



SIRIRI

OVERVIEW

A rich partnership between the NGO SIRIRI
and the Carmelite Missionaries in the Central African Republic

2017

I Came Not Only to Teach, But Also to Learn

Travelling to the Central African Republic was not just an experience where I only taught. It was not only going to provide training but also going to meet people. Not only do you meet the teachers and their students, but you also encounter a whole population who lives with norms and values often very different from those I grew up with.

I have had the opportunity to travel to all the continents. Each time, my spirit is more and more open to new things, to things I don't know, to my perception of the difference between people. In the Central African Republic, we worked in an environment where the vision of education differs very much from that which is familiar in the vast majority of European countries.

We tried to understand why things are different from what is done in Europe, taking into account the socio-economic and political dimensions. One must imagine teaching a class of 80, 100 or 120 students in order to understand how they manage in CAR.

Coming to CAR, I understood why we could not just duplicate European teaching models. I understood from the meeting of our two worlds the need to develop a way of teaching that goes beyond what we were doing so far in our respective home countries.

Moreover, this experience has enriched me by working with several teams. I say teams because there are several types of teams. First of all, there is the European team, composed of people with a wide range of skills and knowledge. This diversity of players is a boon for our project because it allows us to benefit from different experiences and visions. Of course, this can lead to long debates, but the goodwill and willingness to build help to develop our confidence and expand our thoughts and ideas.

Then there is the large team composed by European and Central African trainers. They are just as involved as we are in the process of improving the level of school education. They are willing to understand the type of teaching that we propose to them. We want Central African teachers to share with us their on-the-ground experiences. When we talk and build together, we develop relationships based on trust. This allows new ideas to emerge and together we discover new teaching exercises for the children. It is a good feeling to see the success of a project that is complicated because it involves intercultural work.

I am delighted to have had these experiences. In particular, I appreciated working with a



small group of trainers (two Europeans and two Central Africans). We had 4 distinct personalities and this diversity was, in my opinion, an opportunity for the participants to learn different ways of communicating and in different languages (Sango and French).

Thameur Debouba

Thameur Debouba (*1983)

He was born in Tunisia. He lives and works on the Cote d'Azur. A Muslim himself, he attended mainly Catholic schools as a child. Respect for cultural diversity and teachers' egalitarian attitudes towards students have helped him to develop his self-confidence and an ability to work with a wide variety of people. As a teacher and educator, he works mainly with teenagers and students facing difficult situations. What he considers important in teaching is attention to values, active listening, being real and, above all, the building of trust. Trust is essential for students to succeed, but also for them to be understood by their teachers.

Dear readers,

The situation has worsened in the Central African Republic. The living conditions of the inhabitants of this less developed country are not getting any better. Therefore, SIRIRI has further intensified its efforts to help. Thanks to our generous donors and to the generosity of Czech institutions, SIRIRI was able to invest a record amount in humanitarian and development projects. This summer's innovation was to bring together Czech, French and Central African trainers in the Learning Through Play program. This year, 244 teachers were trained. We are confident that we will be able to increase our support even further in 2018 — all thanks to you!

Fabrice Martin, Head of SIRIRI



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Grant from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 190 000
 Main sponsors for the Learning Through Play program: € 26 500
 Individual donors: € 96 000
 Czech Embassy in Nigeria: € 14 400

Total investments made by SIRIRI in CAR: € 326 900



High school in Bozoum

Costs € 10 000



Orphanage care centre "Arc-en-ciel"

Costs € 10 000



Educational center for women "Kana"

Costs € 2 000



Fund for first aid

Costs € 2 500



Santé – Strengthening the capacity of the St. Michael's Coordination Center in Bouar in teaching and assisting people with HIV / AIDS

Costs € 209 000 (90% MFA, 10% SIRIRI)

