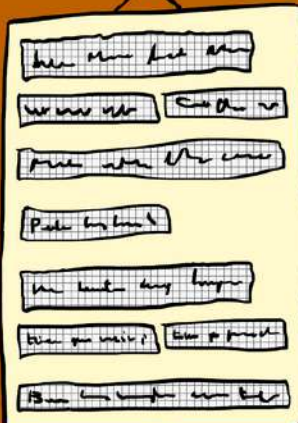


# Activity : The legacy



Numéro 436  
January - february 2022

**Individually:** Ask a few people which proverb or quote represents something important, like a life marker.



**In Group:** Choose together the proverb that speaks to you the most and invent a story from this sentence. Your story can be funny, sad, silly, fantastic. What matters is that each of you is proud of it.

This album is a collection of stories which have been made from proverbs. Others were made by Tabori groups on the heritage theme.

Enjoy your reading!





TAPORI GROUP  
ZOODO  
BURKINA FASO

# Elderly people are a cure for society



In a faraway village, a king was living with his subjects. The king wanted to rule alone and not to accept anyone else's wisdom, forgetting that strength comes from putting people's heads together.

So he ordered all the elderly people to be killed. He did not want advice from the wisemen who had paved the way for him to be throned. He believed in the expression « today, when you help someone to climb into a tree, they cut off a branch and beat you with it ».

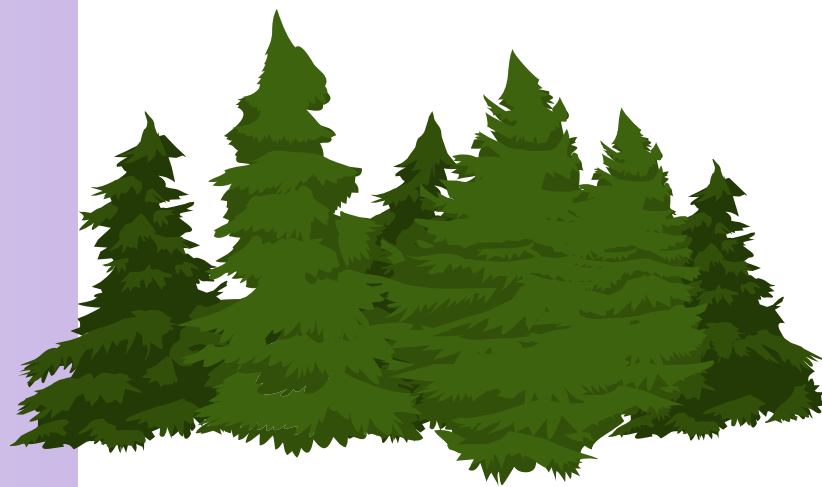
Everyone followed his orders with dismay, but they were royal orders and they felt that there was no choice. They had to obey without question. As it is said : « you can only shape a tree when it is small ».

An old lady had taken a lot of care to raise her son up, from a very young age, to respect the elderly.

She had told him : « My son, even when you will be young and capable of running, never forget those who are older and who can hardly walk ».

Thanks to the good upbringing he had received, this young man never killed his mother. He hid her in a forest, out of sight, and often took food to her to eat.

One day, the king woke up and ordered his subjects to go up to heaven and plant the millet there. Everyone was stunned. They all thought it was an excuse for killing more people as the king was becoming more and more cruel. Nobody knew what to do.



