

## Briefing Paper 7

Bill Felstiner, President, and Sara-Christine Dallain, Board member-elect, were in Chad from May 8-27, 201

**May 9.** We met with Jean Naissenger and Dr. Dougla of the Centre-de-Support-en-Santé-Internationale (CSSI) where we discussed solar projects at Yaroungou, Maro & Moula; were advised to discuss Vitamin A (Vit A) distribution with CSSI people in Goré; and were told they have found a candidate for the field staff position, now living in Sarh who would move to Goré. We are to meet him when we return to N'Djamena on May 25-26.

Met with Jean Gabin Atanga of the Ecobank & his boss. We were able work out a system that will prevent some of our past difficulties in transferring money by wire.

That night we had dinner with Prosper Akinga who works for UNHCR in asylum matters and went last year to the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Spain (where Bill had been the Scientific Director in 2000-03).

**May 10.** We had a difficult session with two ladies from Les Guides du Tchad. It occurred in a small room adjacent to a shell of a Catholic Church. Shell in that it had an imposing tower and two sidewalls, but nothing else. To get into the room we first had to face a legion of lizards, a barrier of lizard scat, a half-inch of dust and a giant brown spider that fell from the ceiling to Bill's exposed neck. They believed that reports including financial reports had been delivered to Kathy Kemp, but urged us to check with Antionette in Goré. (In fact, the reports had been delivered to Kathrine and turned over to Catherine). These ladies were volunteers and only sporadically involved.

We also met with Dino Valva and Sylvia Quarta of Assocssociazione di Cooperazione in Africa (ACRA). Essentially we talked about two projects -- books and training materials for Baldal at Maro and building a community (non-refugee) school (10K) in either the Goré or Maro areas. The books seemed to be a slightly higher priority. That project also has the advantage for us of being an effort that will not get done if we do not do it.

We had dinner with Michael Zorick of the US Embassy. He is a world class cynic, especially about refugee affairs. He believes the Salamat refugees are either gaming the system by managing to live better than they had in the Central African Republic (CAR) or were in fact not refugees at all (moved from Doha inside Chad to Haraze where the camp is being set up). He believes UNHCR transforms normal migrations into refugee situations, imposes exaggerated standards of protection and then tries to meet the impossible international standards. During the uncertainty of the current US government budget, he on his own hook cut all his projects by 30%. He said they would continue to fund Mentor.

**May 11.** Yesterday, by the original plan we were to drive to Goré. Since instead we are flying

today, yesterday had a light schedule. We received the travel & photography permits. Though the dates are off by 5 days at either end, the UN said not to worry and, in fact, we have never been asked for them. We did a little shopping in a (well-stocked) pharmacy and took a brief tour around town, including a stop at the Kempinski Hotel Libya. The giant portrait of Gaddafi has been replaced by a modest one matching in size that of Deby. The marble halls were totally deserted.

We also met with Muller Masrabey of UNHCR, Goré who was in town to get a French visa that he needs on his way to a training session in Budapest that both he and Keita will attend while we are in Goré. Monica also will be away. We discussed the wheelchair repair scheme that is now underway. We were most concerned about plans for the next stage; that is, when the repaired machines need repairs again. Bill had thought that Kathy Kemp reported that the appropriate committee (vulnerable people, wheelchair repair) could apply to the common fund (UNHCR money) for support. Bill may be wrong and the (theoretical) remedy will be the income generating activities that they will have learned in the meantime. Muller could not be concrete about what these might be. He did say some funds might be available from UNHCR. Bill is at least a mild skeptic since we have been hearing about this solution to several problems for years without much to show for it. To be continued.

We also discussed the football programs at Beureuh and Goré. At Beureuh there is a problem of theft of materials from the school administrator's office. They will propose to us that we fund a locked storage building. In the meantime equipment ought to be stored in the GIZ compound. The field at Goré is under construction. Preliminary work has been done on the field, the spectator area and the latrines. A Caterpillar is expected soon. Apparently we will be presented with a revised budget. Hold on to your hat. There is no resolution yet to the missing 300,000 CFA sent for uniforms to the APE. They are somewhere in the Ecobank and we will see if we can straighten it out with Jean Gabin Abanga on our return to N'Djamena on May 25.

I did not remember that Muller was the chap doing the translation from Sango to French when we watched the refugee interviews at the CAR border in September 2007. The dinner routine has changed at the Meridien. It is no longer a buffet & there are no desserts, a disappointment to two large sweet teeth.

**May 12.** We were at the airport at 5:30 am for the UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) flight to Moundou. It was a Beechcraft with some age on it, 2 engines, about 20 seats, half full. We flew over the clouds for about 2 hours and came down not at Moundou, but at Sarh. That was not a mistake. It was the plan all along, but no one told us. After a few minutes we continued on to Moundou. We were met by a UN driver who had inherited a solar flashlight that I gave to Vladimir, then the chef de bureau, in 2007. We had the traditional omelette and Fanta at the Club de Coton de Tchad. It is on the river (Logone) & rather fancy with pool and all-weather tennis court. The Belgian gentleman who used to own or run the Club Logone now runs this place. We were accompanied by rather surly French chap who belonged to a part of the UN family that acted as an INS for refugees.

