

A large, solid orange triangle pointing downwards, serving as a background for the word 'triangle'.

triangle

GENERATION HUMANAIRE

A stylized world map composed of small orange squares, with several black dots placed on various continents.

annual activity report

Triangle Génération Humanaire

year 2009

summary

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**Triangle Génération Humanitaire
is an International Solidarity Organization founded in 1994**

The NGO integrates emergency, rehabilitation and development within its programmes. It takes the lead on the programmes it conceives together with local partners through the identification and mobilization of local resources and capacities. This approach aims at responding as closely as possible to the needs expressed by the beneficiaries by proposing global and sustainable answers towards the autonomy of the people benefiting from these programmes.

The organization is mainly funded by public institutions and for some parts by private institutions and individual donations. Regularly submitted to audits carried out by the funders, the NGO proved its capacity to handle public funds, enabling it to implement sustainable programmes. The small proportion of private donors corresponds to a choice not to invest into communication and marketing programmes. The NGO favours a work of information through its Website and its *newsletters*.

The satisfaction of its beneficiaries is the first criteria for Triangle G H to measure its performance. Aid is brought without any form of discrimination. The NGO acts totally independently. It is run by an elected board.

Based on common values such as listening and reactivity, space for living and expressing personal commitment and sharing know how, the NGO stands for “human size”, professionalism and pragmatism. Triangle G H also wishes to preserve and value the notion of NGO in the sense of “people sharing activities with another target than merely sharing profits”.

Within a comprehensive approach, the NGO developed three core areas of expertise integrating different projects:

- **Water, hygiene, sanitation and civil engineering,**
- **Rural development & food security,**
- **Socio-educational & psychosocial,**

This multi-sectors and interactive approach aims at answering the populations' main needs.

In order to implement its programmes, the NGO receives the support of numerous partners and institutional funders among which: the Co-operation Office EuropeAid and the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO), the United Nations Refugees Agency (UNHCR), the Inter-ministerial Food Aid Committee (CIAA), the Crisis Unit (CDC) of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Development Agency (AFD), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Fondation de France, the Rhône-Alpes Region.

preamble

This preamble is usually the opportunity to remember the events which marked the past year. For 2009, we will keep in mind the only date of November 22nd. It is 11PM in Central African Republic. We are in Birao, more than a thousand kilometres away from the capital city of Bangui, at the far North of the country.

As required by security procedures, our team is inside the base since the night has fallen. Struggles for power favoured the rebellion of politico-military groups keeping the country in a permanent state of instability. In addition to the refugees in Cameroun, Chad or Sudan, the number of displaced people within the country is estimated at 100.000 people.

Here, Triangle G H strives to maintain a certain level of food security and to create the conditions for a sustainable improvement of the access to drinking water and education. Olivier F. is the programmes co-ordinator in that region and Olivier D. is in charge of the WatSan¹. The former has been working on the field since September, after having worked for us in Sudan, in Darfur for a year. Olivier D. arrived in October, after having also completed a mission in Darfur. Both are young, less than thirty years old, but nevertheless experienced, and most of all, strongly committed to humanitarian action. So, it is 11 PM, and gunshots ring out in the close vicinity of the place where our team is posted. Respectful of the procedures, they shelter in a dedicated room and inform by radio the MINURCAT (United Nations Mission for the Central African Republic and Chad) located nearby. But everything goes very fast. The doors fly into pieces, the base is quickly looted, and the group of around fifteen armed men take off with two of our vehicles full of equipment, taking with them Olivier F. and Olivier D. We have been quickly informed and were hoping during the first hours that it was just a kidnapping to cover the escape of the looters. Unfortunately, that was not the case... Olivier F. and Olivier D. have been held in captivity for more than three months.

March 14th, 2010 will put an end to 112 days of worry and waiting for their families, friends and work colleagues. Olivier F. and Olivier D. are safe. The work undertaken in this Central African region continues, driven from a distance with reinforced safety procedures. Nevertheless, humanitarian workers are nowadays highly threatened. Heavy risks weigh on them whereas their presence on the different fields of action is absolutely necessary.

1 - Water, Hygiene and Sanitation

Programmes completed or in progress

algeria

[western sahara]



Western Sahara is located north-west of Africa. Its west coast overlooks the Atlantic and is bordering Morocco (north), Algeria (north-east), and Mauritania (east and south).

Spain established its protectorate over Western Sahara in 1884. During the decolonization, the latter becomes the core of a territorial conflict regarding its frontiers and its affiliation: it is at the same time claimed by Morocco (north) and Mauritania (south). Concurrently, a political and armed movement – the Polisario Front, created in 1973 to resist Spanish occupation – is opposed to any form of annexation of the territory.

In 1975, the Spanish government signs an agreement with Morocco and Mauritania, dividing the territory between the two countries. In 1976 the Polisario Front proclaims the Democratic Saharawi Arab Republic (DSAR), and the armed struggle against the Moroccan and Mauritanian forces organizes and intensifies, generating between 1975 et 1976 massive migration of populations towards the refugee camps of Tindouf, South Algeria. In 1979, the Polisario Front signs a peace treaty with Mauritania. In 1991, a mediation carried out by the United Nations leads to a ceasefire putting an end to the armed struggle. This ceasefire should have been followed by a referendum on self-determination, which has never been organized because of permanent disagreements.

The territory is claimed at the same time by Morocco — who calls it « Moroccan Sahara » — and by the DSAR, supported by Algeria, whose objective is total independence in Western Sahara.

The United Nations, considering that Western Sahara has been a territory without administration since the departure of the Spanish, still mention it on its list as a non autonomous territory.

Today, the territory is divided by a wall built in the 1980' by Morocco who occupies 80% of the territory located west of this wall, the remaining 20% being under the control of the Polisario Front.

A few socio-economic indicators

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Population (in millions) | 0.405 |
| Population growth | 2.83%/year |
| GDP / Inhabitant | US\$2500 |
| Life expectancy | 54.3 years |

● Humanitarian situation

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP), nearly 160,000 people have been living in the four refugee camps located around Tindouf, in the very heart of the desert, in a state of chronic emergency, for more than 30 years. Their situation is precarious and their identified needs are basic: food security, healthcare, drinking water and sanitation facilities, tents and everyday life consumption products.

Olli Rehn, commissioner in charge of development and humanitarian aid in ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission) declared: «These refugees are the victims of one of the oldest conflicts “frozen” and forgotten. As long as the conflict does not find a political and diplomatic outcome, the refugees will keep relying on international aid to survive ».

Sources : http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahara_occidental
Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO)

● Triangle G H in Western Sahara

Two successive surveys were carried out in 2000 within the Saharawi refugee camps.

The NGO interventions started in 2001 with a programme aiming at building and providing equipment to care centres, thus supporting the social services for disabled people. As a consequence, some 300 children and adults benefitted from healthcare, specialized education and entertaining income generating activities.

Triangle G H currently carries out several projects: distribution of hygiene kits made of basic products (soap, shampoo, washing powder, sanitary towels), production of bleach for the Saharawi institutions (hospitals among others), support to centres for disabled people, maintenance of the fleet of vehicles used for the water and food distributions, management of the Rabouni base hosting the offices and accommodations of international organizations and institutions.

Distribution of hygiene kits to Saharawi women, disabled or elderly people in Saharawi Refugee Camps, South of Tindouf, Algeria

- **Funding: ECHO** (Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission)
- **Budget: 900 K€**
- **Duration: 10 months** (November 2008 - August 2009)



Owing to the extremely harsh living conditions of Saharawi refugees, hygiene in the camps has been identified as a priority. Between 2000 and 2002, funded by ECHO, a consortium of NGOs² purchased and distributed hygiene kits for the Saharawi community.

In 2004, the Association of Algerian Women for Development (AFAD) implemented a hygiene kits packaging workshop. This initiative developed into a project covering purchase and packaging of kits for women. The kit contained a packet of 10 sanitary towels for menstruation and one bar of soap. The project ended on May 20, 2005.

When the NGO Consortium and the AFAD distributions almost totally ceased, the community was noticeably affected; the products -representing a non-negligible expense- had to be purchased by the refugees themselves. Unable to pay for the supplementary purchase of sanitary pads (and other personal hygiene items), a considerable number of women reverted to former customs such as using pieces of cloth that were washed after use. According to health experts, such practises led to major health repercussions such as the emergence of infectious diseases and the rise of genital and dermatological diseases among women refugees.

Between November 2005 and July 2006, thanks to funding from ECHO, Triangle G H ran two distributions of 33,000 kits. Each kit included 2 packets of 10 sanitary pads, 2 soaps (300 g item) and 1 bottle of shampoo (250 ml).

Within the framework of the current programme, still supported by ECHO, the kit now includes washing powder, responding to a strong demand from the beneficiaries during previous projects. 4 distributions of 38, 450 kits were organized, targeting 38, 000 women from previous projects and 450 young women attending the boarding school « 12 octobre ». Each kit includes 2 packets of 10 sanitary pads, 4 soaps (300 g item), 1 bottle of shampoo (500 ml) and 1 pack of washing powder (500 g). The kit for disabled persons includes a toilet set, 1 towel, 1 soap (300 g item) and 1 bottle of shampoo (500 ml).

Between September 2006 and September 2007, again thanks to two successive ECHO funding, Triangle G H distributed 38,000 kits five times and conducted a KAP survey (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices). The results and recommendations of this survey clearly showed that a third hygiene kits distribution programme is required.

2 - In the 90's, Oxfam-Solidarité took the initiative to create a Consortium of European NGOs bringing humanitarian aid to Saharawi refugees.

Extracts from the recommendations about distributing kits: "There is a need to increase the contents and adapt it to family requirements. The soap, sized to suit a single person's personal hygiene, serves the entire family for multiple purposes. For the same reasons, a one-person bottle of shampoo is sometimes consumed within two days. Women frequently resort to applying several sanitary towels at the same time to guarantee absorbance or using towels as panty liners".

This new programme is the outcome of Triangle G H's two distribution programmes and the results and recommendations of the KAP survey (conducted between January and March 2007). Regular consultations took place throughout the assessments, particularly with the community, the representatives of Saharawi women and the authorities.

Between September 2007 and September 2009, thanks to ECHO sponsorship, Triangle G H increased the quantity of kits to meet the needs identified and performed 6 distributions of 38,000 kits, e.g. one distribution every two months, along with 1,393 toilet sets for disabled people. Each kit contained 2 packages of 10 sanitary towels, 4 soaps (300 gr.) and 1 bottle of shampoo (500 ml). The kits for disabled people contained a toilet bag, 1 towel, 1 soap (300 g) and 1 bottle of shampoo (500 ml).



Unloading
and distribution
in one of
the target areas

Improvement of the hygiene conditions of women and disabled people



- **Funding: ECHO**
(Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission)
- **General Budget: 900 K€**
- **Duration: 12 months** (September 2009 - August 2010)



An extension of the previous programme, this project aims to improve the hygiene conditions of Saharawi refugees. The main targets are women and disabled people living in Aoussert, El Aioun, Dakhla, Smara and 27 Février refugee camps, south of Tindouf, in Algeria. 38,450 women and 1,393 disabled people directly benefit from this programme.

The evaluation carried out by Triangle G H during a previous project, allowed us to identify new needs, particularly in the field of hygiene promotion. The hygiene kits distribution project was therefore strengthened with the organization of hygiene awareness sessions for the women and girls who had received the kit.

The main tasks linked to the programme are:

- Preparation and launching of bids for tenders;
- Supply and transportation of the products to Tindouf;
- Kits' packaging ;
- Distribution of kits in the wilayas (administrative divisions of the camps);
- Monitoring distributions ;
- Monitoring post-distribution aspects;
- Training the hygiene-promotion intermediaries (women);
- Implementing the hygiene promotion material;
- Preparing the content of the hygiene promotion sessions;
- Implementing the hygiene awareness sessions

Support to Saharawi refugees

- **Funding: UNHCR** (United Nations Refugee Agency)
- **Global budget: 1 500 K\$**
- **Duration: 12 months** (January 2009 – December 2009)

This project is the extension of a partnership started with the UNHCR in 2001. The totality of the activities carried out in 2008 has been renewed in 2009, with an intensification of the medical activities (supply of consumable products and radiology equipment), as well as the creation of family gardens in Dakhla.

● Assistance to disabled people

This programme was enhanced in 2002 thanks to the building and equipment of a second home for disabled children and young adults in the camp of Dakhla in partnership with the UNFS (National Union of Saharawi Women). Furthermore, in order to take better care of 182 young disabled children, Triangle extended the training of Saharawi staff (group leaders and youth workers) to all the other camps.

A micro-credit pilot experience was implemented as well in the camp of Dakhla. In 2003 a third special education centre was built in El Ayouné. Furthermore, the micro-credit project (creation of stalls selling everyday products generating income used to help disabled people and their families) was extended to three other camps: Ausserd, El Ayouné and Smara.

In 2009, work in the mechanical repair workshop continued, and so did our support to care structures for disabled people (maintenance of the centres, equipment supply, capacity building of the local staff...).

● Bleach production unit

A small bleach production unit was created in 2003 in order to supply institutions. Bleach production and distribution to hospitals, schools... have been ongoing since 2005.

● Repair and maintenance of the ambulances and trucks used for water and food distribution

This programme, run in partnership with the Ministry of Transport, set up a mechanical repair workshop for the ambulance and truck fleet, the latter being used for water and food distribution.

● Management and maintenance of the UNHCR operational base in Rabouni and Dakhla

● Health project

Supply of consumable articles, radiology equipment, stomatology items, medication, laboratory products and financial compensation for the medical staff (31 healthcare practitioners).



Interview of Mehdi BOUAZIZ / April 2009

Triangle G H's Head of Mission / Algeria

By Véronique Valté –Triangle G H's member of the Board of Directors

Medhi Bouaziz, Triangle G H's Head of Mission for almost eight years, speaks with great passion about his work in the field and the strong links that have grown between Triangle G H teams, the Saharawis, Algerians and expats, local institutions and Saharawi authorities.

Triangle has a long history with the Saharawi people...

Indeed, Triangle G H started working with the Saharawi refugees back in 2000. First, with a programme to support disabled people, then with the construction and equipment of centres for the disabled. The partnership launched in 2000 with the UNHCR³ is still running in several programmes. Initially, it wasn't easy for Triangle G H to position itself in the camps; much perseverance, work and listening skills were needed. Today, we are truly recognized and appreciated with programmes doubtlessly improving the living conditions of populations, which remain harsh over the years in spite of collective efforts.

What is the current status of the programmes ?

We are continuing our « historical » work with disabled people through the management of 3 centres built by us, and where education and vocational training are available. Furthermore, we have extended the micro-credit project to three other camps: Ausserd, El Ayoune and Smara. The micro-credit project establishes stalls selling basic goods. The income generated helps support disabled people and their families.

We are still managing the mechanical workshop (launched in 2002) catering to water and goods supply trucks, ambulances and vehicles used by NGOs working for the UNHCR, e.g. a total fleet of 78 vehicles. This highly professional workshop now employs 20 people. In 2003, Triangle G H had the idea of building a bleach-making centre to serve the camps' hospitals and health centres, and for consumption water. The bleach centre now employs 4 people in Rabouni. In 2008, with 8.000 litres of raw material, we produced 35.400 litres of bleach. We also ensure the management and maintenance of the UNHCR's operational base in Rabouni and Dakhla, the supply of consumable goods, radiology and stomatology equipment, medication, laboratory products, and the remuneration of the health teams (31 health professionals).

Since 2005, for the 4th consecutive year, we are partnering with ECHO⁴ on various projects: for instance, distribution of hygiene kits (soap, shampoo, washing powder, sanitary towels) to 38,000 women (4 distributions planned till August 2009) in Aoussert, El Ayoune, Dakhla, Smara and « 27 février » camps.

3 - United Nations Refugee Agency

4 - Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission

How do you imagine the mission's future ?

We are comparable to a small firm today, with 40 local employees and 3 expatriates. From the start, Triangle G H has aimed to empower the local workforce skills, especially by giving project management to Saharawi people. It is also important to mention that, thanks to the bonus system that we distribute to the staff in the centres for the disabled and the health centres, over 80 people are directly involved impacted by Triangle G H funding. It is difficult to describe the future, but in strictly humanitarian terms, I have seen the situation improving over the years. Our presence in the camps has a material impact, but it also affects each actor personally – and that is priceless.

Source : Newsletter April 2009



Interview of Mr. Bouhabini Yahia / April 2009

President of the Saharawi Red Crescent,

By Alexandra Harkay - Administrator Triangle G H / Algeria

When and in what circumstances was the Saharawi Red Crescent (SRC) created?

The Saharawi Red Crescent was created on November 26, 1975, just after the Moroccan invasion of Saharawi territories. It was an initiative of Saharawi militants and citizens. At that time, many families had left their homes and had scattered in the desert. The idea of founding the SRC came from the need to respond to the humanitarian crisis. So, like the creation of the ICRC⁵ it was driven by circumstances. Back then, we had few available people and scarce means. All we could rely upon was the determination of Saharawi volunteers. We lacked experience regards organisation and management of humanitarian relief, and we faced many hurdles: the first was the lack of means. The second was the world's unawareness about the humanitarian crisis hitting the Western Sahara.

What were your first actions?

In the face of the humanitarian crisis, we started by uniting families that had been displaced in the desert and organizing their voyage away from the battle field to neighbouring Algerian Sahara. We installed the first camp near the border between the Sahara, Mauritania and Algeria. Tragically, that camp was targeted by Moroccan and Mauritanian bombs which fuelled the displaced people's fear of re-grouping. We had to overcome that issue.

Having reached the Algerian Sahara, we then had to create the minimum conditions to live there. It was a harsh experience because Algeria had never, since its independence, received so many refugees – and in such a remote location, far

5 - International Committee of the Red Cross

from the capital, ports or major towns. We were 1,700km away from the closest port (Oran), virtually without any roads. Logistically speaking, it was very hard to transport humanitarian aid. In addition, the UN only arrived in the camps in 1986. Up till then, we only received aid from Libya and Algeria.

We started by looking for places with water and we found some at Rabouni. However, for security reasons, we hadn't grouped everyone in the same place. We found other water points in the areas that would become the camps of Dakhla and Layoune, and we sent some of the families there.

Finding the water wasn't the only issue: we also had to get tank-trucks that could fill the water tanks in each camp. Before we could obtain such resources, the families – particularly women and children – had to walk miles, in the heat, to fetch water. Indeed, with most men away fighting, the women had to perform hard work.

After that, we had to provide the families with the necessary fuel to prepare food. No gas or coal was available so we organised firewood collection campaigns over a 70 to 120km range around the camps.

To face the problem of shelter, we had to find tarpaulins and tents. This difficulty was alleviated by the fact that most Saharawi families are of Bedouin origin and know how to build camps in the desert.

