Dear Tapori,

We continue to receive news of projects and messages sent to us by children from different countries. In this letter, you will find out what they are doing: the Tapori of the Central African Republic, France, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Spain. We also welcome other Tapori groups. To start with, we suggest you to read Marguerite’s story.
Marguerite had often spoken to me about her life, but never before had she mentioned this basement. Her family was always moving from place to place, because they had heard about jobs or because they had been evicted from their home. Her sister, her brother and she had a hard time learning. How can someone learn if they are always changing schools?

...Marguerite stayed silent for a minute, then spoke again, “This little “elf’s shoe” reminds me of so many things. When I was a little girl, we lived in a basement, which had been turned into temporary housing. I remember that I would sit for hours looking through the little window which was at the level of the sidewalk.”

“I could only see feet, feet wearing all kinds of shoes: children’s boots, high heels, tennis shoes, moccasins... I tried to imagine the faces that went with the shoes. I liked to believe that they were beautiful, smiling and friendly and not harsh and scornful like the people who were coming and criticizing my parents for not having money, for not working, for not being tidy...”

Questions:
After having read the story, discuss it with one another, starting with the following questions:

1. How is the life of Marguerite and her family?
2. Marguerite's story is not finished. In the lines, write the end of the story, thinking about what it would take for children like Marguerite and their families to change their lives.
3. Imagine talking to a child who does not know your country. How would you explain to him or her the lives of people living in extreme poverty in your country?

* Story and drawing extracts from the book “My Heart Is In This Stone” - Noldi Christen - Christine Lesueur - Editions Quart Monde. 

Don't forget to send to Tapori the messages about the dialogue you had.
NEWS OF THE LETTER N°425

Messages of solidarity and encouragement for our friends of the Democratic Republic of Congo started to arrive in Tapori.

And you, have you prepared yours to send them?

“Strength and courage for you!
We think very deeply of you in France.”

Laureen

In Tapori’s Letter N°425 “Children Take Action,” you were asked to imagine a project for change based on a situation you find unacceptable.

Some groups have started to share their projects with us.

What about you? Have you ever come up with anything at school, in your neighborhood...? Tell it to Tapori.

CENTRAL AFRICA
Children from Danzi

School Project:
Raising awareness of the importance of school to the community and local authorities because there’s no school in Danzi. The old school is very damaged and inaccessible during rainy seasons.

FRANCE
Students from Jean Moulin School

Action against deforestation:
raising awareness with public

Fund Raising for the needy:
non-profit event, sponsors, raffle

Fund Raising for the poorest of the poor: selling items that are no longer in use
**REPUBLIC DEMOCRATIC of CONGO**

"Together for a Healthy Environment"

Every Saturday, the Tapori children of Uvira meet to collect and pick up plastic sacks in the neighborhood. These are small gestures that contribute to the sanitation of their environment and make them "agents of change in the community."

**SPAIN - Seville**

For some time now, the children of Los Hornos of Seville have mobilized to demand the opening of the Municipal Library on Saturday morning: they wrote a letter, asked for signatures to support their petition, met with the local authorities (police station and district) by leaving a letter, talked on the radio and talked to adults.

Now they are waiting for answers!

**REUNION ISLAND - Joli-Fond**

Tapori children and those in the street library of Joli-Fond are always looking for a better way to live together with pride.

- **Arts and Festival of Learning Week**
  (July 27 - August 2, 2019), several workshops, including two on the rights of the child: painting workshop where the children painted on a makeshift canvas the rights important for them, and the garden of the future where, in the interest of the right to a healthy environment and to good nutrition, medicinal plants, aromatic and decorative plants have been planted by youth and adults in a corner of their neighborhood. They organized themselves for daily maintenance and watering. Each participant placed his or her painted pebble in the middle of the square to symbolize their adherence to the theme:

  "I bring my stone for a bright future."

- **October 17, World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty**
  The "paintings of rights" on "goni" were exhibited around the Memorial Stone to honor the victims of extreme poverty.

- **The day of November 20 at the "Children's Rights Village"** for the 30th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child: 66 children walked for miles with joy to see the exhibition of their paintings and participate in the proposed activities. The vice-president of Unicef congratulated them for their exhibition: "We can see that you put your heart into what you do."

*Jute bag*
**NEW GROUPS: Welcome to TAPORI!**

Could you identify these four countries by their flags? Do it by yourself! If you recognized them, BRAVO! You are great in geography! Here are the new Tapori groups to be discovered!

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**Burundi: Bujumbura**

The Tapori group is located in Kajaga (Bujumbura) and brings together children from Kajaga, Kinyinya and Buterere. The dynamic brings together about 60 children. They organize more or less three meetings a month.

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**Spain: Madrid**

In Madrid, a new group has been created: Tapori Guadarrama. They meet every Saturday in their neighborhood.

There are 18 of them. They are making activities on the theme “family.” They talk about what makes it possible to get out of poverty.

They like to end through games.

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**Guatemala: San Martín Jilotepeque, Paco Piñas Library**

The Tapori group of the Paco Piñas Library lives 40 miles from Guatemala City. Every week, they get together to do Tapori as an extra-curricular activity. In the middle of a small community garden they are thinking about how to take care of the place where they live and get connected to nature.

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**Kenya**

A group of young facilitators gathered in Nairobi in November with more than 200 children and adults to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We hope to welcome soon a new Tapori group in the country.
In Tapori Newsletter N°418, Tapori has invited you to make your country known through culture cards. Here are some of the cards we received.

**TAPORI “The Hidden Talents”** present a traditional dance from their country.

**FRANCE :**
**TAPORI - Elise School** present one of the country’s national landmarks.
Guatemala: Tapori “Los amigos de mil colores” present the local cuisine and handicrafts.

I share my culture!

For those of you who have not yet sent your culture cards, you can use the two frames below to do this, by drawing two aspects of your culture without forgetting a small note of explanation and send it to Tapori.

NAME: ______________________ CITY: ______________________ COUNTRY: ______________________

GROUP: ______________________

In Guatemala there’s a lot of exotic fruits like mangoes, pineapple and papaya. Bananas are often cooked for breakfast, meals and snacks. The “tortillas” are often served with all the foods. There’s tomato sauce in most of the guatemalteque dishes called “chapin” as for tostadas, tamales, chuchitos, garnachas, empanadas, among others.

Traditional handicraft is used to carry water, for decoration, to eat, when sitting down, when dressing and when sleeping.

Tapori Address: 12, Rue Pasteur - 95480 - Pierrelaye, France
Mail: tapori@tapori.org
Since October 2019 a message and a drawing by children from different parts of the world are published every day on the Tapori website. Some of them talk about what children need to grow up well, what is the most important for them, children’s dreams, how to protect the nature, how to share with others, friendship, etc...

To contribute, write and/or draw a message that you would like to pass on and send it to Tapori.

**All children have things to say!**

**MAYOTTE :**

**TAPORI - Passamainty** share with us a recipe of good local cuisine.

The recipe for “cravate”:
- 140 gr of flour
- 4 eggs
- butter
- a can of coconut milk
- and melted sugar and melted salt

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**Tapori Thought of the day**

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30 th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - 2019