

"We want all  
children to have the  
same chances !"



Tapori is a worldwide network of friendship.  
During a trip to India in 1965, **Joseph Wresinski**, founder of the Fourth World Movement, met a group of children who lived by themselves in the train stations of Bombay. They shared the leftovers they could find on the trains between them. They were called "**Tapoori**". Remembering his trip to India, Joseph wrote to other children:

**"I often think about these children, who were so abandoned,  
but also very brave to get by and help each other.  
We can also be "Taporis," who can use our own two hands  
to build a world with more friendship,  
where poverty will disappear".**

The children, no matter which country or culture they each come from, become friends. They create projects to learn about children whose lives are different from their. They invent a way so that no one is alone.

Children around the world are connected through the **Tapori newsletter**. It exists in a few different languages.  
You can discover other children's true stories of courage on the website ( [www.tapori.org](http://www.tapori.org) ).

Today Tapori exists in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

1 € - 2 FS

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## Children of courage A TAPORI minibook



### Irengé

A child from the Democratic  
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### Irengé

A child from the Democratic  
Republic of Congo (DRC)

This is a true story about a boy who  
lives in Democratic Republic of  
Congo (DRC).

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www.tapori.org

Even though Irengé's life is still  
hard, he has friends and  
it is like a bright sun shining in his  
heart.

THE END

Most of the time, they live in the  
street. Irengé's father is a shoemaker.  
Often he is not at home and life is  
difficult for the family. Irengé's  
mother also works very hard.  
She carries heavy loads, doing the  
laundry for people, and farms  
a small plot of land. Still, it is not  
enough for the family to live on.

Irengé is 10 years old. He lives with his family in Bukavu, a city in DRC surrounded by hills. There are eight children in the family but the three eldest left home looking for work.



You have read Irengé's story:

*Qu'est-ce qui te touche dans cette histoire ? Pourquoi ?  
Quels sont les gestes, les paroles qui permettent à Irengé de rencontrer de nouveaux amis ?  
Et toi, si tu rencontrais un enfant comme Irengé, que lui dirais-tu ?*

Last Name: .....
First Name: .....
Street address:.....
Zip code: ..... City: .....
Country: .....
Age: .....
e-mail address: .....



Irengé stays at home to help his mother. He takes care of his younger brother and his two sisters, one of whom is handicapped. He makes the fire to prepare the meals, and he goes to fetch the water down the hill. By foot, it takes about twenty minutes. With a heavy 5-litre container of water on top of his head, it takes longer.



Now, children from up and down the hill aren't afraid of each other anymore. Quite the opposite! They speak together. What they have to say is so interesting that it doesn't matter where they live.

The following Saturday, Irengé comes down the hill with other children.

Aimé, Lydie, Dieumerçi are welcomed with songs and dances. They share stories about their schools, their neighbourhood and their families.

People dance, play and share candies. Then, some parents start asking if their children could join the children down the hill and make friends.

One day, upon arriving at the well, he sees children gathered around someone who is reading them a book. One of them approaches Irengé: *"Hi! Are you joining us? We are Taporî children."* Irengé says that he can't; he has to carry the water back home. The boy tells him: *"We will get your water after. I will help you. My name is Basole. What's your name?" - "I'm Irengé."*

Still unsure, he follows Basole.

He listens to the stories. Then they talk about the story together, play, sing, and at the end, Basole, helps him fill his water container. Irengé didn't say much. He was very timid! But still, he asks: *What does Taporî mean? It means "Making friends with children all over the world."*

Basole invites him to come along next Saturday at the same time.



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One Saturday, he arrives with dirty clothes on, swollen feet and covered with sand flies\*. To remove them, you have to pluck them off one by one with a pin.

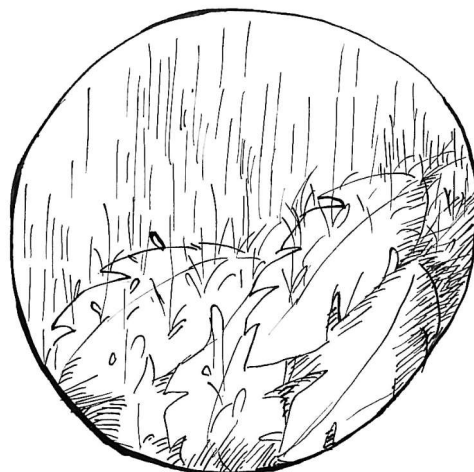
\* Sand flies are parasites which live in sandy grounds of tropical countries.

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Some whisper that they are thieves. But the children don't care. They form a big circle with Ireng'e's family and they start singing. Soon, other children in the neighbourhood join them and even some adults



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When they finally manage to get up the hill, they discover a whole neighbourhood up there which is new to them. It is very different from where they live. Their friend lives in a very small and very dark house. No windows, no electricity, no furniture, nothing to sit down on. The neighbours ask: "What are you doing here?" "You're going to visit the people with sand flies?"

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After the gathering, Majibu, one of the facilitators, offers to give Irengé some water to clean himself, and she washes his clothes while Bob, another facilitator, patiently removes the sand flies.



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When he goes back home, his mother is happy that he is looking well. She is really touched when Irengé tells her the story of how Bob and Majibu took care of him.



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The children from the Taporí group are amazed by Irengé's courage: Going down and up in a muddy and slippery hill to get water; walking so many kilometres in all types of weather, sliding in the mud... What kind of life does their new friend lead? In fact, they don't know much about him. One day, they decide to go and pay him a visit. On that day, there is heavy rain and the mud is too slippery for them to go up there. The trip was postponed but not abandoned.

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