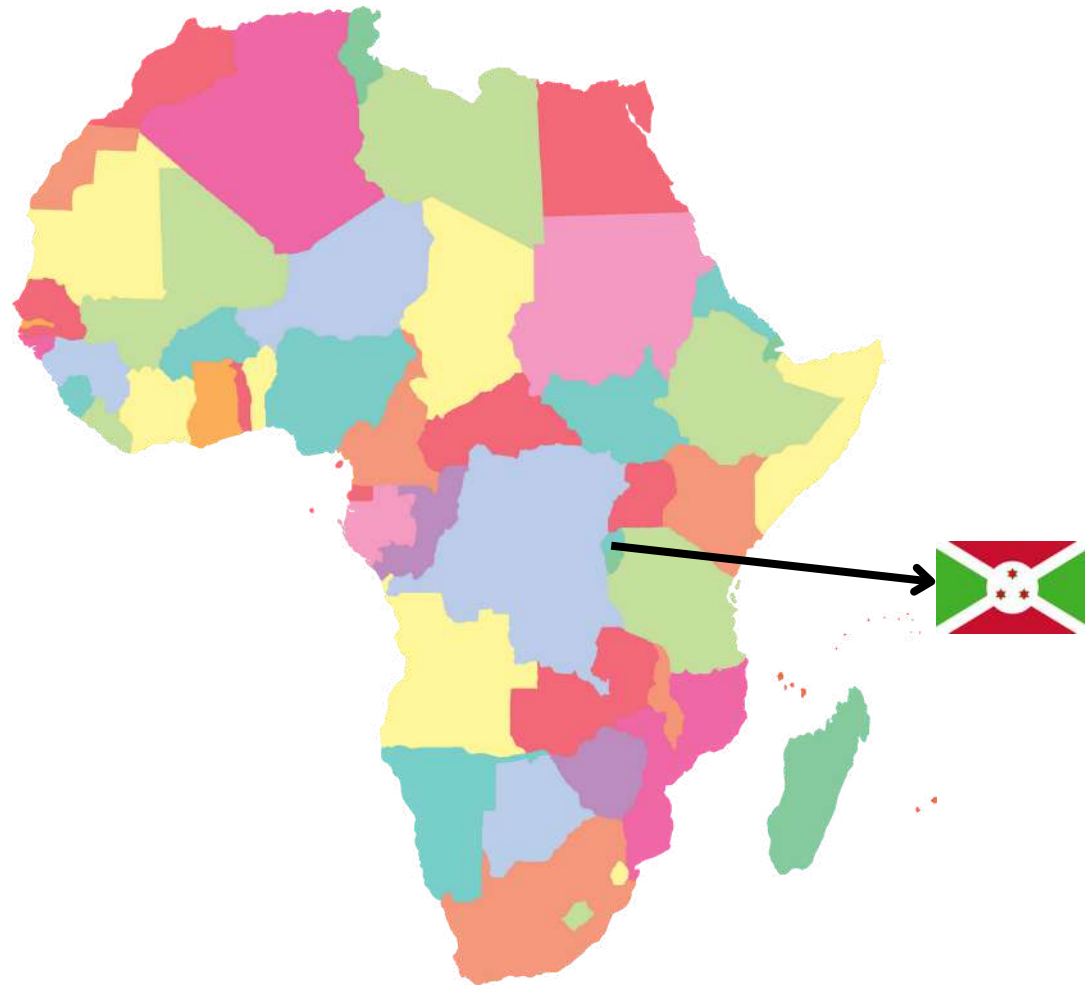
So her mother told him to tell the king to ascend with the rain to draw a line indicating where they should plant the grain.

« Oh, yes ! Ah, yes! If the margouillat [lizard] gets his pants sewn on, he's the one who knows where to put his tail ».

This time, the king had not thought of this eventuality. He hadn't thought ahead. When he heard this young person, he became confused. He suddenly realised that there were some old people hidden in his village.

He admitted to his wrong doing and said:

**«Elderly people are a cure for society !»**



TAPORI GROUP  
BURUNDI

# The story of Bukuru



Bukuru is a child who lives in Bwiza with his parents. He used to go home late and not show any respect for them. He had forgotten the moral: « Igittugu kirakura ntigisumba izosi. (*You should always respect your parents*) ».

Afterwards, his mum gave him some glasses to tidy away in the cupboard.



As he was eager to go and play football with his friends, he did this very hurriedly.