On route to Goré we had to stop at Dosseye to pick up a DSI (Chadian security) escort. The scene at UNHCR Goré was rather disorganized, mainly because the three people who might have been most on top of our schedule (Monica, Keita & Muller) were away.

Benedicte (Belgian) who is in charge of UNHCR Goré in Monica's absence gave us the following tour d'horizon.

The sub-office in Goré is responsible for three areas in the south of Chad.

Goré, 3 camps, Amboko, Gondje & Dosseye, 30K refugees.

Maro, 2 camps, Yaroungou & Moula, 15K refugees.

Haraze (Salamat), 2 camps, Koy & Moyo, 3K refugees. (I think this figure is low; maybe I misheard her).

They believe the total is 50K, but they are conducting a major verification exercise.

The focus is on the transition from assistance to development, self-reliance and integration into the local population. (Is this just talk or are they making any progress?). They are providing support to community groups so they may develop micro-projects. They want the refugees to contribute to essential services such as school fees and repair of water facilities. They expect APEs (parents of students associations) to contribute to the salaries of teachers. Although medical services are still free at Beureuh, they're going to expect progressive contributions. They conducted a socio-economic survey of the three Goré camps in Oct. -Dec. 2010. The object was to determine the degree of self-sufficiency of each household (compared to that of local households). The intention then is to target assistance to the level of self-sufficiency of each household. Three categories -- *self-sufficient* (38%) (how to maintain/increase their positions), *transitional* (50%) (require partial, specific support), *chronically poor* (12%) (cash grants plus assistance with water, health, school fees).

The partners. At Goré. Food security is a worldwide problem. At Goré, Africare & ACTED promote agricultural activities, including livestock production. CARE International is concerned with specific needs & food distribution (every 2 months, 1,200 calories per day per person). CSSI provides medical services for all CAR refugees, including prevention & treatment, medical and psychosocial. ACRA is involved in community mobilization and development & education in support of APEs. In Salamat it does education, community development and food security. In Maro it gets support from LRRD (European Union). At Yaroungou 1.6K of 10K refugees are handicapped. APLFT, an association of local lawyers, provides legal support in Goré and Maro. CNAR, theoretically does camp administration and protection. DIS, present in all areas, are special Chadian police, trained by MINURCAT. It has gender officers & cells, & can launch judicial action. In Goré DIS has 40 officers of whom 5 are women. Mentor (UK) conducts anti-malaria campaigns and Arteberte is involved in family planning & SGBV programs. GIZ (formerly GTZ) supplies logistical support & vocational

training. HCR measures performance/output indicators every three months and will conduct a mid-term review in June 2011. (Though they say they do lots of evaluation, my impression over the years is that there is much more talk about planning than evaluation).

CAR -- no state presence. The "alienated", once called rebels, are sometimes willing to cooperate with HCR.

At the briefing we were joined by James, a former Captain in the British Army SOS, who now does security for the UN. A nice chap, old Army, father & grandfather served in the British forces in Kenya. He mumbles, or is that just the way the upper crust talks. Though Sara, James and Bill had a late dinner, we were long gone by the time the others arrive. They're on a Spanish schedule --- lunch at 3:30, dinner at 9:30. The internet, if running, is now available in rooms at the compound. There is major construction underway at the HCR compound, Romeo (the pet antelope) is dead so Keita is raising ducks at a house where he and Monica now live.

Security briefing. The situation is relatively calm, but some bandit activity takes place -- ambushes on roads of traders & cattle owners. Humanitarian personnel are not targets, but can be in the wrong place at the wrong moment. In January 2011 there were 5 bandit incidents, mostly in the bush though one was within 15 km. of Goré when partner personnel were robbed. In Goré itself security is acceptable, much better than in N'Djamena.

**May 13.** We met with Nicole of CARE and had long discussion of stage three of the tricycle project (1=provide tricycles, 2=repair, 3=when the repaired need repair). CARE accepts no responsibility: they are there just to manage our funds. There is a general program to try to enable vulnerable people to earn money. Some of the tricycle people will benefit from that. The others may be out of luck unless we continue to help. We met with the self-help committees in Gondje & Amboko. They both had busy workshops repairing tricycles. In the interim from when the money for repairs was wired to the time that they received it in their accounts at the Catholic Church (5 months), new needs developed. Bill will tell Nicole to prepare a supplementary proposal.

**May 14.** Problems in River City.

Yesterday we turned the football uniforms (44 shirts, 4 goalies shirts & 22 pairs of pants) over to the school administrator. We had understood from Kathy that he was the custodian of football materials. In fact, he has 2 copies of the Beureuh Red Sox picture plastered to the wall of his office. We took lots of pictures of the transfer and agreed to return today at 8:30 to photograph girls' teams dressed in the uniforms.

When we arrived at the school this morning the administrator told us through Hippolyte that the uniforms had been stolen. He showed us the jimmyed window through which he claimed someone had gained entry. He also pointed to a depression in the back wall which he asserted came from a failed attempt to break in that way. We have pictures of both these spots (in fact

we had taken a picture of that window in its original form yesterday).

