

KIRABO, African Spirit

FROM REACTION TO ACTION

FIRST EDITION - October / November 2008

MADRID – Project The Netherlands Afri-cleta

A group of neighbours collect used, and new, bicycles and hand them over to KIRABO for future shipment to Cameroon. They also organize charity parties in the area.

Christmas Solidarity Jumble Sale (13/14 Dec). Products of our Fair TRADE will be sold. Postal cards with images of Cameroonian children are being prepared for sales as well.



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We are looking for sponsors for baby Godwill, 6 months old.

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KIRABO WEB:

Our WEB page is being translated into German, Dutch and Catalan.

Thanks, Sonja, Sven & Jorrit and Joan Manuel!!

Trip to Cameroon for the Holiday Season

Why not travel to Cameroon to celebrate New Year and meet the Baka pygmies, the KOM and Fulani ethnic groups. Organized by Middle-Africa. P. 2.



NOTICIAS - NEWSLETTER - NIEUWSBRIEF

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

First of all, we wish to thank everybody for their interest, feedback, offers to collaborate and encouragement received. We are proud to announce that we have the first members, several requests to sponsor orphan children, a small number of volunteers (some of them wanting to spend a volunteer period in Cameroon) and a group of "African-cyclists" who are collecting bicycles around Madrid. Our motto "Together we can make changes happen" has been reinforced after knowing how interested you all are. In the end, so many tiny sand grains will become important. We want all the people who are interested in helping out to feel they are part of the project and enjoy the experience. Many of you have transmitted your wish to help but do not know very well how to do so. We do not want to tell what has to be done, rather leave it up to each own creativity, but we



The "Lovely Mothers" group in Jinkfuin. The group joins forces to execute small scale projects and increase family income.

can of course give you some ideas, like: organize a raffle of crafts in your company, school, sports club (KIRABO will provide all the material, including posters and advertising leaflets), organize a charity party with your colleagues, for your friends, family and not to forget; you can directly make a donation. We will also welcome your writings about anything related with Cameroon so that we can publish it in our next edition.

The aim of this newsletter is to inform about our projects, to give an update on how things are going and which activities are being prepared.

On our side, we have handed over the presentations related to the main projects ("Water for Itinitwang", "Reconstruction of the Baptist school in Fundeng", "the construction of the House of the Sun") in order to request funds. We are glad to inform that we have received the first EUR 2,500.- from a Rotary Club in the North of Holland which will be assigned to a schooling project in Belo. This is a great start, but there is still a lot to be done. Meanwhile we are looking for new opportunities of fund raising.

We hope this Newsletter will inspire you and please DO NOT hesitate to collaborate in whichever way you prefer. **Thank you and Happy Reading!**

THANK YOU PILATES SPORT SCHOOL AND STUDENTS!

Thank you for your enthusiasm and welcome to the initiative of the raffles. We have collected a total of over EUR 300,- apart from selling products from our Fair Trade. Part of the profit obtained will be directly assigned to one of the projects promoted.

DESKTOP CALENDARS FOR 2009

With the aim of offering our followers the opportunity of getting to know the children of Cameroon, we have designed an amusing desktop calendar for 2009, titled "Faces of Cameroon". The price is **EUR 8,50**. **75%** of the profit obtained will be assigned to the building of new classrooms for the extra-school project in Belo, including desks and schooling material. This project has a cost of EUR 6,000.- and will be carried out together with AFRI-LINK, an NGO located in Scotland and managed by Andrew Burgerseed, a regular volunteer of BERUDEP (www.afri-link.com). Calendars are in Spanish Language!! In case you would like to order yours please write us at info@kirabo.eu (ref. calendar). Shipping costs will be for your own account.

Project Afri-Cycle, an initiative of the neighbours of the Moncloa district in Madrid - by Luis J. Jimenez

Inspired by Kirabo several neighbours of the Moncloa district of Madrid, all bicycle amateurs have started collecting used bicycles to send them to Cameroon. We believe that there are few things, with such a low cost, which can change the quality of life in poorer areas. Up to now, things go very smoothly and the first shipment is ready for Kirabo to manage. Our motto: "**Give life to your old bicycle**", our name : "**Project Afri-Cycle**" and we are known by the nicknames "Bici Frika" and "bicifrikanos". If you do not know what to do with your old/new bicycle , contact us at: scribali34@hotmail.com

We also organize small charity events to make KIRABO known and do fund-raising.

