

FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME 2018 ACTIVITY REPORT - NIGER, AFRICA



Fraternite Notre Dame NGO in Niger is an organization which was created by Fraternite Notre Dame, a religious Catholic Congregation, based in Chicago USA.

It was born from the vision of its Founder, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie Kozik, to bring about a fairer world, offering charitable services, namely in Niger, in order to reach sustainable development goals. For this reason,

the organization has been operating its activities in Niger since March 20, 1998, near the poorest of the poor.

Fraternite Notre Dame NGO intervenes in three strategic directions, which are health, education and children's sponsorship through the Orphanage.

Fraternite Notre Dame NGO in Niger achieved numerous activities during 2018 with various partners.

- January 2, 2018

We received various pieces of furniture, namely mattresses from the US Embassy in Niamey to help our orphanage and benefit destitute children and orphans.

- January 21, 2018

Following His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie's advice related to the orphan's return to their families – children who have parents who cannot provide for their families – a first meeting occurred between the social workers and the parents.

The meeting was mainly oriented towards good behavior in a family. This reinsertion in the families is a process that Fraternite Notre Dame puts in place in order to reinstate the children in their families, as soon as their health is recovered and that the child is out of danger and healthy. Fraternite Notre Dame prioritizes the family as a key element in society, where the child is educated and evolves with his parents.

- February 1, 2018

A meeting took place with the Ministry of Justice, the General Secretary, the Director of Judicial Protection and the delegation of Fraternite Notre Dame NGO in the process of the orphan's return to their families, those 10 years old and up.



- February 3rd, 2018

After the advice of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie, Fraternite Notre Dame conducted a distribution of food (millet, rice) and animals (bovine, caprine) to the inhabitants of Koira Tegui, namely to the lepers of this village, which is a suburb city of Niamey.



- From February 6, 2018

Within the social assistance to persons living in extreme vulnerability, Fraternite Notre Dame welcomed a 21-year-old young mother who had just given birth to triplets. This young lady used to live in a village far from Niamey, about 150



Day of Water”, organized by the Network of Journalists for the Water and Sanitation under the theme: “The answer is in the nature ».

- March 23, 2018

We received the visit of His Excellency the Ambassador of Spain in Niger. He took advantage of that visit to make a donation of pharmaceutical supplies and of clothing to the orphanage.

miles away. She came to the NGO with babies in the condition of severe malnutrition, whose weight was less than 1.5 kilograms. Forty-five days later, this young lady left our Health Center with babies whose weight was between 4 to 5 kilograms.

- March 11th, 2018

Fraternite Notre Dame participated to the World Day of Fight against Leprosy. In the course of the day, Fraternite Notre Dame made a food donation to the Leper village.



He had heard about the activities of Fraternite Notre Dame for the poor. He gave all his encouragement for the work performed by the Religious of Fraternite Notre Dame.

- March 20, 2018

Fraternite Notre Dame organized a distribution of hot meals and clothing to the destitute population in the suburbs of Niamey

- March 24, 2018

Construction of houses such as huts, to the families of some orphans, in order to allow these families to have a proper home to raise their children and provide for their needs.

- March 22, 2018

Fraternite Notre Dame actively participated in the celebration of the “World

- March 27, 2018

A workshop with a Turkish delegation while they visit Fraternite Notre Dame NGO to share experience on the orphanage's management. Fraternite Notre Dame makes a point of sharing and cooperating with other organizations in favor of poor populations.

- April 7, 2018

An educational and recreational outing organized by the Governor of the Tillabery Region to benefit the children of Fraternite Notre Dame's Orphanage. This trip allowed the children to learn about the wealth of fauna and flora of their country and better respect and protect it as a heritage for the generations to come. They better understood the influence of the trees on rains and droughts.

- May 8, 2018

Fraternite Notre Dame received the visit of American Navy Soldiers at the Orphanage who were able to talk about our work in favor of childhood in difficulty and our work for the poorest.

- May 11, 2018

Fraternite Notre Dame organized a day of cleanliness with the population of Banifandou, to eliminate the accumulation of garbage. The goal was to make the youth aware upon the importance of sanitation, so as to eliminate disease and eliminate the problems linked with this lack of salubrity; to give a sense of responsibility, to take this situation in hand and give a quality of life.



This activity allowed to create a cleaner working area, inside and outside the NGO facility and get together the inhabitants of the neighborhood, providing them with the values of the NGO. This was a success since the population rejoiced about the improvement of the community, thanks to the motivation brought by Fraternite Notre Dame. Fraternite Notre Dame works a great deal to motivate the youth and make them understand that the future is in their hands.

