



newsletter nº 11

Written by Annette Helle
8 September 2018

Dear supporters, donors and friends,
Well, here I am again with the latest news from our little village in the middle of nowhere – or, more specifically, at the remote southwestern end of Santo Antão ...

This year, once again, the dentists of Spanish NGO 'SMILES'



(<http://smilesngo.org>) braved the bumpy road and found their way here.

This third working visit by a dental team – led by Dr Oliver Siebelist – took place from 29 July to 12 August and was made possible by 'Dar as Mãos' in cooperation with Porto Novo's municipal authority. With 22 participants, this year it was not only the inhabitants of a few remote villages in the district of Porto Novo that benefited from

free treatment, but also the people of the district capital itself. There, the high population density means the need for dental care is especially great since, although there are several dental practices and a large health centre, treatment is unaffordable for many. In numerous cases, social hardship in Porto Novo is even greater than in the rural areas, and – particularly during extended and severe periods of drought – a great number of families rely on food aid donations. So a visit to the dentist is not exactly high on the priority list ...



And so a three-day stay there was extremely welcome, and greatly appreciated both by the 402 patients (with 764 treatments) and by the municipal authority. As well as Porto Novo, the route taken by the dental team this year included other new places not previously visited. There was a repeat visit to Ribeira das Patas (a sizeable community whose inhabitants are widely scattered) but, instead of Alto Mira and Ribeira da Cruz, this time it was in the villages of



Ribeira Fria and Ribeira dos Bodes that dental examinations and treatment were carried out. On the way here (i.e. to Tarrafal), on the elevated plateau and close to the island's highest mountain (Tope de Coroa), this time it was not Bolona but the villages of Chã de Cruz and Chã de Feijoal that were on the itinerary. The hard-working team members made their last stops in Tarrafal and Monte Trigo (where they had to travel by boat). The vital statistics of the SMILES visit in 2018: **832 patients, 1,252 extractions and 259 fillings.**

And child-friendly educational work on dental hygiene also deserves a mention, as does a toothbrush and toothpaste for each of the children ...

So, on behalf of all the patients, we would like to thank SMILES with a radiant collective smile! Follow this link for a brief report by Cape Verde TV:

http://rtc.cv/index.php?paginas=13&id_cod=70842.

Dar as Mãos' *bolseiros* (school pupils in receipt of scholarships) were involved: several of them helped look after the dental team and assist with their visit to Tarrafal, and almost all of them who were there in connection with another activity: a litter pick event in Tarrafal scheduled for the summer holidays. Volunteers gathered at 6.30 a.m. on two days (Wednesday, 22 August and Monday, 27 August) and, armed with rubber gloves and bin bags, picked up discarded rubbish. On the first day, it was the village itself that the volunteers first had in their sights, where – apart from carelessly thrown-away packaging of all kinds, and other domestic refuse – other items required disposal, such as bits of boats left after repairs, the remains of old fishing nets, and scrap metal.



On the second day, the focus was on the main beach and the adjacent rocky beach behind the village. Here, it was chiefly plastic waste, bottles, and all



kinds of objects washed ashore and left behind that were collected. Regrettably, we didn't really have a better option than driving the collected waste to the designated tip for incineration. But we can dream, can't we ...? A waste management plan for Tarrafal is one of the most pressing issues for the years ahead. Any advice or practical assistance from experts will be gratefully received!

Mention of the *bolseiros* brings me to my next topic. The 29 secondary-level pupils that we sponsored during the last school year have formed a young group with this very name, and will continue to actively join in with various DaM activities. The litter pick was the first of its kind, and the aim is that these youngsters will remain involved and integrated into the future with flea markets, awareness-raising campaigns and informational events, as well as all the other initiatives that lend themselves to contributions by the pupils. We think it's important that the village's young people are committed to the community, take on some responsibility and contribute towards to the common good. And we want the recipients of our – and hence your – support to also give something back in return. After all, *Dar as Mãos* ('Give me your hand') is meant to refer to both taking and giving ...

In the coming school year, beginning on 17 September, we would like once again to assist secondary-level pupils with school costs. What's more, we also want to include youngsters who want to start secondary school in the coming school year. And, ideally, we also wish to continue to support those among them who have successfully finished secondary school and now wish to study.

