FUNDACIÓN AGUA DE COCO, Madagascar
pleads to

Operate Nutrition Education Centres
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Operate Nutrition Education Centres

Name:
Nutritional Education Centres (CENUTs)

Description:
As part of our Programme to Combat Malnutrition and in order to combat the serious problem of malnutrition in Madagascar, the Tanambao and Amboriky Nutrition Education Centres (in Tuléar, south-west Madagascar) will provide a daily meal to 200 underprivileged children in the city.

The children's meals will be supplemented with moringa, a vitamin- and calcium-rich food supplement from our own plantation. This will contribute greatly to their growth without nutritional deficiencies. The youngest children will come to the centre every day to eat, but also to learn. There they will learn good hygiene and cleanliness habits: washing their hands and their teeth, and so on. They will also enjoy other activities: literacy, reading, cinema or sport.

Children will be monitored every three months to ensure their health. When cases of malnutrition are detected, children will follow a nutritional rehabilitation programme with Plumpy'nut, a product designed to treat acute malnutrition.

Implementation plan:
The CENUTs will take in 200 children aged between 6 and 14 every year. Beneficiaries are selected on the basis of the socio-economic conditions of the families. Most of them suffer from the abandonment of one or both parents, often leaving the children in the care of their grandmothers. The head of the household has to work long hours, usually in street vending, which does not guarantee them a fixed, stable or sufficient income. In spite of this, we believe it is important to involve parents financially and personally in the decision-making process regarding their children, which is why the families of the children in the CENUTs must pay a symbolic amount per month (200 Argentinean pesos = 5 euro cents) and attend the awareness-raising and training workshops that are organized.

The beneficiaries of the CENUTs will receive a daily meal nutritionally adapted to their age, nutritional monitoring to detect chronic and acute malnutrition in order to treat it with a ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUFT) designed by the nutritionist Laura Martín Rubio (Guild Member No.: MAD00210), a homemade food supplement called Plumpy Gasy, based on tubers, ground peanuts, oil and moringa: low-cost products that are accessible for the beneficiaries'
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Families. Without claiming to be a substitute for Plumpy Nut, it is a very good alternative that is economical, sustainable, energetic and easy to prepare.

Children will also be enrolled in school to guarantee their basic right to education and to enable them to have the necessary tools for a better future.

**Impact:**
The implementation of the CENUTs will guarantee access to good nutrition for the children as well as their right to education; the economic burden on the families is lightened, freeing the children from labour exploitation and supporting the families with awareness-raising workshops and training to improve their eating habits and knowledge about hygiene and health.