



The Mango Tree (De Mangoboom)

NEWSLETTER 27 – AUGUST 2018

Dear friends of the Mango Tree,

Thank you so much for your interest in the Mango Tree. This newsletter covers the summer developments of the orphanage in Burkina Faso. Enjoy reading!

SUMMER

The children are enjoying their summer break right now. The break started at the end of June and it will last until the end of September. It'll only be October when the schools start again.

The summer break co-occurs with the rainy season. Mind you, we're not talking about the kind of rain we have here in the Netherlands, we're talking about real tropical rain torrents. Water pouring from the skies. Streets changing in flood rivers. Roads turning into mood pools.



The beginning of the rainy season is marked by the cultivation of the fields, and the sowing of crops. The end of the rainy season is harvest time. Our centre has recently seen the planting of maize and peanuts.

Rain usually starts falling in May, but it took the rain longer this year. The people were worried over the question whether the rain would still come. Without rain there would have been very little to eat in the next year. But it's now raining regularly. If the rains continue until October, then the harvest will be good.

MALARIA

The summer doesn't only bring vacation and rain but also mosquitoes and malaria. A child dies every minute from malaria somewhere in the world.¹ Burkina Faso too has malaria as the number one disease. Three quarters of all children end up in hospital with malaria before they turn five years.

Malaria is an infectious disease that is accompanied by severe bouts of fever. Malaria is caused by a single cell parasite (plasmodium falciparum) that proliferates in the blood of its victim. The infection is transmitted by mosquitoes. We have taken different measures to prevent contamination. All sleeping areas have been made mosquito-proof using window screens. The children sleep under mosquito nets and they also get medicines that work preventively against malaria. The effects of all these measures are immense. Where about 80% of the children in the orphanage suffered from malaria during the summer a few years ago, that has now been reduced to about 20%.



Whenever children get ill, they are brought to the nearby clinic where they are first of all tested for malaria. If

¹ <https://www.afro.who.int/news/child-dies-every-minute-malaria-africa>



malaria indeed shows up, they receive medication to suppress its effects.

PRACTICAL CHALLENGES

Life in Burkina Faso gets a bit more complicated during the rainy season. Many secondary roads cannot be used anymore, some villages are cut off from the outside world. The children's centre is not too far away from an asphalt road. It's only the last few miles to the centre that are less usable.



The rain also influences the laundry process. Large quantities of clothes need to be washed every day. They are hung outside or put on the bushes to dry.



The rain jeopardizes that process. We have placed some clotheslines in a few rooms to dry clothes, but this is not enough to get everything dry. So, unfortunately, some days children need to wear damp clothes...

HARVEST

We still hope that the rain will continue for some more time, so that the fields yield a good harvest. The rain was

very irregular last year, and has begun so late this year. This means that products are more expensive, and many villagers are hungry.

THE CHILDREN COT PROJECT

This summer we had a project to buy new baby cribs and children cots. The beds are specially made for us by a local constructor. The prototype looks like this:



This cot is safe. The children cannot get their heads through the bars anymore. As a bonus, the beds are prepared to host the mosquito nets. We purchase new bedding together with the beds.

We would love to replace *all* the beds for the babies and the infants. The beds we were able to order are being produced right now, but there is still room to contribute financially.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

- 🌿 We are grateful for the rains which have (finally) arrived. Please pray with us for a continuation of these and a good harvest this year.
- 🌿 We are grateful for the positive results of our malaria prevention. Please pray for the children who still suffer from malaria.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN PRAYER AND IN GIVING

On behalf of the children in Burkina Faso.