



Stichting De Mangoboom

## NEWSLETTER 47 – JANUARY 2022

Dear friends of De Mangoboom!

First of all, we want to thank you for your involvement during this past year. We are grateful for the support that we were able to receive from you and many others. It is this support that makes the work for the vulnerable children of Burkina Faso possible in the first place. Allow us to share with you some updates from the children's center

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

For weeks the children have been looking forward to the day on which the Christmas celebration would take place. December 18 was the day: Christmas 2021. On a day like this the village usually gets enthusiastically involved. And to be sure, everybody was present: classmates, the children's friends, and the staff. During the celebration there was ample opportunity to perform. Some of those present sang songs while other staged plays. There were dances as well as games, like the traditional Dutch "zaklopen" (bag running) for which the old Burkinese rice bags functioned very well. The staff excitedly participated in all games. You can imagine that there was a lot of fun going around.



In the afternoon a special meal was served for those present. Friends from the village were allowed to join.

There was no need for them to go home with an empty stomach.



Festivities continued late into the night with musical accompaniment from Ali on the djembe and others. Ali is gifted musically. He hopes to take music lessons. His talents undoubtedly will get him far. With his affinity for melody and rhythm he was able to get everyone's feet off the floor, both children and staff. Ali really enjoyed this. He says it makes him happy when he sees how people around him enjoy his musical abilities.





### WINTER

In Burkina Faso this is the cold season. During the day temperatures only reach the mid 80s (Fahrenheit) while during the night it may cool down to a chilly 77°F. No wonder people need blankets at night. During the day some understandably feel the need to wear a hat.

### BACK HOME

In January 2018 the center welcomed baby-twins Maoudatou and Rasmata. Two weeks after they were born, their mother died after a short illness. The father and the extended family were unable to bear responsibilities for the two babies at the time. For this reason, the girls were brought to *Action Sociale* (Child Care) in order to temporarily stay in our center. For almost three years we have been taking care of them. Recently, the father notified us that he has remarried. Together with his new wife he has expressed the desire to take care of the children. *Action Sociale* is going to start up the procedure for reunification. This is good news because *Stichting Mangoboom* is actively pursuing a strategy to reunite children with their families or have them adopted by foster families.

Including Maoudatou and Rasmata, we have been able to reunite ten children with their family of origin this past year. Ten children will experience what it means to grow into independent individuals in a family-context. This makes us very happy. We support these families where needed and possible in the care for these children.

### 2022

This brings us to the end of 2021 and the start of 2022. This period is a time of reflection but also a time of looking ahead. We have been able to do beautiful things but also experienced sad event. What will this new year bring us? In these uncertain times, this becomes a pertinent question. The corona pandemic and the increase in jihadi terrorism have a significant impact on our work. It has become more complicated and difficult to pay visits to the children's center from The Netherlands. We are grateful that as the board of the children's center we were able to visit this past summer in order to see the work with our own eyes. What will 2022 be like?

For some time now, we have had ownership of a large plot of land where we have plans to care for the children in a more natural setting. However, we are still awaiting the final approval from the government for the activities we want to employ. All we need is two or three signatures by government ministers. Will 2022 finally be the year in which we can begin unfolding our plans? We really hope so!

On behalf of the children and the staff of *Stichting De Mangoboom*, we wish you a healthy and prosperous 2022!

### THANKING AND PRAYING

🌿 Thank with us for the work that we are allowed to do for the children already for seven years now. Pray for breakthroughs this coming year.

🌿 Pray for all children in poverty and difficult circumstances. That they may find people to look after them and that our ministry, insofar possible, may play a role in that.



**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT THROUGH PRAYERS AND GIFTS!**

**We wish you a blessed 2022!**