



TAPORI

is a worldwide friendship network which brings together children from different backgrounds who want all children to have the same chances. They learn from children whose everyday life is very different from theirs. They think and act for a fairer world by inventing a way of living where no one is left behind.

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Tapori Newsletter

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Everyone can
play a part!



Dear Tapori,

Do you know the Hummingbird? This tiny bird is also called a bee-hummingbird because of its small size. Yet, it is very fast and can flap its wings more than two hundred times a second!

When we received your news it made us think a lot about this little bird. We were impressed by your plans to have a neighbourhood which would be healthy for everyone. Like the Hummingbird, you show us that you don't need to be big to take action and mobilise people around you.

From now on, everyone can do their bit!

News from...

Australia

Throughout the year, children from St Elizabeth's School in Brisbane, Australia have been reading mini-books. Here is one of their reactions to the story of Diem, a little girl from Vietnam:

Dear Tapori,

Thank you for your incredible story about Diem! It is a heart-warming story. Among my friends, I used to be the only one to go to school because they were home schooled.

Best wishes! Lucy



United Kingdom

A bird brought this message from Cambridge: "Hard times call for friendship. There will always be friends - remember they are there for you."

Spain

During a Tapori get-together, children from Seville and their grandparents talked about the lack of greenery in their neighbourhood. Then, with the help of their mothers, the children, asked the City Council for trees. Their teachers provided the necessary materials. By getting everyone involved, they were able to do a second planting!



Madagascar

Since the celebration on 17 October, the children have been looking around to find out what makes them proud of their neighbourhood, what they want to change and how to get their efforts respected. They asked everyone to take part in turning their environment into a beautiful clean green space.



on board the Tapori Express

Since the last Newsletter, Tapori boats have begun arriving from all over the world...



Democratic Republic of Congo

"I have nicknamed my boat Benjamin Tapori Express [...]. The mission of my boat will be to take the fishermen out to sea so that they give us enough fish, and also, when there is a shipwreck, to help save people from drowning." **Benjamin, Bukavu**



"This is the Navigator Express Tapori boat going to the different places where people are living in great poverty, across Lake Kivu to Bukavu, across Lake Tanganyika to Uvira, and then across the oceans and seas to other continents."

Tapori Kibwe-Goma

Burkina Faso

"Our boat is called Zodo Express. Zodo means 'friendship' in Moore. With the Zodo Express, we are going to reach out to other children who live on the banks of the Mouhoun and Nazino rivers [...]. **Sakina**



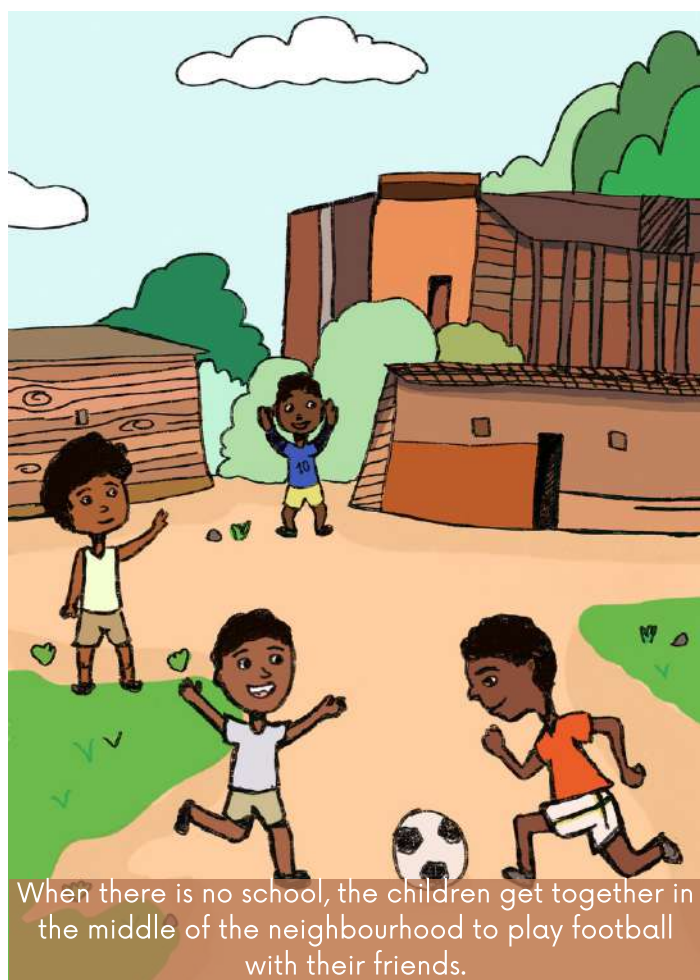
Send us your boat so we can share it in the next newsletter!