Unfortunately, he broke two of the glasses. He had forgotten : « haraka haraka haina baraka (*if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well, and with patience*) ».

The boy was also so lazy that his mother often said to him : « Uwutarima ntamira (*you have to work to earn a crust; to eat*) ».

His father started giving Bukuru some advice and so he completely changed. Now he is always top of the class. His dream is to become a politician, one day. His dad often says to him: « Buke buke nirwo » (*little by little the bird builds its nest*) !





TAPORI GROUP  
KADUTU  
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



# 1. Parents advice

In my family, we always take the time to sit in the lounge with our parents, where they give us advice.

One day our mum says to us: « Mwana byato wabubaza bukakuuga », which means that if you look after your child well, they will help you later in life when they grow up.

This reminds me of how much our parents help us to take responsibilities.

When I grow up, I must build a house for them and I will give them part of my wages so they will be well enough off and not be in need of anything.

Every parent wants their child to succeed, no matter what difficulties they may encounter in life, because: « Orajira nashenge anaji shengerere », if you have no one to help you, you must be capable of helping yourself.



## 2. The advice

One day at school it was exam time. Dorcas realised that she had left her pen at home. She asked Aline, who had two pens, if she could lend her one of them.

After the exam, some of her friends said :

«How did you manage to get Aline to lend you a pen when she hardly speaks to anyone nor lends anything?»

Dorcas replied « O'bwira buchiza », to say that friendship saves you. Her friends didn't know that she had started to become friends with Aline.

One of the classmates replied : «mtoto wa mushi anasikilyaka mu fujo».

I understood straightaway that it's important to have friends in life because they could help you out one day.

Back at home, Dorcas explained to her mum what had happened.

This is what her mum replied: «a man cannot put his boat out to sea if he is alone.» Which meant unity is strength. Without friends, we are noone in life.



### 3. To succeed at school

Each year, before the new school year starts, our parents are used to giving us advice. They want us to succeed at school as they see education as the key to life.

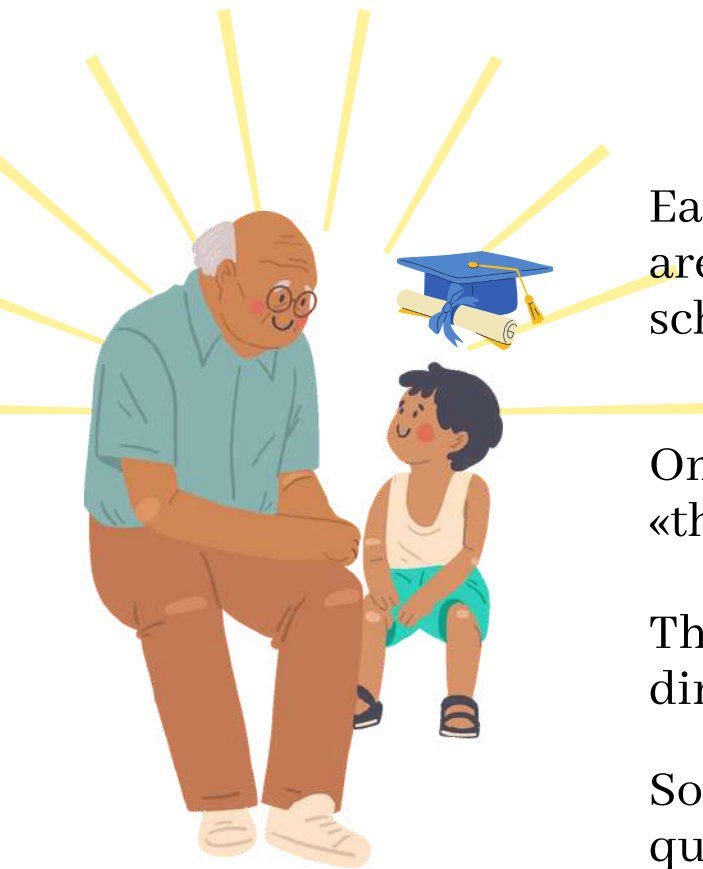
On the morning of the first day back our parents say: «those who sow the wind, reap the storm».

