

NEWSLETTERS 1-7

Newsletters 1-7 were compromised when we introduced a revised website. We have not been able to recreate the pictures that were included in those Newsletters. We here provide the text that accompanied the missing pictures.

Newsletter 1 – April 2010

Opportunities Seized: Complications Faced.

CRF Board members in their fifth mission to south Chad encountered both opportunities and complications as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees transforms relief operations into support for integrating 70,000 refugees into the local economy and state apparatus. This move has brought several powerful European NGO's to the scene.

CRF is cooperating with each of them. With Johanniter of Germany it will provide **solar power** for lighting in one and for refrigeration in five rural health centers. It will augment the efforts of COOPI of Italy to increase agricultural production by funding the purchase of **oxen and plows**. It will aid ACRA, also of Italy, by buying **schoolbooks** for thousands of primary and secondary school students. And ACTED of France and CRF will work together on **water and sanitation** projects.

Efforts to help refugees ignore at their peril the plight of local populations. CRF's provision of wheelchair tricycles, structures at the CAR border, and construction of the Beureh school and football field for the children of Gore, the village in which the UNHCR headquarters is located, include the local population as well as refugees.

Working with refugees in a very poor and rather unstable environment, CRF expects, and encounters, difficulties. The two most salient at the moment are devising with the UNHCR a scheme to facilitate repairs to the wheelchair tricycles provided in 2008, and making sure that girls have equal opportunity to use facilities funded by CRF, such as the football field at Beureh school.

Campaign Exceeds Goal

CRF conducted an email campaign to raise the funds needed to meet its short-term need for funding projects in Chad. The campaign was organized around emails sent to the contacts of Board members. Four thousand five hundred messages raised \$40,435 from 150 donors, an average of \$270. Donations were received from seven countries and thirteen states. In the past, there was a gap of up to six months between project approval and funding. As a result of the campaign, that lag will now disappear.

Donations Go Directly to Chad: Expenses Kept to Minimum

CRF raised \$74,000 in 2009 and transferred \$75,000 to projects in Chad. Expenses were \$2,575, or 0.3% of donations. The bottom line is that 97% of every dollar donated to CRF goes to work in Chad.

In the two full years of its operation, 2008 and 2009, CRF has provided \$101,300 to projects and delivered \$108,000 of medicines, medical equipment and vitamins to doctors in Chad; the total aid provided tops \$209,000. Adding in projects in the pipeline for which funds are in hand total assistance to date is \$254,000.

An Award & a Film Star

Catherine Swysen, CRF Vice-President, was given the 2009 Justice R.W. Abbe Humanitarian Award by the Santa Barbara Bar Association for a “life that exemplifies humanitarian principles.” Bill Felstiner, CRF president, was featured in a film on the humanitarian activities of graduates of the Phillips Exeter Academy that has been shown to over 1,400 graduates and friends of that world-renowned secondary school.

Newsletter 2 – October 2010

It is not always clear what kind of assistance will be useful. With UNICEF & CARE, we built a secondary school for refugee and local children in Beureuh village in south Chad. We then asked the students what they most needed. The unequivocal answer was a FOOTBALL FIELD. Some of us were not initially excited by the prospect of supporting recreation in the face of real needs in health, protection and income generating activities. But we built the field. Our reservations were overwhelmed by the sheer excitement and joy that it has provided to hundreds of children and their families. And more: a chance for refugees and the local population to work on a common project and a place where equal opportunities for girls became a cause.

A girls’ game on 10 October 2010. Kathy Kemp, a UCSB graduate student and CRF intern was at the field that day. Here is an edited excerpt from her report.

A tournament was scheduled since 10/10/10, a Sunday. Two games, in each case a refugee team against a team of local kids. One game for boys, the other for girls. The school authorities were content to let the girls use the uniforms because they were more likely than boys to return them. The girls looked great.

Each time there was a goal in the boys’ game, the crowd went wild and stormed the field.

At the beginning of the girls’ game, the crowd laughed at their lack of skill. They tended to play like small children on a youth soccer team. They did not know about positions and formations. But they did know about passion and competitive spirit. They were not afraid to get dirty, and they played rough. The locals scored first, and the crowd stormed the field. That changed the mood.

Thereafter, the crowd just enjoyed the game and stopped mocking the style of play. The girls really wanted to win, and the crowd came to admire their passion and pride. The locals won, 1-0.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees in the south is working to integrate the refugees into the local economy and culture. It mobilizes resources that benefit locals as well as refugees. In aid of that effort, CRF intends to build a second football field, in the town of Gore itself. The cost of the field and associated equipment is \$8,000.

CRF President Bill Felstiner returned from his sixth mission to Chad in in October. While there, he conducted negotiations with CSSI (a Chadian NGO) about a partnership to provide solar power for lighting and refrigeration at Dosseye camp, with ACTED (a French NGO) about a water and sanitation project, and with ACRA (an Italian NGO) about plans to provide incentives to keep girls in secondary school. He also delivered 16,000 units of Vitamin A (provided by Vitamin Angels of Santa Barbara) to health authorities in Gore.

The CRF World Refugee Day Event on June 20, 2010 worked well. With the locale, wine, and food donated by Wendy Foster and Pierre La Fond and the music by Connie Barr, the no-expense event raised \$15,000, derived equally from tickets, donations and the silent auction. We will do it again in June 2011.

