

## Newsletter

12 – 26 April 2011

### Highlights

- Establishment of a new Gouvernement
- Support of Triangle GH to parent-teachers
- Signing of the CAADP pact in CAR

## Background and security

### A new government

Reappointed on 18 April by the Head of State of the Central African Republic, Francois Bozizé, the Prime Minister, Faustin Touadéra on 22 April has constituted a new government. The new government includes 34 members in which five State Ministers, six women and 6 Ministers Delegate.

The new government includes members of the opposition parties such as Jean-Michel Mandaba from the *Mouvement de Liberation du peuple Centrafricain* (MLPC) Minister of Health, Margaret Petro-Koni Zeze from the *Rassemblement Democratique Centrafricain* (RDC), Minister of Social Affairs, and Francis Naouéyama, a member of the *Armée Populaire pour la Restauration de la Démocratie* (APRD), Minister of Environment and Energy. Jean-Serge Bokassa, son of the former emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, is the new Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture.

### CPJP for the dialogue

Abdoulaye Hissène who is in charge of the *Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix* (CPJP) field operations, requested the opening of dialogue with the Government.

On 26 April, during a broadcast on the national radio, Abdoulaye Hissène said he is ready to participate in the peace process in the country. The CPJP is the only rebel group that has not yet signed a peace agreement with the Government.

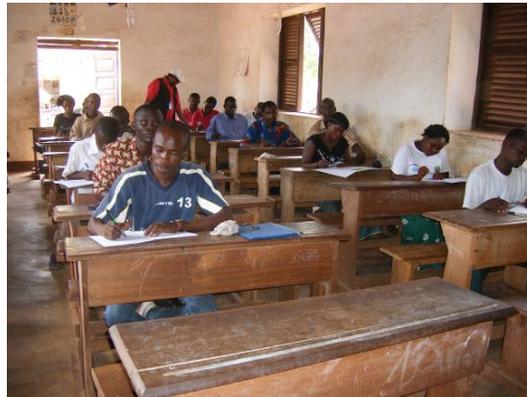
## Information updates

### Community radio in Bossangoa

The Central African Government, in partnership with the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO) has initiated a program to establish community radio stations financed by the *Peace Building Fund* (PBF) with 641,806 U.S. dollars. Initially, these radios were

installed in Birao (North East) and Paoua (North West). Now, the towns of Kaga-Bandoro (North West), Sam-Ouandja (North East) and Bossangoa (North West) will also later this year have access to these communication tools.

In this context, a joint mission of UNESCO and the Ministry of Communications visited Bossangoa from 11 to 17 April 2011. The purpose of this mission was to sensitize the representatives of the population, actors from the United Nations and NGOs based in the area, on the role of community radio. Following this awareness, the community has proceeded to the election of members of the Management Committee. UNESCO has organized in collaboration with its partners, a recruitment test for the technicians and radio presenters.



Recruitment test in Bossangoa. Photo. UNESCO

Once the candidates have been selected, they will be trained in Bangui in their respective fields. In addition to this mission, the Head of UNESCO in CAR, Mr. Mahamat Alhabo, visited the training and professional center of Bossangoa that has been rehabilitated with the support of the PBF.

Contact David Bozoumna, [d.bozoumna@unesco.org](mailto:d.bozoumna@unesco.org) for more information.

### Support of Triangle GH to parent-teachers

The NGO *Triangle Generation Humanaire* (TGH) is present in CAR since 2007, and works in Birao in the Vakaga prefecture (North East), Sam Ouandja in the Haute-Kotto prefecture, (North East) and in Ouaka prefecture (South East). In 2008, as part of an education project in these prefectures, 48 parents associations (APE) representing 212 members were trained.

Following the success of this initiative, Triangle wished to expand the experience at countrywide to improve access to education in CAR. The project entitled "*Towards greater organizational and structural associations of parents for a better*

*management of schools in Central African Republic*" is in line with the Central African educational context marked by an enrollment rate of 55.8% (2009) and the difficult access to school, especially for girls and vulnerable children. For a total amount of 700,000 Euro, the project launched in March 2011, was funded 75% by the *European Union* for a period of 42 months.

The *National Federation of Parents and Students of CAR (FNAPEC)*, is the implementing partner of the project, and is responsible for the management of schools jointly with directors as well as the recruitment process and support to parent-teachers, which are an alternative to the lack of teachers in many schools in the CAR. The project targets the members of the FNAPEC network (9,856 persons) and the Ministry of Education central bodies' staff

The beneficiaries are 47,200 elementary students, 177 parent associations (APE) and 244 parent teachers from the Ouaka prefecture. The expansion of the project at the country level will improve the education environment of 626,000 elementary students in CAR.

The FNAPEC will be supported by actors such as the *Union Préfectorale des Associations de Parents d'élèves (UPAPE)*, the *Union Sous-préfectorale des Associations de Parents d'élèves (USPAPE)*, APE, the *United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF)*, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the National Institute for Research and Teaching Activities with their expertise and skills

Contact the education cell of Triangle, [educ.rca@trianglegh.org](mailto:educ.rca@trianglegh.org) for more information.

#### **Barracks MICOPAX / FOMAC inaugurated N'dele**

On 26 April, 2011, the Mission for the ECCAS Peace Consolidation in CAR (FOMAC/MICOPAX) has officially inaugurated its new compound in N'dele in the Bamingui Bangoran prefecture (North). The President chaired the ceremony and was accompanied by representatives of international institutions, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in CAR and the Head of MICOPAX in CAR. The presence of MICOPAX will gradually contribute to increase the security in the region.

With the financial support from the European Union (some 860 million FCFA), the compound will host hundreds of soldiers till 2013. The President in his speech thanked the efforts of the international community, especially the United Nations organizations regarding their support to the

Government in providing assistance to affected populations.

Contact Sylvain Yakara, [yakara@un.org](mailto:yakara@un.org) for more information.

#### **Signature of CAADP pact in CAR**

On 15 April, the Central African Government signed the pact of the *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)* of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)*. CAR is the third country to do so in the Region of the *Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)*, behind Burundi and DR Congo. CAADP is the highest policy framework for agricultural development in Africa. ECCAS has been designated to facilitate and to coordinate the implementation process as well as the CAADP agenda in Central Africa.

The ceremony under the lead of the Prime Minister was attended by experts in agriculture, policy makers, development partners, international community, civil society and the private sector. *"The commitment of the Government of the Central African Republic in the implementation process, is to make the rural sector, the pillar of economic and development in the perspective of the poverty reduction, the fight against food insecurity and vulnerability, economic growth and national reconstruction."* Said the Prime Minister during his speech.

During that day, the experts were able to discuss and to adopt the pact that will guide agricultural development strategies and investment priorities in the CAR.

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