



KARIBU Association

Activity Report 2005/2006

**Reminder of the objectives voted on the 12th
June 2004:**

**« Making everyone, French and migrants,
active participants in solidarity actions»**

How?

- 1- By improving reception and follow-up of migrant families living in the social residence during their search for housing. It is up to us to transform the residents' stay into an opportunity to meet others, raise awareness, make friends and develop mutual respect.
- 2- By helping and safeguarding migrants' rights as regards the numerous judicial and material obstacles they encounter before settling in France.
- 3- By promoting and supporting the African culture and ensuring its transmission to second-generation children.
- 4- By creating or supporting co-development projects in Africa, whereby the French and migrants can work together.
- 5- By spreading awareness regarding what is at stake in migration and development matters.
- 6- By developing and improving living conditions in associations, hence, giving everyone a chance to make it and actively participate in life, and in the long run help other needy people.

What has been accomplished so far

First objective:

Improving reception and follow-up of migrant families living in the social residence during their search for housing. Transforming the residents' stay into an opportunity to meet others, raise awareness, make friends and develop mutual respect.

This first objective was applied on the basis of priority situations and precedence.



Children living in the residence

The following measures have been taken in order to achieve this objective:

We drew up a contract for the residents. The contract establishes the rules and regulations to be observed within the social residence as well as the instructions regarding the distribution of the household tasks. We reviewed the rules in order to adjust them to reflect the values we believe in.

We have established several contacts within different institutions to manage and facilitate all the necessary procedures that include: request for social housing (social work authorities) and moving into ordinary housing (city hall, immigration authorities). These procedures have been a necessary requirement considering the decentralization of the relevant authorities in charge of social matters.

We have supported and financed the residents in their numerous initiatives to organise a party.

With Bruno's help we have undertaken several measures to make the residence more operational, welcoming, well kept and pleasant.

Odile and Christiane have become more involved within the association, thus creating an intimate bond with the residents, former residents and their children, and therefore supporting them efficiently in their administrative undertakings.

In 2005 two outings were organised at Buthiers: 15 to 25 people went for a huge picnic to the south of Fontainebleau at Christiane's home and a group of six people went for a seaside trip in the Armor coast.

In 2006 two other outings were organised at Buthiers, which we obviously find charming. The July outing brought together 50 people and was a total success.



Trip to Fontainebleau (Buthiers)

Access to housing:

In 2005 we took it upon us to alert the local authorities: we addressed letters to three town councils, three district commissioners, a minister's permanent secretary, all this courtesy of Odile.

These actions have borne fruit: The Vice President of the City Council intervened to the Provincial Commission on our behalf. We obtained two houses.

We would like to thank the branches of the Provincial Commission that made this possible.

On the other hand, the search for partners to eventually help us to transfer the residents to their new houses has not been successful to date. However,

this objective is less urgent at the moment considering the improved conditions of admission into our social residency.

Second Objective:

Safeguarding migrants' rights as regards the numerous judicial and material obstacles they encounter before settling in France.

The privileged and lasting connection we have with Eugénie (Emmaüs Paris) has enabled several people to benefit from her legal advice concerning administrative requirements. Once again, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to her. However, this kind of help has become harder to obtain due to the reinforcement of immigration laws.

Third Objective:

Promoting and supporting the African culture and ensuring its transmission to the second-generation children.

Odile's commitment has been of great help as regards this objective. There have been cultural outings organised every year (details in the relevant report). The outings proved to be a huge success. After each outing, there is a workshop held for the children and a dialogue session with the mothers so as to allow them to adapt themselves to this kind of activities.

We have gained a lot in terms of culture through Anne and Tessa, both of whom are well acquainted with the African continent.

Fourth Objective:

Creation or support of co-development projects in Africa with the migrants.

Congo DRC :

The Karibu Association in Kinshasa underwent a crisis period in 2005 due to mismanagement by Henry, who was unable to handle everything alone. Recent reports from the employees talk of major refunding difficulties. This is due to the poor terms under which the micro-credit is issued and the poor health of the families as well as several deaths.