Newsletter 3 -- February 2011

Girls and sport. An important combination. Fun, confidence identity, teamwork. In addition to the Beureuh Red Sox, Chad Relief Foundation is also outfitting the Giants, Dodgers, Padres and Blue Jays.

Solar power replaces kerosene. Cheaper and less dangerous. Chad Relief Foundation is adding solar refrigerators to solar lighting projects in four refugee camps.

Producing an agricultural surplus is the highest priority at Yaroungou. Chad Relief Foundation has provided 30 oxen and plow sets to groups of farmers at that camp.

Newsletter 4 -- July 2011

On a recent mission to Chad we completed arrangements for the installation of solar power for lighting and refrigeration at Yaroungou, Moula and Maro health centers. We interviewed a former teacher to act as field staff for CRF in Gore. We laid the groundwork for a program of Vitamin A distribution in the three Gore camps. We discussed a program of assistance to the district hospital in Gore. We inspected the solar installations at Beureuh and Dosseye. We delivered \$900 worth of medicines and medical equipment (donated to CRF by DRI) to the district hospital in Gore.

We were present at the inauguration of the CRF funded football field in Gore. We negotiated an arrangement to fund football shoes for the three girls' teams in the Gore league.

We laid the groundwork for funding the purchase of books and teacher-training materials for primary schools in the Maro area, for the construction of a football field serving the Koy and Moyo camps and the provision of subsidies to youth committees in the three Gore camps.

We reviewed the wheelchair/tricycle repair scheme underway at the three Gore camps.

We reviewed the program of protection of women and children in the Gore camps with officials in N'Djamena and Gore, and noted the apparent positive changes in attitudes toward domestic and sexual violence.

We established a procedure at Ecobank, N'Djamena, that should eliminate any hitches and delays in wire transfers of funds to Chad.

We delivered 44 football uniforms donated by the Santa Barbara Soccer Club to the school administration at Beureuh. These uniforms were stolen the next night. A police investigation is under way.

Newsletter 5 -- April 2012

Renewed focus on Health and Education

Catherine and Bill have returned from their eighth mission to the refugee camps in southern Chad, where they inspected CRF projects involving solar power, secondary education, distribution of medicines and medical equipment, protection of women and children and football (soccer) facilities.

After extensive discussions with UNHCR officials, the CRF Board decided to concentrate its future support on projects in health and education. The first step was to arrange with Santa Barbara's Vitamin Angels and N'Djamena's Centre de Support en Sante Internationale for the shipment and distribution of 23,000 doses of Vitamin A (essential for brain development before age 6) for refugees and local children.

As an example of the difficult logistics faced in Chad, CRF arranged that the vitamins get to Moyo by Fedex from Santa Barbara to the Centre de Support en Sante Internatioale in N'Djamena, then by UN Humanitarian Air Service plane to Am Timan, and finally by being driven by a UN convoy for five hours over rutted roads to Haraze.

Newsletter 6 -- July 2012

After five years of operations, we thought it appropriate to provide our supporters with a summary of our activities. So here it is:

CRF Assistance to Refugees in southern Chad, 2007-2012
(as of June 21, 2012)

Projects:

Wheelchair/tricycles (stage 1)	\$10,500
Wheelchair/tricycles (stage 2)	8,300
Wheelchair/tricycles (stage 3)	3,000
Wheelchair/tricycles (stage 4)	11,491
Border structures	15,500
Beureuh school (stage 1)	39,000
Beureuh school (stage 2)	2,200
Oxen and plows	20,400
Mosquito nets	5,000
Solar power/health centers (Gore)	30,000
Solar power/health centers (Maro)	51,000
Protection women/children	31,800
Soccer (Beureuh)	5,350
Soccer (Gore 1)	6,500
Soccer (Gore 2)	2,400
Football (Haraze)	6,850
Vitamin A distribution	2,541

Total projects \$251,832

Medicines and Medical Equipment:

AmeriCares (01/09)	\$78,864
Quinine sulfate (3/08)	500
DRI 1 (10/08)	28,854
DRI 2 (05/11)	900
Antibiotics (05/12)	26,000
Scales (05/12)	1,647
Misc. med equipment (05/12)	1,289
FedEx shipping (02/12)	1,637
FedEx shipping (05/12)	3,397

Total medicines & medical equipment \$142,788

Vitamin A (over 50,000 doses)

Hand carry 1 (10/10)	\$233
Hand carry 2 (1/10) (estimated)	233
Shipment 1 (10/11)	210
Shipment 2 (1/12)	211

Total Vitamin A	\$887
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Grand total	\$394,807
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Newsletter 7 -- August 2012

The International Center for the Support of Health in N'Djamena (CSSI) has started a program to distribute multivitamins (including iron and folic acid) to pregnant and lactating women in five UNHCR refugee camps in south Chad. The first 11,880 doses were shipped to Chad on August 14, 2012.

In conjunction with the Italian NGO Rural Cooperation in Africa and Latin America (ACRA) we have initiated a program to improve the schools in refugee camps outside of Haraze. The project, the second most ambitious in CRF's history, organizes a campaign to persuade families to send children to school and keep them there, provides books, desks and other school materials, and institutes a teacher training program.