Once we had secured access to water, food and shelter, we created open-air schools and volunteer-teachers started giving classes. As for the health centre, they were just a few tents with little means and medical equipment. Spanish colonization had left us a single Saharawi doctor.

With all this action, we had no time to organise the actual institution, the structure of the SRC or the training of teams. For a long period, we operated thanks to the work of volunteers who were mainly women.

What is the SRC's role/mandate?

We have the same mission as the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent family and share its principles.

In the camps, we have the mission of identifying needs, priorities and coordination of projects in partnership with the Algerian Red Crescent (ARC). We also work to facilitate the relationship between the Saharawi authorities, the funding agencies and the NGOs.

All the aid for refugees is channelled and directed by the SRC and the ARC. We are particularly involved in distributing food aid: every month 3,000 tons of fresh products and basic food is distributed in the camps. Such work demands good logistical organisation and is costly so the SRC's contribution is essential, especially with regards to fuel, transportation and workforce.

We strongly rely on the big Red Crescent network inside the camps: in each wilaya (camp) we are represented by a regional representative, and in the daïras (communes), by local representatives. We also use distribution groups (groupings of 28 to 30 families), with each headed by an SRC representative. We work with

the teams in charge of monitoring and post-monitoring which plays an essential role in our analysis and identification of needs.

What is the humanitarian situation in the camps at the beginning of 2009?

The situation of Saharawi refugees is exceptional. For 33 years now we have been living in exile, under tents, in a harsh climate (sand winds, heat), with almost no possibility to run income-generating activities, especially in the agricultural sector.

We must also note that the case of Saharawi refugees is not a priority among donors and the media rarely covers the humanitarian tragedy unfolding here. We are in a situation of silent emergency. In fact, ECHO⁶ qualified the Saharawi situation as a « forgotten crisis ». So, whenever we face an emergency, we are its victims.

It is sometimes difficult for the international community to understand the permanent nature of our crisis. The terms, “permanent emergency” do not exist in the humanitarian language. Yet, the Saharawi refugees’ situation is an exception. There is the case of the Palestinian refugees, but a special organisation, the UNRWA⁷, is helping them. The Saharawi refugees are under the protection of the UNHCR...

At the start of this year, as is the case every year, our main preoccupations are access to water, food and tents. They are generally the problems that affect newcomers in the camps. After 33 years, we still have not managed to solve these problems – although they represent the most basic of needs.

Regarding water, for instance, we can’t guarantee the WHO⁸ minimum standard of 15 to 20 litres per person and per day because the tank-trucks distributing water are too old and there is only one water tank for 5000 people.

Between 1997 and 2008, 4 nutritional surveys were performed. The last one revealed a high rate of anaemia among women aged between 15 and 45 years, together with high rates of malnutrition and anaemia among infants aged under 5. The situation is alarming: the level of malnutrition in the camps here is the same rate reported in Darfur refugee camps two years ago. This shouldn’t happen in a stable situation like ours.

The main cause for high rates of anaemia and malnutrition are lack of food and water. We must recall that for Saharawi refugees, the rations (food ration, for ex.) applied match emergency situation standards, as in natural disasters, but this situation has been running on and on!

From a scientific and nutritional point of view, when we report high rates of anaemia and malnutrition, our situation should be declared a “humanitarian emergency.”

As well as the aspects described, we must take into account the global economic and financial problem of which the primary victims are the poor, the refugees, the displaced... we are afraid of 2009. However, the humanitarian organisations and the United Nations are aware of this problem and will do their utmost to avoid crises.

6 - Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission

7 - United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

8 - World Health Organization

What is your agenda for 2009?

We will multiply contacts with donors, international organisations, NGOs, European civil society and the international community to draw their attention to the situation of Saharawi refugees.

We also plan to conclude the reform program that we implemented 3 years ago in our institution. Our objective is to professionalize our work, adjust to international standards and criteria, and increase the transparency of our programmes.

In the aim of strengthening our capacities, this year we will continue to partner up with the Spanish Red Cross, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, ECHO, ICPD (International Committee for People's Development) and the Italian government. In 2009, we will intensify our efforts to accelerate this process.

This year, we launched a reflection group that will study the SRC's history and humanitarian role over 33 years of its existence. The end of these works should coincide with the celebration of our 35th anniversary.

We plan to continue giving women a position of choice and priority: 80% of the local representatives and 50% of the representatives are women. They are elected every 5 years during our general assemblies. To strengthen their capacities, we have implemented training courses about humanitarian project management and information technology.

And in parallel, we will naturally continue our daily work and manage our projects.

What are your relations the NGOs working in the camps, particularly Triangle G H?

The SRC has always paid special attention to NGOs because we consider they play a crucial role in the implementation of humanitarian aid. They are the intermediaries between funding agencies and beneficiaries. They are witnesses in the field.

We have excellent relations with all the NGOs in the camps because, over the years, we have built a relationship of mutual trust. We are very satisfied with the cooperation of NGOs, the UN agencies and the donors.

As for our connection with Triangle G H, it is strong. We have a close dialogue and, thanks to the positive spirit that Triangle G H conveys, we have made progress together. The image of the French NGO is very positive.

Triangle G H runs very useful projects for the refugees (distribution of hygiene kits, centres for disabled people). The NGO has proven its ability to succeed many programmes. It has won the trust and respect of funding agencies such as ECHO and the UNHCR, thanks to transparent management and professionalism of teams. At first it wasn't easy, but after all these years, everybody shares this vision.

Allow me to say that Triangle G H has also won the trust of the Saharawi authorities – despite the challenge of bridging between donors and the authorities.

We have good relations with Triangle G H's team and share a similar vision in terms of running programmes, identifying priorities and needs, and future cooperation.

In the camps, what is the contribution of NGOs?

Almost all the NGOs in the camps today have been working here for years and are specialised in an area: distribution of fresh products (Mondubat), Ramadan programme (Oxfam), maternal-infant health (MdM Espagne), distribution and management of medication (MdM Grèce), SRC capacity strengthening and nutritional surveys (CISP), access to water (Solidaridad internacional), etc.

Thanks to their experience in the camps, every NGO has acquired strong skills, in terms of management, identification of needs and priorities that are specific to our situation. This helps to further strengthen their relationship with SRC.

Thanks to the NGOs, the donor agencies have a deeper understanding of the Saharawi humanitarian crisis. The NGOs also play an important role raising awareness about our situation in the international community. They are powerful witnesses.

Together with the CRE and the ARC, we have all created one big, self-respecting family with complementary actions. Within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation, our collaboration can serve as an example of good practices in the field.

Do you wish to add anything?

The political framework must be separated from the humanitarian context. Indeed, the donor agencies and States sometimes make political decisions that are unfavourable to the Saharawi cause, but such choices must not prevent us from helping the victims, the refugees.

I am aware that we are not the only people living on humanitarian crises; but France is one of the largest donors in the world. We are not asking France to give us "everything"... just a very small amount. We are not asking to become a "French priority"... we just need to be recognized.

For the past 4 years, France has failed to contribute to the WFP⁹ basket. The latter had but 6 donors this year: the USA (approximately 20%), the European Community, Spain, Italy, Canada and Switzerland. Other bilateral contributions for the new WFP programme came from Sweden and Norway. What with the financial and economic crisis, 2009 will be a challenging year.

Geographically speaking, France, like Spain, is very close to our land. It also has many relations with Northern Africa. France is known for its humanitarian principles, its belief in solidarity. So I do not understand why France, who sends aid to distant countries such as Darfur, Central Africa, Afghanistan, Palestinian Territories, etc, fails to contribute to solving the humanitarian crisis lying so close to its door.

Salaam alekum ! / April 2009

By Alexandra Harkay - Administrator Triangle G H / Algeria

The mission in Algeria: straight from the Saharawi Refugee Camps...

Newsletters are generally an opportunity to give news about programmes, describe project progress and share the mood of the field.

Today, exceptionally, we wish to use the newsletter to introduce our team in Algeria and describe the project people without whom nothing would be possible.

We are proud of having a very multinational team, with certain members representing several different ethnical groups. Algerians (Kabyles, Chaouis, Touaregs) are working with Saharawi refugees from various tribes, French nationals and a Belgian. The mood is good with each of us making the necessary efforts to communicate.

Indeed, while Algerian Arabic is the language spoken by the greatest amount of people here, we must also consider other tongues: Hasaniya (the Saharawi language), Spanish (spoken by most of the refugees) and French. You can imagine the atmosphere at internal coordination meetings!

It may be impossible to find a common language, but we all share the same vision and values: that of supporting the Saharawi refugees, of working with and for them through projects aimed at improving the refugees' conditions of living.

Mechanical repair workshop



Distribution of hygiene Kits



Inauguration of the maternity hospital



Distribution of goats



While the living conditions are not always easy (we live in tents, in the Algerian Sahara where extreme temperatures are commonplace), we have the fortune of having « hardliners » among us – people who have been working and “growing” here for years and are always ready to help newcomers with advice and know-how.

Our team, in charge of implementing successfully the 6 projects we have been working on in 2009, is made of approximately sixty people, most of whom are Saharawi refugees. Several of them are heads of missions involved in the global management of the programme.

Their presence, their unfailing support is the cement of our team. They remind us that even in this challenging Tower of Babel, every problem has a solution,



especially when we can count on one another and provide mutual support.



*ةوق ةدحولأ يف ،
la unión hace
la fuerza, l'union
fait la force,
strength lies in
unity..., as we say
in Sahara.*

Part of the
Triangle G H's team

Timeline of the conflict in the Western Sahara

Refugee camp of Aoussert



The history of the Western Sahara is strongly connected to the ones of its neighbours, especially Morocco and Mauritania. The definitive status of this former Spanish Colony did not find any legal solution yet, more than 30 years after the departure of Spanish administration.

Here is a more detailed historical fact sheet about this conflict, from the 60's to nowadays.

1965: Resolution 2072 of the UN General Assembly: the Sahara appears on the list of regions to decolonize (resolution 1514 on the right to self-determination of colonized peoples).

May 10, 1973: Creation of the Polisario Front, the popular front for the Liberation of Saguia El Hamra and Rio de Oro that demands independence.

1975: The International Court of Justice in The Hague rejects Morocco and Mauritania's alleged "historical claim" on Western Sahara.

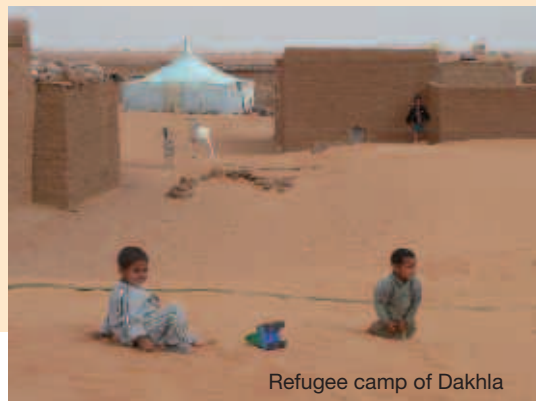
November 6, 1975: The Green march: 350,000 Moroccan civilians invade Saharawi territory.

November 14, 1975: Madrid Accords signed by Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania asserting Spain's withdrawal by 28 February 1976 and the division of territory between Rabat and Nouakchott.

February 27, 1976: Polisario Front declares the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

August 5, 1979: Mauritania and Polisario sign a peace agreement, in Algiers, by which Mauritania renounces its claim to the Western Sahara. Moroccan forces annex the area left by the Mauritanian army.

1981: Construction of an approximately 2,700 km-long defensive wall to separate Polisario-controlled sections and Saharawi refugees (in exile in Tindouf) from the rest of the Saharawi population.



Refugee camp of Dakhla

November 12, 1984: Morocco leaves the Organisation of African Unity following admission of the SADR at the Addis Ababa summit.

August 30, 1988: The UN brokers a peace plan that both protagonists accept: a ceasefire, the organization of a referendum on self-determination and the deployment of a peacekeeping mission, MINURSO.

1991: The UN Security Council unanimously approves the settlement plan, which is based on the Spanish 1974 census of the Saharawi population (74,000 people).

September 6, 1991: The ceasefire goes into force and MINURSO established to ensure the plan is respected.

1997: Former US Secretary of State James Baker nominated United Nations Special Representative to resolve the dispute between Moroccans and Saharawis regarding the issue of the electoral body authorized to decide upon the territory's future.

June 2001: Plan Baker I rejected by the Polisario and Algeria.

January 2003: Plan Baker II calls for the holding of a referendum on self-determination after a four-to-five-year period of internal self-governance. Rejected by Morocco.

July 2005: Peter Van Wasmum nominated personal envoy of the UNSG.

April 2007: Presentation of the Moroccan Autonomy Plan for Western Sahara to the United Nations. Adoption of resolution 1754.

June 2007: First round of negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front, in the presence of neighbouring states Algeria and Mauritania, in Manhasset (New York).

August 2007: Second round of negotiations.

October 2007: Adoption of resolution 1783: mandate of Minurso extended until April 30, 2008, to organize the referendum of Western Sahara.

April 2008: Adoption of resolution 1813: mandate of Minurso extended until April 30, 2009, to organize the referendum of Western Sahara.

January 14, 2009: Christopher Ross nominated Special Envoy of the UNSG.

burkina faso



In the framework of our partnership with the Rhône-Alpes Region, Triangle G H has studied and managed projects presented by local NGOs and communities from Burkina Faso in the “Hauts Bassins” region.

Renovation of the Sports training centre in Matourkou

- Funding: Rhône-Alpes Region
- Budget: 96 K€
- Duration: 17 months (January 2008 - May 2009)

In an effort to provide better and safer student facilities, the director and his team have requested help from the French Rhône-Alpes Region to build two new dormitories and class-rooms, and two toilet units.

Equipment for the classrooms, dormitories and sports sessions will also be provided through this project. Triangle G H has implemented and monitored the works. The renovation was completed in May 2009.

north korea

[democratic people republic of korea]



North Korea, officially the Democratic people Republic of Korea, covers the northern half of the Korean peninsula at the far north-east of Asia. It shares borders with China and Russia in the North, and with the Republic of Korea in the South.

Korea has been occupied by Japan as far as 1905 with the establishment of a protectorate, and later completely annexed in 1910.

The Japanese occupation ends with World War II (1945).

Korea is then divided along the 38th parallel into North and South Korea, respectively ruled by the USSR and the United States.

The Korean War (1950-1953), a consequence of this division, constitutes an indirect war between the USSR and the United States, within the framework of the Cold War (1947-1991) under the form of successive North and South Korean offensives from one side or the other of the border. The division will be maintained at the end of the war.

A demilitarized zone (DMZ) is set up, permanently watched by more than one million soldiers (North-Korean, South-Korean and Americans). North Korea develops its economy and politics according to the national doctrine of the "Juche" ("to act as the master of one's destiny"), following an ideal of self-sufficiency.

The leaders (Kim Il-sung until 1991, then his son Kim Jong-il since 1994) cumulate the government's main functions.

For the past decades, North Korea has been submitted to an American embargo, following non respected agreements on nuclear weapons. In 2002, Korea launches economic reforms (similar to the liberalization measures taken by China in the 90's) lying in a certain form of liberalization in prices and salaries.

A few socio economic indicators

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Capital | P'yŏngyang |
| Regime | A single party dictatorship |
| Population (in millions) | 24 |
| Population growth | 0.464%/year |
| GDP / Inhabitant | US\$555 |
| Economic growth (2007) | 3.739%/year |
| Life expectancy | 63.8 years |

Sources : Official site: <http://www.korea-dpr.com/>
http://www.unicef.org/french/infobycountry/korea_statistics.html
<http://report2009.amnesty.org/fr/regions/asia-pacific/north-korea>
<http://perspective.usherbrooke.ca/bilan/servlet/BMPays?codePays=PRK>
<http://www.courrierinternational.com/fiche-pays/coree-du-nord>
<http://www.courrierinternational.com/dossier/2004/01/07/la-coree-du-nord>
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kn.html>
<http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portail:Cor%C3%A9e>
http://voyageforum.com/voyage/coree_du_nord_coree_nord_D144695/

● Humanitarian situation

The situation of North Korea severely deteriorated in the 1990s, as a consequence of a series of climatic disasters (draughts, floods), of deforestation, but also of the decreased exchanges with Russia and China.

The floods in 2007, as well as the passing of a cyclone, lead the country to ask for international aid. The United Nations estimate the food shortage of North Korea at approximately one fifth of its needs.

However, the presence of NGOs is very scarce, because of restrictions imposed by the government.

● Triangle G H in North Korea

Triangle G H carried out a first survey in August 1998, which led to the opening of a mission in December 2000, with a first programme aiming at supporting the farming sector. Since then, Triangle G H implemented no less than 18 projects: development of the farming industry (especially with the rehabilitation of 4.000 hectares of polders), rehabilitation of the drinking water supply systems and toilet units, insulation of schools and medical facilities, emergency distribution (rail catastrophe in Ryongchon in 2004) and support to elderly people.

Triangle G H is currently working on two main projects:

- **in Munchon**, after two phases aiming at rehabilitating a part of the drinking water supply network, Triangle G H is completing that network and improving the sanitation conditions in the city;
- **in the north-east** of the country (Hamgyong Province), Triangle G H supports two fishing farms supplying more than 200 social institutions (orphanages, nurseries...) with fish. .

Improvement of the drinking water network in Munchon

- **Funding:** German Embassy in North Korea
- **Global budget:** 8 K€
- **Duration:** 15 months (October 2008 - December 2009)

As part of the water and sanitation projects carried out by Triangle G H in this city of 50,000 inhabitants, we performed a new assessment in October 2008. Our aim was to complete the technical documentation about improving and extending the water network; indeed, several areas of Munchon are still not connected.

The German Embassy's support contributes to maintaining and improving the water supply system.

Food aid in the framework of the Kumsong Polder rehabilitation project

- **Funding:** MAE (French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs – Inter-ministerial Food Aid Committee)
- **Global budget:** 300 K€
- **Duration:** 7 months (December 2008 - June 2009)

In terms of Triangle's technical and equipment help, the works stage (rehabilitation of outer dike, construction of inner dikes) is almost over.

Since October 2008, in partnership with the two coop farms cultivating the area round Kumsong polder, Triangle G H has been selecting the cultures to plant in 2009. We have also begun to build rice cutting areas and storage silos, and are providing tools to farms.

Owing to current food difficulties, it is essential to support the Ministry of Agriculture's efforts in terms of land planning and preparing land for cultivation by June 2009. Our support includes providing basic foodstuffs to the workers operating on the site, the ministry being currently unable to provide such aid. The Food-for-Work project helps to maximize the impact of food safety and increase agricultural production in the area. At short-term level, it provides subsistence food to the 1,500 people working the land, helping them over the tough "relay period" that will last till the rice harvest in the autumn of 2009.