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

THE STORY OF THE CHILDREN IN BUHOLO (BUKAVU, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO)



Francine and her little brother Nicolas live in the Buholo district of Bukavu. Their house is on the side of the mountain and every morning, to go to school, they climb up the steep path to get to the road. On rainy days you have to be very careful and wear boots to avoid slipping!



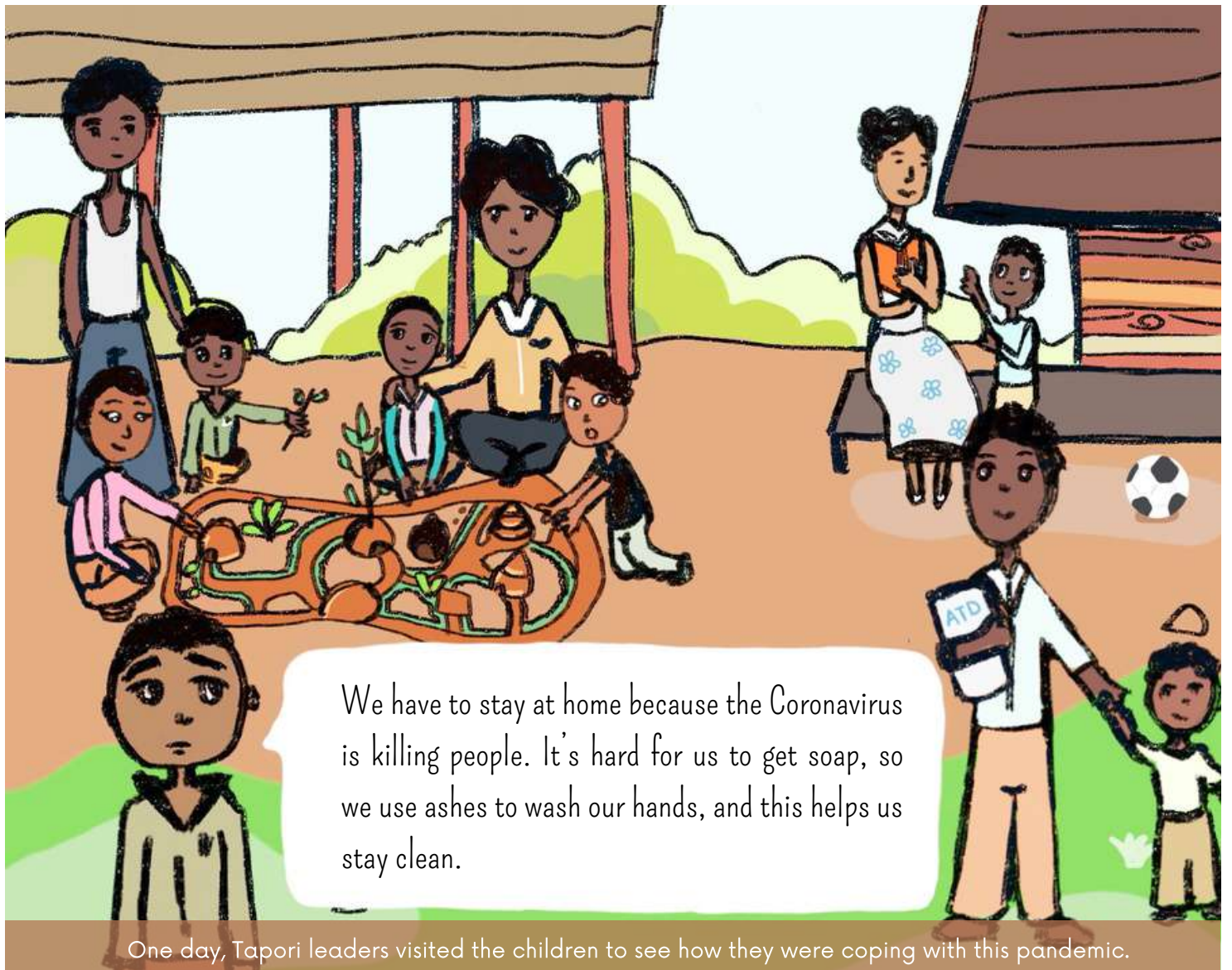
When there is no school, the children get together in the middle of the neighbourhood to play football with their friends.