Frankly it was suspicious from the start. The aperture left in the window was not big enough for even a small adult to get through. After getting inside the building a thief would have had to scale a ten-foot wall separating the room with the window from the room in which the uniforms were kept. Then he would have had to scale the same wall from the other direction. The administrator said that a chair had been placed on a desk in the outer office to facilitate the climb and a stack of papers in conjunction with a wheelbarrow had been used to climb the wall in the reverse direction. These maneuvers would have been tough for a trained gymnast and were impossible for a child small enough to get through the window.

First there was a scene between a furious Hippolyte and the Administrator. Apparently there are several secure places in Beureuh that could have been used as storage.

Then we drove to the gendarme shack at Gondje to report the incident to the Beureuh headman. His first response was to pull out an automatic weapon. He put that away when told that UNHCR vehicles could not carry weapons. Then a chap from DIS (Chadian security) was summoned. He rode with us back to the school. After looking at the scene, he and the Administrator got in our SUV and we drove to Goré. We went to Mentor and the others went to the police station. We were also told that a block of some kind had been instituted at Gondje and Amboko controlling who could leave the camps.

Four other points. Yesterday the administrator asked us to provide funds to build secure storage. That day he also pointed to a bricked in window through which (in its unblocked state) a theft had occurred. When we asked about the uniforms purchased with the grant we made in the summer of 2010, we were told that they also had been stolen. We don't know if there is a connection between the bricked in window and the first theft. Finally, Sara astutely points out that the Administrator's behavior was unexpected. He was not apologetic, yet he seemed nervous.

Of course, we have no idea what really happened. The Administrator may have had nothing to do with it or he could be covering up for someone else or he stole the stuff.

These were the uniforms donated by members of the Santa Barbara Soccer Club and hand carried by us on this trip. The previous uniforms, which we now know also to have been stolen, are those which Kathy saw and photographed, & were purchased with funds we provided in the summer of 2010.

Who was there at the transfer? The transfer took place in a classroom. The administrator and a teacher were present in the room. There were other teachers in the general vicinity. Students were some distance away & we do not know how much they might have been able to observe. Who would have known about the transfer? The administrator and anyone he cared to tell.

The secure storage question. We do not think it is a question of physical facilities. It is most likely a case of the fox guarding the chickens.

On a more positive note, we delivered the materials furnished by DRI (see Appendix A) to the district hospital in the afternoon. Our visit to the hospital was short -- just long enough for the delivery (to Dr. Rim) and to take the appropriate pictures.

We met with Dr. Jean Mukenga of CSSI at their office. We first discussed Vitamin A. There is notionally a state program aimed at children under 5 and pregnant women. The problem is that the state supply is irregular. The Vitamin A that we hand carried to Chad in October 2010 was finally transferred to CSSI in April 2011 and distributed in the three Goré camps. In the camps Vit A is given when women come to the clinic in relation to their pregnancy and when children come in for their nutritional updates. Community health workers in each of the camps are aware of all 0-5 year old kids in their domains and try to make sure that all come to the clinic once a month for checkups. At the Dosseye clinic no distinction is made between refugee and local kids. At Goré distribution of Vit A is by the state (I doubt if it is up to the CSSI standards). A regular supply of Vit A to CSSI through Vitamin Angels would be a significant contribution and we should work on it ASAP. When we raised the question of the need for supplies of other micronutrients, we were told of a shortage of folic acid – sometimes they can manage it through their budget & not at others.

They would like to undertake a major family planning effort that consisted of both intense education and ready availability of the kind of contraceptives that would be acceptable and effective. We said that regrettably such an effort was out of our range.

The solar installation (lights & fridge) at Beureuh is a great success (this sentiment was also relayed to us by the chief nurse at Beureuh). However, there is a need for a similar, but larger, installation at the hospital. In part the need arises from the huge numbers of people suffering from anemia and the consequent need to store blood as well as vaccines. CSSI supports the hospital: if we were to do such a project it could be done through CSSI, our most reliable partner. Dr. Jerabi is gone for GYN training in Benin.

Mentor (UK). We met with the (Irish) director, Laura Reilly. During the past year Mentor received 25,000 mosquito nets from the UNHCR, roughly enough for 1 net for every two people in the camps. After the distribution, they began a survey of the use of the nets in Amboko. Some nets had already been sold and many were not being used properly. In each of those cases they just began again and then followed-up 1 to 2 days later. This is labor intensive work & Mentor employs about 20 workers at a time to do it. One problem is that children do not always sleep indoors.

The government maintains a distribution program for the local population in Goré (7,000 households): it is a pilot program for the rest of Chad and will be evaluated by the Ministry of Health. This program is a big help to Mentor because it radically reduces the market in which

the refugees had been selling their nets. BTW it is clear that the local population is in general better off than the refugees. The hope is that the whole population (refugees & locals) will be well protected by June when the intense rains are expected. (For the record, it is raining now on & off in Goré). There is no similar government program in Maro (5,000 households).

Mentor receives funds from the US State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, but for treatment only, not for prevention.

The strain of malaria in this area is the fatal, non-recurring type. It is treatable if caught in time and almost all adults have sufficient immunity that they will not die from it. Mentor has bases in Am Timen and Goz Beida.