At the end of the project, the workers contribution enabled the valuation of some 741 hectares of land which will, in term, generate an increase of 140% of rice production.

Increase of the food production potential in South Pyongan Province. Rehabilitation of the Kumsong polder and reinforcement of the Polder Company's capacities¹⁰

- **Main funding (90%): EuropeAid**
(Co-operation office of the European Commission)
- **Co-funding: SIDA**
(Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- **Global budget: 2 111 K€**
- **Duration: 33 months** (December 2006 - August 2009)

Only 16% of the entire DPRK territory possesses arable lands. Consequently, in 1970, aiming to reclaim agricultural lands from the sea, the government initiated an extensive bolder construction programme. This particularly focused on the west coast for geographical and pedological reasons, in order to gain farming land over the sea.

Between 1995 and 2000, the polders, already weakened by bad maintenance owing to lack of funds and technical means, were greatly damaged by the succession of storms and floods. A vast expanse of cultivated land was ravaged in South Pyongan province considered the “granary” of DPRK by the FAO. In parallel, the country had to face growing economic difficulties. It was in this framework that Triangle GH started working in DPRK, following the government's international call for aid.

● Raising and consolidating dikes



10 - National company in charge of rehabilitating and maintaining the polders



This programme contributed to the development of the food production potential in South Pyongan by rehabilitating the Kumsong polder and strengthening the Polder Company's capacities.

Created in 1994, Kumsong polder has 3,207 hectares of crops. With 3 dikes, that are 7 meters high, 9 metres wide and 15 kilometres long, it is the largest and most recent polder in the DPRK.

The project targeted the inhabitants of the Jung Ak and Kumsong Coop Farms along with the Polders Company and the Engineering Department.

6,970 people benefitted from the project: 3,620 residents from the Junk Ak Coop Farm, 1,650 residents from the Kumsong Coop Farm, 1500 employees from the Polders Company, and 200 employees from the Engineering Department. The project also had an indirect benefit on all residents of Onchon, e.g. some 143,880 people.

Achievements included:

- **Rehabilitation of Kumsong polder;**
- **Increase of the polder's agricultural potential (by drying out the flooded land);**
- **Development of the operational capacities of our partners (the Polders Construction Company and the Sariwon Engineering Department) thanks to the supply of spare parts, materials and equipment, training...**

By working with the same partners throughout the project, a consolidation of their technical and managerial skills was more effective. In a broader context, the project and cooperation with local partners help to strengthen North Korean civil engineering capacities. It also triggers a general reflection about the impact of rehabilitating polders in terms of food safety.



Resetting the dam's « lid » after strengthening the walls; everything is covered with three layers of different rocks, a layer of earth, and finally gravel

Support to the federation for the protection of the elderly

- **Main funding: SIDA**
(Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- **Global budget: 130 K€**
- **Duration: 27 months** (January 2007 - March 2009)

This project extends a programme launched in 2004 that rehabilitated six retirement homes in the various provinces of North Korea and significantly improved the living conditions of the elderly people in the homes.

As well as the direct action on the homes (rehabilitation of waterworks and heating systems, improved food safety via agricultural and breeding activities, and improved medical care), the first two phases of this programme featured an important aspect dedicated to strengthening the capacities of our local partner, the North Korean Federation for Protection of Elderly People.

The project included follow-up of the work performed in the six homes targeted during the previous project, and enabled maintenance of the equipment supplied.

Additionally, the project featured training for the staff in the institutions and support for the Federation's actions (such as publication of specialized journals about care for the elderly).

Improve access to better quality water for the population of Munchon

- **Funding: SIDA** (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)
- **Budget: 399 K€**
- **Duration: 16 months** (July 2009 - October 2010)

Munchon city, with a population of 42,500, is located on the East coast of North Korea. In the sixties, the government set up water network. However, owing to the lack of maintenance and means, the network has become obsolete and inoperative.

Between 2005 and 2007, Triangle G H ran 2 projects, funded by ECHO, in Munchon. Phase one of the projects consisted in improving and building secure access to the water. In Phase two, we expanded and improved the water distribution network, providing 50 litres per person per day in the areas around the hospital.

This project aims at reducing morbidity and mortality rates, particularly among the most vulnerable members of the population in North Korea, by increasing and improving access to water of better quality for the city's inhabitants (selected indicators: 50 litres/person/day

of good quality water available in the new districts involved in the project, and production of at least 2,500m³ of drinking water per day). 9,200 people, e.g. 1,700 households will benefit from this multi faceted programme:

● **Rehabilitation of the distribution network of district n°4; this also implies maintaining the infrastructures built and working on the former network to reduce leakage. Tasks include:**

- running a topographic survey;
- calculating and designing a new water distribution network;
- preparing and running a purchasing procedure for the building materials and equipment;
- reception and storage of purchases;
- training (or updating skills) the workman recruited to perform the works;
- building the concrete structures and distribution network (excavation, pipe laying, etc);
- performing a technical evaluation of the network

● **Improved operation of the water distribution system thanks to strengthening of local capacities in the area of management (technical staff training). Tasks include:**

- checking the water production/distribution system (former projects);
- providing water management training;
- supervising maintenance and repair of the network;
- receipt of works & handover to local technicians



Water catchment on the river



Current sanitary situation



A meeting with the city mayor

● **The households have received information about water management: door-to-door awareness sessions and distribution of leaflets. Tasks include:**

- analysing local practices and knowledge linked to water management;
- defining the contents of training and of messages to send out;
- devising communication means;
- training promotion groups about good water management;
- running awareness campaigns (meetings and distribution of campaign documents);
- assessing the change in water management related practices.



General view of Munchon

Water point inside a house

indonesia



On December 26th, 2004, at 7:58 (local time), the American institute of geology (USGS) detected a seism of exceptional magnitude, 9.0 (Richter scale), in the Indian Ocean.

Its epicentre was located off the western coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia, more precisely at 250 km south/south-east of the town, Banda Aceh, at a depth of 10 km.

The devastating earthquake and Tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean caused the death of over 230.000 people.

Eleven countries were impacted, especially the Indonesian province of Aceh (Sumatra), lying close to the epicentre of the earthquake that generated the tidal waves.

From January 2005 to April 2009, Triangle G H completed 11 humanitarian programmes in Indonesia: restarting economic activities linked to the fish industry, creating a community resource centre supporting micro-finance, bringing a psychological support to the victims, providing vocational training..."

Support to the Indonesian NGO « Yayasan Pijar Harapan Lhoong » and development of the Lhoong Sub-District Community Resource Centre / Aceh Province / Sumatra

- **Funding:** Fondation de France
- **Global budget:** 80 K€
- **Duration:** 14 months (March 2008 - April 2009)

The 29 year old conflict between the independentists and the Indonesian government had already weakened the province, particularly in the rural regions such as Lhoong. Out of the 28 villages forming Lhoong, the tsunami crushed 24.

In response to the tsunami disaster, and thanks to sponsorship from the Fondation de France and the French Embassy in Jakarta, Triangle Génération Humanitaire implemented two psychosocial programmes in Lhoong sub-district, from February 2005 to July 2007. The main objective of the two programmes was to help people rebuild themselves and their lives by re-creating a social link eroded by thirty years of conflict then brutally severed by the tsunami.

Both psychosocial programmes nurtured skills-transmission to the local communities. After creating a micro-finance cooperative, BQBNL, and the local NGO, Yayasan Pijar Harapan



Lhoong (YPHL), Triangle G H transferred the programme's management to local level. The two grass-roots organisations are still active and receive informal guidance from Triangle G H's team.

The programme aims at contributing to the development of the socio-educational level of the 8,600 inhabitants of the Lhoong sub-district, by supporting the development and the transmission of local skills, the social, mental and cultural development of the children and the sustainable development of civil society.

Its target was also to stabilize the activities of the YPHL, following the standards of the Ministry of Education, to enable the NGO obtaining funds as a Community Training Centre.



Different activities have been implemented within several structures:

● Training Centre (PKBM)

- Formal education: alphabetization and school support;
- Non-formal vocational practical training for adults and adolescents (sewing, embroidery, information technology, etc...).

● Children centre

- Educational activities for children: information technology, reading/writing, handicraft, photos, radio, diary, Indonesian language;
- Cultural activities: traditional dances and music;
- Library activities: reading, story telling, theatre, educational cinema...

● Community radio

- Support to the community radio organisation.

● Support to the management of the Yayasan PHL

- One or several Indonesian experts will monitor Yayasan PHL's activities. They will act as consultants/councillors to help the NGO develop its expertise.



Integrated programme for restarting social and economic activities in three villages of Pulau Breueh / Sub-district of Pulau Aceh / Aceh Besar Province / Sumatra

- **Funding: American Red Cross**
- **Global budget: 2 103 K\$**
- **Duration: 21 months** (August 2007 - April 2009)

The global objective is to strengthen the economic and social situation in Meulingge Bay in order to give the beneficiaries the ability to recover their past economic capacity providing support on all economical activities that have been affected by the Tsunami. The project thus aimed to help the communities to become auto sufficient in terms of food security and allow the benefits of their activities to be re-injected in the local economy, to facilitate the trading exchanges between the targeted communities and Banda Aceh and to strengthen the position of women within the communities by restoring their position in the local economical structure.

This multi faceted programme included:

- Testing, cleaning, protection and rehabilitation of the rice fields;
- Restarting of rice agriculture by supplying seeds, tools and fertilizers;
- Rehabilitation of the water supply system destroyed by the Tsunami;
- Extension and completion of the water supply system;
- Distribution of animals (with follow up and vaccination) dedicated to cattle;
- Building of enclosure for animal's night shelter;
- Building of water distribution points for the animals;
- Building of fishing boats adapted to fishermen' needs and provision of fishing gears and safety equipments;
- Building of fishery infrastructures adapted to communities' needs and supply of equipment enabling the preservation of goods for sale;
- Building of transportation boats for goods and passengers;
- Building of coastal infrastructures.

In order to ensure the success of the proposed action, the field of activities was within the knowledge of the beneficiaries, who just needed to be restored in their capacity to implement them.

As it is always the case in Triangle G H's programmes, these activities have been implemented following a community based approach.

myanmar

[burma]



Located in the Indochina peninsula, Burma is the biggest country in South East Asia, sharing borders with Tibet (North), with China, Laos and Thailand (East), and with India and Bangladesh (West).

Unified into an Empire in the XIth century, later fallen under the control of Mongol armies in 1302, Burma then undergoes a succession of feudal regimes, administrative deadlocks, various invasions and a long succession of princes and kings of Myanmar.

Burma becomes a province of the British Indies in 1886, thus putting an end to an over 60 years old war. In 1937, under the pressure of the nationalist movement (Thakin), the British separate Burma from India and allow the colony to have a new constitution with an elected board. The Burmese independence Army is created in December 1941, as Japan declared war to Great Britain.

Burmese independence is declared on August 1st, 1943, and the country adopts the official name of State of Burma.

This independence being a mere façade, the nationalist leader starts negotiating with the British in 1943, and the country officially joins the Allied troops in 1945. The Japanese are chased out of Burma in July 1945.

The British civil governor takes the power back until the independence in 1948. Burma will be run by a democratic regime until 1962, when a military dictatorship took over. The country becomes the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma in 1974, and the Union of Burma later in 1988. In 1989, the official name was changed into Myanmar under the generals' dictatorship.

In 1990, free elections are organized and won by more than 80 % by the National League for Democracy lead by the Nobel price Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of an emblematic hero of the nationalist fight in the 40's, Aung San. However, the new junta will never give the power to the opposition, and Aung San Suu Kyi will be put under house arrest. Since then, the country is firmly run by a group of generals, officially united, but actually in permanent internal conflict for power. Power, which had been three headed for 15 years, is currently shared between the President Than Shwe, and the Army Leader Maung Aye, who both managed to supplant their rival, Khin Nyunt, the Chief of the army intelligence services.

A few socio-economic indicators

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital | Naypyidaw |
| Regime | Military Dictatorship |
| Population (in millions) | 49,6 |
| Population growth | 1.03%/year |
| GDP / Inhabitant | US\$578 |
| Economic growth | 2%/year |
| Life expectancy | 63.4 years |

● Humanitarian situation

Even though Burma owns many natural resources, the government policy, the violations of human rights and inter- ethnic conflicts keep the country in a state of permanent humanitarian crisis. The United Nations estimate that half of the population live under the poverty line, the World Health Organization estimates to 11% the number of children under five suffering of acute malnutrition (41% underfed). More than 25% of the population has no access to drinking water. The recurrent attacks of the Burmese army against ethnic minorities forced more than 500.000 people to move.

The Delta Irrawaddy Region, the attic of the country including an important fishing industry, was severely damaged by cyclone Nargis in 2008, leaving behind 140.000 victims, and impacting the lives of 2,4 million people in the country.

Sources : www.oboulo.com — www.wikipédia.org — www.banquemondiale.org

● Triangle G H in Burma

Following several surveys, Triangle G H decided to send a representative in Yangon at the end of 2007, in order to achieve the opening of a mission.

With the help of the French Embassy in Yangon, and later on from the Humanitarian Aid Delegation, Triangle G H started a project in the Delta zone, aiming at restoring the farming capacities (through the rehabilitation of lands following a « food for work » programme), and the fishing equipments, in order to restart income generating activities and to boost the economic activities of the area.

Today, Triangle G H, supported by LIFT (Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund), continues its work of restoration of the means of production. In fact, after the cyclone swept through, only 43% of the lands has been reused for cultivation.

Support to food security in the areas affected by cyclone Nargis – Rehabilitation of agricultural land and community facilities, support to market gardening / Laputta and Kungyangon districts

- **Funding:** French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs – Inter-ministerial Food Aid Committee
- **Global budget:** 486 K€
- **Duration:** 9 months (April 2009 - December 2009)

When Cyclone Nargis swept through Burma, in addition to compromising the land production capacity for the 2008 harvest, it destroyed or damaged most of the seeds and rice stocked by landowners-farmers and day-workers. Knowing that 2008's production was only around 30% of the usual production, and regarding the damage caused by the cyclone, the recruitment and payment (in rice) of the day-workers promised to be difficult for the next rainy season's harvest.



Food safety was still volatile owing to the lack of production means and difficult access to food (the roads, bridges and paths to villages are severely damaged). Development projects strived to alleviate this situation, but there would still be a gap in terms of food distribution. Triangle G H addressed this gap by improving food security in the households most affected by Nargis. The project thus aimed at limiting the food crisis by improving agriculture in the areas affected by the cyclone in order to recover production capacity and enable sufficient output (harvest) in 2009, and helping the victims of cyclone Nargis make the transition between emergency relief and stabilisation / development action (cessation of aid).

● **Implemented activities:**

- **Food distribution (Food for Work):** Food rations will be distributed to workers once a month all through the action phase, e.g. the 6 months representing the rainy season work period;
- **Works aiming at improving the living conditions of the whole population** of the 50 villages in Laputta and Kungyangon districts, concerning more than 6 000 families;
- **Works on the maintenance of paddy fields:** Agricultural lands, of which the salt content has increased due to the cyclone, require a great deal of preparation for the harvest of 2009. This is also the case regarding the interior dykes and irrigation canals. Some 2, 200 workers have been mobilized during two months to participate in these works, and teams of workers performed the paddy fields maintenance during the following four months.



- **Layout works for shrimp breeding basins:** Where land salinity is unsuitable for crop culture, shrimp breeding offers an important complementary activity during the dry season. However the breeding installations and basins have

been severely damaged or destroyed by the cyclone. Works have been performed to ensure that the basins are operational by the beginning of the dry season.

- **Rehabilitation of bridges and piers:** When Triangle G H carried out an evaluation of needs in December 2008, we listed several bridges and piers requiring repair or consolidation. In an effort to strongly involve the community in the rehabilitation of these public works, essential for the recovery of the villages' economic and social activities, we have asked each village to contribute to the purchase of building supplies. (In Kungyangon district, Triangle G H also asked the community to participate in this way). 15 bridges and 23 piers have been rehabilitated 5 bridges and 20 piers in Laputta; 10 bridges and 3 piers in Kungyangon.



- **Rehabilitation of water points:** Most water points - the source of drinking water for village people - have been polluted by seepage and salt water runoff. They require serious cleaning and lay-out works. Two types of water points have been rehabilitated: 20 wells (2 in Laputta and 18 in Kungyangon district) and 43 reservoirs (40 in Laputta and 3 in Kungyangon).
- **Rehabilitation of roads:** The cyclone damaged many roads and drainage ditches but few repair works had been initiated. More than 150 km of roads and paths have been improved. .
- **Distribution of seeds for market gardening:** About 4,600 households in Laputta and Kungyangon will receive an assortment of seeds for cultivation. To improve food security in the households, each assortment represents one year of production for family consumption. Certain plants from these seeds have been used to generate new seeds for the following years, thus maintaining the vegetable crop activity (an activity that generally already exists). Additional to the seeds, the families have received fertilizers and pesticides to help them. Training and tool kits have also been offered to facilitate planting.



Agriculture and food security / October 2009

By Lionel Roux – Co-ordinator of the Technical Unit Triangle G H

“The number of people suffering from hunger in 2009 will reach 1, 02 billion people for the first time in history [...] and the influx of humanitarian aid is at its lowest level for the past 20 years”¹¹. It is difficult to hope to reach the N°1 Objective of the Millennium for the Development: to reduce by half the number of people suffering from chronic food insecurity from 1990 to 2015¹².

Left aside by decision-makers and totally neglected by the investors after the independences, agriculture and the farmers of developing countries have since been considered as playing a minor role in the development of their country. However, 75% of the poor inhabitants of developing countries are rural populations making their living from agriculture.

Thus, they are the first victims of the political decisions which left agriculture to the benefit of the secondary and tertiary sectors, whereas they could be the real driving forces of social and economical development.

The fluctuation in crop prices is the main factor of this phenomenon: when prices go down, the poorest farmers must sell all their means of production. Forced to drift from the land, they feed urban poverty. When prices go up, the wealthiest farmers can invest to improve their means of production. But this increase,

11 - Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Food Programme. Press conference in London, on 09/16/2009.

12 - Objective N°1.9: Go below the number of 400 million people suffering from hunger in order to satisfy their everyday needs.

especially when it is important, is harmful for the other economic activities, and dramatic for those who have already sold everything.

Therefore, it is up to decision-makers to imagine mechanisms in order to reach the right balance: a sufficient level of prices for farmers to be more profitable, to produce more, and for farmers income to energize local economies, without excess not to starve urban populations and lead to hunger riots as it was the case in around thirty countries in 2007 and 2008



In Yemen, some 150 km away south of Sana'a, the good harvest and high prices of 2008 enabled Ali to buy a small motorcycle and to keep all his lambs to extend his flock. A very good year for him and his relatives.

