



**SPIRITAN
INTERNATIONAL**
Together, for an integral development

Newsletter

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Editorial

Two years... Yes, two years already since the Central Development Office of the Congregation came into being on February 2, 2019. A symbolic date for all of us Spiritans, and one that reminds us of our vocation: "We must, therefore, make ourselves" the advocates, supporters and defenders of the weak and the small against all those who oppress them." (Rules 1849; N.D., X, 517).

During this time, we have been working to implement the tasks assigned by the General Council, namely animation, coordination and training in the field of development. And this has not been an easy task! We had to get organised, establish our own way of working and our own tools... And then the Covid-19 pandemic came and turned everything upside down! No more trips, no more meetings, no more encounters... Once again, we had to reinvent ourselves! Getting involved in videoconferences, on-line training, adapting to new technologies... Perhaps this is also an opportunity for all of us? We will see it over the coming months and years! But we have already been forced to get out of our habits, out of our daily routine, and that's a good thing. We must now continue to move forward: to put in place the structures necessary for our work for development, something which is at the heart of our work of evangelization; to train ourselves and strengthen our capacities in order to respond as effectively as possible to the calls of our brothers and sisters in search of a more humane life. All this is within our reach! We must make the decision to set out and do everything possible to respond faithfully to the calls of the Holy Spirit in today's world.

The type of development that we are pursuing is one that takes into account the state of the planet and its inhabitants, a positive development that puts the human being at the heart of its action, a development that brings hope, far removed from any attitude of withdrawal or fear, an equitable and shared development, a global vision of long-term issues and a shared project at the level of our countries and the world.

A growing team...



Philippe Engel—Director



Marielle Lacroix—Financial Counsellor



Zacharie N'dione—Trainee Assistant

Philippe Engel, Cssp, Director. Philippe worked for 9 years in Senegal and 15 years in Guinea Conakry, mainly in development. Then he was employed at the Catholic Delegation for Cooperation (DCC) in France for 8 years before being called to Kibanda (Brussels) to be its director. And since February 2, 2019 he is the director of the Central Development Office (Spiritan International) of the Congregation in Rome.

Marielle Lacroix, Financial Counsellor. Marielle is Canadian (Quebecois) and is an old friend of the Spiritans. She was very close to the mission of Kataco in Guinea Conakry. She often came there with her husband Maurizio, a doctor, who helped out at the dispensary. She was for a long time the financial manager of several Canadian embassies in Europe and is now retired. She is a precious help in the financial aspects of our work.

Zacharie Guirane N'dione, Trainee Assistant. Zacharie is a confrere of the PANO who was novice master in this circumscription for about ten years. Now he wants to put himself at the service of development and is due to take a university course in this field in the next academic year. Today, he is on a training course with us and is a great help!

And then... We are waiting for the decisions of the General Council so that it can put other confreres and lay professionals at the service of our office...

Testimony: From Guinea to Rome... (*Zacharie N'dione*)

It is sometimes difficult to talk about oneself. And yet this is what I was asked to do. I will try and beg your understanding if I do it awkwardly.

My name is Zacharie Guirane NDIONE, of the Province of North West Africa (PANO), and I am from Senegal. I have been a Spiritan since 08 September 2001 and this year I am celebrating my 20th anniversary of religious profession in the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. It has been a time of discovery! Of my person, my vocation, of the Spiritan training, of discovering other cultures, of joy and sometimes of the difficulties of the mission. My vocation of following in the footsteps of Poullart Des Places and Libermann began in my childhood. I was touched by how close the Spiritans of my parish Marie Reine were to the people, and how concerned they were for the development and well-being of the people. They set up dispensaries, schools, livestock breeding, market gardening, drilling and wells...etc... All this contributed to my desire to commit myself to the most disadvantaged sections of society throughout the world. In fact, all my years of formation and mission have been for me moments of initiation to religious life through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, with an inclination for development. I have understood that life is not only about possession, power and being. But attachment to Christ - "living with Jesus" - leads us to leave aside, sometimes painfully, the attachment to people, situations and material goods in order to put ourselves totally at the service of our suffering neighbour.



