

KIRABO, African Spirit

THE FIRST ACTIONS

SECOND EDITION - March 2009

Micro-Credit for the group "LOVELY MOTHERS"

At KIRABO we believe in helping others by creating opportunities of studies or work and showing people to be self-sufficient. By just giving money one can cause more harm than good. It is important that people learn by themselves to develop initiatives and that they work jointly to obtain what they need. We have sent a micro-credit of EUR 150,- to the women group "Lovely Mothers" to re-start their business of buying/selling palm oil. With the profit obtained they will have the sufficient capital to repeat the purchase of 1 or 2 barrels of oil per month. It will then be sold in recycled bottles of a liter in the different markets of the area. The profits obtained will help the ladies to pay the school fees (including books, uniform, exams, etc..) of their children.



Harvest Children Home – Orphanage at Fundong

Most of the clothes and toys we have brought to Cameroon have been handed over to the orphanage. The members of the Christmas trip also brought things (school material, footballs, some of them signed by world famous football player Eto) and Carmen donated EUR 300,- for the schooling fees of the youngest children. Together with 2 future volunteers from the South of Spain we are preparing a project aimed to improve the orphanage and make sure that the children will be able to attend school next year.

NOTICIAS - NEWSLETTER - NIEUWSBRIEF

Christmas in Cameroon

More than 50% of the rural population and nearly 25% of the urban population in Cameroon live with less than 1 USD a day.

Major religion is Animism (48%), followed by Christians (32%) and Muslim (20%).

Despite these facts people do their utmost to celebrate Christmas. If our supermarkets and shopping centers are awfully full during the days previous to Christmas, we also find numerous concentrations of people in the markets of Yaoundé (country's capital) and small villages. Baskets full of food swing on women's heads, hairdressers on the streets create incredible hairstyles on little girls' and their mothers' heads.

Christmas trees (plastic ones) do not miss and we find them for all tastes; plain vanilla, full of bright decorations or with tunes that sound like Christmas carols. All "made in China" of course.

The main difference with our world might be that here only the very rich children receive presents; for the rest of them it will be one of those special days on which they will be able to eat grilled chicken.



With our Christmas group in the Dja Reserve - East Province

In the Extreme North of the country (muslim and animist area), the churches are packed. Women wrapped in beautiful and colorful dresses, wearing them with the elegance and joy that only they are able to transmit. People along the road sing and dance as they come out of Mass. They probably head to the house of some relatives (these will never lack in Africa).

Due to the celebrations, the market starts later so that we are not able to see the women of Touru who usually carry a half pumpkin on their head to protect them from the sun. They use them both in their daily life and during festivities. The patterns have different meanings, we are

explained. Just before leaving we are fortunate to get a glimpse of a couple of ladies wearing the famous calabash. At least the dusty and bumpy road has been worthwhile.

We laugh at our innocence; how could we think that this remote area of Africa would have been able to escape from globalization and unification of certain customs. Fortunately the people here give their own flavor to the whole.

Experiencing this colorful spectacle has been great.

Happy Reading!

Baby Godwill has found a sponsor

Do you remember we were looking for sponsors for little Godwill? He had many applicants. The quickest person to react was a friend from Rumania so, since the month of November, the baby is well looked after. He is growing wonderfully and is really cute as you can see from the photo.



We have also been able to sponsor other children like Glory, Gerbert and Elijah, but there are many more. Berudep (the local NGO) has been able to hire a second field worker and we are receiving new profiles. There are young children but also bigger ones. They are all orphans and they deserve an opportunity to make something out of life. So if you, your family members, your friends, colleagues or whomever you know is interested in sponsoring a child, please contact us at the usual address: info@kirabo.eu. We can send our brochure and several profiles of urgent cases.

Classrooms for after school program for the orphans of BELO

The building of the classrooms for the after school program for the orphans of Belo has begun. Project Manager is our good friend Andrew Burgerseed (Afri-Link director) and the project is being financed by Afri-Link (www.afri-link.org) from Scotland and AQA from Italy, apart from several individual donations. KIRABO has donated EUR 3,000.- (approx 30% of the total sum). There is still some money missing but we hope the works to be finished by the end of March so that the children will have a fixed place to spend the afternoons and receive additional education and care. Thanks to all the sponsors and CONGRATULATIONS on the job done Andy.

Fundeng School: Lent project by Don Bosco School and Catholic Church – the Netherlands

Thanks to the funds received from Rotary Club Wieringerland we are now building the bathrooms for the School of Fundeng as you can see in the photo. Other good news is that the School "Don Bosco" of Wieringerwerf will dedicate their Lent Project to Cameroon. The children will have to prepare small essays on poverty, Africa and Cameroon. They will also execute small jobs cleaning Dad's car or shopping for the neighbor and a sponsored has been organized too. At the end of the period a bazaar will be held and self made cakes and food may be sold. On the other hand the Catholic Church next to the school will also give attention to the project via a DVD we have prepared on Cameroon, KIRABO and Responsible Tourism. All funds obtained will be used for the reconstruction of the school of Fundeng. A big "THANK YOU" in advance to Natasja who informed the school management. We will give further details in the next Newsletter.



