



# MIDADE Express 15

Decembre 2020

*The sparks of children's on the move*

## ***THE CHILDREN CALL FOR SOLIDARITY***

*This year 2020, our way of life has changed, but at the same time it has strengthened our faith and our bonds of solidarity. Children are the ones who give us the most examples of solidarity. They are the ones who have stayed locked up the longest, they have taken great care of themselves and help with household chores and are also adapting to their new ways of studying and living together. Schools have been closed in 188 countries around the world because of covid19 and have adapted through virtual classrooms, but this has presented great difficulties and social inequalities since most families do not have Internet services. Our thanks go to all the children and in particular to those of IMAC for their efforts to continue the struggle for their right to education. This Christmas, the children announce to us, like Pope Francis (Fratelli tutti): "Merry Christmas to all; may Jesus fill our homes with love and justice, together, let us spend a happy New Year 2021".*

*Patricia Rivera – international team*

## **LIVING THE COVID19 PANDEMIC**

For some years now, most countries have been starting school in September and October: periods that are officially known to everyone. Many children's groups, movements and clubs have launched their action plans to live differently in spite of the lockdown and other restrictions, as if to evoke "living with the pandemic differently". Thus, some strategies have been implemented despite the circumstance. For example: ventilated spaces, wearing masks, systematic hand washing. Smaller class sizes, rotation for some schools and distance learning for others. The introduction of new mass times in accordance with the circumstances...



At the same time, many countries have experienced events that have not allowed effective support for the population. Economically, the covid19 has weakened many families who have lacked assistance: too many children are used for domestic work and the sale of items in markets. Families do not have sufficient means to provide mobile phones or other tools for their children to follow online courses.



As for the youngest children, wearing masks is suffocating and uncomfortable. They also find it difficult to respect the physical distance that prevents them from being in contact with their friends during recess.



## INSUFFICIENT ACTION BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

Faced with the demands of the teachers and those accompanying children, within the movements or clubs, the children of MIDADE made the following remarks:

- the lack of space in the corridors and the canteens for the respect of the social distancing ;
- the insufficiency of places in certain schools especially when it rains;
- the insufficiency of specialists to accompany the psychological and mental health problems due to the pandemic;
- the presence of social inequalities;
- the lack of appropriate training causing the poor quality of education;
- the lack of necessary logistical equipment in some public schools.
- the lack of skills of new information and communication technologies by some teachers;
- the neglect of governments to facilitate universal and equitable access to the Internet for all children and young people .



*In Brazil, Peru and Venezuela, the children of the movement collected food for the poorest families.*



## LEBANON: DISASTERS ADD UP

For several years now, serious political tensions have led to an economic crisis that is affecting all Lebanese and the large number of Syrian refugees. This very difficult situation, aggravated by the covid19 disease, was further worsened by the terrible explosion in the port of Beirut on the 4th of August, which caused almost 200 deaths and considerable damage. Our dear former president, **Claire Saïd**, runs a school of 960 pupils near the port. The school has been completely blown away: windows and furniture destroyed, teaching materials damaged... MIDADE-LEBANON immediately mobilized to bring help to the affected families and to help repair the damage. Thanks to the solidarity efforts of the Lebanese people and friends from abroad, the school was able to resume its classes on 19 October.



A true miracle of solidarity in the land of the Cedars.



## REALITIES FORM OUR HOPES OR EXPECTATIONS

Faced with the political situation in some West African countries, marked by presidential elections, coups d'états, inter-ethnic conflicts and terrorist attacks, the media remained influenced by the authorities. This socio-political context suggests that many media have become less and less interested in the education of children. Political debates took over in the broadcasts and government communication was more political than educational, forgetting the spread of the covid19 pandemic.

In the countries of Central Africa, the populations are exhausted by the strict measures put in place by their governments without taking into account the support of the most vulnerable families.

In Latin America, families need food, psychological, educational, entrepreneurial and professional assistance.

The hybrid opening of schools and

educational activities marks social inequalities. In most movements, exchanges continue between children and adolescents via electronic media and the Internet, to share their tests, actions in the face of the pandemic, etc. The impacts of covid19 on their lives and that of the family are observed strictly.

Children now need to live an adequate life system that meets their aspirations mentioned above. The hope of seeing the world return to normal enables children and accompanying adults to continue the barrier measures: preparing hydro-alcoholic gels and making masks for those who do not have them. But also, to consider other solutions that will allow them to live better and to continue their studies.

In conclusion, it is necessary that local and national governments, as the main authorities, find clear answers to the major global and local social problems, understand the social function and politics of this pandemic which remains a serious concern for all, especially young people and children.



## NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

### SPAIN

We have carried out many solidarity actions: visiting elderly people and singing Christmas carols to them. We organised a solidarity flea market for the children of prisoners. We also spoke on the radio to explain our participation in the

Coordination of the Junior Movement of Estramadura.



### IVORY COAST

The CV-AV movement celebrated its 70th anniversary and the International Convention.



## DES NOUVELLES DE PARTOUT



**SRI-LANKA**  
The children La Kri Vi



**SOUTH KOREA**

The Little Apostles



**HAÏTI**

In December, we bring together club delegates to celebrate Christmas together.



**GUINEA-BISSAU**

The "Valentes" children of the CV-AV movement are happy to meet with their companions.



**SYRIE**

The CV-AVs in Faya-Largeau have taken action against early marriages



**CHAD**



**PORTUGAL**

Taking care of the common home is our task and that of each one.



**BRAZIL**



**PERU**

The children of Manthoc plant trees with the international campaign: [www.my-planet-my-rights.org](http://www.my-planet-my-rights.org)

*We are waiting for your news on : [sgmidade@gmail.com](mailto:sgmidade@gmail.com)*

*Send us your messages about important events experienced by children in your countries.*

*Think about all the « beautiful and good things » of children you want to make known as gospel words for today. « Children carry life in their hands ». Address them to Midade-Express*