**May 15**, a Sunday, we took a turn around the market. Lots of stuff. When there are seven shoe guys in a row, all with huge inventories of gaudy flip-flops, and no customers milling around, one wonders how they make it? Most impressive was a peanut oil mill. Most loud too. Worst, the slimy, blackened grotesque fish. What did we buy? Nothing, not even flip-flops embossed with the Canadian maple leaf (Sara is Canadian). It is OK to take pictures of the young & old. The teenagers have an attitude.

The football field in Goré village. Recall that we were asked to fund this field by the Prefect (the governor of the province) since the existing field, owned by the Catholic Church, was expensive to use.

Our field is big, has new goals with nets, was demarcated by whitewash lines and is free for everyone. The games began with handshakes by the Prefect, BF & Sara with all players and the refs. There were proper refs with flags, plus a scorer's table, a loudspeaker, an announcer, and hundreds, literally hundreds, of spectators, mostly seated in the shady side of the field and at the ends. There were four games, 2 girls, 2 boys. All the players had nice uniforms (purchased through funds we had provided in 2010), though the girls were barefoot. Sorry to say there was more laughter for the girls than cheering. They played hard but do need coaching.

The Girl Guides. You could tell that their offices were run by women. Though small (the offices), they were spic and span, everything in its place, nice decorating touches. We met with Antoinette Mbaikabal (who now works for HCR), Rachel Baning (who took Antoinette's place) ([rachelbaning@yahoo.fr](mailto:rachelbaning@yahoo.fr)) and Djenom Mberdouh ([mberdoudjenom@yahoo.fr](mailto:mberdoudjenom@yahoo.fr)). They say that they gave reports to Kathy, including one or more CDs. They also say they sent some communications to Catherine. They gave us what reports that they had on the spot. The CRF project is still underway and we (BF) will get a final report, including financial information. They say the bank reports are with Simone in N'Djamena. Simone says the opposite. Despite all this confusion, Sara and I were impressed with these folks. They seem totally sincere, committed and reliable as to program if not to reporting.

Substantively they seem to have accomplished quite a bit. The purpose of the project was to

teach women and men how women and children deserve to be treated and to help them deal with violence. We knew about the training of 15 trainers in N'Djamena (by a doctor, a lawyer and an artist [for theatre stuff]) and of the initial meetings they had with women in each camp (we witnessed them in January 2010). They produced booklets suggesting how to deal with violence in different situations (we now have copies). In June 2010 they brought 50 kids from each camp to Goré to witness theatre presentations about protection and rights. The theory was that these kids would spread the word in their respective camps. Media came from Moundou and N'Djamena. In the camps these kids and the Guides are the eyes and ears of the violence picture and are not reluctant to involve the authorities. Where violence used to be repressed, now it is reported. Women have become comfortable talking about it in public. Men now know that women have the option of telling their story and, the Guides believe, have to an extent changed their behavior.

Their other project is a "mothers' project." It is supported by the parent association in London. Further funding will depend on an evaluation in June.

Given the availability of funds, I would not oppose further CRF involvement with the Guides, especially if their other project is to continue. By the way, their office is across the street from the HCR office. Antoinette lives in a little house in the back.

Conditions at Goré Base Camp. We live at the UNHCR compound. Two lines of two bedroom chalets separated by a wide gravel walk bordered by flowers (lantana I think). Between each set of bedrooms is a bathroom. That's the rub. There is no running water. There is no hot water. Rather a barrel of water with various size pitchers sitting in a corner is the basic stock. These are the tools of bathing and keeping the toilet flowing. A/c & internet in the rooms most of the time. Then there is a small laundry with laundryman and a living/dining building. Not large, but given the scarcity of people at the moment, large enough. The cast is a bit odd. All the main players are away -- Monica, Keita, Benedicte, Muller. Our companions are the surly Frenchman who worries about pretend refugees, the Brit ex-SOS who seems to be concerned with general security of the area, an Englishman with a plummy accent working on a socio-economic survey of the refugees, a half Iranian half Dutch woman who grew up in Italy, works for HCR and is the only UN employee who drives her own, cute little, HCR car. Maybe it is Monica's and the mouse is playing.

Food. Yes, food. Heavy on starch which has consequences. Pasta, rice, potatoes. Good enough salad. Tough meat of unknown source, bad bread, Corn Flakes, mango/orange juice, pineapple, watermelon, tough green oranges, eggplant, mangoes. A beer on Saturday night. No communal eating. Grab a plate, watch TV, en francais. The regulars eat lunch at 3:30 and dinner long after we have gone to bed. There are no restaurants in Goré. Going to the bars is not recommended. Some people jog at dawn or dusk. Everyone works long hours.

**May 16.** We began with a visit to Dosseye, the camp 37 km north of Goré. It was food distribution day and we have some amazing pictures and videos. We visited the health center



where we & CSSI had installed a solar powered refrigerator & some lighting. They are located in the maternity building & are operating satisfactorily. When the power is low it is necessary to climb on the roof and clean the panels. There are other buildings in the complex that need lighting. The clinic has enough funds to buy the medicines that it needs. The problem is that the source, the state, is often short of the relevant medicines, especially those used in the treatment of meningitis and other infectious diseases.