Water for Itinitwang

The NGO "AFRICA DIRECTO" (www.africadirecto.org) based in Madrid brought very good news last Christmas. The water project was partially approved and we received EUR 10.000,- out of a total of EUR 13.375,- needed to finish the project. The Assembly of Itinitwang organized a collection amongst the members and persons from the village and surroundings, and managed to collect another EUR 300,-. The same evening, we were handed over a beautiful cock as a token of gratefulness. We hope to be able to obtain the last EUR 3,275.- in some way to enable us to finish this project by the end of November. A big "THANK YOU" for Africa Direct, especially for Guadalupe and José María. For more information on this project, please visit www.kirabo.eu "water for Itinitwang".

Publicity - TRAVEL TO WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA with MIDDLE-AFRICA:

Being a responsible tour operator is at the heart of what Middle-Africa is all about. Minimising the impact upon the diverse cultures, communities and environment we interact with, plus a serious commitment to socially conscious, grassroots style travel, drives our tourism project throughout the heart of Africa.

Since 2005 we have been offering tours to the heart of Africa to the Spanish market, Middle-Africa is the vehicle to reach the European and US markets.

Even though the last pictures are still being uploaded and the ink is drying, we are here.

For all your Responsible West and Central African travel experiences; from climbing Mount Cameroon, gorilla watching in the Central African Republic, voodoo rites in Benin or ancient Kingdoms of Nigeria and the Gerewol festivals in desert of Niger don't doubt it: Middle-Africa is your travel agent in the heart of Africa.

There is a wide network of professionals waiting for you in all 15 destinations and trips can be carried out from 2 persons onwards.

For further information check www.middle-africa.com.

Dare to be different and go beyond in 2009. Contact us at info@middle-africa.com.

Bon voyage!

Photo: one of our travellers interacting with members of the Baka pygmy community living in the East of Cameroon



Short Notes

SELECT GROUP & "Teaming"

The employees of SELECT Group (now Randstad) have had an excellent initiative which has resulted in a collection of EUR 661,-. It is called "Teaming" and consists of handing over a small amount every month (totally voluntary). Every 3 months they give the collected funds to a project that the employees have previously proposed and voted for. All kinds of projects appear: large or small ones, nearby or far away. KIRABO was the lucky one in December. This is a good way of

creating team spirit, of being positive and learning about what's going on in the world. Furthermore, it also helps play down our own worries and realize how many opportunities are available. Maybe it is a good idea for your own company? A big "THANK YOU" for Jaume, Greg and all the employees of Select Group for this generous initiative!!

Caps and sunglasses for albinos

Quite curiously there are many albino persons in the area of Boyo. They have the same traits, type of

hair, etc. but they are missing pigment and this is why their skin is white. Albinos have to protect themselves very well from the sun and the light and the fact that they live in a tropical country does not make things easier. Since we found many caps and sunglasses amongst the things we were given, we thought in carrying out this action. Pastor Francis from Jinkfuin has distributed more than 30 caps and sunglasses amongst adults and children in the area. There are many more albinos than we thought so we

keep on collecting them for a next trip.

Below one of the albino girls with her gift.



First donation from USA

From the very first moment we have wanted KIRABO to be an international platform where each one can give their ideas / suggestions.

Together with the funds received from Spain, The Netherlands, Rumania, Germany and Finland, we now have also received \$500.- from New York as the first donation from the other side of the ocean. We are working with a former volunteer from the USA so that our project is known there too. A big "THANK YOU" Harriette & Marc.

Wanted: "VOLUNTEERS"

Volunteering is an excellent way of learning and it will be something one will have profit of throughout life in many ways. Age is not important if the wish to teach people of a different culture and to learn from them is strong. All this requires patience and a good dose of humor but it is certainly worthwhile.

We are looking for several persons who wish to go as volunteers to Cameroon for the following projects:

The Orphanage Project in Fundong. Minimum period 6 months. We need persons who could help with organizational and management tasks. The suitable profile is someone with practical approach, organization and management skills. It is necessary to know how to work autonomously and be somewhat creative as it is possible that one day the rooms have to be painted or something which has broken has to be repaired and another, the accounting has to be done. There are 70 children in the orphanage, each one with a story behind. Some fundraising before hand would come in handy too.

Teachers for Schools: we are also looking for persons interested in teaching in one of the schools of Boyo. It can be any subject (math's, English, geography, handicrafts). It is important that the person has some experience in teaching and that she/he is somewhat creative. It is essential to speak good English and arrive well prepared. Minimum 6 months.

Summer camp: a volunteering period of 1 month in the North of the country for July or August (due to the heavy rains in Boyo at this period of the year). The project consists of reforestation or planting fruit trees in people's homes, working on the field with the ladies as well as cleaning the village from plastic + a workshop on hygiene and health and teach the villagers why plastic is not good. French is spoken in this area. Minimum knowledge of this language is required.

If you or someone you knows could be interested, please read our volunteer section and FAQ on the website and if still interested then contact us at info@kirabo.eu

We are an NGO, registered as an independent non-profit association In the National Registry of Associations in Spain: Group 1, Section: 1, National Number: 591019 dated July 11TH 2008

Executive Committee

Carolien V. Kroon - President

Enrique Santamaria - Vice-President

Jaume Gil - Treasurer

Natalia Sanchez - Secretary

Joan Riera - voting member

Contact details

www.kirabo.eu / info@kirabo.eu

Donations can be made to:

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Account Details :

ASOCIACION KIRABO

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