In March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world though. The school closed its doors. People were asked to stay at home.



But the houses in Buholo are too small to have to stay indoors. Francine and Nicolas, like many other children in the area, share a courtyard with their neighbours. There, they meet Irbain, Gentil and Crispin to have fun. Together, they keep busy building model villages from mud.



We have to stay at home because the Coronavirus is killing people. It's hard for us to get soap, so we use ashes to wash our hands, and this helps us stay clean.

One day, Taporí leaders visited the children to see how they were coping with this pandemic.

Yes. The owners of the standpipes have put their prices up. A full jerry can is four times more expensive than before!

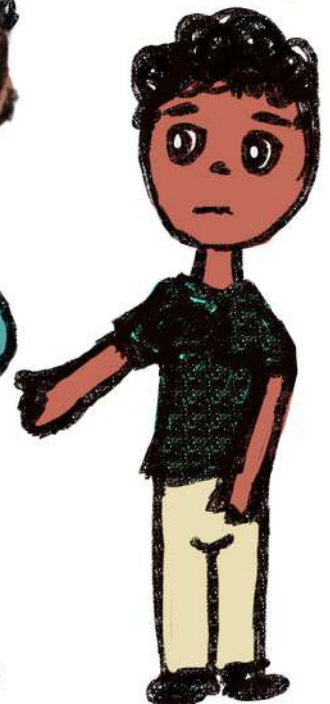
But the water in the Kahuwa River is very unhealthy, and serious illnesses can be caught from it.

Our parents do the best they can but sometimes we don't have enough money. To wash, we have to use the water from the river.

Drinking water costs a lot, and that's the problem.

I would like everybody to have clean water.

Everyone needs water. All of us are entitled to it. We shouldn't be denied it just because our families don't have enough money!

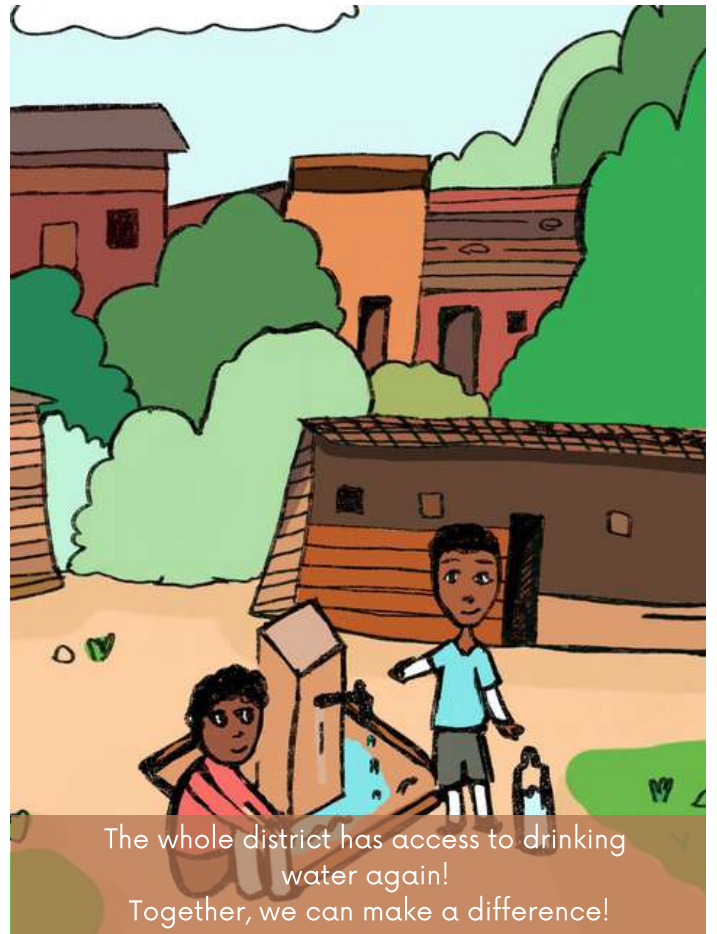


Francine Irbain Nicolas Crispin Gentil

Francine is very concerned, she speaks about a major problem. Her friends also speak up. Together, they decide to go and see the District Chief.



The following day, the Chief invites all the people in charge of the standpipes to put their heads together. The Taporí children explain the situation, what they experience every day, the owners of the standpipes agree to go back to the original price.