They say that to warn us and to guide us to the right direction to take.

Sometimes, my mum says: « If your teacher asks you a question, even if you don't know the answer, answer anyway. Don't ever say "I don't know" ».

Each evening, our parents ask us to show our exercise books where they can see our school marks. If we have ten out of ten we are spoilt that day. If not there are punishments and we are given chores to do in the home.

I really understand what they want for us because we always say: «he who loves us well, chastises us well» !





**TAPORI GROUP**  
**LES SAUCISSONS SOLIDAIRES**  
**ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST**

# The child and the bird : version one



One morning, a young boy who is walking along the road finds a little bird on a root and sees that it is bleeding. A nasty boy had injured it with his catapult.

He thinks to himself: «hate will always kill but love never dies». He carefully takes the bird home with him to heal it.

«Impossible doesn't exist», says his dad, to encourage him.

«The future is dictated by what we do today», says his mum.



The young boy treats the bird who recovers. The bird grabs a sweet and flies towards the nasty boy. It then flies around him and gives him the sweet. The boy apologises and to be forgiven he gives some bread to the bird.

«The world changes each time someone shares something».

# The child and the bird: Version two



Once upon a time there was a child who was very discouraged about everything. He was walking along the road when he saw a bird who was falling. He caught it just in time.

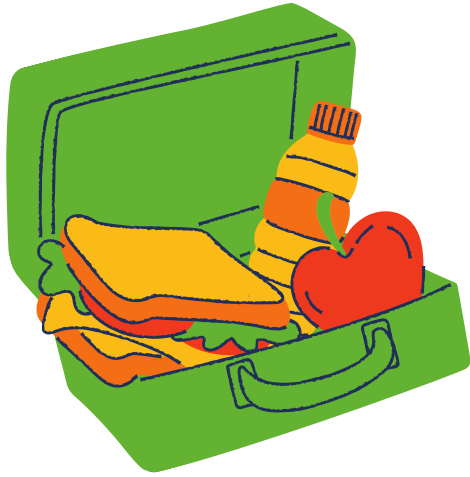
«My poor little bird, you are falling, like me. It's impossible to have an easy life», said the child.

The bird replied : «Impossible does not exist». The child goes home and makes a wooden shelter for the bird.

«Oh my little bird, I want to be carpenter but the others laugh at my dream». The bird replies : «The future is what you make of it».

A few weeks later, the boy returns from school and tells the bird : «I spend all of my time planting trees and they spend all of their time destroying them». The bird replies : «Life isn't loving, but loving is life».





The next day, after school, the boy says to the bird :  
«Oh my little bird, my mum forgot to make a snack  
and noone wanted to share theirs with me». The  
bird replies: «The world changes each time  
someone shares something.»



One day the boy goes out with his bird and sees Charles, the one  
who treats him badly. The bird says to him: «Someone who treats a  
poor child badly, treats God badly».

The boy replies: «Oh my little bird, I have understood that all you  
said to me was to encourage me and I thank you».





TAPORI GROUP  
KENYA



Zain and his friend Chacha are both eight years old. They live in Kibera and go to the same school, there.

Zain is a Taporu member at Fairview, but Chacha is not.

At the weekend, they like playing football on the main road.