Food security is not only related to these agricultural and technical issues, but it is more and more linked with a broader economical and social context. The major stake, which is the link between food security and agriculture, is a worry in all countries, in the North and in the South, as attested by the importance of the agricultural policies intended to ensure food sovereignty in Europe or in the United States.

At the local level, the dilemma also lies in the balance between the help brought to the poorest on the one side, and the aid provided to the farmers relatively better off on the other side. Very often, the former do not have anymore the means, notably land, to develop a farming activity to provide for their own needs. They need to develop other non-farming activities. The latter, contrarily, are able to develop the productivity of their business in order to contribute to the increase in production and thus to the local, national and finally worldwide food availability. Through its actions, Triangle G H strives to ensure a balance in its help to the one and the other.

In order to reach a satisfactory balance again, it is necessary to invest in agriculture, and the room to progress incontestably exists, only the will lacked.

The positioning of many countries and international institutions has evolved today, in the image of the World Bank who recognized having wrongly discouraged the primary sector. At the macro-economic level, food production keeps growing and reached a new record in 2007 according to the FAO.

The only problem is that the demographic growth is even higher, and, since 1984, the quantity of food available per person has been decreasing every year.

Only a global strategy can have a significant lasting influence on world food security. If the coordination of all the actors at the local level is necessary to bring technical improvements and to find the right balance between the increase in productivity and the preservation of the ecosystems, it is not enough.

Wide-ranging political actions at the national and international levels are imperative. Expectations are high concerning the conclusions of the World Conference of the State and Government Leaders on Food Security that will take place in Roma from November 16th to 18th 2009.

Burma - Food security support programme in the areas affected by cyclone Nargis funded by the Programmed Food Aid / October 2009

By *Éric Martin* – Head of mission Triangle G H Burma



Village meeting in Laputta to organize the distributions of rice seeds

Since cyclone Nargis struck Burma on May 2nd and 3rd 2008, causing the death of more than 120 000 people in the provinces of Ayeryawadi and Yangon, Triangle G H started working in this country on emergency aid (rehabilitation of basic services, access to drinking water), before rapidly shifted towards the boosting of income generating economic activities (agriculture, breeding, fishery, market gardening).

Cyclone Nargis struck an area until then seldom targeted by humanitarian aid because of its relative prosperity. Considered to be the « rice loft » of the country, Ayeryawadi has been ravaged by the winds and the rise of the water level. In addition to the human lives devastated by the cyclone, material goods (houses, schools, temples, bridges, jetties, roads, boats) have been destroyed, cattle and flock have been decimated, and fresh water resources have been polluted. The economic activities and networks have collapsed following the loss of the working tools and stocks of raw products. Nature also greatly suffered. The waves and the wind cut off the trees, mangroves have been razed and bits of land, sometimes inhabited, have been swept away.

More than a hundred local and international NGOs, among which figures Triangle G H, came right after the disaster to help the population, and approximately 50 NGOs are still operating in the delta today, more than one year after the disaster. In 2008, Triangle G H contributed to the restoration of farming, breeding and fishing activities, to the rehabilitation of the access to water and to the reconstruction of facilities in the districts of Laputta and Kungyangon. These projects, based on a participative approach, consolidated our experience in various fields (rice-growing, market-gardening, breeding, fishery in rivers or in the sea, etc.) and above all it helped us develop a village based approach as well as a strategy aiming at enhancing the production capacities and thus the food self-sufficiency of the targeted populations.

Since March 2009, Triangle G H has been implementing a programme funded by the Programmed Food Aid (French MFA), combining the distribution of food products and the support to the boosting of farming activities and to the rehabilitation of village facilities. A complementary part of seeds distribution for family market gardening has also been integrated in this programme.

The programme PFA 2009 in a few figures (October 2009):

- **Total amount of the project = €486,000**
- **Duration of the project: 9 months from April to December 2009**
- **Intervention in more than 63 villages, representing a population of more than 43,898 inhabitants**
- **Distribution of: 10,200 food monthly intake (rice, beans, oil, salt and sugar), representing more than 630 tons of food, 432 tons of rice seeds, 5,200 gardening kits (seeds, fertilizers, tools).**
- **Contribution to the reuse for cultivation of 16,000 hectares of rice fields,**
- **Rehabilitation of 10 bamboo, wood or concrete bridges, 20 wood jetties, 10 km of tracks (draining included), 12 water spots (wells and tanks of drinking water)**

The action of Triangle G H fits in with the thematic of food security and helps boosting economic activities and rebuilding the exchange networks by contributing to the boosting of agriculture in the areas impacted by the cyclone Nargis, to help them recover their capacities of production and have a sufficient harvest in 2009 to reduce the food crisis. In fact, this intervention will, in the end, enable the people impacted by the cyclone Nargis to manage as well as possible the transition between emergency food aid and the phase of stabilization and development coming right after.

To implement this project, Triangle G H leaned on the experience it acquired during previous projects in Burma and in other countries where it has been operating and had to face similar problems.

The evaluation missions carried out end of 2008 and beginning of 2009 by the Triangle G H team, with the help of experts and some members of the headquarters, pointed out several needs: reconstruction, access to drinking water, boosting of farming, fishing, breeding and handicraft activities.

Some of these activities being already covered by specific funding, we focused on the boosting of farming activities, which seemed to us to be crucial and not getting enough support. This is the reason why our thoughts went towards a "farming" type of intervention, associated with the rehabilitation of facilities enabling the transport and thus the improvement of the exchanges between villages, economic bases in the delta region.

An intervention limited, strictly speaking, to the reuse of the farming lands in the delta would have forced us to mainly or even entirely focus on land owners (who have also lost their means of production during the cyclone and play a key part in the economic life of the village) to the detriment of more vulnerable groups of people. Our intervention surely wanted to favour the reuse of lands to increase food production, but it also wanted to target the deprived people most severely hit by the disaster: daily or seasonal workers hired in the rice fields during the rainy season (summer) and having most of the time fishing activities during the dry season (winter) still as daily workers.

In Burma, farmers hire daily workers and pay them with rice and money. Most of the time, these workers receive a salary and some food at the beginning of the

farming season, and they receive additional food during the harvest (rice) in proportion to their work and the productivity of the lands.

In May 2009, at the beginning of the seeding season, several difficulties showed up for the delta farmers, and notably the lack of access to rice seeds and to the traditional means of land preparation (lack of cattle, but also incapacity to hire and pay the labour). In fact, the seeds and rice stocks have been almost totally swept away and destroyed by the cyclone. The food aid programme of the PFA, based on the distribution of food and seeds thus fitted entirely into this logic. The direct beneficiaries (daily workers) were selected in 50 villages targeted during several assessments according to the following criteria: heavily struck by the cyclone, still little or not helped by humanitarian aid organizations, and showing important needs of agriculture boosting.



Distribution of fruit trees plantations by the FAO

The implementation of the activities was made in partnership with the village leaders and the farmers who wanted to be parts of the operation. The Triangle G H team has been divided up into two bases, Laputta and Kungyangon, to cover respectively 45 and 5 villages. 28 people have been hired locally to help organizing the purchases, the follow-up of the distributions and works, as well as to lead the team.

A first phase of discussion with local authorities, village leaders, beneficiaries and farmers enabled us to focus our approach and to optimize the organization of the food distributions. Content of the food intakes (per month and per family): 50 kg of white rice, 5 kg of beans, 4 litres of groundnut oil, 830 gr of sugar, 830 gr of salt.

The programme activities thus started following an agenda respectful of seasonal and farming constraints.

The first objective was to boost farming activities by providing food to farmers for them to be able to hire daily/seasonal workers. Relieved from a part of their burden, farmers have been able to use the little money they had to buy seeds and fertilizers to restart the cultivation on the rice fields which had suffered from being flooded by sea water. We can notice that a « money against work » type of intervention could have been even more appropriated, within this context, in some villages, to boost economic activities and exchanges. Unfortunately, this sort of activity is not eligible within the framework of the donors' mandate.

A monthly distribution of food intakes (bags of rice, beans, bottles of oil...), calculated according to the number of days worked, has been implemented by Triangle G H team in each village, with the help of the farmers and village leaders. However, the problem of the lack of seeds rapidly showed.

At the origin of the project, and because of the available stocks and the help announced by other international agencies, we had not planned to distribute seeds for rice cultivation. The difficulty met by farmers to buy seeds, having lost almost all their resources, and the lack of available seeds on the market have quickly become a problem. Triangle G H team then started a race against time in order to find enough seeds to cover the targeted lands (a difficult mission regarding the current lack of available seeds in great quantities in Burma) and to bring them as soon as possible to the most remote villages of the delta, before the end of the seeding period. The 430 tons of seeds distributed within the frame of this project thus enabled the reuse of more than 4.000 hectares of rice fields, part of the 16.000 hectares of the FFW. The remaining 12.000 hectares received seeds from other organizations or directly by the farmers who could afford it.

Fortified by the success of our farming boosting programme, we were able to start the second activity of rehabilitation of village facilities. Based on the same principle of human resources mobilization (daily workers) paid with food intakes, and supporting the purchase of construction equipment, we have achieved works of rehabilitation of jetties, bridges and roads. All these facilities are linked to the economic activities in the villages, enabling them either to access the fields, either to communicate with other villages and cities where there are markets.

Concurrently of these activities, kits of seeds were distributed, focusing on resource less people having a small parcel of cultivable land, in order to value the latter thanks to the creation of vegetable gardens. Squashes, beans, gumbo, cucumber and other vegetables have thus been cultivated with the addition of fertilizers. We have also decided to distribute "winter" seeds, such as pumpkin, at the end of the project.

As all of these activities are linked to the water resources, we have also included in the programme a part on the rehabilitation of drinking water sources such as wells and open-air tanks. These water sources had been polluted during the cyclone by sea water and alluvial deposits. The 2008 rainy season had not been able to get rid of this pollution, and the 2008 dry season has been much more difficult in terms of drinking water supply. Thanks to the intervention of international aid to solve this problem, and thanks to the 2009 rainy season, the drinking water sources are cleaner nowadays and will help reduce the problems of water supply.

Concerning the access to the field, even though the procedure is always constraining (monthly travel permits required and delivered by the concerned Ministry) it never jeopardized the progress of the project. The real problem was the visas for the expatriates. In fact, if the procedures had been simplified for some time in 2008 in order to facilitate the emergency humanitarian intervention, but they have come back to normal since April 2009 (thus meaning long and complicated). Some periods have been managed with a lack of staff, but it has not generated major disturbances concerning the course of the programme.

The displacements from one village to the other are mainly done by boat, sometimes by road. During the monsoon, the rain, waves and currents can be



The Triangle G H team in a village of Pynsalu

dangerous and the teams are sometimes forced to go back from where they came, waiting for a lull.

And finally, the coordination between Triangle G H and the other organizations operating in the same area and on similar problems is mainly active at the local level, under the supervision of Burmese authorities.

The food security of the most deprived people has been improved during this farming

season 2009, and the 2009 harvest and the 2010 season is partially secured, nevertheless, the food situation in the Ayeyarwady delta is still very precarious, and the mobilization of donors and international organizations must be constant, and staying in touch with the needs of the population.

central african republic



The Central African Republic shares borders with Chad (North), Sudan (East), the Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo (South), and Cameroun (West).

A French colony since 1905 with the name of Oubangui-Chari, and later an overseas department after 1946, the country becomes Central African Republic within the French community in 1958, and proclaims its independence in 1960. Its second president will be overthrown in 1966 by Jean-Bedel Bokassa, who proclaims the Central African Empire and becomes Emperor in 1976. In outcome of an operation carried out by France in 1979, the president Dacko returns to power, before being overthrown again in 1981 following a military putsch.

In 1993, under the French pressure, elections are organized and a new president is elected. Political instability follows, as well as rebellions in the Army, to which the Bangui agreements will put an end in 1997.

In 1999, the president Patassé is re-elected.

He will be overthrown in 2003 by his former Chief of Staff, General Bozizé.

In 2005, after elections postponed several times, General Bozizé is elected president of the Republic.

A few socio-economic indicators

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Capital | Bangui |
| Regime | Republic |
| Population (in millions) | 4,34 |
| Population growth | 1,3%/year |
| Life expectancy at birth | 44.5 years |
| GDP / Inhabitant | 464 USD/year |
| Economic growth | 2.2%/year |

● Humanitarian situation

The successive struggles for power met by the country since its independence and the more recent « shock waves » related to the crisis in neighbouring countries (DRC, Chad and Sudan), favoured the rebellion of politico-military groups whose operations, even though heterogeneous, converge to keep the country in a state of permanent instability.

As a consequence of these successive crises over the past decade, the humanitarian situation deteriorated in a country where the level of socio-economic development is very low, despite the familiar presence of strong added value natural resources. Adding to this poverty « established » along with the crisis, the absence of development representing an extremely favourable « nest » for rebellions today, a new movement of displaced people follows the insecurity previously described. In addition to the refugees in Cameroun, Chad or Sudan, the number of displaced people within the country is estimated at 100.000 people.

● Triangle G H in CAR

Considering this situation and taking into account the very low number of humanitarian workers then present on the field, Triangle G H decided to carry out a survey in February 2007, leading to the elaboration of a first programme in the Birao region, in the far north of the country. A first emergency response allowed the more precise identification of needs to be fulfilled. The first programmes initiated actions aiming at improving the situation of the people living in the remote areas of the Vakaga Region (the Gordil, Sikikédé, Boromata and Tiringoulou Regions) in terms of access to water and sanitation. Most of these people having returned to their village of origin, following a demographic repartition modified by the return of acts of violence in 2009, Triangle G H currently works at supporting the level of food security in the areas of intervention and creating the conditions of a sustainable improvement of the access to drinking water and primary education. By supporting the village organisations in charge of schools and water spots, Triangle G H strives to re-boost these sectors and to re-launch the re-appropriation by State institutions in the remote prefectures of intervention.

From the start of its presence in Sam Oundja close to Sudanese refugees, in May 2007, Triangle G H also assesses the humanitarian needs of the resident population.

Support to the restoration of essential services and to the revitalization of the social network in the Vakaga Prefecture

- **Funding:** EuropeAid (Co-operation Office of the European Commission), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), CHF (United Nations Common Humanitarian Fund)
- **Global budget:** 1 657 K€
- **Duration:** 32 months (November 2008 – June 2011)

After performing emergency relief, Triangle G H is now launching a programme aimed at sustainable improvement of the living conditions for the people of Vakaga, particularly in terms of water and education.

● The project's objectives are:

- Contribute to providing access to primary education for all children,
- Contribute to reducing the percentage of the population that does not have a steady supply of drinking water,
- Contribute to making durable the services that the project has implemented.



Schoolboy repairing his bench - Vakaga

● More specifically, we plan the following actions:

- Construction or reconstruction of 25 school buildings,
- Training of teachers (civil servants or « parent-teachers »),
- Formalisation and establishment of Village Pupils' Parents Associations,
- Creation of 10 new potable water points (wells),
- Training of maintenance agents, and guidance during their maintenance jobs and/or rehabilitation of existing water points,
- Formalisation and establishment of Village Water Management Committees,
- Encourage the administration to be actively present and foster networks between the administration's representatives and village associations.



Destroyed school - Boromata



School after rehabilitation - Birao

Photos : Olivier Herrmann/TGH



Water spot – Manou

In 2008, the European Commission decided to provide a specific financial envelope to development projects in Vakaga, a remote prefecture north-east of the Central African Republic. Triangle's commitment to driving long-term development projects in the CAR, in the wake of the country's crisis, led naturally to a partnership with the European Commission's Delegation and enabled the launch of an extensive programme in October 2008.

Planned to last 32 months, the programme, "Restore Essential Services & Revitalize the Social Fabric of Vakaga Prefecture" aims to improve conditions of access to water and primary education in the area. This implies supporting the reconstruction of social and community ventures in the villages involved in the scheme, particularly by helping each village rebuild its organisations managing essential services such as drinking water and primary education.

Geographically isolated from the rest of the country, culturally discriminated, Vakaga Prefecture shows a rare level of under-development; a level that five years of rising insecurity have further impacted.

Even today, the representation of state administration is far from perfect and sometimes erratic. In the absence of support, the communities have to rely on their own, extremely limited, means.

The resulting lack of services has been aggravated by a deficiency of maintenance activities (due to growing insecurity since 2000) and the destructions that took place during conflicts at the end of 2006 and early 2007.

The population's situation is therefore extremely difficult, both in terms of daily existence and future perspectives.

Hence, the project combines work to improve the people's situation in terms of available infrastructures, with efforts at organisational and institutional level; this last aspect features, as well as close cooperation with competent ministries, the participation of UNICEF.



Drilling under rehabilitation Birao

The programme presented aims to moderate this difficulty. Its general objectives, complying with the Millenary aims, are:

• **Contribute to reducing the percentage of the population that does not have a steady supply of drinking water:** The level of access to water in Vakaga is among the lowest in the CAR: less than 30% of people have access to drinking water, less than 45% consume water considered clean, and over 85% have to travel more than 500 meters to get water. 10 bore holes will be built and equipped with hand-operated pumps during the first quarter of 2010.

• **Contribute to providing access to primary education for all children:** The level of access to education is also very poor and management capacities are weak. Vakaga suffers from the lowest illiteracy rate in the CAR and the proportion of non-state teachers is the highest. 25 schools will benefit from creation of new classrooms or rehabilitation of current classrooms.

More specifically, the programme aims to increase the availability of state infrastructures providing better access to essential services. Our action will focus on developing local capacities in relation with the target services, in order to ensure the durability of services opened through the project and empower the region's socio-organisational fabric without which every development venture remains vain.

The programme will integrate two important aspects: the necessity of having an active administrative representation in the area and the socio-economic realities of the Prefecture and the CAR in general. Indeed, while the State's presence in Vakaga is fully necessary, it cannot, for the time being, provide all essential services; the community and its organisations still have an important role to play...

Improvement of the access to primary education in Sam Ouandja

- **Funding: UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund)
- **Global budget: 162 K€**
- **Duration: 13 months** (December 2008 – December 2009)

Since May 2007, when we started working with Sudanese refugees in Sam Ouandja, we have been assessing the humanitarian needs of the local residents. Because the very specific sociology of this diamondiferous, isolated area hinders spontaneous and efficient organisation of collective services, it appears essential to energise and promote public services with programmes generating visible benefits for the population.

The project's objectives are: to contribute providing access to primary education for all children, increase the local school's capacities in terms of size and management and to improve the conditions of primary education.

● More specifically, Triangle is:

- Rehabilitating and improving school facilities;
- Creating “catch-up classes” for older children;
- Distributing teaching kits;
- Training and guiding teachers;
- Supporting and empowering Parents Associations;
- Offering socio-educational support to the families;
- Implementing educational gardens - FAO/ Triangle G H.