Coordinator in CAR
Fr. Aurelio Gazzera, OCD



Coordinator in CAR
Fr. Stefano Molon, OCD



Coordinator in CAR
Fr. Federico Trincheri, OCD



Coordinator in CAR
Fr. Lionello Giraud, OCD



School for car mechanics in Baoro

Costs € 6 000



Tutoring for students in Bouar

Costs € 2 000



Scholarship for 16 students

Costs € 16 000

Coordinator in CAR
Gildas Bissi Menthy



Learning Through Play in CAR

Costs € 55 000



Painting of 25 murals with educational themes in schools

Costs € 14 400 (Czech Embassy in Nigeria in Abuja)



SIRIRI team for 2017

Founders

- Karol Böhm
- Ludmila Böhmová
- Marcel Drlík
- Petr Glogar
- Michele Rinna
- Anastasio Roggero

Board of Directors

- Pavel Škopek (chairman)
- Václava Bratinková
- Pavel Fischer

Supervisory Board

- Petr Novák (chairman)
- Ivana Vopařilová
- Alena Zavadilová

Educational consultant for the Learning Through Play in CAR program

- Ludmila Böhmová
- Václava Bratinková
- Jan Korda

Director

- Fabrice Martin

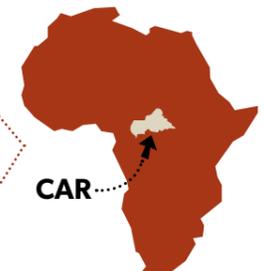
Team

- Pavlna Bilková
- Tomáš Gago
- Alžběta Hroudová
- Terezie Imlaufová
- Jana Javůrková
- Irena Karlová
- Jan Korda
- Estelle de Montard
- Markéta Růžičková
- Štěpán Vaško

- Helena Veselá
- Adriana Vlasáková
- Alena Zavadilová
- Jana Závodníková
- Hana Zemenová

Trainers of the Learning Through Play in CAR program

- Vojtěch Bílý
- Pierre Catalan
- Kateřina Cizlová
- Thameur Debouba
- Barbora Fischerová
- Jana Karasová
- Fabrice Martin
- Anna Wagnerová
- Lenka Vaněčková
- Adriana Vlasáková
- Jana Vlčková
- Jana Závodníková



SIRIRI's activities in 2017

Thank you for your support in 2017

January

SIRIRI has a new director, Fabrice Martin, who has been transitioning into the role since October 2016.

August

Third year of the Learning Through Play program. This year 12 trainers arrived in Bozoum to train 240 local teachers. New for this year: 5 groups are taught by a team composed by two Europeans and two Central Africans.

March

Two SIRIRI delegates traveled to CAR on an evaluation mission. They visited 20 schools, met with 36 teachers and made inquiries concerning more than 1 000 students.

October

"From ABC Book to Civic Engagement: Teachers and Pupils in the CAR Toward Democracy" is the title of a panel discussion at the Austrian Cultural Center, organized as part of the festival for democracy held by Forum 2000. Among the guests was the Central African linguist Marcel Diki-Kidiri.

April

SIRIRI celebrates its 11th birthday on the roof of Lucerna Palace.

June

The second Sango textbook is completed. Contributors include: Czech artists David Böhmm and Jiří Franta, graphic artist Adéla Svobodová, Central African linguist Marcel Diki-Kidiri, Unicef General Secretary in Bangui Georgette Florence Koyt-Deballe, artists Florent Kassai and Didier Kassai, and other pedagogical experts.

November

On St. Martin's Day, we held a charity run at Hvězda along with students from the French Lycée in Prague. For each kilometer, a runner earns CZK 50 for SIRIRI, which is the cost of one ABC book.

July

A training session for Czech and French volunteers took place in Prague. They will fly to CAR in August to train local teachers.

December

The Faculty of Humanities at Charles University organized the sale of products of the charity trade "Hand in Hand" in Prague-Jinonice. Students of the Faculty who took up the job of selling t-shirts were rewarded with a bursary.

Special thanks



Město **Plzeň**

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Media partners of the Learning through play program



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Photos: archives SIRIRI / Graphic: Vojtěch Lunga / SIRIRI has been working with the support of the Czech development agency since 2017.

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