



Changing lives in Madagascar

Introduction....

Situated off the east coast of Africa and famous for its unique flora and fauna, Madagascar is also one of the ten poorest countries in the world. The majority of Malagasy people exist on less than a dollar a day.

Food, medicine and education are very expensive for most people. As a result children are often orphaned, sent to work at a young age, or abandoned because their families can't afford to support them.



Located near to Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, Akany Avoko is a home dedicated to caring for destitute children and young people.

The centre provides a refuge for children of all ages, from babies to young adults, all of whom would otherwise have nowhere to go. We offer food, education, medical care and a safe, nurturing environment.



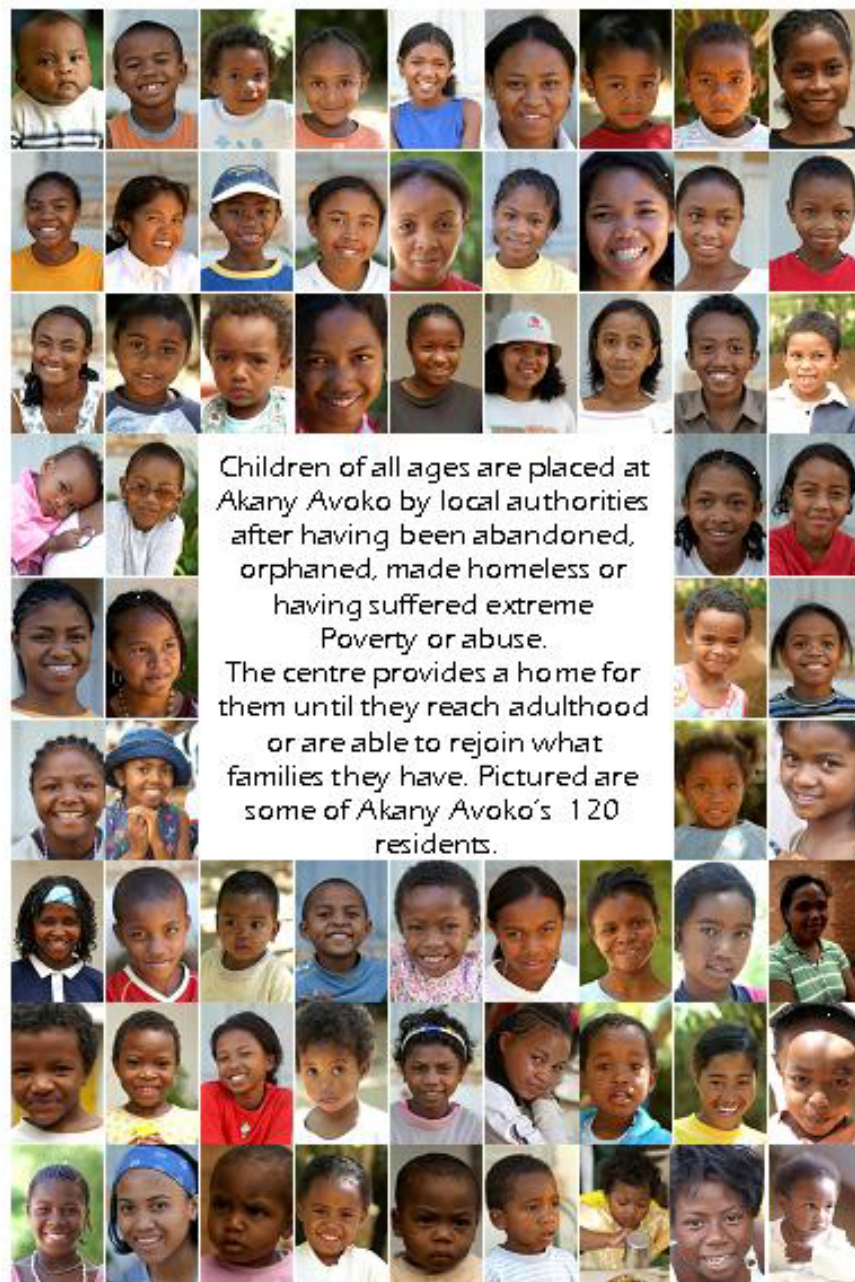
The centre is staffed by a team of over 50 Malagasy social workers, educators, childcare specialists and a small team of international volunteers.