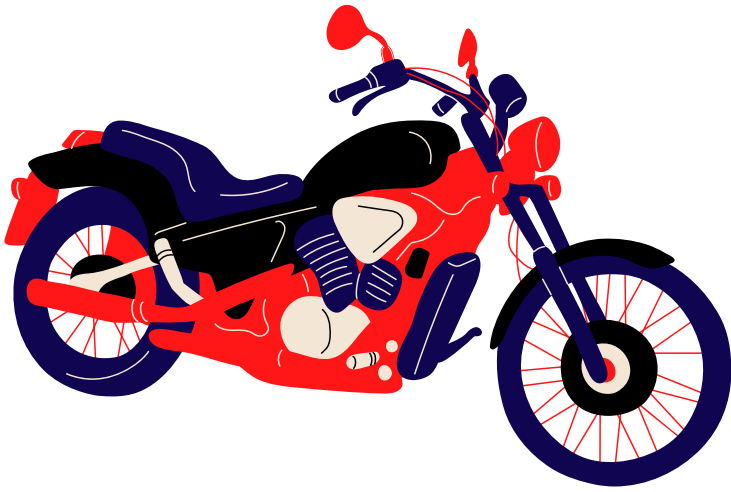
Several times, they have been told not to play on this main road because of motorbikes going too fast there and which could easily knock them down.

One Saturday afternoon, while they were playing, the clouds became heavy and black. The wind started to blow strongly, carrying around papers and plastic, dust and other debris from the street. Everyone started to running to their homes before the rain started. Zain and Chacha continued kicking the ball around until Chacha's mum arrived.

She shouted:

« - Stop! It's raining hard. I will confiscate your ball! Go home immediately, come and put your jacket on.»





Chacha was not happy. Without looking into the street to see if it was safe to cross, he stepped out. It was very busy and this main road and a motorbike, that was going too fast, knocked him over and seriously injured him.

Friends, neighbours and his mum immediately called for an ambulance to take him to hospital. At the same time others called the police to arrest the motorcyclist who had tried to get away.

Before the accident, Zain had hurried home and didn't know what had happened to his friend Chacha.

Later that night, his dad told him what had happened to Chacha. Zain cried and hot tears ran across his face as they wouldn't be able to play football together for a long time.



Chacha was in a nearby hospital for a month as he had a broken arm and a serious fracture to his left leg. Zain visited him everyday after school and was able to push his friend around in a wheelchair.

At other times, school mates and the teacher visited him and shared what they had learnt at school with him.

Zain felt alone at school and a month seemed like endless.



His best friend reacted well to the medication prescribed by the hospital. Chacha came out of hospital, at last. Although he had recovered he spent another month at home. He walks with a limp and has scars on his arm and on his left leg.

Zain has promised to bring Chacha along with him, the next time he comes to Taporí.



TAPORI GROUPS  
VUILLEMIN AND RICHELIEU, MAURITIUS

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# The strengths of our fathers



Story by the Taporì Children of Vuillemin  
March 2022

illustration Children

# The proverbs



The path going there is  
yours and the one  
leading back is mine

The oxen work and  
the horse eats

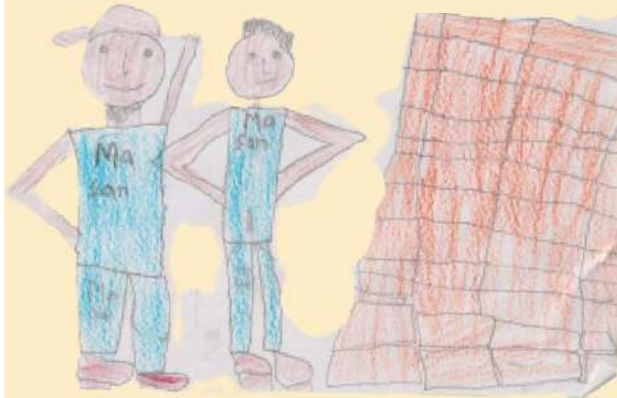
Two hands which  
clap together make a  
nice sound

After the party we  
scratch our heads



Uncle Leo always passes in front of where our dads work on his morning walk.

Our dads Joachim and Noah are masons.



Joachim : "the sun is beating hard on my head."

Suddenly the boss, Mr Denzel, arrives.  
Joachim and Noah's boss is very demanding and sometimes cruel. He always watches them.