We visited the primary school. The teachers were just sitting around since the students do not appear on distribution day. We did learn that 4 of 24 teachers are women. We then took a look at the homemade football field. It is not bad; compares fairly well to Beureuh. Their problem is that they have no balls. We said we'd buy some in Moundou and send them back with the driver when we go there en route to Am Timen.

We went back to the district hospital to look over the refrigeration situation. They have large freezers in which to keep blood and vaccines. However, since the generators work only in the afternoons, they occasionally have problems with the blood supply (need an electrical boost). When we were on site only 1 of 3 generators was operable. When the generators are not working they have no light in the pharmacy or X-ray department. The water problem is even worse. A water tower was part of the construction, but it has never worked. They must import water by truck from a nearby well. It takes 40 minutes per run made once or twice a day. On occasion, desperate patients go get their own water.

We met with officials of the Goré football league, including the President and the person in charge of equipment, in the afternoon. They are extremely pleased with the field that we have funded, in part because it saves them 130,000 CFA (\$300) that they had annually to pay the Catholic Church for use of its field. The plot for the field was donated by the village. Most of the work to uproot trees and roots had been done manually. One mound remained to be leveled. Since they could not afford a Caterpillar from Moundou (1 million CFA per day), they were waiting for the rains to work on it by themselves.

The uniforms that we saw at the inaugural games were part of our project. They now have 7 sets of uniforms (15 per set) for the 7 male (ages 11-22) and 3 female (ages 11-18) teams. The uniforms are stored at the house of the materials manager. There is an effort to reach out to girls. They believe that the daily practices are an outlet that in many instances keeps girls out of early marriage or prostitution. The girls' teams play mini-tournaments among themselves and also play teams from Moundou. There are no specific coaches: someone is assigned on every day to coach. Matches are held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (Before, the Church would not permit matches on Friday).

They had been waiting for a community field for years. The fact that this is the first time that the children of Goré have an official field is why the Mayor and Prefect were present at the games. They plan to add basketball and volleyball courts. Eventually, they will levy a small admissions charge for spectators (50 CFA or \$.10) to raise money to fund repairs. They intend

to highlight our assistance on Radio Chad.

As we noticed at the games, very few girls have football shoes & play in bare feet. They need 45 pairs of shoes at 4500 CFA (\$10) per pair. The total cost would be \$450. We were very impressed with the seriousness & dedication of the League officials. We believe that CRF should fund the shoe project.

We held a debriefing session with Miriam, Hippolite and Dr. André of HCR. We noted that many of the benches at the Beureuh school were broken. Miriam said that there were no funds to repair them, but if the students had the tools they could do the repairs themselves. She also noted that there was a particular problem at Dosseye of girls getting married too young. Only 50-60% of girls there finish primary school in part because there are no classes that speak specifically to girls.

Since UNICEF left there is a lack of materials at all camp primary schools – no notebooks, posters, calendars, math tables and only one book for every five children (their objective is one book for every three children).

Dr. André said he would give us a list of the testing equipment that he needed. BF believes he said the same thing in January 2010, but never produced a list.

**May 17.** BF walked out into the countryside early this morning. It was light, but the sun had not appeared. Even at 5:30, life was in full sway. Cooking fires were going, mothers were playing with babies, young men were reading (something), farmers were already on their way to the mantioc fields, machetes over their shoulders, and the cigarette seller was already at his post. The most remarkable sights – six young women carrying giant bowls of charcoal, on top of which were huge bags of charcoal, all on their heads. The load must have been 50 pounds or more. And the two oxen and cart that almost ran him down, in large part because the driver was sound asleep.

We met with Elisa Galli of ACRA. They have a “keeping girls in school” project at the primary level. It consists in part of small rewards given to the best girl students in each class. They have just begun to go house to house to ask why absent girls are not in school. They work in 15 schools in the district and have structured this effort by organizing and training mothers’ associations. It is not an easy task: in the villages not many adults have finished school. The challenge is to persuade people that it is possible both to finish school and be a mother. One technique is to send influential women (nurses, teachers, women who work at the Prefect’s office) to the villages to make the case. ACRA hopes to develop a national campaign with consistent materials & using radio and theatre. They will send us the program as an email attachment.

We told Elisa about the uniform debacle. Her reply was “everything disappears.” She advised working directly with youth leaders. There are youth committees in the camps. ACRA works

with them on money-making activities such as a cafeteria and a cell phone charger. The proposal is that we send \$2,400 (1 million CFA) to ACRA and they would distribute it to the youth committees in the three Goré camps for sport activities. ACRA would supervise the program.

We left for Moundou after lunch. En route we had to stock up on food (or go on the Haraze pasta diet) and buy the footballs we had promised some people in Gondje and Dosseye. They will be distributed by ACRA. To catch the early flight to Am Timen, we are to stay at the Club Logone in Moundou, but don't let the "Club" part fool you; it is pretty basic. In September 2007 BF slept on the floor when Stan Roden occupied the only bed.