Here are the four (female) pupils who gained their school-leaving qualification in June 2018 and now want to commence studies in Mindelo:



Marilu Cibela dos Santos Delgado

Wishes to study: Biology

Why? For me, biology is everything, because it takes in all living things from the simplest (bacteria) to the most complex (we humans).

Dream job: paediatrician



Itéria Gomes Évora

Wishes to study: Civil engineering

Why? So I can easily find a job when I've finished my studies. And if that doesn't happen, I can gain an additional educational qualification so that I can teach.

Dream job: civil engineer



Lindanizia Pires Évora

Wishes to study: Portuguese, French

Why? I've always enjoyed learning languages, especially my native tongue. And I have always wanted to be in education – so I want to teach languages.

Dream job: teacher



Tânia Claudia Dias Morais

Wishes to study: criminology

Why? I've always been interested in things to do with the law, so I'd like to join the police or the Cape Verde armed forces – professions I really admire. This country is already safe, but we need to keep it safe in the best possible way.

Dream job: police officer

This is a call to take part in our

'Join in!' campaign no. 2

Fund for secondary and tertiary education

In the upcoming school year, around 35 pupils from Tarrafal will be going to secondary school. This means attending a school in Porto Novo, Ribeira das Patas, Ribeira Grande or even on the neighbouring island of São Vicente. Those of them who have relatives in one of these places generally live there; the others are accommodated during the school year at the boarding school in Porto Novo. For most families, school-related costs already take quite a big chunk out of the household budget; add in the boarding fees, and secondary school becomes virtually unaffordable for many.

Those pupils who have successfully completed secondary school and now wish to study in Mindelo are also reliant on financial assistance. Tuition fees alone come to Esc 9,000–15,000 per month (€82–136), on top of which are learning materials, travel costs, accommodation and so on.

To make a difference, we need:

Financial donations:

- Individual donations from €5

to support (on a pro rata basis) all pupils at Tarrafal's secondary school who meet certain criteria regarding motivation and grades

- People willing to sponsor our four students (see above), who contribute to the costs of €120–180 / month (x 9 months)

In-kind gifts:

- Computers, especially laptops
- Computer accessories: monitors, keyboards, mice

To make the very most of computer donations, we work together with an international organization called labdoo (website address:

www.labdoo.org/de). Here, computers are 'sanitized' and prepared before being sent to the target country with people travelling there who volunteer as couriers. If you'd like to donate a computer or bring a laptop to Cape Verde yourself, this is the right place to contact. We are registered with labdoo under the reference: www.labdoo.org/de/edoovillage?e=38295

For financial donations from **Europe**, the account details are as follows:

Förderverein Dar as Maos e.V. (our supporting organization in Germany):

Account no. 41 06 72 79 00 (GLS Bank)

IBAN: DE83 4306 0967 4106 7279 00

BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Financial contributions from **Cape Verde** should be donated to:

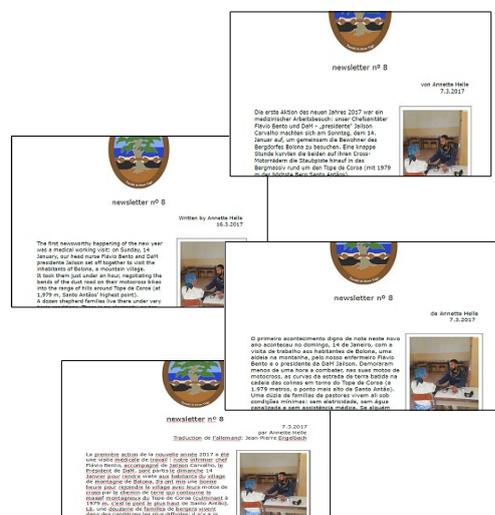
entidade: ONG Dar as Maos

Account no: 34024993.10.1 (Caixa Económica CV)

IBAN: CV64000200003402499310194

SWIFT/BIC CODE: CXECCVCV

Finally, something else we're short of: translators. We need a German-French translator and one for German to Portugese. A native speaker in the target language would be ideal, but this is not a strict requirement. The work generally involves two to three newsletters per year; there may occasionally be other texts to translate.



Once again, on behalf of ourselves and all the people of Tarrafal, a big thank you – to all our supporters and everyone involved – for your commitment to our cause.