Catholic mission of Mongo



Visit to the village of Kukudé - Guinea

Consequently, my first three years of mission in Mongo in the south of Guinea were characterized by the encounter with a people traumatized by the post-war period in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Thanks to the Word of God and the many initiatives supported by GTZ, Plan Guinea and USAID, we were able to combine Evangelization and Development. Out of the 45 communities that covered this parish area, there was a development structure in each community. Thus we were able to set up groups helping women to make soap, 150 bambinos (huts for infants), plantations and a welding workshop for the disabled. After three years, I was asked to be the novice master of the PANO from 2010 to 2020 in Guinea. These years were very enriching thanks to a life marked by prayer, community life and work. I have always felt the presence of the Lord in my life, despite my fears, limitations and temptations. I try to make myself available to the calls of my superiors, without calculation, but with the sole desire to serve. This passion for development continued during my time in the novitiate. The young people were trained in this spirit of working towards self-empowerment. And thanks to organizations such as Kibanda, the Nunciature in Conakry and Church in Need, we were able to set up small development units such as the palm grove, the piggery, sheep and duck breeding and a plantation of about a hundred fruit trees. After all these years rich in experience and without any merit on my part, I was asked to spend a period of internship at the Central Development Office in Rome with a view to a more systematic training in this field. This is the reason for my presence in Rome, where, thanks to the expertise of my internship director, the sessions and lectures on Zoom, I am discovering the vast world of development. Our work at the moment is oriented towards the training project and the setting up of the 41 local development offices of the Congregation. I hope that this period of training will allow me to bring a little bit of love and solidarity to the poor.



Boffa - Guinea Spiritan Novitiate



Mansard of Father Libermann—Rome



General House of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit—Rome

An assessment...

Two years of existence... Perhaps it's time to draw up a first assessment?

The first thing we undertook was to launch a survey throughout the Congregation to find out what the confreres' expectations were with regard to this new Central Development Office. And 36% of the confreres responded! Which is enormous and shows, if need there was, that this CDO is an essential body for the Congregation.

As a result of this consultation, it was possible to draw up a document entitled "The Central Development Office", which specifies the contours, the mission and the means. Another document called "The Spiritan Development Charter" specifies the Congregation's development policy and its 8 objectives in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) proposed by the United Nations.

We have also set up our Internet site "SPIRITAN INTERNATIONAL" (www.spiritana-international.org) whose objective is to keep you informed about the life of the COD and the LDO's. And for this, we need your collaboration: We can only publish the information we receive from you...

During this period we have made several visits to Africa and Asia: in 2019, we took part in the meeting of the Conference of Spiritan Circumscription of Africa and the Islands (SCCAI) in Abuja in August and in November we took part in the meetings of the Union of Spiritan Circumscriptions of Central Africa (UCSAC) in Brazzaville and the Union of Circumscriptions of Asia and Oceania (UCAO) in Manila. In 2020 we visited 3 countries in East Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya with the aim of strengthening or creating local development offices in these circumscriptions. Other visits were planned in the Indian Ocean (Mauritius, Seychelles, Rodrigue) but the Covid-19 crisis forced us to cancel everything... In January 2020, in Dublin, we had the first consultation and coordination meeting of the Development Support Offices (DSO) of the Congregation, namely Kibanda/CESS (Brussels), IODO (Dublin), SOMA (Houston) and Sol Sem Fronteiras (Lisbon). We made the joint decision to work more closely on the financing of the projects presented to us and to coordinate our efforts. An effort to be continued over time... We also worked on the training of the confreres who are involved in development initiatives and for this we have made use of platforms created by other missionary congregations, such as the Claretians with PRISMA. In this way, 3 English-speaking and 4 French-speaking confreres have received basic training in their own languages and during this month of February 7 Portuguese-speaking confreres will benefit from the same training. It goes without saying that all this is being done online... And then we are putting the finishing touches to a more complete training plan for the confreres who will need it during the coming year and the following ones: basic training, advanced training and specialized training. And of course, all this is done in connection with the setting up of the Local Development Offices.