When we first submitted this project, Triangle’s educational team forecast the need to extend the programme to guarantee its sustainability at grass-roots level. Positive interaction with the community is certainly increasing, particularly thanks to our agricultural projects and access to water projects (see below).

Improvement of the food security of the people of Vakaga and High Kotto

- **Funding:** FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), CIAA (Inter-ministerial Food Aid Committee)
- **Global budget:** 290 K€
- **Duration:** 7 months (April – October 2009)

Thanks to support from the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), at the end of 2008 and the start of 2009, Triangle assessed the food safety situation and potential farming development schemes in the areas where we operate. Despite the fact that such areas possess considerable farming possibilities, food shortage is common among most of the families living there. Such shortages have taken root as a consequence of social, geographical and economic isolation. That same isolation that nurtured the devastating rebellion that still shakes the country despite tangible developmental and political progress.

This action aimed at providing an improved and/or recovered access to basic agricultural inputs (seeds), increasing the surface sown and diversify and multiply production, and increasing the availability and access to varied food products at local level.



The only local example of animal-drawn agriculture, Sam Ouandja

© F. Momere/ TGH



Preparation of irrigation for market gardening, Sam Ouandja



Groundnut plantation, Sam Ouandja.

● More specifically, Triangle G H was:

- La distribution de kits de semences pour 13 000 familles;
- Distributing seed kits to 13,000 families;
- Creating pilot plots for training and capitalisation;
- Measuring the areas sown, estimating yield and produce;
- Making this data available to all stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

Promoting the social organisation of each village, to optimize implementation of the technical means and increase the level of knowledge is once again the aim here. Triangle is working closely with the Agence Centrafricaine de Développement Agricole (ACDA) and the Institut Centrafricain de Recherche Agronomique (ICRA) to support the presence of State representatives in the most remote prefectures.

Triangle is currently searching for additional funds to provide a wider-scale intervention. Indeed, a larger programme is necessary should we wish to significantly energize the primary sector in the North-East of the CAR and reinstate this region at national level – thus consolidating the economical safety of the families living there.

Support to the Sudanese refugees in Sam Ouandja through access to essential services and their integration

- **Funding:** UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency)
- **Global budget:** 276 K€
- **Duration:** 12 months (January 2009 – December 2009)

In the continuity of the programme of the previous 12 months, and in conformity with its strategy, Triangle G H decided to strongly support the integration of Sudanese refugees in their new living environment.

The objectives of the project were to ensure the access of refugees to essential services and to contribute to their integration and autonomization.

● More specifically, Triangle G H was:

- Maintaining and daily operating a drinking water station;
- Building two wells in the camp;
- Setting up a water committee;
- Building a toilet unit for the most vulnerable families;
- Holding targeted and adapted hygiene promoting sessions;
- Restoring and following-up waste collection;
- Organizing the primary school of the camp and of a kindergarten, and building table-benches;
- Organizing games and sport activities;
- Supporting the creation and follow-up of farming and/or economic units;
- Implementing unformal vocational training sessions;
- Organizing alphabetization classes;
- Distributing farming inputs;
- Writing reports on protection;
- Organizing coordination meetings among committed actors.

Adding to the still particularly severe conflict in neighbouring Darfur, which could not offer to these families the conditions for a safe resettlement in their country of origin in the middle term, a population can not get locally integrated if the assistance continues to enter massively in an unfair manner between hosting and refugee populations. The issue is to better measure the support to bring, as shown above, to turn the action towards the reinforcement of self management capacities.

Towards sustainable access to sufficient drinking water of improved quality for vulnerable populations

- **Funding: ECHO** (Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission)
- **Global budget: 260 K€**
- **Duration: 9,5 months** (March 2009 – December 2009) – project extended 2 more months (February 2010)

The city of Sam Ouandja does not have any drinking water source despite the presence of sufficient underground resource. The problem is the lack of adapted means to extract it. As explained above, beyond the basic technical works to access drinking water, Triangle G H will concurrently need to support the creation of collective management tools concerning these resources, for the operation to be sustainable.

The project aims at improving access to drinking water of the targeted communities, and to increase their knowledge and practices in terms of water use and management.

● More specifically, we plan the following actions:

- Building and equipment of 3 new drillings;
- Creation, installation and protection of 18 wells;
- Elaboration of a water management committee for the city;
- Training of the technicians for the maintenance of the wells and drillings;
- Awareness rising sessions to the right use of water;
- Testing of the pumping systems;
- Creation of an hygiene committee, training and follow up of 20 community agents;
- Carrying out a small scale survey on how practices adapt in terms of water use and hygiene.

This programme has already enabled the building of 21 sustainable water spots in the city, providing drinking water to the entire resident population. The technical solutions chosen for the water spots as well as for the pumping systems are simple and little demanding in terms of maintenance, which should stabilize the access to water for the coming years if the management committees created by the project manage to collect the implemented fees and to run the infrastructures with transparency and continuity.

Food support in the area of Birao impacted by insecurity in Vakaga

- **Funding: WFP** (World Food Programme)
- **Global budget: 27 K€**
- **Duration: 5 months** (July 2009 – November 2009)

Following two violent attacks of the city in June 2009, Triangle G H chose to adapt its strategy of intervention in Birao in order to cover the needs of the populations, victim of the recurring conflict. Numerous families left the city; others came to seek for the protection of the present authorities. Within the city itself, several hundreds of resident families had lost everything (houses burnt, reserves stolen...).

Triangle G H then focused on food distribution to these families, the needs being particularly obvious at the beginning of the farming season (to ensure the continuity). The partly plundered market could not be supplied for the five coming months mainly because of the reluctance of truckers to send their trucks in an active conflict area, and also because of the closing of the tracks early July after the first rains.

The action aimed at enabling the population of Birao and the neighbouring displaced people to access food rations, thanks to a monthly distribution for 15,000 people. This programme allowed the distribution of more than 250 tons of food to the displaced people and to the inhabitants of Birao. The action was stopped at the end of the rainy season during which little has been cultivated, and consequently little has been harvested. The maintenance of an activity could have been possible if the WFP had been able to provide more food in October, which has not been the case for logistical reasons.

sudan



Sudan is an East African country sharing border with Libya and Egypt (North), Eritrea and Ethiopia (East), Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (South), the Central African Republic, and Chad (West).

Former Nubia in the Antiquity, Sudan is under the Egyptian rule from 1820 until the insurrection lead by Muhammad Ahmad ibn Abd Allah Al-Mahdi in 1881.

A British and Egyptian military expedition takes the control back over the territory in 1898, and creates an Anglo-Egyptian condominium.

In 1951, king Farouk of Egypt auto-proclaims king of Sudan.

In 1953, an Anglo-Egyptian treaty recognizes the right of the country to self determination. The independence will officially be proclaimed in 1956, and the first signs of rebellion show in the south of the country.

In 1958, a putsch brings the militaries to the power until 1964.

Democracy returns until 1969, when a new putsch returns the power in the hands of the militaries, who grant the autonomy to the secessionists from the South. In 1972, the Islamic law is proclaimed in Sudan, provoking a new uprising from the rebels from the South of the country united into the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Democracy is restored in 1986, until a new putsch in 1989 restoring the Islamic law and intensifying the fights. A cease fire comes up in 1995, and the right to self determination of the people from the South is recognized in 1998, with no following effect.

The war between North and South ended in 2005, the South gained a certain political, economic and religious autonomy. However, in 2003, a civil war started in Darfur, a Province in west Sudan, displacing nearly 3 million people and causing 250,000 victims. Up to today, the successive multi-party discussions for peace have not allowed the ending of the conflict.

They have rather contributed to divide the different parties at war into a multitude of hardly controllable groups. The economy of war they develop, as well as the mercenaries supporting them, generate an additional instability making the working conditions particularly complex for humanitarian workers. The conflict in the South has started again, even though the peace process is still underway.

A few socio-economic indicators

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Capital | Khartoum |
| Regime | Republic |
| Population (in millions) | 41,3 |
| Population growth | 2%/year |
| Life expectancy at birth | 51,4 years |
| GDP / Inhabitant | 1.700 USD/year |
| Economic growth | 7.555%/year |

● Humanitarian situation

The Darfur Region in west Sudan is facing one of the worse humanitarian crisis in the world. Out of 6 million inhabitants living in Darfur at the beginning of the conflict, 2,5 millions have been displaced, 250,000 fled to the east of Chad, 300,000 people died directly from the conflict or from its consequences. According to the United Nations, 4,5 million people rely on humanitarian aid.

Besides Darfur, other parts of Sudan, especially the south, are facing huge humanitarian needs. Conflicts in the Abyei Region, rich with oil, threaten the North-South peace agreement of 2005.

● Triangle G H in Sudan

Triangle G H started operating in West Darfur in June 2004, with an assistance programme to displaced people (water supply, hygiene, distribution of non food items and coordination) benefiting to the camp of Ryad, located in the suburbs of the city El Geneina. Other organizations then rapidly joined the capital of West Darfur, and Triangle G H's teams realize the huge needs of people living in rural areas. The constraints for accessing the villages are numerous, directly linked to security in a context of political, economic and ethnical crisis striking the Region.

In 2005, the first distributions of farming inputs are carried out in the villages North of El Geneina and keep going on since then, despite the uncertain security conditions. In April, Triangle G H settles in Bindizi (Wadi Saleh), a rural sector at the fringe of massive humanitarian aid observed in the main cities and camps in Darfur. Taking into account the specificities of the context, an integrated programme is elaborated and implemented. It includes distributions of first necessity non food items, facilities allowing access to an adapted sanitary environment, as well as activities supporting food security for highly vulnerable people.

From the start, this last sector raised important issues:

- *Ethnical issues: the distribution of farming inputs implies an access to lands and water spots in a context where access to natural resources is the object of strong concurrence, even diverging interests considering the different categories of people (sedentary, nomads and displaced);*

- *Security issues: Women and farmers are facing an increased exposition to potential attacks by Janjaweed groups, in an environment where traditional systems of conflict management linked to the coexistence of pastors and breeders and to the cycles of transhumance no longer work.*

In 2006, Triangle G H extends its activities to the city of Um Dukhun, located at the cross borders of Darfur, Chad and CAR. The area is perpetually moving, implying the frequent setting up of emergency infrastructures. In parallel, Triangle G H develops food security activities in Um Dukhun similar to those in Bindizi.

If some actions in rural area allowed Triangle G H to enter the first stages of the post emergency phase for some targeted populations, the generalization of insecurity in Darfur forces humanitarian workers to limit their action to the mere response to the populations' basic needs implying important organizational within its teams.

2009 was a major turn for humanitarian aid in Darfur. On the one side, 13 international NGOs were expelled, following the accusation of President Omar Al-Bechir by the International Penal Court, drastically reducing the capacities of assistance to the populations. On the other side, the overcoming of kidnappings of expatriate staff, as a new form of crime and war economy prevails in Darfour. Triangle G H has been confronted with this sort of incident at the end of the year. Two of its members have been kidnapped in the far North of the Central African Republic, kept as hostages for three months and a half in Darfur.

The dynamics of internal reorganization already launched within the team of Triangle G H in Sudan has consequently been accelerated to enable the Sudanese staff to take over the complete management of the activities carried out in the field in favour of the beneficiaries located in their region, the management team being now based in Khartoum following a remote control mode.

Assistance to populations affected by the conflict (West Darfur)

- **Funding:** ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission), French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs – Crisis Unit and Inter-ministerial Food Aid Committee, UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency),
- **Global budget I :** 1 100K€
- **Duration:** 12 months (June 2008 - May 2009)
- **Global budget II :** 2 300K€
- **Duration:** 12 months (June 2009 - May 2010)

● Objectives:

- Guarantee drinking water to the people in Ryad and Bindizi camps;
- Maintain and develop access to drinking water for the rural populations of Bindizi and Um Dukhun regions;
- Maintain facilities providing water for people forced to further displacement in the project's sites;

- Rehabilitate latrines according to needs and build new units whenever necessary;
- Contribute to an acceptable sanitary environment by collecting waste, treating stagnant waters and implementing appropriate facilities in sensitive places (markets, animal slaughter sites, etc.);
- Promote adequate hygiene practices through awareness and education activities;
- Ensure distribution of basic non-food necessities;
- Participate in monitoring the population's movements and ensure nobody is excluded from the relief plan, particularly in terms of food aid.

As early as June 2004, ECHO demonstrated its support to Triangle G H by financing its assistance programme for displaced people in Ryad camp. This camp is located next to El Geneina, where over 10,000 people sought refuge from the exactions and fighting.

During this first programme, Triangle built shelters, latrines, showers, and implemented a structure dedicated to preserving good hygiene in the camp; this included an important hygiene-awareness campaign. A drinking water system was also created, ensuring the camp and areas adjacent to Geneina town received an adequate supply of drinking water.

ECHO is therefore Triangle's principal partner in Sudan. As well as the activities that it funds directly, the organization enables us to manage programmes funded by other donors such as the UN agencies that cannot fully ensure our presence in the country despite its significant support.

At the end of this programme, it was important to sustain the services we had provided and ECHO renewed its trust in Triangle by funding an extension of our activities in very remote areas, where humanitarian aid was rare.

Therefore, in April 2005, Triangle launched a comprehensive program in Bindizi: it featured « emergency » relief such as water supply, construction of latrines and distribution of non food goods (jerry cans, plastic tarpaulins, mosquito nets...), along with actions anticipating the population's future needs: restoring agricultural activities, to name but one. Because agricultural activities involved leaving the camp's parameter and exposing people to potential attacks, Triangle also approached and worked with neighbouring Arab communities to demonstrate a neutral approach. The aim was of course to restore the peaceful coexistence between peoples that existed prior to the conflict.

Today, with the backing of ECHO, the French Crisis Unit and the UNHCR, Triangle G H's programmes benefit over 150.000 people.

Towards improved food security and heightened autonomy for Populations in West Darfur

- **Funding:** ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission), French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (Inter-Ministerial Food Aid Committee)
- **Global budget:** 1 400K€
- **Duration:** 12 months (June 2008 - May 2009)

● Objectives:

- Enable maintenance and development of farming produce during the rainy and dry seasons (irrigated agriculture);
- Provide an adequate supply of farm inputs to 32,600 families in Geneina, Bindizi, Mukjar and Um Dukhun regions;
- Provide constant technical support to the farmers targeted by the project, on site, and through specific training courses;
- Support and develop the local initiatives of small producers (beekeepers, poultry farmers, etc.);
- Support and develop local committees for management of conflicts related to agricultural land (Bindizi) and to issues linked to natural resources management (Um Dukhun);
- Provide 4,500 families who are nomadic or semi-nomadic breeders and 4000 small livestock farmers with appropriate access to veterinarian services;
- Construction of “hafirs”, e.g. rainwater storage structures, for livestock consumption.

While its main activities were aimed at helping the displaced populations – who represent a major part of our commitment - Triangle also carried out a cattle vaccination programme in Darfur and created wells on grazing lands and transhumance itineraries.

Following the success of the first agricultural campaign, ECHO reconfirmed its support, allowing Triangle G H to expand agricultural activities to Mukjar and Um Dukhun camps and adjacent villages. This supply of inputs is renewed and adapted to the present in the areas of intervention every year. Special attention is drawn to irrigated market gardening production in counter-season, enabling families to vary their food habits and to generate a new income.

Central African Republic / Sudan / Chad

Source : Newsletter July 2009

Security on a Humanitarian Mission

By Matthieu Lacourt - Consultant in Security

Before moving to the subject of security management in humanitarian fields, it is appropriate to give a definition of the word «security» and to delimit its scope..

What do we mean by « security»?

In everyday life, this term inspires us with a reassuring feeling of control over our environment and the outside elements evolving in it. «Feeling safe» supposes that we have a complete knowledge of our environment and of the people who surround us. It would sound quite strange, or at least a little presumptuous, for example to say: «I feel safe in this town where I just settled and where I know no one».

A time of acclimatising and adaptation is always necessary in order to hold enough cards to develop habits, reflexes and to « feel at home ».

In the given example, time would be used to apprehend one's new environment, to distinguish the « welcoming » streets from the ones to « avoid », to meet the neighbours, their sensitiveness and their moods (good or bad), to get to know one's new colleagues, one's hierarchical superior and one's subordinates, their moods, their qualities and faults...

Discover, apprehend, get familiar with, ... those are as many successive steps punctuating the life of a humanitarian worker, and enabling him to adapt progressively to a strange environment, in a part of the world which was almost untraceable on a map a few weeks before.

The shock of cultures

mined field, road accident, breaking in, theft, armed attack are as many threats hanging over the heads of humanitarian workers, who, as we may recall, are often coming from a totally different environment.

Can you imagine a 24 years old young man, who grew up in France in an environment that we could label "Western", with all it implies in terms of comfort and quality of life, finding himself landed overnight for his first mission in a camp of displaced people in Darfur, and having to deal with populations who have lost all they had, with the chiefs of armed groups protecting their interests, government representatives more or less committed to the humanitarian cause, and cheikhs, traditional chiefs... all of this in a different language, English most of the time, which is not completely mastered by any of the parties.



Children in the refugee camp of Bindizi (Darfur).



Refugee camp in Ryad – El Geneina (Darfur)

The challenge soon proves to be sizeable! However, it is accepted by thousands of humanitarian workers sent abroad everyday on punctual or chronic emergencies as well as on so called “development” missions.



Sudanese rebels of the JEM (Movement for Justice and Equality)

To manage the gap

Security management can not be approached suitably without a constant humility and respect. It is necessary, indeed even vital to place one's marker. The pieces of advice provided to future humanitarian workers on the leave are disconcerting by their obviousness:

- **One should not arrive as in a « conquered land »,** but he should let himself the time to immerse himself in the new atmosphere. To have read a book on Sri Lanka or to have a Master in history does not provide all the necessary clues to understand the Tamil cause. Believe that we know before even having landed in Colombo is, on the contrary, the best way to start with a prejudiced which is totally incompatible with the principle of impartiality inherent to the humanitarian work;
- **Respect the habits and local customs,** may they be religious, cultural or other, and may they meet our agreement or not. It is crucial to always keep in mind that we came on a voluntary basis in a country to help a population in need, and that we are not “at home”;
- **Try to merge into the local population by adopting a low profile,** knowing that, no matter what, eyes will be turned on us and that to be classed “humanitarian - Western” is not always favourable to us.

The impact of expatriates' behaviour on security

The often repeated mistake in security management is to believe that it is only related to elements external to the NGO (context, conflicting parties, government...), as if the NGO had no influence, no interaction with these external elements.

In daily Security management, it is necessary to distinguish Safety (set of rules and practices implemented to limit accidents whose causes are « internal » to the NGO) and Security (set of rules and practices implemented to limit accidents whose causes are « external » to the NGO).

