



Stichting De Mangoboom

## NIEUWSBRIEF 25 – APRIL 2018

Dear friends of the Mango Tree!

Thank you so much for your interest in the Mango Tree. We will gladly bring you up to date on the latest developments at the orphanage in Burkina Faso. Down below you will read more about this.

### A NEW CHILD WITH A SAD BACKSTORY

Recently a new baby has been taken into the orphanage, since the mother could not take care of it. The mother lives in a nearby village and fell from a tree while tweeking mango's last year. The fall caused internal fractures and other injuries. The injuries did not heal, despite visits to the clinic. She suffered much pain but could not afford to buy medicine. Her husband is an old and almost deaf man.

While this happened, the mother was pregnant. In august her baby was born, a girl, but she could not take care of it because of her injuries. She did nothing but lie on a single mattress in the village day after day ...



The situation became impossible, so we took the baby into the orphanage. The little girl was heavily underfed. We recently heard that the mother passed away.

### ILLNESS AND WORRIES

The last months were difficult. There were many sick children. Three quarter of the children took ill with the chicken-pox. The children took it home from the village

school and then contaminated the rest of the orphanage. Six babies had to be taken care of in the hospital. We are really glad that everybody is well again, and that all the babies are back in the orphanage.

There are a number of children in the child centre that need special attention. A boy of almost 8 years is HIV-positive. He needs medicines several times per day to delay the disease. He has been losing weight these last weeks, and he is often tired. So we are worried over him...



The same goes for boy of 4 years old (the one in the picture). He regularly passes out and has been doing so for a long time. We haven't been able to find out why.

His mother was 14 year old when she got pregnant through incest. Both the mother and the grandfather (the father of this mother) passed away shortly after he was born. The village rejected the boy. His grandmother then turned to Action Sociale (the child protection service), and they decided that the child centre should take the boy.

We have visited the local clinic with the boy many times already. And the hospital as well. The doctors could not establish the reason for his condition. They argue that they are not able to diagnose him unless he passes out in front of them. That puts us in a difficult position. Are we to wait until he faints, put him unconsciously in the car, hit the road for the one-hour drive to the capital, and then see whether they can look at him for this 'analysis'?



## ONIONS

Earlier newsletter reported that we planted onions some time ago. Not just a few onions, but a lot. They are now ready to be harvested. All these onions will be carefully saved for meals for the children. It would be nice if a small part could be sold...



## MANGOS

Talking about harvesting: the mango trees start bearing fruit. We are in the middle of the mango months. The country gets drowned with them. This is the first year the children at the centre can enjoy this seasonal experience first-hand themselves.



## PRESENTS

Once in a while other organisations make donations to the centre. Recently we got new tables for the children. We are really glad with them!



We also receive clothes for the children every now and then. This includes scarves and caps; attributes that do well to fight the cold. They won't be needed just now, because we are in the middle of the hot season. The temperature surpasses 40 degrees Celsius every day.



## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

- 🌿 We are grateful for the onion and mango harvest. Pray for the other crops in the garden. That they will bear fruit and provide delicious vegetables.
- 🌿 We are grateful for the commitment of so many people and organizations and for their prayers, contributions and donations.
- 🌿 Pray for the health of the children. They are often very vulnerable. Pray also for the health care system in Burkina Faso. For knowledge and understanding of the doctors and the availability of medications.

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

**On behalf of the children in Burkina Faso.**