

## Newsletter 01/2026

### Dear friends of Vakoka Vakiteny

Last year, *Gen Z de Madagascar* sparked widespread protests across Madagascar in response to a severe water and electricity crisis. Following the departure of President Andry Rajoelina abroad, the military intervened and established a transitional government. However, despite these changes, Madagascar continues to face significant challenges, and the situation has not improved substantially.

Amid these difficulties, **Vakoka Vakiteny** remains committed to its mission. The team is doing its best to organise reading activities and bring joy to the younger generation through books, encouraging a love of reading and learning despite the ongoing hardships.



Picture on the left:

Book production and distribution remains one of **Vakoka Vakiteny's** main activities. In this picture, Hanta hands over copies of "Madagascar - a Living Museum" to the Director of the governmental Secondary School in Antsirabe

In this newsletter, you can read news about recent book publications and distribution activities, school visits and reading events in different regions, cooperation with local partners on education, hygiene and environmental awareness, as well as community initiatives that bring books closer to children and young people across Madagascar.

Thank you for your support!

Best wishes

*Mparany Rakotondrainy*

Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

## Construction Begins for a New Library in Vohitsara

Construction work for a new library in Vohitsara, in the Vatomandry District, began in April. The new building will become the third library established by **Vakoka Vakiteny** in Madagascar.

Immediately when the funding arrived, parents from the community quickly started contributing to the project by transporting stones and sand for construction. This community contribution forms an important part of the building process.

Picture on the right:

Sand used to produce the bricks is piling up outside of the school in Vohitsara



The first stage of construction focuses on producing cement bricks, which are currently being made and dried before being used for the construction of the walls of the library.

Picture on the left:

Parents are working as volunteers to support the production of the cement bricks which are laid to dry in a classroom

## Finally Printed: "Fara's Tree of Change"

**Vakoka Vakiteny's** latest publication, **Fara's Tree of Change** (*Ireo hazon'i Fara nitondra fiovana*) has finally been printed and distribution activities are underway. The book is the latest collaboration with British author Beth Dickens, following the earlier publications *Fano sy ireo fako an-dranomasina* (2019) and *Fa nankaiza daholo ny tany?* (2020).



Before final printing, the print proof undergoes a last check. Sixteen pages are printed on one large sheet. Hanta came to Antananarivo to sign the print proof.



A total of 1,000 copies of **Fara's Tree of Change** were printed. Final quality checks of the printed materials took place in March, with Hanta travelling to Antananarivo for this stage of the process. Printing was completed in April, and the books were delivered in May.

Distribution has already started, with Hanta visiting schools in Antsirabe and presenting the new publication at a local book fair.

Picture on the right:

Hanta personally travelled to the printing company in Antananarivo to sign the proof print after having checked the quality and layout.



## Book Fair in Antananarivo

The Book Fair in Antananarivo took place from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026, organised by the National Library of Madagascar in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Communication. The event coincided with World Book and Copyright Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and brought together most of Madagascar's publishing companies.

Although the number of visitors was relatively modest overall, the **Vakoka Vakiteny** stand welcomed more than 100 visitors during the fair. Among them were students from the Institute of Training and Pedagogic Research of the University of Antananarivo, as well as other student groups.





The fair provided an opportunity for exchange between publishers, students, and readers, and contributed to promoting books and reading culture in Madagascar.

Picture on the left:

This young girl started reading with interest the children's book about Rebila, the rat whose greatest dream was to be able to fly.

Picture on the right

Visitors showing interest in **Vakoka Vakiteny** publications at the book fair in Antananarivo, exploring the books with curiosity and learning more about the publishing company.



## *School Celebration "Journée des Écoles"*

During the annual **Journée des Écoles**, a national celebration held in schools across Madagascar in February, **Vakoka Vakiteny** was represented at the governmental Secondary School in Antsirabe.

Hanta worked in cooperation with a local youth association to organise activities and training on tree planting and environmental awareness. The school has around 1,700 students from grades 6 to 9, supported by 77 teachers. The programme lasted the whole day and combined theoretical learning with practical engagement in environmental topics.