Akany Avoko comprises a childcare centre (for under 8's), an accommodation block (for older children), and a "Halfway Home" to help young people prepare for independence



For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

The children of Akany Avoko....



Children of all ages are placed at Akany Avoko by local authorities after having been abandoned, orphaned, made homeless or having suffered extreme Poverty or abuse.

The centre provides a home for them until they reach adulthood or are able to rejoin what families they have. Pictured are some of Akany Avoko's 120 residents.

For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

Nutrition



The majority of children arrive at Akany Avoko malnourished and weak. It is critical that they receive the most nutritious food possible in order to ensure that they grow into healthy and well developed young people. Akany Avoko works hard to ensure that the children enjoy a balanced diet including fruit & vegetables, milk and protein

Often abandoned and orphaned babies have to be hospitalised until they gain sufficient weight and strength. The special formula baby milk that they need to survive is extremely expensive and represents a large proportion of the Childcare Centre's budget.



Food for the children represents over a quarter of Akany Avoko's annual budget. Providing 450 meals a day is not easy. Many international aid organisations will not provide funding for food because of fears that centres such as ours will become dependent on their support. We are almost totally dependent on the generosity of individuals, families and community groups (such as schools or churches) outside of Madagascar to allow us to feed the children

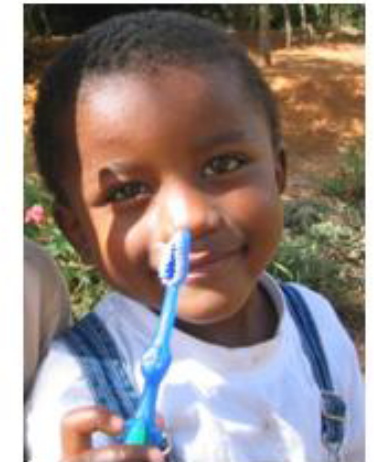
For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or
Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

Health



Medical treatment in Madagascar is prohibitively expensive for most ordinary people. A course of antibiotics can cost the equivalent of 2 weeks wages. Consequently many children taken in by Akany Avoko are in very poor health. As well as malnutrition, children often arrive suffering from serious yet wholly curable illnesses. Akany Avoko ensures that all of its children receive the medical attention they need, including counselling & psychiatric care to help traumatised children cope with their experiences.

Poor dental health is a source of misery for many Malagasy people. When you are struggling to find the money to eat then expensive dentists fees and medicine are out of the question. As a result cavities, abscesses and missing teeth are a part of everyday life for most. Before coming to Akany Avoko many of our children have never been to a dentist in their lives.



Akany Avoko commits to ensuring that every child receives the dental treatment that they need.



With more than 120 children living in close proximity, good food hygiene and a healthy environment are critical to ensuring that they remain fit and free from illness. Akany Avoko has invested heavily in washing facilities (including showers and basins supplied by rainwater) and hygienic biogas and compost toilets to ensure the children and the site remain clean and healthy.

For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or
Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

Education



Many Malagasy children are forced by poverty to work or care for their younger siblings from a very early age. School fees and materials are often beyond the reach of ordinary people and, as a result, a vast number of children miss out on even a basic classroom education.

Akany Avoko's goal is to help every one of our children to reach their full potential in life.

For children arriving early enough to begin or rejoin formal education Akany Avoko runs its own on-site primary school and meets all education costs for its children. Many of Akany Avoko's young people have gone on to gain both Baccalaureat and University qualifications.



Young people arriving too late to begin mainstream education join our vocational training programme where, along with basic literacy, numeracy and life skills, they learn skills critical to finding work once they leave the centre. These include catering, hairdressing, dressmaking and the production of traditional Malagasy handcrafts.



For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

Fun and Games



At Akany Avoko we believe that every child has the right to a childhood filled with new experiences and happy memories.



All children living at Akany Avoko enjoy a full programme of extra curricular activities including music, dance, soccer, volleyball, swimming, arts and crafts.