Mr Denzel gets out of his big car and says: "men, you had better finish this work as soon as possible, people will come to see it today."



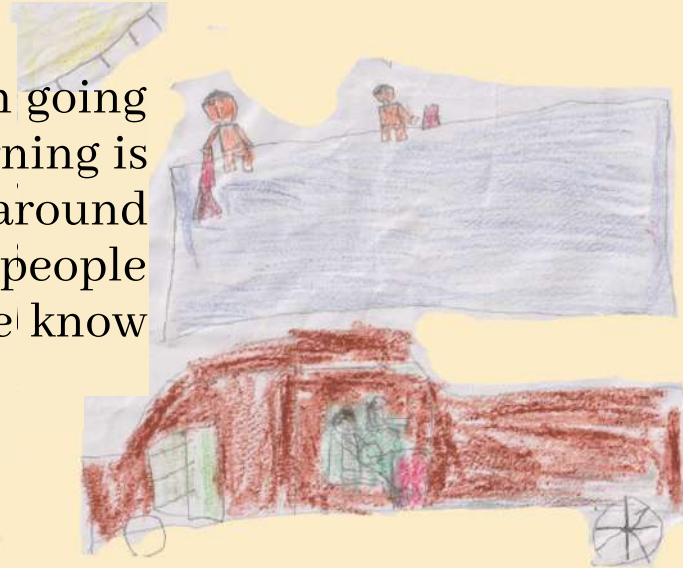
Uncle Leo says: look at that, as they say: the oxen work and the horse eats.

The meaning is that it is not those doing the work who reap the reward.



Joachim: "You know Uncle Leo, our boss is always strict with us. That's how it is, we don't have the choice, we must work."

Noah adds : "You know, the path going there is yours and the one returning is mine. This means what goes around comes around and that certain people may have power over us but we know that their luck won't last."



Joachim and Noah continue working beneath a scorching sun that burns their skin like the embers of a fire. As for Mr Denzel he gets back into his car and heads to a village hall where all of his money will be spent at a party.

Hearing this Noah says: Yes after the party we scratch our heads; meaning after a party financial difficulties arise.



Our fathers are strong and we are thankful to them.



Adryana and Gwendoline : "Look at our dads working over there."

Grace: "Yes, they work very hard every day under the scorching sun."

Noémie: "Yes, really, when two hands clap together it makes a nice sound; meaning when two people work together it's better than working alone. Two people or more are stronger than one."

Channel: "Us too, we must stay together. Remain good friends and do things together, like our fathers."



After work our dads join us and we all go home together.

We thank all the dads who work hard for us, who bring us food, who look after us when we are ill, educate us and especially for the love they give us.