Finally, we are in the process of examining, with the Training Department and the General Council, whether it would be possible to set up awareness and training workshops for all Spiritan students.



SDO's meeting in Dublin



Meeting in Kampala in February 2020 to the setting up of the Local Development Office



Visit to a school run by the Spiritans in the Mukuru slum in Nairobi, Kenya (February 2020)



On-line training programme

The Covid-19 pandemic that has now been raging for a year has forced us to re-view all our ways of doing things. We can no longer travel, meet and train in familiar structures. This is how online training has taken off in a new direction. We too at the Central Development Office (Spiritan International) want to enter this new space and offer you the following training programme during the year ahead.

Training in setting up Local Development Offices:

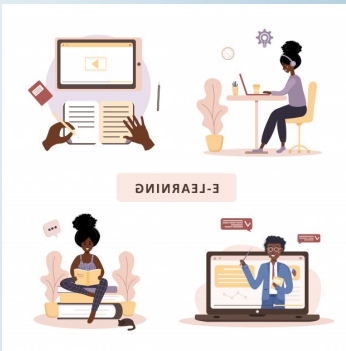
This training is aimed at provincial councilors and their councils (bursars, councilors, commission heads, etc...). It aims to help each circumscription to set up their own development office. It will take place in two steps over two weeks:

This first step will take place over two days and will include 8 modules, including:

- The Congregation's policy on development and self-sufficiency.
- Why set up a Local Development Office?
- What kind of development office for which circumscription?
- The conditions required to set up a LDO.
- What donors are asking for in order to provide funding.

This second stage of the training will also take place over two days with 8 modules. We will cover all the practical aspects of setting up a development office, its legal personality, its functioning, its management, its staff, its tools...

Following these two training sessions, each provincial team will have all the necessary tools to set up its own LDO.



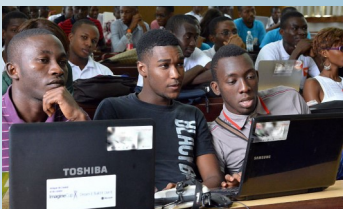
Basic training for Local Development Office managers

This basic training will cover project management and fundraising. It will take place over a period of 8 days and will cover the following topics:

- Social Doctrine of the Church,
- Sustainable Development Objectives (SDOs),
- Participatory identification of needs,
- Logical framework matrix,
- Work distribution structure,
- Gantt charts,
- Budgets, documentation, reports, project monitoring,
- Evaluation of project sustainability,
- Project management in the event of a disaster,
- Funding agency formats,
- Congregational project offices,
- MPS Funding Guide,
- Fundraising methods,
- Protection of minors and vulnerable adults in projects,
- Catholic and other funding agencies working on the African continent.

This training will be provided either by external providers such as Prisma (Claretians), Sofia (Salvatorians) or Humentum (American organization), or will be provided internally in the medium term.

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Responsibility and Development (Kuha Indyer)

This short text is extracted from a reflection on "Responsibility: A Fundamental Principle for Development" written by Father Kuha Indyer Cssp who is currently in charge of the Local Development Office of the North East Province of Nigeria. He gives us some advice drawn from his long experience in development. Why not implement them?



Father Kuha Indyer, Cssp

Measures that the Central Development Office should put in place to promote accountability in our development work:

I believe that if some of the following measures are put in place in our Congregation, it will go a long way in promoting accountability in our development initiatives for the good of the congregation and the world.

1. Development courses/workshops in our formation houses: Our scholastics should be trained in development. A course should be developed in this regard if possible, and if for the time being it cannot be integrated into the seminary programme, it could be offered periodically in the form of workshops.
2. Setting up development offices in our various circumscriptions: Development offices should be set up in the different circumscriptions of the congregation, if possible. These offices should have a legal status and assist in the realization and conduct of the projects that the confreres write. They should be responsible for publishing the amounts received for a particular project from donor agencies and for providing a report on the use of donations.
3. Workshops for pastoral workers: Workshops should be organized from time to time for Spiritans working in various pastoral units so that they are aware of development issues.
4. Training of superiors on development issues: Sometimes religious superiors tend to use funds for development projects for purposes other than those for which they were intended. This practice can be detrimental to the donor-recipient relationship. Superiors need to be educated to realize the danger of this action by following the adage that the donor's intention must be respected.
5. Training of development workers: Development workers should receive solid training on development issues.
6. Sanctioning Spiritans who embezzle development funds: Disciplinary action should be taken against members of the Congregation who misappropriate funds for development projects.
7. Confreres of good character should be appointed as development officers: Only confreres of good character with a good record in development issues should be appointed to head development offices so that their appointment is not based on political reasons.





