

## News Bulletin

16 – 23 November 2009

### Points saillants

- Two French expatriates from the NGO *Triangle Generation Humanitaire* kidnapped in Birao
- Kabo: Population revolt against humanitarian community
- Two teachers for 220 students at the school of Batélé, 5 km from Ndélé
- \$6.3 million for 30 priority projects in 2009
- *Development Assistance Research Associates* visited Bangui from 19 to 26 November
- DFID assesses the humanitarian situation

### Background and security

#### Two French aid workers kidnapped in Birao

Around 11:30 p.m. on 22 November, two French expatriates from the NGO *Triangle Generation Humanitaire* were abducted in Birao (northeastern CAR) by unidentified gunmen. The robbers also tried to kidnap a midwife from another NGO working in Birao, the *Comité d'Aide Médicale* (CAM). The kidnappers took three vehicles including one belonging to CAM, a bike, as well as computer equipment belonging to the NGO.

According to the Vice-Consul of Central Darfur, the kidnappers and their hostages headed to Sudan aboard one of the vehicles.

Triangle has been conducting programs for the populations of the Haute-Kotto and Vakaga prefectures since 2007.

#### Population and humanitarian: voltage Kabo

On the night of 23 November, a robbery took place at the base of *Doctors without Borders (Médecins sans Frontières, MSF)* in the town of Kabo in north-western CAR. The thief died a few moments later under unknown circumstances.

Following this, the local population of Kabo revolted against the humanitarians by preventing any vehicle

movement. No act of vandalism or assault has been reported to date.

The United Nations in CAR has temporarily suspended missions to Kabo.

### News

#### Two teachers for the school Batélé

On 18 November the *UN Office of Humanitarian Affairs* (UNOCHA) of Ndélé visited the school of Batélé located 5 km outside the city, with the objective of inquiring into the working conditions of teachers and students.

The school opened in 2002 and has only one parent teacher and a principal who both teach classes.

The school has three warehouses that risk collapsing under the next severe weather as they are made out of simple bamboo and straw.

The school hosting 220 girls and boys has a full cycle of primary school. The school also has a latrine built by the NGO *Solidarités*, but there is no water, causing the children to visit the surrounding villages to relieve themselves.



One of the warehouses housing students of the school of Batélé

As for school feeding, no support has been provided since the school was opened.

The parent teacher is financed by community members who must pay 100 CFA francs (\$0.24) per student per month, although the fee is paid irregularly. The director is supported by a World Bank project. At the initiative of the new director, the community is being mobilized to obtain local materials for the rehabilitation and the construction of a new

warehouse.

Several schools around Ndélé are facing a similar situation as that of Batélé, and the support of education stakeholders is needed to improve the students' learning system.

The mission's recommendations:

- Improve the infrastructure to keep students in school in the area (with emphasis on community action)
- Supplying water wells to schools to avoid students needing to walk long distances
- Provide support materials such as books, tables, etc
- Strengthening the capacity of parent teachers
- Provide school feeding to schools in need



Contact [yakara@un.org](mailto:yakara@un.org) for more information.

### \$6.3 million for 30 projects

The Humanitarian Coordinator has approved 30 projects that were identified by 7 clusters in the process of the second standard allocation of the *Common Humanitarian Fund* (CHF) for 2009.

In total, 6.3 million U.S. dollars have been allocated to priority projects. The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has pledged \$2.9 million by the end of the year, which would raise the resources mobilized for the CHF in 2009 to \$14.5 million.

## Missions

### DARA mission in CAR

*Development Assistance Research Associates* (DARA) arrived in Bangui 19 November for a one-week mission.

This mission aims to collect data on the humanitarian crisis in Central African Republic in order to produce the 2010 edition of the Humanitarian Response Index (HRI).

The HRI is an independent initiative developed by DARA to measure and classify on a yearly basis each donor's commitments to improve the quality and effectiveness of their humanitarian assistance.

For their research, DARA sends teams to different countries embroiled in humanitarian crises to meet and interview organizations involved in the humanitarian response. The information collected allows DARA to understand how the humanitarian system operates and identifies areas in which donor countries can improve their support policies towards their humanitarian partners.

DARA says that the crisis in CAR is an interesting case to study because it helps to understand the numerous challenges that the humanitarian system will have to face. The Central African Republic has been chosen to be included in the 2010 version of the HRI.

For additional information, please visit [www.daraint.org](http://www.daraint.org).

### Humanitarian monitoring and evaluation by DFID

The British *Department For International Development* (DFID), a donor of the CAR through the *Common Humanitarian Fund* (CHF), has visited CAR on 19 November.

DFID has been able to follow and assess the humanitarian situation in CAR through various meetings with international NGOs, UN agencies, and other donors located in the CAR.

Accompanied by OCHA, DFID has also visited the field by going to the prefecture of Nana Gribizi (north central CAR) to meet with partners working in the region.

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