- May 12, 2018

Distribution of hot meals to the inhabitants of Niamey suburbs and at the village of the lepers. This activity was done in the field of urban poverty eradication, when we consider that half of the Nigeriens do not succeed to eat three times a day.

- May 13, 2018

Fraternite Notre Dame received the visit of the Women's Delegation working at the SATOM and Unilever Society. This approach was done for the National Day of the Woman. We put our

efforts together for the well-being of the Woman and the Girl to protect their rights and secure them a future, where they can receive a good education. This day gave the opportunity to make a donation of food and hygiene supplies.



- May 24, 2018

We received the visit of the General Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, who was with his Director of Juvenile Protection. He had organized this meeting so as to observe and approve Fraternite Notre Dame's endeavor in its return process for the orphans to go back to their families, after years provided in the field of education. Now, the families must take over and continue this education which was started by Fraternite Notre Dame, which favors the children living with their families. Many children were saved from death, or from serious disease, and after a search with the Nigerien authorities, Fraternite Notre Dame was able to find the families who had abandoned their children due to lack of means or lack of parental responsibility (mental illness).

- May 30, 2018

Fraternite Notre Dame organized a free meals give-away at the hospital of Niamey, especially Pediatrics B.

- June 16, 2018

This day was dedicated to the « Day of African Child » at which Fraternite Notre Dame actively participated either in the organization or in its content through poems, songs, sketches: Fraternite Notre Dame gave its help to provide transportation to other orphanages in Niamey.

- July 3, 2018

The Nigerien association of the dental doctors, in collaboration with Fraternite Notre Dame organized a sensibilization activity upon dental hygiene. For a few hours, the children of the orphanage heard about good practices in the field of dental hygiene. At the end, kits were distributed to the children of the orphanage.

- July 12, 2018

Forum on the Child Protection under the sponsorship of the First Lady of Niger Dr Lalla Malika Issoufou. The theme of this forum was: «Children living in situations of armed conflicts and regular migration, challenges, answers and perspectives». This meeting occurred over three days and had the participation of several organizations, including Fraternite Notre Dame.

- August 23, 2018

In collaboration with *Islamic Relief*, a local NGO, Fraternite Notre Dame organized a free distribution of meat, on the occasion of the Tabaski feast. On August 22, 2018, day of the Tabaski feast, we proceeded to slaughter 9 animals for beef, allocated to the orphanage of Fraternite Notre Dame and the group « Vie Positive » from Koira Tegui:

Fraternite Notre Dame: 6 animals for beef provision

Vie Positive :3 animals for beef provision



Overall, the distribution went smoothly because we have a team from the National Guard available at the orphanage, which helped us to enforce the security.

- August 19, 2018

Fraternite Notre Dame organized a free distribution of hot meals in the suburbs of Niamey.

- Beginning of September,

Fraternite Notre Dame started the rehabilitation of the premises of the mission.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1: HEALTH

Fraternite Notre Dame has a health-center available created in 2000, which improved along the years with the opening of a maternity, thanks to the funding of the Japan Embassy. The center treats various cases of general medicine and specialties. During 2018, the interventions that the doctors performed can be summarized as follow (from January to October 2018).

Medical consultations	around 3,500
Ultrasound scans	around 1,000
Gynecological consul.	around 400
Pre-Birth consultations	around 850
Infant consultations	around 2,100
Deliveries	around 150

The social nature and the non-for-profit status of the NGO lead it to take an important number of patients for free. 20 % of the patients who came to the center were treated through a social assistance program of Fraternite Notre Dame. These patients come from disadvantaged environments, among which several orphans who, without the presence of the center, would never have a chance of being in good health. A young single mother who had a non-desired pregnancy was taken in for several months until her delivery and we accompanied her all the way

home to her family. We have to say that in those cases, the young mothers are victims and are rejected from their families.

Two youth - one suffering from severe anemia and the other in a comatose state - were hospitalized until their complete healing, under the follow-up of the persons in charge of Fraternite Notre Dame, who made donation of food products to these two patients.

In 2018, Fraternite Notre Dame proceeded to a renovation of the facility of the health center.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2: EDUCATION

Education is the cornerstone for the development of any country which cares for its future. However, in Niger, only 17% of the girls and women aged from 15 to 24 years-old know how to read and write.