The whole district has access to drinking water again!
Together, we can make a difference!

Illustrations: Maureen Bastian

The Activity



Detectives

Helping to achieve social and environmental justice!



Around you, important things are at risk. Our planet is at risk and so are equal opportunities for everyone. As detectives, you can spot these challenges and make a difference.

Get your badge!

1

Look around you

Where you are:

- Can all living things grow, develop and flourish (insects, small animals, flowers, trees, etc.)? If not, why not?
- Do all children and adults have access to the same opportunities (education, friends, school equipment, holidays, etc.)? If not, why not?

2

Your survey

Choose some things you want to start investigating. Your task is to go and meet adults and interview them. You can choose someone to write down the adults' answers.

3

Identify a problem

By reading over the answers, you can choose an important problem together that you can do something about. Write it on a poster.

4

An action to take

Together, look for solutions to the problem you've chosen, and pick out which solution might be the best way of solving the problem. Also think carefully about whether the chosen solution is realistic, and how long it would take you to do something about it. Share your experiences with us.

This activity is inspired by the Collective 17
October - 2020 educational kit

Welcome to Taporí



Democratic Republic of Congo, Goma

Children from the Lutonde children's home celebrated the 17 October with Taporí children and children from the street library. At the end of the day, the children were eager to continue their activities. Building on this momentum, a new group was formed. Thank you **Lutonde** for showing us that whenever children get together to think about the kind of world they would like, the Taporí spirit is there.



Peru, Cusco



The **COMIPAZU** group began in October. Its name was chosen by the children, and it means "Tide of friendship, peace and togetherness". Their first activity was to try the Penguin game (Newsletter n°429) on social and environmental justice.

She is my best friend
She is my home
She is green and blue
And she is alive,
She has lungs and little
eyes
She loves us so much
That she forgives us.

That's why I want to clean
you up
You are so sick
So I hold on to you and
love you
Planet Earth.

Ana Gabriela



A group under the microscope: Central African Republic

Discover the lives of Taporí children

Since December, life was turned upside down in the Central African Republic. Suddenly everything changed. The country fell victim to rebels who wanted to disrupt the elections. This war situation was on top of the Covid-19 crisis: no school, curfew, closure of markets, etc.

Faced with this situation, children got organised to support their parents:

- The children in **Sega** used to cross the Ubangui River early in the morning in search of wood.
- The Taporí children in **Walingba** traded objects.
- The children in **Kokoro** asked for an unused plot of land where they could plant vegetables and spices.

Christiano from Walingba shares his wish:

"I wish the war would end and peace
would return to my country".

Feel free to write messages to the children of
the Central African Republic!



The Garden of the Future

In 2018, Coco Ma Angaya, grandmother of a little girl from the Reunion Island Tapori group, entrusted future generations with a garden with beautiful blossoming jasmines. During a Shared Arts and Knowledge week, Coco had invited the children to take care of all the growing things around them. Today, the young gardeners look after what they together called the garden of the future. **Let's go and discover it!**

Mural created by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood

"Our hope is for a new perspective on the people from this neighbourhood, for different gestures and better bonds between the people, plants and small animals in the garden".

Recycled tyres become flowerpots!

Ronn kozé, a circle of stones, words and readings

Did you know?

Benzoin bark soothes coughs and relieves diarrhea.



This plant is called mother-in-law's tongue.

Under the leaves are larvae, lizards, millipedes and other **small creatures...**

Tuesday is gardening day

Every Tuesday, groups happily follow one another to hoe, dig, sow and plant, in a lively atmosphere, and some of those who shy away from reading together are among the most enthusiastic, even for the daily watering. Parents also come to get their hands dirty and passers-by offer encouragement and advice.

"We want plants that can be eaten", the children soon say. As soon as they say this, new plants intended to go from garden to plate are planted. At harvest time, cheers go up and everyone goes home with their organic vegetables. At the end of the year, jasmine also blooms beautifully, making everyone proud. In a neighbouring area, clean-up operations continue and the plantations win over waste.

Harvesting

Aromatic or medicinal herbs...

Aloe, rosemary, sweet fennel, thyme, basil, horseradish, mint, etc.



And a vegetable garden!

Beans, lettuce, rocket, manioc, chayote, aubergine, cabbage, carrot, tomato, sweet potato, peppers, etc.

The Tropicbird is Reunion Island's emblematic bird. Can you spot it in the drawing?