

**Delebration for the 20th anniversary of Tapori
in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

From July 31 to August 2nd, 260 children came together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Tapori in their country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. They came from three cities in the Eastern part of the country: Bukavu, Uvira and Goma.

There were also some guests: parents, artists, people representing some district and associations.



The children presented a film about their activities; they also made puppets, wrote messages and participated in other workshops.



They also read a text that they had prepared. It said:
"We drew a hand because it is a good sign that we want to build peace. When we hold each other's hand it means that we are at peace. When you shake hand with someone, it means that that person has some value for you, is important to you. It means that you recognize that the person has as much value as you. It's with the hand that we help others to do their work."

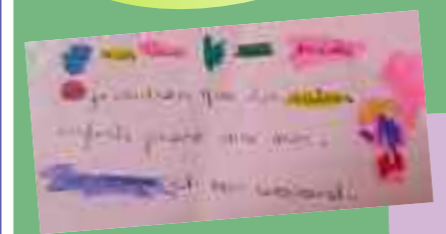
At the end of the day the children offered to their guests the small objects that they had fabricated.



France

For Tapori's 50th anniversary, in a neighborhood of Paris, children and adults made puppets during street workshops. Attached to each puppet is a text a child wrote about the puppet. They are wonderful!

The puppets were exhibited at the neighborhood Book Fair. The theme of the Fair was "Travel". This fits in because the children hope that their puppets will travel and meet other children throughout the world. And in turn, they hope to receive puppets from other Tapori groups.



"I'm Coco. I'm shy. I would like that other children play with me. Have a good trip!"



Dear puppets, I wish you to meet another puppet and become you friend. - Anna



"I wish you to meet other puppets and friends. My name is Rose."

Festival of Friendship in Madagascar

Children and adults have been preparing this festival since the beginning of the year. And finally it happened!

Aina, from Adramiarana, said: "I was invited to the festival with my friends. I am super happy. I can't wait for the day!"

Over 400 people came by bus, vans or by foot and arrived at Ambohibao on June 17. There were some children, some Tapori groups and street libraries facilitators. Some parents, two people represented the Mayor and other associations. The sun was shining on that day. There were many activities: a circus act, a dance on the theme of the culture of rice, a skit and others. And people sang and danced together.



The children heard the true story of Fanja. Fanja's family left the country to live in the city because they couldn't earn enough money in the country. When they arrive in the city they don't know anybody. But, thanks to Nadia who becomes her friend, Fanja participates in a street library. There, she discovers books. One day, she says: "Me too, I'd like to go to school." Her parents are not sure but other adults encourage them. And finally Fanja can go to school. She is in a class with much younger kids, but she is not sahamed because all she wants is to learn. She is so happy that she says: "Soon, I'll be able to read books to others!"

Story



Circus



Dance



Message from a Tapori facilitator

"I became a Tapori facilitator because I really believe in being involved and stay with it. The children need adults who are really involved with them and ready to listen, discuss and also play with them. We read together and we do drawings. The Tapori children are my friends and are like younger brothers and sisters to me."

Tiana Ariel

Day of Friendship for the Tapori children of Mauritius Island

In May, about 100 children from 3 Tapori groups met at Pailles in Mauritius Island for a day of friendship. Each one made a puppet representing a child they knew who didn't have any friends. And they acted out the life of Father Joseph Wresinski.

For his puppet, Prashant wrote:

"There was a child who came to live not far from my house. He had no friends. His name is Swayam. I went to his house and asked if he wanted to be my friend. He said yes.. So now I often go to his house. I bring my toy cars and we play together."