SPONSORS FOR BABY GODWILL

Godwill was born last 31st March. His mother was pregnant with twins but she was ill with cephalic malaria and died giving birth. So did Godwill's twin sister. Godwill weighed only 1.6kg when born and stayed in an old incubator in Mbingo hospital for 6 weeks. When he left hospital, he weighed 2kg. His family lives in a small village a 4 hours' trip from the hospital. He has an older brother who is 2.5 years old and many cousins. Godwill's father is illiterate and works as a farmer. The family has hardly enough to eat.



The child is taken care of by his two aunts and his grandmother who also look after the two children of another sister who died during childbirth. It is a very affectionate and hospitable family. The grandparents are old and they are worried about their children and grandchildren's future. The **monthly cost** is **EUR 23.50**, including food, medical control and clothes. Currently no other child from this family sponsored. If you are interested in sponsoring this child, please contact us at info@kirabo.eu (ref. sponsorship GODWILL)

TRIP TO CAMEROON 26.12.08 / 04.01.09

Together with tour operator Middle-Africa we organize a solidarity trip to Cameroon from 26th December to 4th January. Middle Africa is a ground tour operator based in Douala and with a commercial office in Barcelona. Trips in Cameroon, but also other Western Central African countries are organized (*Central African Republic, Gabon, Santo Tomé, Chad, Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Togo, Mali, Burkina Fasso*). During this particular trip we will get a chance to meet several



ethnic groups like the Baka pygmies and dance and sing with them. The night will be spend in their camp and we will accompany them the next day recollecting fruits and roots. We will also visit Yaoundé, the country's capital and then continue to Bamenda and the area of Boyo (*Bamenda Highlands*). We will spend New Year's Eve with our KOM friends and enjoy local dances and food. Several excursions will be on the program and we will also visit some of the projects we are involved in. Before going back home there will be time to relax at the beach of Seme. For further information, contact info@kirabo.eu - (ref. NEW YEAR'S TRIP).

MIDDLE-AFRICA - Solidarity commitment

Apart from organizing responsible tourism trips to Western Central Africa with special emphasis in the exchange with the inhabitants of the region, they will donate the amount of **EUR 12.50** for every person who travels to Cameroon in 2009. Thank you very much Middle Africa!!

www.middle-africa.com

Short Notes

Container for Cameroon:

For some months now, we have been collecting hardware, medical equipment, English text books, schooling material, etc., to be sent to Cameroon. It is nearly ready; we would need more English books, old mobile telephones, some laptops and a digital camera. Please contact us if

you have any of these objects and you no longer use them (*please make sure they still work and are in a good state*). Apart from this, we are looking for sponsors who can finance the shipment to Douala. The approximate cost is of EUR 3,350.- We already have the first EUR 850.-

PLEASE, CHEER UP AND GET YOUR

CONTRIBUTION TO US info@kirabo.eu / (*ref. : container*).

Volunteering is a unique experience:

Volunteering is not always easy, living in a different country, trying to understand a different culture, new languages, strange habits and curious food. Nevertheless all volunteers do it a thought. We conclude that it's a

unique opportunity to see something of the world, learn from people (*who in the end are not so different than us, except for their cultural and traditional heritage*).

If interested we invite you to browse through our web page, read about the individual volunteering experiences and give it a thought. We need different kind of

people to stay from 1 to 9 months.

For further info please click: <http://www.kirabo.eu/EN/proyecto-5.phh>

Stories of Cameroon – Jaime Gil

Six o'clock in the morning, dawn is breaking and cocks have begun their daily ritual. In this part of the world there is no need to use an alarm clock; nature already provides us with this invention. Our biorhythms fuse with those of nature after several days. Outside, morning movement has already started. Farmers leave for their daily chores that enable them to maintain their families, shopkeepers go to their small sheds so that they can earn a few CFA's (*local currency*) and children begin to flutter around everywhere before going to school, if they go to school at all.

As usual, Sam, our cook, arrives with his surprising English punctuality and his wicker basket full of basic provisions. Proudly, in a simple, elegant and humble way, Sam sweeps the porch, cleans the kitchen and starts to prepare our breakfast: bananas, pineapple, tea or instant coffee, some bread and an omelet filled with vegetables together with spaghetti so that this first meal is more consistent and helps us face the new day. Bless and Miracle, brothers of respectively five and three years old, come to our house as usual to wish us a happy day, when their real aim is to try and obtain a banana or a piece of bread from our breakfast, before going to school.

When we look at all this from our crystal tower, called the "first world", I would call it "the world upside down". In our sophisticated world we are complaining about so many minor issues without being conscious that we at least have the opportunity of choosing. Here in Belo (*Cameroon*), country under development, not to call it "third world", its people have taught me an excellent lesson: to take life as it comes, simply accepting and giving thanks for what there is.

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

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Donations can be made to:

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Account Details :

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