



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## About *Vakoka Vakiteny*

***Vakoka Vakiteny*** has since 2008

- ... published 21 titles
- ... distributed 38,000 books
- ... encouraged thousands of children to read
- ... introduced reading in hundreds of schools
- ... strengthened the Malagasy language
- ... promoted Malagasy authors and artists
- ... participated in many cultural events
- ... supported the Malagasy natural environment through books and campaigns

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