**May 18.** We are in Haraze in southeastern Chad. A different scene. We have passed from black to Arab Africa, from goats, pigs and oxen to goats, donkeys, camels and large herds of cattle, from houses in brick to houses of matting & straw. To get here was an epic. First, an Ugly American scene where the authorities took exception, with some merit, to the pictures Bill was taking at the airport in Moundou. The most offending was one of the latrine across the road from the terminal recently refurbished by the Chinese, lots of whose earth moving machinery was still to be seen. Bill erased the pictures, but there was still talk, actually a heated discussion, about whether to confiscate the camera. The crowd seemed to be on Bill's side. Victor from the HCR intervened and Sara & a chagrined Bill boarded the flight (full) to Am Timen. At the dirt strip in Am Timen a line up of SUVs awaited the passengers. All Toyotas, all 4 WD, from MSF, Mentor, the UN and the DIS. Before the plane took off for N'Djamena, most of the vehicles roared down the runway at high speed, the DIS pick up with its siren blaring. This show, which we're sure the drivers loved, was to scare any animals off the runway, there being no perimeter fence. We and two new companions drove to town where there was a long wait while civilian goods were loaded on the back of the DIS pickup, together with a family of 9. In the meantime we asked about a pee stop & were driven to the Mentor compound where Sara got locked inside the toilet. When an attempt with a dinner knife to jimmy the door failed, a man with a screwdriver came to the rescue. At Bill's turn he did not fully close the door.

The drive to Haraze, less than 100 miles, took 4 and 1/4 hours. The road was horrible about 50% of the time. To avoid this ordeal the UN will build an adequate airstrip at Haraze in the fall after the rains, expected in June, are over. The ride was made worse by the need to wear body armor and helmets. We put the helmets aside early on. Jasmine in Goré had a theory -- that the body armor minimized the shocks from the rough road and the helmet helped when your head went to the roof. Lousy theory. The armor was hot as hell and just ate into your back. Fortunately on the return from Haraze the HCR driver led us in stripping the armor off halfway to Am Timen.

Haraze is a small Arab semi-desert encampment. We stayed at the HCR Guest House, rudimentary compared to Goré. There is a/c, better in Bill's room -- which is altogether better than Sara's which contains only a cot & what looks like a linen covered double coffin -- when

the generator is running, which is only occasionally. Across the way is a partially screened in common room where we played gin rummy and held meetings with the HCR guys. They are both from Burundi. They had prepared two schedules, one long, one abbreviated. Because we do not want to be stuck in Haraze if the rains come and because we want to go to Zakouma, a game preserve 25 miles from Am Timen, we chose the abbreviated one. Dinner was great, some North African pasta/rice stuff with a wonderful sauce, carrots and onions, & bits of meat. This was a bit of surprise since we had been told by the people in Goré to bring some food with us and they had actually given us quite a bit of freeze dried pasta with broccoli and pasta with fungi. We had also bought cereal, irradiated milk & fruit juice in Moundou.

The rains are late (fortunately for us). Once they begin Haraze is cut off by road for about three months. The camps, Koy and Moyo, are built on high ground and will not be flooded. We were given statistical descriptions of the refugee populations. There are many former child soldiers in Moyo. Once school is out they hope to keep them there by developing income-generating activities. The refugees get one hectare of land per family (regardless of family size): they both fish and farm. HCR's partners are CSSI for health, ACRA for education and food security, GIZ for logistics and the environment, and CNAR of course. They need a partner for water. HCR would like to do something for the local population: maybe a football field. They will begin a verification exercise (to make sure the refugees are refugees) the next day.

Charles gave us an information sheet about the UN Haraze operations in 2011. It lists 3,647 refugees at Moyo and 2,843 at Koy. The Moyo school has 779 students & 8 teachers in 8 classrooms. The figures for Koy are 467 students, 6 teachers & 5 classrooms. Specified needs are: mills for APEs and other camp committees, wheelchair tricycles for the disabled, sewing machines for girls, school books and training materials, access to university for those (now one) eligible to go, school sports, solar power and a water well for the Haraze health center,

We talked about MINURCAT's departure. MINURCAT was the UN peacekeeping force in E and SE Chad from 2008 to 2010. It left behind masses of equipment (cars, generators, etc.). As soon as it was gone, according to Charles every prefect and minister who could get there came and appropriated the stuff for personal use. This is the kind of activity that need go on if the Chad is to maintain its ranking as the fifth most corrupt country in the world. Charles also told us that part of the lawlessness in adjoining CAR was created by out of control units of the Chadian army.

**May 19.** We first met with the district Secretary General (the Prefect being absent). Of all the meetings Bill has had with Prefects and Secretary Generals, this was the most substantive. The S/G ran down the usual list of needs in health, education and economic opportunity, but was most energized by the predicament of pregnant young girls. The population in the Am Timen area is highly dispersed and transportation is primitive. As a consequence many pregnant girls facing any kind of medical complication die en route to the health center in Haraze or the hospital in Am Timen.