In 2002, Fraternite Notre Dame created a school-complex named “Myriam of Nazareth” which progressively welcomed students in kindergarten, primary and secondary school. The goal of this school-complex is to allow any children in Niger to have access to a quality education. This is why the school “Myriam of Nazareth”



welcomes many poor children, who cannot afford to go to school otherwise. In Niger, even though the rate of school attendance increases, the quality of education remains a crucial problem both for the families, the teachers and the hierarchic authorities.

The school system is faced with numerous challenges:

- The number of untimely strikes from the public teachers and the students who, from now on, invade the private facilities in order to disrupt this sector;
- The weak level knowledge of some teachers who are recruited for-the-job;
- The excessive number of students in the classes, preventing the weakest to find a solution to their difficulties;
- A drop-off rate still high, even if the school attendance is increasing.

From which it follows that the level of education is very low for the most part. Some quality school facilities are available but they are reserved for a certain wealthy class of society.

One of the principles of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie - to offer a quality education, open to anyone without any discrimination - is put in place by Fraternite Notre Dame in Niger. Thus, one of the goals of the school-complex “Myriam of Nazareth”, is to develop the good points of each child: intellectual, manual, artistic... so as he becomes a fully radiant citizen in his community.

Special care is given for children living in difficult situation, in order to help them improve their results and increase their self-confidence. The school-complex Myriam of Nazareth, also welcomes handicapped children with locomotor deficiencies, slight mental deficiencies, trisomy, hearing deficiencies, genetic disabling diseases. The welcoming of children in handicapped situations, meets the directive of inclusive education promoted by the National Education.

Lastly, the number of the school-complex “Myriam of Nazareth” for the school-year 2018-2019 are as follow; numbers may vary slightly, due to possible admissions or dismissals during the year:

Kindergarten	106
Primary School	350
Secondary School	184

The social nature of Fraternite Notre Dame and its model of social development make of this structure the first one in Niger to provide a free quality education to a great number of students coming from disadvantaged environments.

In conclusion, within the 640 students (all grades comprised), 94 students benefit from a quality free education tailored to their environment, that is to say 15% of the students.

This year, Fraternite Notre Dame achieved the complete renovation of the school with its proper funding - about ten million of francs CFA - invested to give an apprenticeship environment, suitable for the students. Our students are privileged when we know that in Niger, only 18% of the schools have a source of water; 5.9% have electricity and 20.2% have a fence.



**STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3:
THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE
CHILDREN THROUGH THE
ORPHANAGE:**

From 2001, Fraternite Notre Dame has been offering a welcome center for

orphans, abandoned children or children living in extreme vulnerability, in order to offer them complete support until their majority. At the present time, the center welcomes about 30 children, girls and boys whose ages vary from 0 to 18 years-old. We have to say that this year was a transition phase for 22 children, girls and boys, minor and at majority, above 10 years-old, who had more or less a relationship with their parents. Fraternite Notre Dame decided on the return of these children in their families. However, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie and Fraternite Notre Dame continue to follow them and support them in their needs, through free school attendance for some of them and continue to guarantee them access the health center in case of disease. Moreover, Fraternite Notre Dame accepts the temporary administrative placing of children in situation of vulnerability, directed by the Ministry in charge of the Protection of the Child and takes care of orphans as day-pupils.

Since the beginning of 2018, Fraternite Notre Dame has been committed in the enforcement and respect of the texts related to the Protection of the Child (CDE, CADBE, Decree 2010). In this field, Fraternite Notre Dame facilitates the access in the orphanage to social workers from the Ministry, regarding the follow-up of life conditions of the welcomed children. In 2018, Fraternite Notre Dame signed the Protocol of Collaboration with the commitment to help the children of the welcome center and to stress any Ministry's initiative targeting the promotions and protection of the Child's Rights.

Fraternite Notre Dame solicited the support of the Ministry in charge of the Protection of the Child in the process of restructuration of the Institution, which occurred in 2018. To give an example, during 2018, more than one hundred orphans were taken as day-pupil for sanitary and feeding assistance.

After more than ten years for some and more than fifteen years for others, spent at the orphanage of Fraternite Notre Dame, twenty-two children went back to their families with Diplomas in their hands, including eleven girls. A success for these children and for the Mission, when we know that these children were welcomed when they were babies.



For more than fifteen years, Fraternite Notre Dame dedicated its material, human and financial means with its partners, to assure a better future to these children and we can see now the beneficial results, thanks to the regular and sustained assistance of His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie and Fraternite Notre Dame.

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