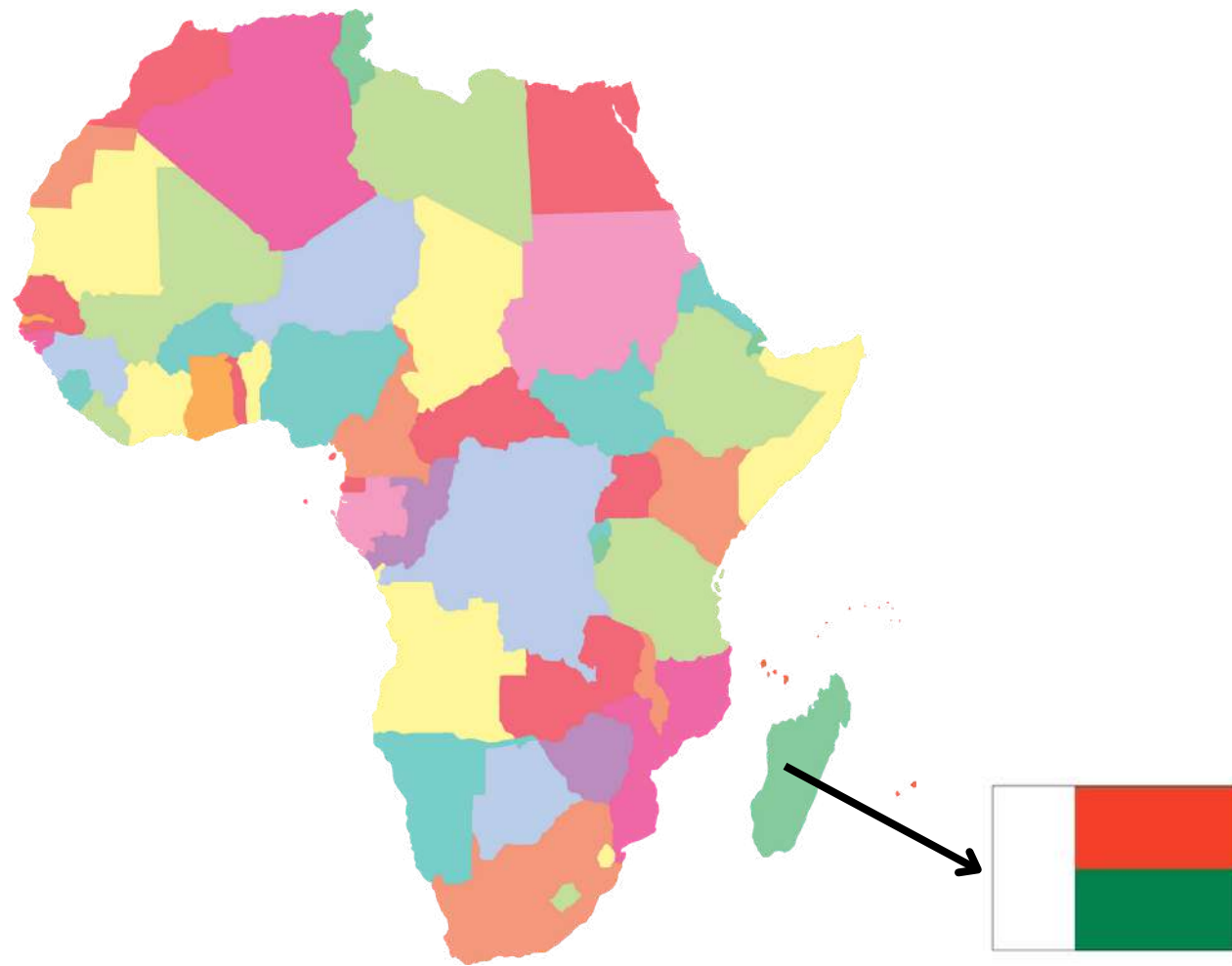
One day after the Taporì group meet up we went home. Mum was making food. We waited for her to finish to speak to her. Mum likes us to take time with her to talk.

We asked her if she knew proverbs. She said to wait until our father came home from work. She then remembered that she knew a proverb: «idleness is the mother of all vice».

This made us think of a man who didn't work and who had a sad life. The man said he wanted to change his way of living. «Tipa, tipa, nous arrive», so he also managed to change.

Papa came home. He said beware of being tricked, because; «frekat lisien gagn pis»: when you frequent bad people you can pick up their bad ways.





TAPORI GROUP  
MADAGASCAR



The children from Madagascar did 'sidewalk interviews'. They went outside of the library and asked people from the neighbourhood about heritage.

«There is individual heritage like clothes or skin colour...

...There is also collective heritage around culture, education, monuments left by our ancestors, land, houses, the cemetery...»





TAPORI GROUP  
PARLA  
MADRID, SPAIN

The children from the Parla Tapori group chose a proverb that they illustrated on this poster.

Quien buen arbol je arrima  
buena jombra le cobija

*He/she who takes shelter under a  
good tree has good cover.*

If we look closely at the tree we can see other  
proverbs written around and form the letters.

Look more closely...