On our way from the S/G's office to Moyo camp, we saw an ostrich standing near a group of soldiers. When asked for their permission to photograph it (Bill having learned his lesson in Moundou), they said sure, for \$100. At Moyo we first visited the primary school that the parents manage and support financially. Although parents pay fees, they have difficulty in paying teachers. School needs were described to us both by the fathers and mothers (in Arabic, these folks do not speak French). The needs -- books, uniforms (to even out a dress disparity that keeps some poor girls away from school), desks, an office, an adult literacy program, a secondary school (the school in Haraze is a 22km. roundtrip), equipment for sport, more classrooms, a kindergarten, money to support the 2-4 students who are eligible to go to university, training in sewing and other female activities, & food at the school (many children now go home at 10-11 to get food & do not come back). Even teachers sometimes leave early to get something to eat: they feel free to go since they are not paid on time. The parents need activities and jobs for girls. As it is, there is a strong preference for early marriage to prevent bored girls from becoming promiscuous. What else to do other than get married? They also expressed a need for seeds so that they could grow & sell surplus food to support the school.

We then went on to the Koy camp. We met in a classroom in a tent with homemade furniture. HCR ran out of money before it could build permanent structures. Both camps will get real buildings next year. The needs were the same as at Moyo plus reference to a mill (moulin) scheme. Mothers obtained a grain mill from ACRA & used the proceeds to pay the teachers. They need another. At both schools the mothers acknowledged that they had not until now realized the importance of education. They do not believe the kids understand that and want to initiate a sensibilization program. The "keeping girls in school question" -- girls get married at puberty, variously described as 12-13 or 14-16. Then they are in the hands of their husbands as to school or not. Why do they get married so young? To prevent relations with men not sanctioned by the family, so that they will not have a child without a husband. Why can't they wait until 18? Once girls get into their teens, they ask for stuff their parents cannot afford, so they go elsewhere. Reverien -- Need an outreach to mothers, find another option, for husbands will not let these girls get an education. One mother -- the underlying problem is poverty. Parents cannot support all their daughters even as they understand the importance of education. If you have 4 daughters, you can only afford school for one. (by the way Nicky's assistant at MSF in Am Timen is 23 and has 8 kids). The director of the school naturally wants teacher training. There are 271 children in the school and they have 22 books. They also need latrines at the school. The ACRA representative is Alnoudji Hetol Nidakoss ([nidakasszozolito@yahoo.fr](mailto:nidakasszozolito@yahoo.fr)).

That afternoon we witnessed a general discussion in Moyo of what the refugees need. The meeting was attended by hundreds of men and women. The needs -- water, a mill, agricultural tools, including machetes, a training center for youth, job skills, access to sports, higher education for those eligible, microfinance opportunities, a secondary school, a kindergarten, and school uniforms. They then presented about 10 petitions to the HCR which clearly has a tough job ahead. Reverien asked the assembled to keep the camp clean and "no more stealing."

Before a tour of the health centers at Koy and Moyo, we met with the district medical officer at the hospital in Haraze. It serves about 20,000 people. They have solar power, but only for a radio given them by MSF in 2008. The small generator is inadequate for their needs. They need a microscope, tools, beds, just about everything, but their biggest needs are their own water supply and electricity. They need a well & a solar powered pump. Who is responsible -- the Ministry of Health. There's the rub. The rural health centers are staffed by matrons. The sick come by bike, motorbike, ox cart & on foot. Fuel for their generator is a drain on their budget. It is the referral hospital for the camps. They are capable of doing serious surgery. Deaths in childbirth occur on the way from the sticks to the hospital or when the doctor is not in town (in fact, he was on our planes from Am Timen to Goz Beida & on to N'Djamena). The biggest cause of death -- reproductive health, during pregnancy, because the girls are too young, the babies are too big for their small bodies. Then measles & diarrhea. MSF has a program to vaccinate against measles and polio. Chad is one of only 5 countries that has not eradicated polio (because of the nomadic lifestyle) and one of only five where life expectancy decreased from 2000-09.

**May 21-24.** We were at the Zakouma game preserve. It is a mixed bag. The rooms are quite nice, no complaints. Unlike Haraze there are real toilets that flush without priming and real showers with hot water. You can on occasion see antelope, monkeys and baboons in the camp. There is beer and the food ranges from not bad to I'd rather not. On the down side: The a/c is only on from (erratically) 3-6 pm and 9:30pm to 3:00 am. When it is not on it is very hot, well in excess of 110 degrees. Further on the down side is the anxiety of whether we could pay with dollars when they wanted euros. And the further anxiety about how to get back to Am Timen, 2 hours away for the flight on Wednesday morning to N'Djamena which, were we to miss it, would lead to a domino effect of unhappy consequences. Finally there are our health problems. Sara has not really eaten in about 4 days. Bill had a day or so off color in Haraze, but has been OK until we were bold enough on the money front to take our first (and last) ride to see the wild life. It was 4 hours over very bumpy terrain in an ancient vehicle that had no springs or cushions.

Probably we were out so long because the driver was anxious that we see all the great stuff. Sara did see a lion. We saw at least 10 specie of antelope and gazelle, the tip of a hippo (at least the driver said that's what we were looking at), many crocodiles, many buffalo, ostriches, many monkeys & baboons, wart hogs and fabulous birds, big & small. But no elephants or giraffes. Fortunately we have both been on safari in Kenya so it is not the loss of a once in a lifetime chance.