Let us take a few examples to clarify this shade of meaning:

- *A car accident occurring while you were driving too fast, and during which the passenger, who did not wear his seatbelt, went through the windscreen, is directly imputable to you. You are thus the cause of an accident that could obviously have been avoided with an adapted speed and the wearing of a safety belt.*
- *One of your teams is working in a camp of displaced people when, suddenly, governmental planes appear in the air bombing the camp supposedly hosting rebels even if objectively hosting only men and women. You were not a direct target; you could not have foreseen such an event or even have tried to stop by any means. Therefore it is an event totally unrelated to your humanitarian activities, and in that case you are a victim of the environment in which you are evolving.*

In concrete terms, what is implemented on humanitarian missions

Once the adaptation phase is over, there is a need to be proactive and alert to the context evolutions, the moves of armed groups, the behaviour rules, etc., in order not to enter a dangerous phase considered as one of the main enemies of Security management Routine.

A special awareness of a certain number of rules needs to be encouraged:

- **The follow-up of a context:** *The approach and understanding of a context is efficient and useful only if its evolutions are followed-up daily. Meetings with other NGOs and UN agencies among others enable the sharing of pieces of information from different networks, to spot forerunner signs of conflict resumption, etc.*
- **Raising staff awareness:** *the way to react to an incident can and must be anticipated, and the teams should be aware of the right practices to adopt under any circumstances. For example they must know what behaviour to adopt while facing a roadblock improvised by child-soldiers under the effect of drugs, or during a breaking in at night in a living place. Being prepared for such eventualities happens to be of great help once presented with a fait accompli. The watchword of course is to stay alive by all means, even though one has to give the key to the car or to the safe. Equipment should not cost a live.*
- **Rules linked to moves on the field:** *car accidents being the first cause of expatriates death on a mission, the following rules need to be scrupulously applied: To wear the safety belt, to respect speed limitations, to respect the curfew, always move in a minimum of 2 vehicles convoy. These rules punctuate the humanitarian worker's everyday life.*

- **Rules linked to the protection of the buildings:** all types of measures must be considered: the presence and the training of watchmen day and night ensures the control over the in and outs of the house / the office / the warehouses where equipment for the beneficiary populations is stocked, the lighting of the proximity of the premises in countries where the risk of breaking in at night is high, the existence of protection measures such as barbed wire overhanging raised walls, the relevance of having a bunker ready to host humanitarian workers during 3-4 days in complete autarky (water, food, means of communication, etc.).
- **Rules linked to money management:** The procedures to supply money to the field, the necessity to have a safe, the rules concerning the payment of the salaries (payment by check rather than in cash in order to avoid the storage of money susceptible of attracting the greeds).
- **Health-related procedures:** The necessity to « impose » holidays on humanitarian workers often working over twelve hours a day, 6 or even 7 days a week, is often under-estimated, but it must be taken seriously. The climatic conditions can be extreme, the hygiene situation precarious, and altogether it may favour the contraction of tropical diseases such as malaria. These conditions are hard on the body and endanger the staff.



Tracks between Um Dukhun and Bindizi (Darfur). UNHAS¹³ flights for the moves of Humanitarian workers in Darfur.

Conclusion

Culturally speaking, humanitarian action spreads in countries most of which are quite different from the ones we know, with unfamiliar ways of thinking, habits and customs. The access to the beneficiary populations and the relevance of the programmes we implement depend on the understanding and respect of these differences. Finally, security management could be defined by a series of rules, procedures and good practices, gathered in a sort of « code of conduct » adapted to each country, to each area of intervention according to its intrinsic specificities.

These rules, procedures and good practices are the guarantee of a humanitarian aid that will be delivered to the beneficiary populations according to their needs, but also according to the reality of the fields where we operate. It is better to postpone an action because of an identified potential threat rather than to put our teams in danger.

To learn more:

http://humanitarianprotection.org/AID_WORKER_SAFETY/aid_worker_safety.html

Central African Republic, Sudan and Chad: porous borders bind three conflicts in an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

By Félicie Monneret - Triangle G H Deputy Desk Officer / July 2009.

Triangle teams have been operating respectively for five and three years in Darfur and Central African Republic. They live in the heart of the conflicts in eastern Chad, Darfur and in the extreme North-East of CAR. The belligerents – their origins and the means they use –, as well as the humanitarian crisis they induce, ominously cross the borders of each concerned State.

If the form of the conflict is new from the analysts¹⁴ point of view, the close examination of their origins unmistakably brings them together, even though the political fights which triggered them were initially national issues.

The building of colonial empires at the beginning of the twentieth century set up administrative frontiers causing the division of territories formerly united in the exploitation of natural resources and trade between people living in Darfur, eastern Chad and the Vakaga region (North-East of CAR). Widely covered by Historians, this phenomenon generated conflicts of power seriously destabilizing for young States who recently gained their independence (Sudan in 1956, Chad and CAR in 1960); Besides, the later well-known participation of France and Libya in their internal affairs highly contributed to the arming of the putschists, in Chad as in CAR, in the following decades. Sudan has an administration divided into North and South. By conceding power to the Arab elite of the North, Great Britain already planted the seeds of the conflict which germinated a few years later in the country, at the beginning of the oil exploitation. North and South are currently still opposed.

The actual frontiers between these three countries are at present merely administrative as they are porous and divide territories formerly united in many respects.

Regional diplomacy added to the more or less discreet support of the different rebel and/or political groups of neighbouring countries by the Chadian, Sudanese and Central African States, contributed in many ways to the political upheavals in these three countries: we can mention the NLFC¹⁵ which lead to the downfall of François Tombalbaye (the first Chadian President); the well-known support of the Sudanese government to the Chadian rebels nowadays united within the UFR striving to take the power in Idriss Déby (a Zaghawa ethnical group); or even the logistical support brought by the Chadian government to the Sudanese rebels of the MJE¹⁶ and the SLA¹⁷ as well as to the newly-born military group of CJP¹⁸ in the North-East of CAR. And finally, we can mention the strategic use of the Central African territory as a preparation and back-up zone for the Southern rebels of SPLA during the fights opposing them to the regular Sudanese Army since 1983 in Bahr el- Ghazal.

Furthermore, the three regions at stake here share socio-economic characteristics: they are all inhabited by a multitude of different ethnical groups historically cross-

14 - The reading of « The Tormented Triangle : the regionalisation of conflict in Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic », J. Giroux, D. Lanz, D. Sguaitamatti, April 09 brings elements of analysis on this subject, and was the source of several historical elements of this article. It is available online on: www.crisisstates.com

15 - Chad National Liberation Front ;

16 - Movement for Justice and Equity run by Khalil Ibrahim.

17 - Sudan People's Liberation Army.

18 - Convention for Justice and Peace les chiffres



border, located far from the administrative and economical centres of their respective States, hosting a majority of Muslim populations, living on the products of farming and extensive breeding (nomadism is very developed, as it is in Sahelian regions). The very low level of development in Darfur, the Vakaga Region and Eastern Chad, even though not fully comparable, generated political claims coming from their inhabitants. These tensions added to the vague impulse for power of community leaders. Populations quickly organized themselves in politico-military groups against the central power administrating them. Nevertheless we may not risk to directly link in time each of these three conflicts (Darfur in 2003, Chad in 2005, CAR in 2006).

As we said above, the actual frontiers between these three countries are at present merely administrative as they are porous and divide territories formerly united in many respects. The populations of the Region mainly live around the commercial centres of Nyala (South Darfur, Sudan) and Abéché (Ouaddaï, Chad). We can find the same populations and ethnical groups in Darfur, South-Eastern Chad and in the Vakaga Region: Nomads, whose socio-economical and identity survival is closely linked to their movements, as they transit from the South to the North every year at the beginning of the rainy season, disregarding administrative frontiers, looking for green pastures and fleeing the epizooties of too humid austral zones. And finally, Chadian migrations towards Darfur in the early 80's, fleeing civil war and the draught, highlighted the conflicting problematic of access to natural resources in the area.

This problematic pre-existed to the current conflicts. It is nowadays fully exacerbated by an easy political use, offering a simplistic analytical shortcut and a ready-made reason for the pursuit of the conflicts, reviving tensions especially between farmers and breeders in Darfur. Access to resources remains a central issue at stake in the Region. The migration of the Zaghawas, semi-nomad breeders present in Chad and in Sudan, is a living illustration of that. They had

to flee their land towards the South in the 70's in order to find water for their cattle, and their economy partly shifted towards the trade of farming products. Their quest for territory opposed them to Fours and Birgids populations among others, whose claim for their lost territory – and through the political use made of it – added further to the current conflict in Darfur.

If the causes of this regional conflict are polymorphic as we have seen, the morphology of its unfolding is as complex. The regional diplomatic conflicts related to international economical issues (the presence of oil in the South of Sudan and in eastern Chad and its exploitation by French, British and Chinese companies among others), inter-ethnic tensions, the question of access to water, to arable land or to pasturage areas: all these issues are as many elements used by one or the other parties to pursue its own interests in a increasingly complex context. Years of conflict generated a complex situation with the multiplication of military groups and their claims changing with the wind, and created a cross-border war economy with shared human and logistic means exchanged between regular armies and even between rebel groups; the latter are often mercenaries whose sole economical objective is satisfied by the lootings they are asked to do in villages and in camps of displaced people. Regular armies and rebel groups defend their territories often separated by « grey zones ». These areas are apparently not controlled by any force, but they are non-permanently occupied by those wanting to settle there temporarily. Very often, civil populations fled these fighting zones, leaving the place to well-armed farmers coming to cultivate or harvest their fields; to Nomads enjoying these vast and empty pastures; or to groups of thieves / mercenaries hiding there, rising their camp, preparing their troops for future attacks. Front lines are thus inexistent or at least very changing, and the attacks hardly predictable, the groups being so numerous and their objectives following short-time logics.

Designating a great regional winner today would be absurd. However, we can easily say that civil populations living in the area are the great losers of this conflict, regarding their growing precariousness and the social changes they are subjected to.

Beyond all of this, it is also the dignity of these people that is being spoiled by the total lack of intimacy in these improvised camps; the exactions on some victims who can not talk about it; the incapacity to help one's relatives; the incapacity for parents to feed their children...

The high concentration of people in some camps generates acute sanitary risks, directly related to, and dangerously increased by: the complete destitution of these populations; the lack of drinkable water; and the weak health condition of everyone. Since the beginning of the conflict, the international



Children in the refugee camp of Um Dukhun

community and national solidarity organizations have been striving to respond to the « basic needs » of these people (food, drink and shelter). The task is becoming increasingly complex because of the opacity of the conflict and the rapid and permanent transfers of population seeking for safer places to settle.

It is nowadays extremely difficult for humanitarian organizations to invest a shrinking « humanitarian space ». The latter is defined by three factors: the existence of humanitarian needs (unprecedented in the region, considering its scope and acuteness); the security of the aid workers as the one of the beneficiaries in the implementation of the programme; the availability of adapted means (human, logistic and financial). If the unfolding of this war is violent and opaque, the declared use of the logistic means of humanitarian organizations by armed groups of different allegiances is well-known. The phenomenon of heavily militarized crime endogenous to the conflict increased over the past two years. It offers an ideal setting to mask all sorts of political actions; ideal crucible to melt the obscure, dangerous and unpredictable alloy between thieves and mercenaries.

As an example, more than 300 vehicles were stolen in Darfur in 2008 to NGOs and international peace keeping forces (UNAMID). In the months of May and June 2009 in the Vakaga region, a new mono-ethnic armed force thus operated three car-jackings with the help of Chadian mercenaries; the city of Birao (Prefecture of the Vakaga region) was then attacked twice in two weeks thanks to the help of Sudanese mercenaries this time. This new practice in CAR unfortunately augurs a deterioration of human condition and of the context of intervention for humanitarian workers. Resold or used locally, the stolen vehicles are used for the transportation of troops and are equipped by armed groups with tripods holding submachine guns or mortar. These lootings occur on the roads leading to the places where populations are gathered, or directly in the NGO offices during the day or at night. They are accompanied by systematic violence and humanitarian workers are directly threatened: some of our colleagues have thus been kidnapped for several days, violently hit, raped or even killed by their assailants.

This is the way the humanitarian space shrinks everyday in Darfur, in the Vakaga region, or in Chad; not that there is a decrease in needs, on the contrary; not that we lack the means either. But security related risks increase everyday. The access to the populations becomes more and more problematic, to the point that it is impossible to enter certain zones whereas civilians keep being the targets of violent and repeated attacks. Sometimes they even find themselves circled by multiple dangers and can't leave a zone where they are under assault, with no access to their land, deprived of water in terms of quality and quantity, with no possibility to supply their markets from the outside, roads being insecure. Crisis goes on and grows in spite of the available means of intervention. Humanitarian workers are reduced to seeking for more favourable possibilities



Sudanese rebels of the JEM

to intervene and help populations who can do nothing else than wait or hit the road towards distant camps which access is uncertain.

Besides, the security stabilization of these zones by the multinational peace keeping forces (UNAMID in Sudan, MINURCAT in Chad and in CAR) is not efficient because of restrictive mandates; inaccessibility of entire sub-regions during the rainy season; or because of the bad state of the tracks, etc. The multiple ceasefires signed over the past years in each of these countries did not last, and the current perspectives of political resolution of the conflict are very shallow. These events will have heavy consequences on the long term, such as the explosion of urban spaces (350 000 displaced people in Nyala, 200 000 in El Fasher and in Abéché, etc.). Their new « inhabitants » do not have any capacity of social or economical integration, and the Youth lose the ancestral agricultural know-how. A transition is operating from nomad ways of living towards pastoralist ones. The ethnical tensions will probably last several generations.

Today, civilian populations lost hold on their fate. Therefore, humanitarian actors have to react to the emergencies faced by the populations they have access to. In the Vakaga Region, a food crisis is brewing, and the 2009 rain season will probably be marked by a very limited access to the fields. Many displaced people in the eastern Chad can't have access to humanitarian help for security reasons, and in Darfur, numerous camps and isolated villages are today out of reach of humanitarian actions.

If the future is highly uncertain in this Region, it is in the responsibility of Humanitarian actors to continue filling the space, maintaining help for the civil populations impacted by the armed conflicts surrounding and targeting them. We have to bet on the capacity of people to find answers to the conflicts striking them, and hope that the deterioration of the security conditions will not make this action impossible.



Refugee camp of Um Dukhun

timor leste



Timor is an island in the Indonesian archipelago located 500 km north of Australia, between the islands of Java (East) and New Guinea (West). It is the largest of the Sunda islands.

The island was divided in two during the colonisation: the western part is integrated into the Dutch Indies, which would later become Indonesia. The eastern part is annexed by Portugal, which left in 1975. East Timor (Timor Leste) then proclaims its independence, but it is invaded by the Indonesian Army seven days later. During 25 years of occupation, Indonesia has been running a bloody repressive policy towards the opponents. More than 250,000 East-Timorese died during these fights and the planned famines. Vast transmigration plans from the overpopulated islands of Java and Sumatra have been implemented, ending in the supplanting of the number of native people.

In 1998, General Suharto, the Indonesian president, is forced to leave the power following popular strikes. Timor Leste then gains the right to hold a self determination referendum under the United Nations aegis. On August 30, 1999. More than 78% of the Timorese voted in favour of independence. After the bursting of violence organised by the Indonesian Army and Timorese militia, Timor is placed under the transitory administrative rule of the United Nations in October 1999. The country officially becomes independent on May 20, 2002, and presidential elections take place. However, the political situation remains fragile, and a new political crisis occurs in 2006. Nearly 10% of the country's population is displaced by this internal conflict, to settle in transitional camps. The death of Major Alfredo during the double assassination attempt on the president and the prime minister in February 2008 did not bring along additional trouble in the county which since then enjoys a relative stability.

A few socio- economic indicators

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Capital | Dili |
| Regime | Republic |
| Population (in millions) | 1,108 |
| Demographic growth | 2.027% |
| Economic growth | 6.8% |
| GDP / Inhabitant | US\$500/inhabitant |
| Life expectancy | 67.3 years |

● Humanitarian situation

The uprisings in 2006 forced nearly 100,000 people to leave their homes. At the end of October 2008, an estimate of 40,000 people was still displaced. Out of these 40,000 people, a little less than 20,000 still live in camps, in difficult conditions.

In 2009, the totality of the transitional housings sites closed down and the displaced people have been progressively reintegrated, with the support of the government and international NGOs. Humanitarian aid currently focuses on the country's development as much as on social cohesion.

● Triangle G H in Timor

After a survey carried out end 2004, Triangle G H launched end 2005 a programme of access to drinking water and sanitary facilities in areas affected by malnutrition. Several projects followed in the field of water and sanitation until mid 2007, when the Timorese government, aware of Triangle G H's experience and know-how, asks us to assess the state of the existing water networks in the district of Manatuto, which will serve as work base to the present project of rehabilitation of the drinking water networks, implemented in the districts of Manatuto and Oecusse.

In parallel of these water and sanitation activities, and in order to make for the acts of violence existing within the Timorese society, disorganized by years of conflict (especially between displaced communities and hosting communities), Triangle G H develops a psychosocial project in the city of Becora, aiming at recreating a social link among populations. This project led to the animation of a youth centre in partnership with a local NGO, and to the organization of numerous activities (English courses, sport tournaments, music groups, painting...)

Triangle G H is currently developing a project of rehabilitation of the water networks in the districts of Manatuto and Oecusse, in partnership with national and local services for water and sanitation.

Implementation of a sustainable water distribution system in rural areas

- **Funding:** CDM International / USAID (United States Agency for International Development)
- **Budget:** 1 300 K\$
- **Duration:** 17 months (May 2009 - September 2010)

The project objective is to improve the living conditions of rural populations in Manatuto and Oecusse districts by building and/or rehabilitating the drinking water distribution networks. It aims to ensure an access to water in conformity with international standards in terms of quantity and quality, and to share with the populations the knowledge and technical capacity to maintain the equipment and water network on a daily basis.

● The project carries out several activities:

- Distribution network of drinking water: consultation with the communities, specific identification of needs, technical studies, design of networks, writing and publication of a call for tenders on supply of equipment, rehabilitation works and/or construction, connection, supply of spare parts;
- Community training: implementation of committees in the communities, identification of intermediaries, theoretical and practical training;
- Skills strengthening: training of the local partner in terms of community mobilization;
- Technical skills, project follow-up and evaluation: guidance and training of the DNSAS (district Water Service) on technical aspects (topographic surveys, water quality testing, hydraulic training, infrastructures design, etc.), and organizational skills (project cycle, follow-up, storage, etc.).