Etienne, a former colleague in the civil administration sector and a member of Karibu, accepted to go over to Kinshasa in December and stay till

February. His visit enabled us to have precise details to permit us to take the necessary measures. These recommendations were taken into account and have been carried out.

Albert, a farmer in SISTERON has accepted to participate more actively by offering KK (Karibu Kinshasa) the services of two of his administrative employees (of Congolese origin), in order to follow up the training of the mothers as well as to handle the accounts.

The members of Emmaüs UACE federation who visited the association in May 2006 came back with an enthusiastic desire to collaborate with us.



The Karibu Kinshasa team accompanying a mother - a benefactor of the micro credit project.

Mali: We are supporting two associations founded by migrants from the regions of KOUTIALA and LAKANGUEMOU. In May 2005, Olivier went to Mali where he met and had talks with several local people.

The commitment made to Koule Diakan in France is a serious one, owing to Batoma's activity. We have managed to support them in several domains.

Fifth Objective:

Informing the French and the migrants regarding what is at stake in migration and development matters.

The absence of funds has forced us to give up the Internet website created for us by Denis, the Emmaüs Liberté Association's Webmaster.

We have also had to stop renewing the specification sheets due to lack of time. Olivier and Etienne's participation in the general assembly of the CRID association should help us find a solution for this issue. This assembly is one of

most important in terms issues regarding the northern hemisphere countries and those of south. This forum that brings together a great number of participants from different associations is an information goldmine.

Sixth objective:

Developing and improving living conditions in associations, hence, giving everyone a chance to make it and actively participate in life, and in the long run help other needy people.



General Assembly 2005

Orienting the association toward a more professional status:

Our two wage-earning employees have done a great job.

Bruno takes care of the house with diligence, making it beautiful and pleasant to live in; he also actively participates in the organisation of outings.

Jacqueline handles the accounting and secretarial duties under the close guidance of Claude, our certified accountant. Our numerous files, which are difficult to handle, are up to date.



Bruno, the wage-earning employee in charge of maintenance

Involvement and information of the members

500 copies of the expectations expressed in 2005 were published in 2006.

Several emails and letters were sent courtesy of Jacqueline.

The many members participated in the initiatives of different cultural and leisure activities.

Nevertheless, the number of members in 2006 has remained more or less the same, which should encourage us to be more attentive.

We have taken part in different national projects: the meeting on the France's development policies, restoring the OCDE participation in development projects in Africa, the two day micro-credit forum organised by the Ministry of Finance, CRID's general assembly. However, few of us have taken any concrete actions regarding these themes.

The association is well established within a network of partners, but this can still be improved:

We are partners with different associations and institutions

Partners involved with social issues:

Emmaüs Liberté

The three constituencies

Accueil d'Urgence (AU) which stands for emergency accommodation; they handle accommodation issues of immediate environs.

Les FJT Relais accueil (another emergency accommodation association)

Partners involved with migration issues:

ESPPER

PACOF - group of about 40 associations founded by Congolese (DRC) migrants.

France Central Africa Network, REFAC, (deals with human rights activities in the Great Lakes region)

The group "Third World in Meudon"

Others:

Museum Area neighbourhood association (community issues)

The financial and material situation appears to be stable and calm. However, the immediate future remains uncertain.

We still receive the annual 11 000 € grant began in 2003 from the DDASS (a branch of the social services authorities) to help us with the rent management.

We obtained two social contracts partly financed by the government, which have unfortunately expired.

We have completed the process of furnishing office: a computer with Internet access and a photocopier.

The association's main activities are handled by an incomplete team. Two wage-earning employees: Bruno and Jacqueline and three volunteers in charge of organising activities: Odile, Olivier and Etienne. Over the years, we have built a network of faithful friends, on whose support we can count on during special events. Evidently, we are going to have to reinforce the involvement and participation of the members in the association's decision organs: the council and the office. This should take place on the basis of personal involvement under clearly defined terms.



A party held at Karibu