Picture above:

A lively school yard filled with hundreds of students, full of energy, noise, and enjoyment during a day of activities. Hanta and her two helpers had their hands full keeping the students engaged and making sure everyone had a good time.

On this occasion, Hanta also introduced the forthcoming book **Fara's Tree of Change**, which has a strong environmental theme. The youth group supporting the activities had previously worked together during the illustration workshop for **Rojombiavy** by author Onydonia.

Picture on the right:

**Vakoka Vakiteny** had prepared posters based on the book **Fara's Tree of Change** to support discussions and help explain environmental topics in an easily understandable way



Picture on the left:

One of the day's activities was tree planting. The students planted young trees to raise awareness of environmental protection.

## Training on Books and Reading Held in Ambositra

On 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April, **Vakoka Vakiteny** was invited by the regional office of the Ministry of Culture and Communication in Ambositra to conduct training sessions for students on books and reading.

During the sessions, Hanta spoke about the importance of reading and introduced Malagasy literature to the students, who were mainly between 10 and 12 years old. Many of them had brought their parents along, who were equally interested. She also read aloud to the participants, encouraging their engagement with stories and books.

The regional office, led by Mr Jean-Aimé, has earlier shown strong support for **Vakoka Vakiteny's** activities. Mr Jean-Aimé, who previously took part in the opening of a library initiative with the Association, has recently assumed leadership of the office and maintains a very positive attitude towards the collaboration. He also voiced the video presenting the library, available here (with German subtitles): [Einweihung Bibliothek Ambohinmanambola 24.07.2024](#).



Picture on the left:

Hanta is standing in the back row wearing a black T-Shirt; Mr. Jean-Aimé is to the right of her in the striped shirt

As part of the programme in Ambositra, Hanta also organised a reading competition and distributed books to participating schools, contributing to further encouraging reading among students.

Picture on the right:

Hanta hands over books to the librarian of the regional office of the Ministry of Culture and Communication in Ambositra.



## Mahazoarivo Football Club

**Vakoka Vakiteny** provided a small sponsorship support to the Mahazoarivo II Football Club. In return, an image of Dangaligny, the lizard on the logo of **Vakoka Vakiteny**, was printed on the jerseys of the team .

The football club participates in sporting activities at the district level. In the last competition, the team from Mahazoarivo won the district tournament and secured the cup.

The initiative contributed to encouraging participation in school sports and strengthening community engagement around youth activities.

Picture on the right:

The team was very proud to win the district school cup



Picture on the left:

Hanta on the right together with the team

## Hygiene Training for Children with the Red Cross

**Vakoka Vakiteny** cooperated with the Red Cross in Antsirabe to organise a half-day training session on hygiene for children. The focus of the activity was on hand-washing and personal body hygiene.

During the session, Hanta used storytelling and games to engage the children in an interactive way. She also introduced **Vakoka Vakiteny** and presented some of our publications.

The activity combined health education with playful learning, helping children understand important hygiene practices in an accessible



Picture above:

Presentation of correct handwashing technique - even the children on the balcony above are listening. Hanta is on the right in the picture, wearing the brown jacket.



Mparany  
Rakotondrainy  
Manager/ Editor



Sophie Küspert-  
Rakotondrainy  
Public Relations/  
Editor



Hanta  
Rakotondrainy  
Trainings/ Book  
distribution

**Vakoka Vakiteny** has since 2008

- ... published 22 titles
- ... distributed 39,300 books
- ... encouraged thousands of children to read
- ... introduced reading in hundreds of schools
- ... strengthened the Malagasy language
- ... promoted Malagasy authors and artists
- ... participated in many cultural events
- ... supported the Malagasy natural environment through books and campaigns

Address:

Edition **Vakoka Vakiteny**

B.P. 453

Toliara 601

MADAGASCAR

+261(0)349069769

[vakoka.vakiteny@gmail.com](mailto:vakoka.vakiteny@gmail.com)

[www.vakiteny.org](http://www.vakiteny.org)