Support to the victims of the Timor Leste crisis by helping to reduce inter-community conflicts

- **Funding:** ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission), DAH (Délégation à l'action humanitaire French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs), JM Bruneau Fondation
- **Global budget:** 274 K€
- **Duration:** 19 months (July 2008 - January 2010)

The aim of the project is to participate in reducing community and cross-community tensions in the area of Becora in Dili. More specifically, we aim to strengthen social relations within the communities and across communities by implementing and supporting cultural, socio-

educational, sports and income generating activities. This project will benefit to 1,795 people (direct beneficiaries) and 16,750 people (indirect beneficiaries).

The expected result is the implementation of regular social and cultural activities for the youth and for women, favouring the return of displaced people to Becora.

● Our action focuses on two main areas:

- **Support and capacity building in the youth centre:** since July 4, 2009, Triangle G H has been using an office located just behind the youth centre to coordinate the national and expatriate team working on the project. In addition, owing to its proximity with the youth centre, the office can serve as meeting and training space for direct work with the youth centre. The activities carried out through our support to the youth centre are the organization of sports and cultural events, the development of « music » activities, and the



A — Visiting a bus library with children from Becora
B — Installing posts for volleyball in the area of Becora
C — Training the local Triangle G H team

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organization of training sessions in English, Portuguese and IT. Triangle G H also strives to strengthen the centre's management capacities regarding the yearly planning of training sessions and fund raising;

- **Activities directly targeting the communities:** Strengthening and follow-up of the existing project activities (manual and cultural activities) which could potentially be integrated in a psychosocial process, development of « open sessions», guided by groups of activity and open to the community (population categories such as women, teenagers or children).

Support to displaced people through water supply and the building of sanitary facilities in transitional housing sites

- **Funding:** ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission), DAH (Délégation à l'action humanitaire – French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs)
- **Global budget:** 380 K€
- **Duration:** 11 months (June 2008 - April 2009)



Maintenance operation: repairing a water pump in Tasi Tolu

This project aimed to offer emergency relief to people impacted by the crisis in East Timor (9,272 people) by providing access to a safe and sufficient quantity of water, as well as by facilitating access to sanitation facilities to the displaced people living in the transitional housing sites, and at the same time improving their knowledge and practices in terms of hygiene.

These activities were implemented in coordination with other humanitarian organizations, especially the NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council) and the government of Timor-Leste, in order to ensure that all needs were met.

● The mission allowed:

- The building of water supply networks;
- The connection of the networks to the urban networks or to wells (approximately 65 metres) when the urban network was deficient and the aquifer allowed it;
- The support to the maintenance of all existing infrastructures in the traditional housing sites (creation of new water communities and strengthening the existing ones);
- The monitoring of water quantity and quality;
- The building of sanitary facilities (latrines / showers and washing spots);
- The connection of sanitary facilities to the water network and drainage system for wastewaters disposal;
- The building / rehabilitation of drainage systems in order to limit the risks of waterborne diseases;
- The organization hygiene-awareness campaigns in the new transitional housing sites and distribution of hygiene kits;
- The finalization of the technical plans and scope of the facilities in relation to the various results.



Practical training for
members of the Water
Management
Committee:
« How to repair a leaking tap? »

vietnam



Việt Nam is a South-East Asian country located at the far east of the Indochina Peninsula, sharing borders with China (North), Laos and Cambodia (West).

Việt Nam has been occupied by China for nearly thousand years, impacting the population in terms of culture, language and religion (Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism). Chinese domination ends in the Xth century. A succession of dynasties run the country until 1874, when Việt Nam is placed under French rule, becoming part of French Indochina with Cambodia and Laos. It is then divided into three parts: Tongking in the North, Annam in the Centre and Cochin China in the South. Cochin China becomes a colony of exploitation, Annam and Tongking are placed under French protectorate. In 1932, in order to calm the nationalist rebellions regularly striking, the colonial government sets-up a constitutional monarchy (controlled by France) ruled by the Emperor Bao Dai of the Nguyen dynasty.

In 1940 Japan invades French Indochina. The territory still remains officially administrated by the French colonial government until 1945. In 1941, The Communist Party of Indochina creates the Việt Minh Independence Movement League. In 1945, the Japanese suppress any form of French administrative and military presence in Indochina, and, via the Emperor, they proclaim the independence and the reunification of the country. The Việt Minh then enters in open conflict with Japan, who surrenders. The independence of Việt Nam is proclaimed. The French troops re-enter Indochina during the fall season, whereas the Army of the Republic of China occupies Tongking. Hostilities will end with the Geneva agreements, in 1954.

The country is divided in two, and the population has to choose between the communist regime North, which would become the Democratic Republic of Việt Nam, and the nationalist regime in the south, which would become the Republic of Việt Nam. Elections had to be held within the two following years in order to unify the country. The non respect of these delays, and the despotic character of the Southern government generates a guerrilla from the National Liberation Front (NLF – armed force of nationalist and communist inspiration, also called Việt-Cong). This movement, partly composed of former Việt-Minh members, is opposed to the South-Vietnamese regime in order to reunify the country under Hồ Chi Minh's communist regime. Within the cold war context, the NLF, supported by the Democratic Republic of Việt Nam, the USSR and China, initiates a guerrilla against South Việt Nam supported by the American army.

In 1973, after fifteen years of fighting, bombing and descent into Hell, the United-States disengage from the war, under the pressure of public opinion. The fights between Vietnamese forces ends on April 30th, 1975 with the downfall of Saïgon, re-baptized Hồ Chi Minh Ville afterwards. Việt Nam is reunified into the Socialist Republic of Việt Nam in 1976.

In 1979, the Vietnamese army invades Cambodia, putting an end to the Khmers Rouges regime. China replies with an attack on North Việt Nam. In 1989, Việt Nam moves out of Cambodia, enabling the restoration of the diplomatic links with European and Asian heads of State.

In 1986, the political reforms of the Dôi Moi ("Renouveau") mark a real renovation of the state and the economy, inspired by the Russian Perestroïka. It is followed by the opening to market economy and to the progressive abandonment of companies and land collectivisation. Foreign companies, attracted by low wages, start to settle in the country. The new Constitution adopted in 1992 strengthens the role of the communist Party, still further opening the way to economic reforms.

In 1994, the United-States remove the economic embargo and Việt Nam can borrow money from the International Monetary Fund for its reconstruction. In 1995, Việt Nam enters the Association of the Organization of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and in 2007, it enters the World Trade Organization.

A few socio-economic indicators

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Capital | Hanoi |
| Regime | Single party Popular Republic |
| Population (in millions) | 87,1 |
| Demographic growth | 1.34%/year |
| Life expectancy | 71,6 years |
| GDP / Inhabitant | US\$1040 |
| Economic growth | 6.175% |

● Triangle G H in Vietnam

With the adoption of the « Do Moi » outward orientated policy, the Vietnamese government saw the development of tourism as a priority for economic growth. The number of hotels increased and diversified their offer. However, few vocational training are proposed, and as a consequence, qualified staff is hard to find on the work market. In 1996, the Ministry of Tourism requested aid from foreign investors (via the European Commission) in order to set-up high-quality training schemes. During the first semester 2007, the Tourism office in Hô-Chi-Minh-Ville recorded 1, 28 million entrees of foreign tourists, which represents an 11, 3% increase compared to the same period in 2006. These tourists wished to benefit from a quality service meeting international standards.

Triangle G H decided to answer this call with the proposal to create a Franco-Vietnamese catering school with young trainees from underprivileged backgrounds in Hô Chi Minh Ville. In 1997, the first contacts are made, and, with the help of the Rhône-Alpes Region and the City of Lyons, several assessment missions are undertaken. In 2001, concrete action start within the framework of a five years programme: rehabilitation of the buildings, staff training, welcoming of the trainees. The catering school has been functioning since January 2003 and keeps developing, with the opening of a chocolate workshop and a test hotel in 2010.

In parallel, Triangle G H supports a training centre for disabled people, in order to favour their insertion in the Vietnamese society.

Empowerment of the Vocational Training Centre for Disabled People in Hô Chi Minh Ville - Phase II

- Funding: Rhône-Alpes Region
- Global budget: 140 K€
- Duration: 20 months (September 2007 - April 2009)

Beneficiaries: the centre's students (300 to 400 people per year depending on the duration and type of course), centre's staff (64 people).

● Presentation of implemented activities:

For this second year of funding, the project continues the activities initiated in 2006-2007 in the Vocational Training Centre for Disabled People. Extra efforts will be dedicated to developing the Vocational Training Consultancy Service and the Job Centre.

During Phase II, the general objectives of this project's first phase will be maintained, (e.g. improve the quality of training provided by the centre and facilitate disabled people's access to employment). In addition, Phase II's new general objective is to contribute to improving the occupational integration of disabled people in Ho Chi Minh.

● **This will operate via 5 specific objectives:**

- Ensure that more disabled people benefit from academic and vocational training.
- Ensure that more disabled people benefit from vocational integration and having a job.
- Empower the skills of the centre's staff and raise their awareness about the particular situation of disabled people.
- Improve the quality of training spaces for disabled people.
- Assess the possibility of creating, in the centre, a practical workshop designed for severely disabled students who cannot enter the work market on a regular basis.

Development and support to the Catering School for Young People from underprivileged areas

- **Funding: Rhône-Alpes Region, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, AIF** (Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie), **Rhône-Alpes Caisse d'Épargne works council, European Union**
- **Budget global 900 K€**
- **Duration: 11 ans de 1998 à 2009**

The school's mission is to improve the lives of 16 to 20 year olds from underprivileged families by providing certified training leading to employment within the catering business. The students can study: Vietnamese and French cuisine, table serving, bread and cake making.

Every course also provides subjects such as Vietnamese, foreign languages, general knowledge, etc.

In addition, the school has established two income-generating activities (IGA): the Sésame restaurant and a Boulangerie & Pâtisserie shop. These activities give students the possibility to put their learning into practise and experience real working conditions. Income generated by the shop and restaurant covers part of the school's operating costs.

The restaurant's terrace





Since it opened in 2002, and after five promotions of students, 100% of the 230 students who passed their final exam have found employment in the restaurants and hotels of Ho Chi Minh City region.

Another purpose of this project is to transfer management and administration skills to our Vietnamese partners from DELISA (The Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Department of Ho Chi Minh City) who will ultimately take on full management of the catering school.



In the kitchen



the boulangerie



Graduation day

yemen



The Republic of Yemen is located at the South East of the Arabic peninsula, sharing borders with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia (North) and the sultanate of Oman (East).

It is made of several islands: the Kamaran islands in the Red Sea, the Perim Islet commanding the access to the Red Sea through the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, and the Island of Socotra in the Indian ocean.

North Yemen belongs to the Ottoman Empire until 1918.

Then it becomes an independent Monarchy, which in turn will be abolished in 1962. The country then becomes the Arab Republic of Yemen.

South Yemen is under British rule until 1967, when it becomes the Popular Democratic Republic of Yemen. In 1990, both republics merge to form the Republic of Yemen. Since then, the country has to face southern secessionists, high instability in the central regions, and a Chiite rebel movement in the far north of the country.

Thus, the beginning of 2009 was marked by an upsurge of stormy demonstrations in the south of the country, followed by the arrests of political opponents and the cancelling of local legislative elections due in the month of April. The conflict in the governorate of Saada is a singular illustration of the fragility of Yemen.

Since September 2004, it opposes governmental forces to the group « Al Houti » carrying the name of its historical leaders. In a global climate of permanent tension and punctual fighting, five wars already broke out. The various attempts of mediation do not manage to put an end to the conflict. The « fifth war » lasted from May to July 2008. A sixth war broke out in 2009.

A few socio-economic indicators

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Capital | Sanaa |
| Regime | Republic |
| Population (in millions) | 22.9 |
| Demographic growth | 3,17%/year |
| Life expectancy at birth | 62,12 years |
| GNP / Inabitant | 1360 USD/year |
| Economic growth | 3.89%/year |

● Humanitarian situation

Yemen is regularly exposed to natural disasters such as flash floods, storms or draught. The healthcare system is highly insufficient, especially in rural areas, and nine people out of ten do not have access to minimal water resources (waterborne diseases are one of the main cause of child mortality). The water reserves of the country nearly ran dry. Their preservation thus constitutes major concern in the activities we implement.

Yemen being the only country in the region having signed the Geneva Convention, it attracts thousands of refugees fleeing the Somalian civil war. In the north-west of the country, the sixth war between Al Houtis rebels and the government violently started in August 2009. Humanitarian aid was able to reach only 35,000 people out of the 175,000 displaced people generated by the conflict.

● Triangle G H in Yemen

The experience in partnership with the UNHCR in Iraqi Kurdistan encouraged the NGO to support Somali refugees early 1998.

For seven years, Triangle G H developed actions towards refugees, with the objective to support the creation of income generating activities (handicraft, breeding, farming...), and entertaining activities (games, library, sport or music activities, ...), to bring a school back up and a vocational training to young Somali, and to ensure a social follow-up to the most vulnerable people.

In March 2000, a water network sanitation programme is completed in Aden. A total of 14,000 houses are connected to the drinking water network and to the waste disposal system. In parallel, a waste collection system is implemented.

Other projects towards Yemenite populations were initiated afterwards, especially a rehabilitation programme of farming infrastructures in the Wadi Hadramaout and a rehabilitation programme of the water supply network on the island of Socotra.

Triangle G H currently keeps developing its activities in five regions in Yemen, which diverse context request operations ranging from emergency relief (Governorate of Hajjah) to rehabilitation (Governorate of Hadramout), and to the sector of rural development. These varied projects always aim at strengthening of local farming capacities, implying different implementation modalities and activities, from the daily proximity guidance (Socotra) to capacity building of local structures (Hadramout).

Integrated Food Safety in Marawah district, Hodeidah Governorate

- **Funding:** EuropeAid
- **Global budget:** 1 700 K€
- **Duration:** 36 months (January 2008 – January 2011)

Triangle G H and Aide Médicale Internationale are conducting a comprehensive food-safety program for the rural populations of Wadi Siham. Each NGO runs actions according to its specific skills.

Aide Médicale Internationale (AMI), in the process of rehabilitating health centers with the Health Ministry, provides training courses in nine health centers and runs two mobile clinics to bring health services to remote groups living far from the area's main population pools. As well as optimizing access to primary health care, this project involves prevention and treatment of malnutrition.

In turn, Triangle G H is running three complementary aspects of the program:

1 — Improvement of farming practices and production

The agriculturists of Triangle G H work in 15 villages in the districts targeted by the project. They work daily with the farmers who want to take part in the tests and guide them through the benefits and disadvantages **of new agricultural methods, together with the yield of introduced varieties.** Triangle G H, with the support of local multiplication centers and local representatives of the Yemenite Agricultural Ministry, present the farmers with varieties that have shorter cycles, allowing farmers to face a reduced rain period and optimize the use of water in the region. Several varieties of local cultures (tobacco, margosa, sorghum, fodder)



Access to water is often very poor



Children watching goats

are thus tested and distributed if successful. Meetings inviting farmers from different villages foster the exchange of agricultural practices.

2 – Improvement of animal production

Impoverished people with small herds (ovine, goats) populate the 24 villages where Triangle G H is active. The animals are raised for milk and meat that form a major portion of each family's capital. Improvement of breeding practices and the diffusion of large-scale, basic veterinary services helps to increase the volume of animal production.



Water for the livestock

The breeding team of Triangle G H has also carried out **training courses that are open to women in every village. The courses focus on identification and treatment of the most common animal diseases.** Two women per village are in charge of the basic stock of medication that they can renew thanks to payment received for their treatment of animals. Treatment covers the most common diseases in the region (1,600 users and over 16,250 treatments in 2009).

Triangle G H also offers volunteer-breeders the possibility of purchasing, **at a reduced rate, food supplements that strengthen the animals.** This allows breeders to sell such animals at a higher price; the average net gain according to initial studies is €5 per head sold at €50. It goes without saying that this food protocol is managed by agriculturists and explained in detail to each breeder participating in the project. One of the main levers for optimizing feed-related practices in the area is to develop clover culture. Indeed, clover consumes less water than alfalfa, a crop that is over-cultivated in the region. In addition, having observed that major quantities of fodder are wasted when scattered on the ground (feed stamped into the soil or mixed with excrements), Triangle has implemented feeding-bowls. The actual gain generated by implementation of feeding-bowls is currently being calculated.

3 – Promotion of good practices of hygiene

In the 24 villages targeted by the program, Triangle G H is developing the knowledge and practices linked to personal and environmental hygiene. A simple training method targeting men and women (in separate sessions), based on active participation has been implemented. Subjects covered were defined following analysis of an initial survey of the practices in the targeted area. This work was performed in close cooperation with Aide Médicale Internationale that spreads complementary messages to the population. The community health agents trained by AMI are informed about Triangle's action in the hygiene & health area.

Integrated economic security project in Mayfaah and Rudoom districts, Shabwah governorate

- **Funding:** YLNG (Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas)
- **Global budget:** 444 K€
- **Duration:** 30 months (January 2009 – June 2011)

The still delicate stability of the Governorate of Shabwah is one of the avatars of the economic deterioration of the area. Triangle G H intervenes within the framework of a three years project in order to establish improved farming practices as well as to support the boosting of deteriorated cultural and animal productions.

● **Expected results:**

- The animal production is improved;
- Thanks to the rehabilitation of damaged irrigation channels, the cereal and fodder production is improved;
- The support brought to the production of dates and market gardening products enables the improvement and the diversification of the means of subsistence of the families, as well as of their food habits.

Development and promotion of a socially and ecologically friendly agriculture on the Island of Socotra

- **Funding:** FDA (French Development Agency)
- **Global budget:** 715 K€
- **Duration:** 30 months (January 2009 – June 2011)

Extending its previous project, Triangle G H continues to provide a proximity support to the groups of market gardeners in Socotra, and follows the products' marketing as well as the duplication of local seeds. It is true that the Island of Socotra offers climatic and natural conditions totally suitable to this type of project, however, the advanced protection of this rich and fragile environment imposes a strict control on farming practices, and, as it is the case in the whole Republic of Yemen, an advanced mastering of the means of irrigation.

● **Expected results:**

- To foster the increase in the production of fruits and vegetables in the Island of Socotra on a long-term basis;
- To strengthen local capacities in terms of organization and development of new paths;
- To favour Socotran seeds, a biological agriculture and improved nutritional practices.

Towards restored farming capacities of the communities living in the district of Sah, Hadramout Governorate

- **Funding:** TEPY (Total Exploration and Production Yemen)
- **Global budget:** 532 K€
- **Duration:** 17 months (January 2009 – May 2010)

In the direct continuity of the first rehabilitation programme also supported by TEPY, Triangle G H is still committed to the cause of the populations living on the banks of wadi Sah, the victims of exceptional floods in October 2008. The restoration of the farming land and of the totality of the major structures (channels, dams, dykes), enabling the irrigation of the parcels under cultivation, was achieved during the first phase, and the operations of support to breeding activities are currently being implemented.

