



## Pursuit of excellence continues



### School life

TANAT school welcome 9 tu-areg pupils coming back from Libya, owing to recent events.

A new school management was elected in January and got a one-day training with some other schools of Abalak on the topics:  
- the school, children's and girls' friend

- hygienics and cleaning up
- school management members' duties

A few teachers have been inspected and have been given advice by the pedagogic advisor.

Two teachers attended one week training on education in crisis situation, participative management, scholar government and school children's/girls' friend.



### Peace song

*Peace !  
Oh ! How much your name pleases me  
You resound far off in savannas and forests  
You make hatred calm down in men, women, animals' hearts.  
Peace!  
I love hearing you speaking in towns, in villages, in deserted places, to make your voice triumph and tolerance enhanced, even to birds, to fields and to mil ears.  
I love when you are here, especially when I have dessert, At every moment and above all during my absence  
Peace!  
I will never cease ever loving you  
Since you grow love everywhere  
In palaces, tents and hearts.  
Oh what a beautiful path  
I love you, I love you, Peace*

Rissa Mohamadou, Primary level Director



Rissa Mohamadou, Primary level Director

This peace song composed by Rissa was song by CM2 pupils on the occasion of J.D. Waggener's (US Embassy cultural attaché) visit to TANAT school.

### English teacher's message

Dear French friends

Since the opening of Tanat doors, i.e. since the start of the first new school year, its promoter's, director's and teachers' aim, remains and abides in pursuing excellence.

To this end, strictness has been made our cornerstone. This has produced or already begins to produce good results. Indeed, the excellent 2011 results of First Degree Certificate are a good example of it. This year again, with God's will, same results will be obtained. So CM2 pupils of past year who are at the time being in College are our pride and will be the elites of the department and even the region.

6th level TANAT pupils may compete with those of higher level classes in other schools of the region. As regards the subject I teach them, I can simply tell that I am proud of them.



We cannot tell that we are satisfied since we always want to do better and to get more from them since in TANAT, we do not content with being good, but we want to be the best ones to reach the "BAC" goal.

Sincerely yours

Moumouni Hassane, English teacher

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



## College teacher's thoughts

« *Contrary to public college where 6th classes are overcrowded till 95 pupils per class, the 6<sup>th</sup> class of TANAT college, with a 25 pupils number, of which 8 girls, offers an ideal environment for teaching courses. [ ...].*

*This 6th class is a very pluri-ethnic one, with pupils originated from arabs, haoussas, peulhs and tuaregs parents. The linguistic link between the pupils remains above all the French language, because if arab and tuaregs pupils may exchange in haoussa, on the contrary, peulhs find very difficult to speak this language spoken by 90 % of Abalak inhabitants.*

*In the end, far from being a disadvantage, this linguistic split induces pupils to speak French, no matter grammar and conjugation mistakes, the most important being to understand each other [ ...].*

»Alchina Kada, Mathematics teacher



Alchina Kada, Mathematics teacher within TANAT college.

## Food insecurity in Niger in early 2012

In Niger, agropastoral productions are highly dependent on rainfall and on culture enemies. Recently, Niger has been faced to serious food and pastoral crisis, droughts and attacks from culture enemies leading to a price explosion of the mostly consumed cereals (millet, sorghum, corn and rice). These different and reiterative shocks make households resistance vulnerable.

On a national level : 35% of the households, i.e approximately 5.500.000 people are faced to food insecurity, at a "severe" degree for 9 % of them, i.e approximately 1.350.000 people who own neither food stock nor cattle.

In rural environment, 32% of households, i.e 4.300.000 people, are faced to food insecurity and in urban environment 51% of households i.e 1.200.000 people.

Compared to January 2011, such figures show that households' food situation has deteriorated as much in rural background as in urban environment.

Regions where the highest numbers of households enduring severe food insecurity are noticed in Tahoua (region where Abalak is located) ; Tillabéri ; Niamey surroundings and Maradi.

Households in severe food insecurity are mainly those who are practising precarious jobs, such as daily works, wood and straw sale, begging, handicraft professions (joiner, mason, blacksmith).

Source : December 2011 survey conducted together by Government of Niger together with its partners (PAM, European Union, FAO...)

## Death and widowhood rituals within Tuaregs

*During our stay in Abalak, college director's brother died. On this occasion, we wanted to know the rituals performed at the time of a death among Tuaregs.*

At the time of a death, the deceased is buried within the following hours and according to the place where he is in the nearest cemetery or in the bush. Prayers are said with all the close relations attending to the burial service.

Then a 3 day condolences period ( Tifiyote ) starts during which close relations and friends visit the deceased's family (Twishken). During these visits, only a few words are exchanged in low voices and overall the deceased is never directly mentioned. Prayers like Koran verses are recited with visitors. The throat of an animal is slit to feed the visitors and afterwards the left-overs (Takoutey) are distributed to underprivileged people.

For those who were unable to visit the family since they were absent, next time they meet the deceased's family, even several months later, they offer formally their condolences. Afterwards, nobody will ever talk about the deceased, anyone will avoid pronouncing his name, and all the photos where he appears will be removed.

A man who has lost his wife respects a 7-day bereavement period before taking up his life and his work.

With respect to a woman who has lost her husband, the bereavement period lasts 4 months and 10 days, and if she is pregnant,

till the baby's birth.

She takes all her jewels off and wears only a thread collar around her neck and arm. She gets dressed completely in black and wears on her head a white veil covered by a black one.

According to the widowhood ritual (Tghimit = sit down), she surrounds her bed with a mat (Shitkat) and stays in her parents' house without ever touching the soil directly with her feet. During all this period, she must stay on her bed every day during approximately 30mn when sun rises and sets down (Anagher).

When her widowhood is over, according to the coming out ritual (Igammaad), she gathers her friends and plaits her hair, she scents on, she puts henna on her hands and makes up her eyes with a black stone made powder (Tazol). The Shitkat around her bed is rolled out and she walks 7 steps on it. Then she sits down and puts back on all her jewels. A six-year old child opens the Koran in its middle (at the sura "the Cave") and closes it 3 times, then she pinches the child's neck 3 times. Next a woman let an untied twigs broom fall 3 times on her back. At the end of this ritual, she can take up a normal life.

After enough time to know whether the woman is pregnant, heritage is settled by an imam according to a possible testimony and according to Islamic law who provides for a well defined distribution of the deceased's belongings between his wife or her husband, his children and his parents.

## TANAT School Project

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

The TANAT pedagogic plan is :

- 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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