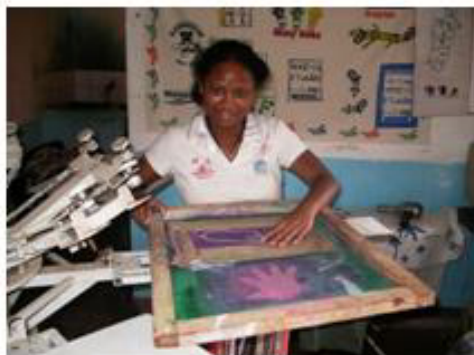


In addition our children enjoy summer holidays by the seaside, film shows, and lots of structured play. As well as improving our children's health and well-being these activities help them leave behind the trauma they experienced before being rescued by Akany Avoko



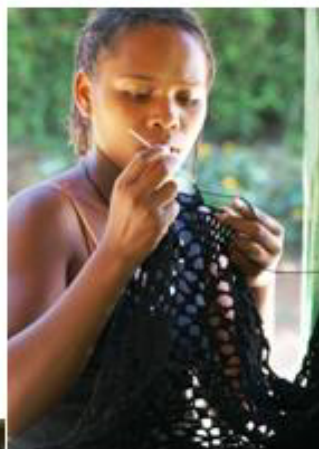
For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

Generating income....



Akany Avoko is dependent on foreign aid for its continued existence. To reduce this dependency and make the centre more sustainable we have introduced many income generating activities.

Our screenprinting workshop, café, production of handcrafts and chicken rearing project provide training opportunities for our young people whilst bringing in much needed revenue.



For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

Naturally resourceful....



Akany Avoko cares passionately about protecting the environment for our children's futures. Initiatives such as solar water heaters, solar cookers, rain-water harvesting systems, recycled charcoal pellets and fuel efficient stoves help reduce the environmental impact of the centre whilst lowering running costs.



For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

Preparing for Adulthood...

Preparing young people for independence is a very important part of our work.

"Real" life in Madagascar is incredibly hard. In order to give our children the best possible chance of a healthy and successful life outside of Akany Avoko we have to make sure that they are well educated, emotionally stable and ready to live independently.

To prepare our young people for life outside we have a "Halfway Home" where young women on the verge of leaving Akany Avoko can live semi-independently and learn to manage household finances, cook for themselves and take care of a home.

Akany Avoko finds work placements and professional training for all of its young people, ensuring that they have the best possible chance of finding a job.

Every young person leaving the centre receives support whilst they adapt to life outside.



To provide long-term security to our young people we have partnered with a local NGO to help each of our graduates build their own home. Land is subsidised by Akany Avoko and the building costs are repaid by the homeowner over 5 years

For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or Email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg

How can I help?

Akany Avoko is dependent on foreign donations for over 95% of our operating costs. As we strive to improve the quality of care we offer our children the price of running the centre rises every year. Increasing global food and fuel prices also make it harder and harder to keep Akany Avoko going .

All of the initiatives in this booklet are paid for by the generosity of individuals, families, churches, community groups and small charities. People in Europe, America, Australia and a host of other countries contribute what they can to support our work. If you would like to help Akany Avoko there are a number of ways you can do so.

Donate to Akany Avoko

Making a donation to Akany Avoko couldn't be easier. If you would like to make a bank transfer or set up a standing order for Akany Avoko then please email us at akany.avoko@moov.mg . We will provide you with the information that you need to make a payment direct to either our bank in Madagascar or our registered charity account in the UK.

Alternatively donate online by going to www.akanyavoko.com/helping_us.htm where you can make a secure payment from your debit or credit card.

Child Sponsorship

By sponsoring a child you agree to contribute the equivalent of between 10 and 50 Euro a month to supporting an individual's living costs. Our sponsorship coordinator will make sure that you stay in touch by translating letters between you and your sponsor child. If you are interested in sponsoring then contact akany.avoko@moov.mg.

Buying our Products

Akany Avoko sells cards, crafts and other products online. Visit www.moneyformadagascar.org to make a purchase and support Akany Avoko at the same time.

Tell a friend about Akany Avoko

Send them a link to our website: www.akanyavoko.com.

For more information please visit our website at www.akanyavoko.com or