● Expected results:

- The communities of wadi Sah have retrieved access to channelled irrigation;
- Irrigation capacities are back to normal;
- The most vulnerable breeders have reconstituted their flocks.

Emergency support to the displaced populations in Al-Mazraq, Hajjah Governorate

- **Funding:** UNHCR (the United Nations Refugee Agency)
- **Global budget:** 254 K€
- **Duration:** 5 months (November 2009 – March 2010)

Whereas the sixth war of the conflict which has been opposing the Al Houtis rebels of the North to the Yemeni government since 2004 intensifies, the flow of displaced civil populations continues unceasingly. Triangle G H carried out two assessments to better target the needs uncovered by the emergency actors present in the area. Priority was given to the support of the flocks. The livestock of each family represents the totality of the economic capital left over after the destruction or the desertion of the houses following the bombings. Besides, this intervention helps to reduce the sanitary risks linked to the promiscuity between men and animals in the camps.

● Expected results:

- Veterinary care is provided to the entire livestock belonging to the displaced population;
- Fodder and food nutriment are distributed to all the displaced families owning flocks;
- Separated shelters are built for the animals within camps 1 and 3.

Yemen

Source : Newsletter January 2009

Work in Yemen, a challenge... that is worth it!

by Olivier Leconte¹⁹

Triangle G H has been running programmes in Yemen for over ten years, and this is our oldest operation. We feel deeply attached to the country and its inhabitants and, in the face of so many needs, it is evident that we will continue working here. Yet, despite our deep-seated commitment to Yemen, running programmes here is far from easy...

A challenge...

The first challenge is physical: weather it be in Aden, Hodeïda, Shabwa or Socotra (the four places where we are based), heat and humidity make life difficult almost 8 months a year. It is also psychological: despite the indisputable interest of Yemenite culture, its remoteness from French culture can be destabilising.

There is an additional security issue: attacks, kidnappings, the spectrum of civil war... The situation is far from stable in Yemen. Without dramatizing things, risks exist and safety is a daily concern.

And finally there also is an ethical challenge: Yemen is not spared by the corruption that plagues all developing countries. Our daily work is further complicated by the fact that we refuse to bend to corruption.

These challenges are known to almost all humanitarian missions. Isolation, insecurity, fighting corruption, cultural and climate-related shocks... are all parts of the job when working for international solidarity.

But the biggest challenge is the confusing status of women in Yemenite society. They could be seen as oppressed, denied of all freedom, yet, beneath their veils and black robes, women are sometimes skilled, educated and free. In this patriarchal society, men's lives are not always more enviable than women's...

Keeping an open mind, taking care not to be judgemental and stereotypical is therefore primordial if we want to understand the complexity of Yemen's culture.

As an international solidarity NGO, our ambition is not to give lessons on morals or « savoir-vivre », nor to inject Arabia Felix (Yemen's mythical name) with a European mindset. It is simply to make life a little easier for the people with whom we have the fortune to work.

... that is worth it!

Yemen is a poor country. Some regions live in utter poverty, seeming forgotten by development, with no access to water or education. In such contexts, every project implemented by Triangle G H is a step (be it modest) towards improved living conditions for the men and women of this beautiful country.

19 - Olivier LECONTE was Head of Mission for Triangle G H in Yemen from October 2007 to August 2008

The Yemenites are incredible people. Proud of their culture and their way of life, they are also curious, sociable and open-minded. The work we are achieving with them is so mutually enriching. It puts every challenge into perspective...

Our programmes have helped Somali and Ethiopian refugees create a place for themselves in Yemenite society. Our WatSan (Water and Sanitation) and agricultural projects have given women the roles and responsibilities they did not always possess before.

Through our missions, we enable the Yemenites with whom we work to raise questions, to question themselves. They are then free to find their own answers...

Yemen, torrential rains on Hadramaout and Mahra

by Ivan DERET – Head of programmes

On October 23rd 2008, East Yemen suffered hours of solid rainfall resulting in severe flooding in the oueds. Hadramaout and Mahra, two Governorates where Triangle G H has run several relief programmes over the past few years, were particularly affected.

The exploratory mission led by Triangle G H in the affected areas examined two key elements: what kind of intervention suits the most urgent needs, and what remains of previous achievements after the trial of time and a rare climatic event.

Oueds or wadi are dry river beds most of the year; charged with seasonal water, they fertilize their banks. The oueds are usually arteries feeding the regions around them. But during the recent exceptional rainfall, they became immense rivers leaving their beds; destructive forces wrecking havoc in their course. In some villages bordering the wadi, the water level rose to fifteen meters in a few minutes...

In Hadramaout, the damage caused by the flood is immediately obvious: on top of the demolished infrastructures – water and electricity supply networks, roads and bridges – homes ruined by flooding form a bleak landscape reminiscent of an intense conflict.

Another striking vision is the deployment of national aid which may come as a surprise for a country that does not benefit from the same oil reserves than its neighbours. Bulldozers and other machines are clearing the roads and closing off the streets threatened by collapsing buildings. Hundreds of trucks of other regions in Yemen and border countries are conveying staple goods to the victims.

Imperfect though it may be, this national response to the population's most immediate needs has allowed us to analyse the future needs linked to rehabilitating agricultural lands. As well as the damage caused to agriculture and

the thousands of uprooted date palms, hundreds of hectares of fertile lands have been invaded by mud and wreckage or eroded and impoverished by the torrents. Such land must be restored.

Triangle G H has a major advantage in terms of realizing such works. Since 2000, we have implemented two large projects to optimize the use of flood waters for agriculture in wadi Hadramaout. These programmes included the building of over two hundred structures to canalize water, favour silt deposits and ground-water refuel, or simply to slow down hydric erosion reducing useful farming land.

Of course, such structures were submerged by the latest exceptional flood. But they nevertheless did not collapse, or even limited the impact of the flooding. However, they are part of a vast complex that has been severely damaged by the gaps appearing in the oued banks and the opening of new river beds. A careful assessment will therefore be required prior to launching arable lands restoration and protection works. Thanks to our presence in Yemen, we have means that are not attached to any specific programme; Triangle G H can start working right away. The funding terms regulating our action do not always offer the human and financial means to carry out such a survey of our past programmes. We have this opportunity today, and intend to use it to better serve Hadramaout's needs, as it is the case in other places where we operate or have been operating.

the **life** of the **NGO**

● the General Assembly

It is composed by the association members having renewed their subscription fee. The 30 € fee did not increase in 2009. The members take part in the General Assembly debates and are informed of all the initiatives taken by Triangle G H and their results.

The annual General Assembly was held on May 20th, 2009.

● the Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors are elected for 3 years (renewable) by the General Assembly. It is currently composed as follows:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President | Stéphane MERCADO | Employee – Decaux |
| Treasurer | Victor BERARD | Chartered Accountant & Broker |
| Secretary | Patrice HOUEL | Company Manager |
| | Olivier BRACHET | Director of the Forum Réfugiés |
| | Philippe MERCHEZ | Photograph |
| | Bertrand QUINET | Trainer – Bioforce |
| | Véronique VALTY | Consultant in communication |
| | Didier DEMATONS | Film-maker (audio-visual) |
| | Dominique TROUILLET | Artisan |
| | Christophe CLOAREC | Computer Scientist |

The Board of Directors met three times during the past year: in January, April and October.

● the Committee

The committee is composed of the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the NGO. It frequently gathers with the executive staff to work on important issues and prepare the Board meetings.

● the Executive [salaried staff]

| | |
|---|--|
| Directors | Christian Lombard Patrick Verbruggen |
| Deputy Operations Director | Jean-Luc Jouhaneau |
| Desk Officer (Programmes budget control) | Mounir Attallah |
| Desk Officers | Ivan Deret Anne Tréhondart |
| Programme Managers | Alexandre Devort Félicie Monneret |
| Technical Department Co-ordinators | Cédric Bréda Romain Sztark Monique Montel Lionel Roux |
| Programme Human Resources | Frédérique Brissez |
| Accountant | Sylvie Houel |
| Administrative Assistant | Pascale Vulliez |

During this year, 104 people, volunteers and expatriate salaried staff (Heads of Missions, Administrators, Programme Co-ordinators, Technical Experts, Logisticians ...) and nearly 450 local staff directly participated in Triangle G H activities in the field.

In 2009, we have received approximately 3000 letters of application and issued around fifty job ads.

● A few dates and outstanding events

— **January 2009**

STAFF'S SECURITY

Follow-up of the works aiming at strengthening Triangle G H staff's security. General security procedures will be audited, specific audits will be carried out in Central African Republic and in Sudan. A general security policy will be validated by the Board of Directors in October 2009.

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

New internal organization of the operational pole, especially with the creation of two binomials respectively in charge of the programmes in Africa and of the programmes in Asia, and the creation of a post of Deputy Operational Director.

AMELIE LES CRAYONS

On January 22nd, 23rd and 24th, Amélie les Crayons invited us to introduce Triangle G H at the occasion of her show, theatre Rameau in Lyons.

— **February 2009**

NEW LOGO

Beginning of the works aiming at renewing Triangle G H's logo and graphic charter. The new logo will be presented at the end of the year, at the occasion of the publication of the annual newsletter in December.

— **March 2009**

LAOS PHOTOGRAPHIES

Philippe Merchez took in Laos a series of photographs half way between the documentary (in link with our programme) and a work of author. An exhibition of 30 framed photographs size 60 x 60 cm followed, presented in different places.

— **May and June 2009**

JUMBLE SALES

The annual jumble sales of Lyons - Vaise and Lyons Croix-Rousse took place respectively on May 30th and 31st and on June 6th, 2010. Theses fifteenth (Lyons 9ème) and seventh (Lyons 4ème) editions welcomed a thousand professional or private exhibitors for 3 days.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ASSISES ON INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

We took part in the regional Conference on international solidarity and decentralized co-operation which took place on June 19th and 20th at the Manufacture des Tabacs in Lyons. This event organized by the Rhône-Alpes Region aims at giving a picture of cooperation programmes and to elaborate

future prospects taking into account the new world stakes and challenges. In this framework, we present our integrated rural development programme in Laos, backed up with Philippe Merchez's exhibition achieved in March in Khamouane Province.

— **September 2009**

EXHIBITION

The Opera House in Lyons welcomed us in the amphitheatre from September 15th to October 3rd to present Philippe Merchez's exhibition achieved in March in Laos. This was the occasion to present our activities in Laos to the 200 guests attending the preview of the exhibition. Besides, the photographs were for sale, and the benefits of these sales helped financing the current programme in Khamouane Province.

SEMINARY

From September 23rd to September 26th, we welcomed our Heads of Missions in Lyons for a 4 days seminary. This seminary, organized in work groups or full sessions, tackled Triangle G H's different strategies. A meeting with the members of the Board of Directors as well as a festive evening at the Croiseur ended these meetings.

— **November 2009**

STRATEGY UP TO 2015

Results of the global Strategy up to 2010 and launching of the works aiming at elaborating the global Strategy up to 2015.

KIDNAPPING

During the night of November 22nd, armed men forced the entrance into our base of Birao in Central African Republic and kidnapped two of our team members, Olivier F and Olivier D, respectively Programme Co-ordinator and person in charge of WatSan . They retrieved their freedom on March 14th 2010, after 112 days of captivity (refer to the preamble page 3).

INTERNET

This year, our Website welcomed some 10,000 visitors per month.

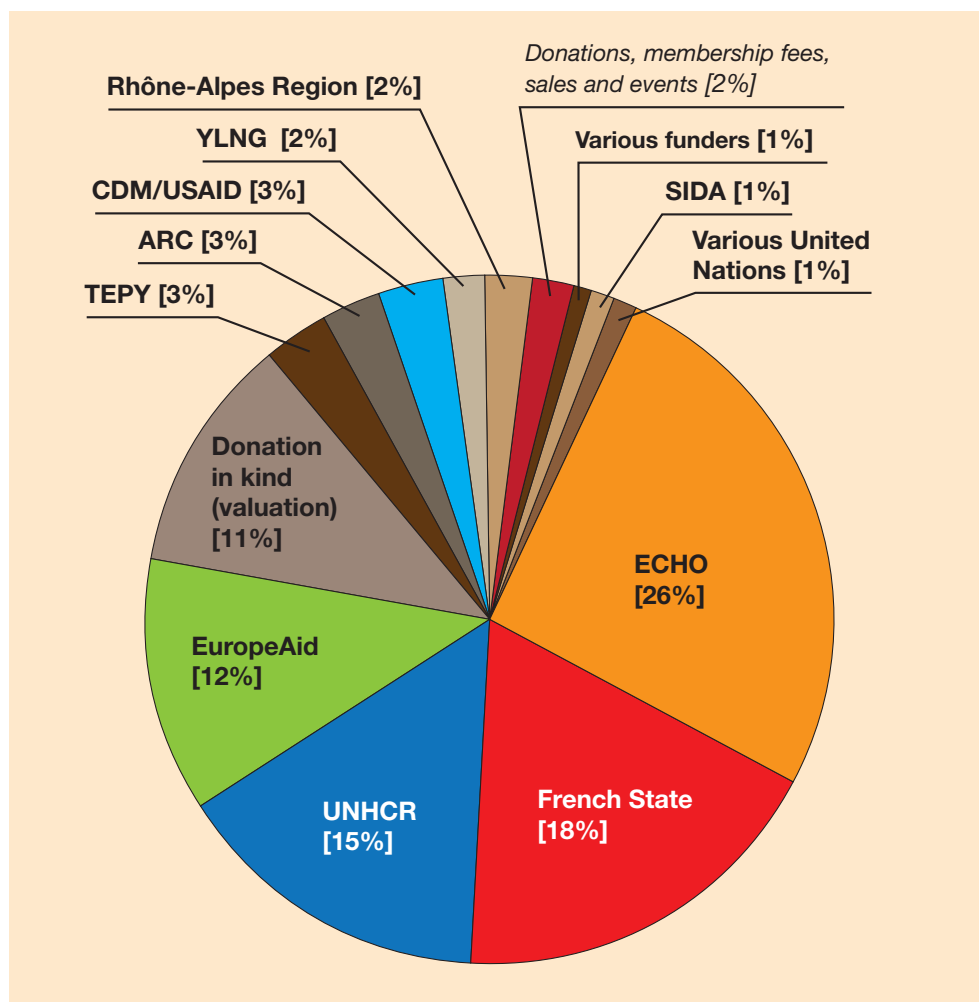
annual
budget
2009

11 840 K€

1 359 K€

donation in kind (valuation)

● origin of resources



ECHO: Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission

French State: Inter-ministerial Food Aid Committee, Crisis Unit, French Development Agency & Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

UNHCR: United Nations Refugee Agency

EuropeAid: Co-operation Office of the European Commission

Donation in kind (valuation): **UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund) – **WFP** (World Food Programme) –

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) – **UNHCR** (United Nations Refugee Agency) – **CDM**

International – **UNJLC** (United Nations Joint Logistics Centre) – **CHF International** (Common Humanitarian Fund) – **OFDA** (Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance)

TEPY: Total Exploration & Production Yemen

CDM International / USAID: United States Agency for International Development

ARC: American Red Cross

YLNG: Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas Company Ltd.

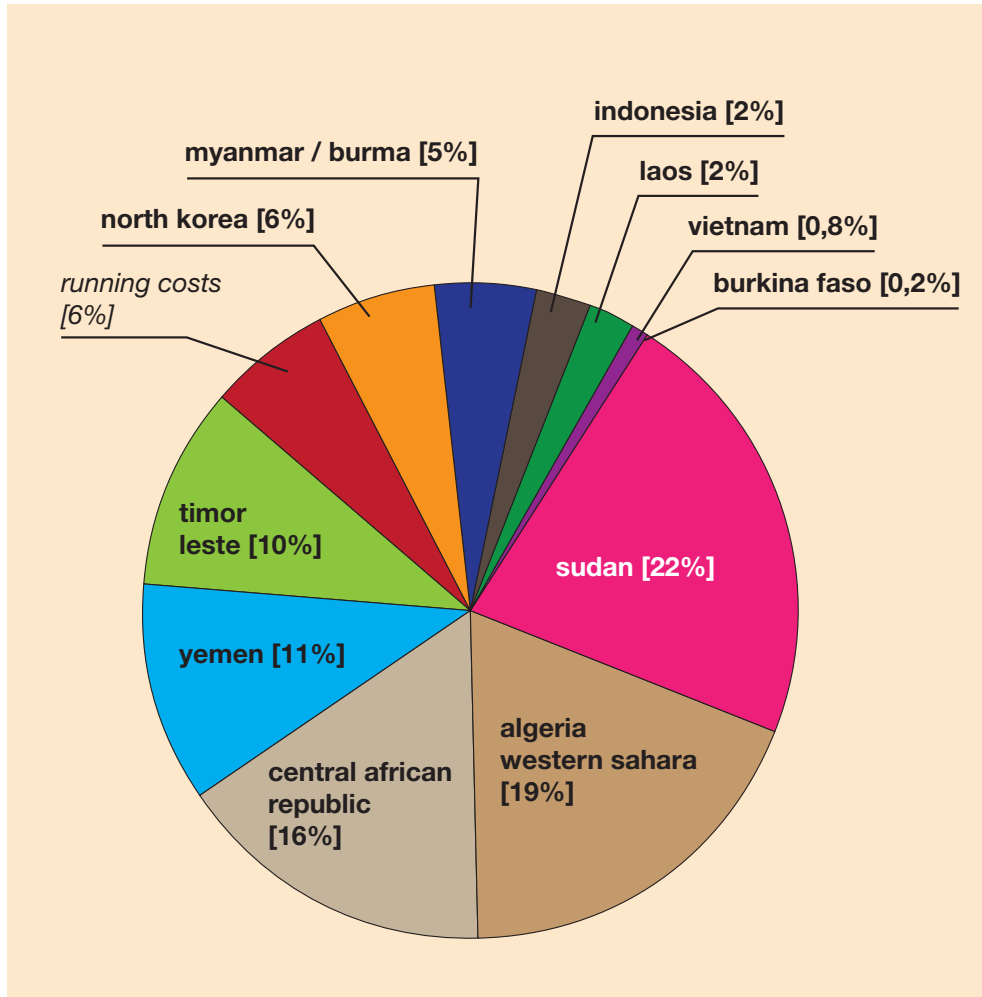
Various United Nations: **UNICEF** (United Nations Children's Fund) – **WFP** (World Food Programme) –

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) – **FAO** (Food and Agriculture Organization)

SIDA: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Various donors: **Fondation de France**, **SIGEIF** (Inter-community union for gas and electricity in Ile de France region), **East Timor Government**, **German Embassy**, **Puy de Dôme Regional Council**

● allocation of resources





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