It turns out we aere the camp's last guests for the season. It closes from June 1 to November 1, first for the rainy season, then for the repairs (to the roads) caused by the rains. Among the great birds we saw were the black crowned crane, the African fish eagle and many types of storks. Sara became friendly with our (the) waiter, Salaam. Early one morning he came by her room to ask if she wanted to see a lion. She got me and we followed Salaam on foot for 5-6 minutes to the edge of a giant ravine or dry riverbed. On the other side was a lioness who stayed

in view for 5-10 minutes. The story is that some of the employees had gone to the viewing spot by chance. In the ravine they saw a fight between the lion and a buffalo. The buffalo won, the lion was injured and limped off. Then Salaam came to get us. Local viewing from the restaurant veranda includes monkeys, baboons and antelope. We saw 1 lion, 3 gazelle and 5 warthogs on the drive out of the park.

**May 26.** N'Djamena. We first met with Jean Gabin Abanga of the Ecobank to try to clear up what has happened to the \$690 (270,887 CFA) we sent to the Beureuh APE (parents' association) for football uniforms and equipment on November 26, 2010. We do not know where it has been hiding since the bank received it on Nov. 29, but there is no doubt that it is in the correct account now. In fact, there is over \$1,000 (518,885 CFA) in the account, the difference a consequence of having some money left over from the field construction phase.

We also met with Dr. Dougla of CSSI (Jean Naissenger was out of town). We told him that we would be in touch about the solar projects in Yaroungou, Moula and Maro shortly after we get back to Santa Barbara. He confirmed that it would be better to wait until we have the funds for all three projects than to do them piecemeal as the funds allow. He then introduced us to Ali Ganedorgul ([aliganedorgul@yahoo.fr](mailto:aliganedorgul@yahoo.fr)), the chap they suggest for CRF field staff. He looks to be in his 40s or a bit older. He is fluent in French (no English). He is a teacher of applied sciences, (we take to be ) retired. He has experience training teachers to work in refugee camps, and did so for UNICEF in Abeche for the eastern camps. We described our operations at length. Ali is rather quiet, but the circumstances must have been difficult for him. Since he will be working for CSSI as well as for us, they have a reasonable incentive to pick someone competent. The very good news is that CSSI will pay part of his salary. Since Jean was not there, we did not talk about numbers. Before we begin that dance Bill will try to find out from Keita about how much Chadian staff working for a Chadian NGO might expect to be paid. We agreed with Dr. Dougla that our formal arrangement will be with CSSI, not Ali

Side information. On **May 25** we flew from Am Timen to N'Djamena via Goz Beida, close to the Darfur border, where we spent several hours waiting for the next flight. Marc Ramadji, my old student, is working for HCR in Goz Beida and came to the "airport" for a chat. But we spent most of our time there talking to Nicky, a woman from Leeds who has been working for MSF in the hospital at Am Timen and, suffering from malaria herself, was on the way to a hospital in N'Djamena. We had visited the Am Timen hospital that morning because our driver's sister was a patient there (C section). It was a pretty appalling scene. Very crowded, many malnourished children, many girls very pregnant and very young. Nicky, who works in logistics, recited some horrendous figures. Before MSF arrived, close to 40% of babies born in the hospital died as did about 20% of the mothers. Bad hygiene was the main culprit. Those figures have been reduced to the 1-3% range. She has been there about 6 months and in all that time only one of the hundreds of mothers about to deliver was NOT circumcised. She described the circumcision ritual in some gruesome entail. All in all, you almost have to have been there (the Am Timen/Haraze area), to understand how primitive, how unaffected by modern life, are the living conditions for the people. By the way, MSF is a tough organization.

At Am Timen they have no a/c, no showers, and they are not permitted to use the internet connection for anything but work and email. They start to work at 5:30 am and keep it up until late at night. Am Timen is considered one of their most difficult posts and some of the employees take pleasure in being "the toughest of the tough." It is like being at fire base Restrepo.

## **Appendix A**

### **Medical Supplies Delivered to the District Hospital in Goré, Chad on May 14, 2011**

4x4 gauze sponges (45)  
4x4 T-Drain sponges (10)  
2x2 gauze sponges (35)  
2x2 gauze pads (200)  
2x3 dressing (10)  
3x4 Non-adherent Sterile pads (10)  
3x8 dressing  
1.5x3" knuckle pieces (100)  
3 Band aids (200)  
Stethoscope (1)  
Blood pressure gauge (1)  
2 Spectravite multivitamins (365)  
2 Kaletra (120)  
7 ACCU-CHEK test strips (50)  
2 Ceftriaxone (25 vials)  
2 0.9 sodium chloride Injection (25)  
10 Omron digital thermometers  
2 Suture removal kit (1)  
Albuterol Sulphate (25)  
4 Welch Allyn soft cuffs  
Latex examination gloves (100)  
High Potency B Maxi Complex (60)  
4" elastic bandages (10)  
6" elastic bandages (10)  
Four 2x2 elastic bandages (10)  
Blood pressure monitor  
Prep tray  
Small LifeSource BP cuff  
Ear loop procedure masks (50)  
Triple antibiotic tube  
Aviva diabetes monitoring kit  
BD E-Z 3% chloroxylenol scrub brushes (30)  
McKesson standard aneroid sphygmomanometer



Lancets (3000)

Alcohol preps (100)

Curad triple antibiotic ointment (15)