



# Newsletter n° 5 - October 2010

## 6 classes, 180 pupils : for all a new school year with a broad smile on their lips

### New school year message from director Rissa



#### Testimonials from parents

« I don't want to be late in paying for my three children because I am the most grateful; my son Elbachir who attended last year the CI class of Tanat school speaks better French than his elder brother who was a CM pupil in an other school. »



« The school provides a good quality education, it is clean, equipped with fans. It is well organized and above all there is a fence and no disturbance from cars »

« It is the first school in the Azawagh region with english lessons in primary and computer classes.»

« Furthermore, the school sponsors orphans, the poorer and vulnerable.»



« As the school year 2009-2010 ended very well in Tanat school, I dare say it also started properly the new school year.

With a total number of 180 pupils, a full teaching staff, that is to say 6 teachers, without forgetting the school keeper.

After adding to the school two more classes, a CM1 and a CM2, we can say that the primary private Tanat school is at its peak, with above all a computer room well equipped with the latest fashion new PC's.

The day of the new school year was enhanced by the attendance of administrative and local traditional authorities, parents association and pupils' parents. All of them came out cheerfully from the establishment with a broad smile on their lips.

I am asking everyone, teachers, partners, godfathers and godmothers, and any other person to support the enduring effort that this new school sustains, with the sole



The CE2 class

aim of educating children and achieving very good results . »

Rissa Mohamadou ,director of TANAT school.

### Computer classes have started



Computer classes already began with a great interest from the children and teachers who already master properly the educative games.

During the first class of CP level a game of letters recognition was organized and in CM1 they played at adding up points on dice : children were really so happy.

### Sponsor a class or a pupil of Tanat school

Sponsorships are essential to provide scholarship to underprivileged children (pupil sponsorship) or to balance operating expenses ( teachers' wages...) of the school (class sponsorship). Whereas 60% of families pay 100 € per year to grant schooling to their child (which sum approximately equals in a monthly salary in Niger) operating costs amount to 180 € per year and per pupil.

Tanat school needs you to receive more sponsorships and supports to offer more children the possibility to take in charge their future.

## Surnames

In Abalak region, first name is given at birth by paternal grandparents and the surname is daddy's first name. When children are born in the bush, the birth certificate can be drawn months or years later, the birth date thus being January 1<sup>st</sup> of the estimated birth year.

Birth certificates are spelt by civil registry service and surnames are sometimes written in a very personal manner but this spelling then becomes official.

Many names look alike, for instance this year in CI you have 3 Youssof Mohamed.

Thanks to the support of Bayard school, Statim company offered Tanat school the integrated software school management named Charlemagne.

This software set up on the new school year imposed strictness in writing surnames of pupils and immediately allowed to avoid a double registration of pupils and also to follow more closely the payment of schooling fees.

### The Tanat pedagogic plan

- To welcome children, boys and girls, irrespective of social, cultural and religious background.
- To give the young entrusted to Tanat school on top of a sound academic education, human training to prepare them for behaving in life like trustworthy men and women.
- To foster a family atmosphere that allows young people to feel loved, accepted, supported and valued.

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## The sponsored children

Newly sponsored children are carefully selected every year by a committee consisting of the Association of parents of pupils, the school administration and ONODEP Association, the school administrator. Moreover local traditional authority consisting of Abalak elders is widely consulted.

Having priority: fatherless or motherless children for whom assistance is essential, children of mothers abandoned by their husband, children of very poor families settled in Abalak ( unemployed father or left for exo-



### The dramatic impact of insecurity over Abalak an its neighbourhood

Niger was stricken in 2009-2010 by one of the worst droughts of the last 25 years. About 7.2 million people were victims of food insecurity; Abalak pastoral district has been especially hit since shortage of fodder output decimated livestock.

It is estimated that 60% of cattle breeders in this region lost totally their herds and the remainder 40% suffered the loss of ¾ of their animals.

To-day, after a good rain season, the need for recovery of livestock is positively crucial for the life of pastoral households communities.

Following a call from the government, several international NGO launched plans and programs for rebuilding herds and allow to cattle breeders coming back to usual living conditions.

Despite the willingness displayed by some NGO their actions look very doubtful given the climate of insecurity now prevailing in this

region ), families with many children who cannot afford to pay schooling fees for all of them. For cultural reasons sponsorships remain on a highly confidential basis towards others.

Children fitting these criteria are unfortunately far more numerous than available godfathers and godmothers.

In October 2010, 60 pupils of Tanat school over 180 are sponsored but 15 godfathers and godmothers are still missing to support them.



region where peaceful people are completely helpless.

Owing to recent events some NGO or associations, as a precaution, cannot go there to implement their programs.

This situation leads them to suspend their activities, some have even raised the question of their departure from the region.

In addition, tourism which is so important to develop this region is now completely stopped.

Should this situation last, people of this region would find themselves back in a state of very great precariousness and those who initiated the present climate of insecurity would have won.

In Tanat school, to be careful, the medical examination for the new school year, which was scheduled at the beginning of October, had to be postponed at a later date.

### The plan of Tanat School

Taking into account the condition of the educative system in the Abalak department of Niger, inhabitants gathered within the ONODEP association chaired by Billou Mohamed Moctar, deputy mayor, to open and manage a school with the support of the French TANAT association.

A pedagogic and technical partnership has been set up with Bayard School in Grenoble.

**2009 - stage 1:** opening of the primary school with CI, CP, CE1 CE2, and CM1 and CM2 in 2010.

**2011 - stage 2:** Secondary school opening.

**2013 - stage 3:** High school opening.

The necessary investments for the primary level represented approximately 100 000 € and thereafter should be around 200 000 € for the secondary school and the high school.

Sponsorships take care of the most underprivileged pupils and balance the operating expenses.