No week goes by without such macabre information...

(Testimony of Fr. Pachel Florian Mbabe Mohizi)

More than 164 clandestine migrants from West Africa were intercepted at sea and in the Sahara Desert in 24 hours in Nouadhibou, Mauritania.

Again and again, the count goes on. According to the Regional Direction of National Security in Nouadhibou, 164 clandestine migrants, Senegalese, Malians and Ivoirians were rescued in Nouadhibou in the space of one day on February 3, 2021, of whom ten died of dehydration during the 5 day ordeal, while crossing the ocean to reach the Canary Islands.

On Wednesday 3 February 2021, 118 Senegalese, Malian and Ivoirian migrants, including women with children and especially young people aged between 18 and 30, on their way to the Canary Islands, were rescued, following the breakdown of their boat's engine, as the boat had run out of petrol. 10, including a child, hungry, thirsty and exhausted, died in the dugout about 25 km north of the town of Nouadhibou, near the border with Western Sahara. Yet another tragedy that reminds us how much illegal migration from Mauritania to the Canary Islands is deadly! Yet another of the considerable risks that many young Africans take to try to reach Europe for economic, social and political reasons!

The 108 survivors were transported to the port of Nouadhibou, where they were taken care of by the Red Cross and the parish Caritas of Nouadhibou: distribution of clothing against the cold, emergency medical assistance, hot food and mineral water. About ten of them are currently in a critical condition at the Nouadhibou base hospital.

On the same day, Wednesday 3 February, at around 6pm, 36 other migrants, all of Malian nationality, were also intercepted by Frontex, as part of the fight against irregular emigration, in the heart of the Western Sahara desert as they were trying to reach Morocco, despite the recent death of a Guinean migrant, who died of thirst in the desert 18km from Nouadhibou, during his crossing on 22 January 2021. These migrants, abused by their smugglers, were abandoned in the middle of the desert between the town of Nouadhibou and Dakhla. They were on their way to Morocco as illegal migrants. The smugglers left them in the desert, saying they would come back to get them in a few hours, but they never did, said one survivor. Lost after a day's walk in the desert looking for help, they fell victim to the heat, which was around 42 degrees, and dehydration - they had taken only two bottles of 75 centiliters each. All of them began to feel extremely tired, cramped, dizzy, a bit like being drunk. Their skin and tongue became dry. They were rescued and brought to Nouadhibou, thanks to an air search and rescue operation by the Frontex (Guardia Civil), on 3 February 2021, at around 6 pm. Emergency assistance and medical care was given to them in Nouadhibou by Caritas Nouadhibou.

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As part of its commitment to vulnerable migrants and refugees for about 2 years, Caritas Nouadhibou has been working to raise awareness of the risks and dangers of illegal immigration, and to combat trafficking and smuggling of persons. It has also set up in Nouadhibou a social and health protection mechanism for the benefit of migrants, refugees and vulnerable people.

In conclusion, we launch a vibrant appeal to all people of good will to pay more attention to the migrant populations affected by the health and social crisis of Covid-19.

"May the Lord restore our sight, so that we may rediscover what it means to be members of the human family" (Pope Francis).



CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
Congrégation du Saint-Esprit
Clivo di Cinna, 195
00136 Roma

Tél. +39 06 35 404 648

Cell. +39 351 210 2428

E-mail: development-office@cssproma.com

Contributors to this Newsletter :

Editorial committee:

P. Zacharie N'dione and Fr. Philippe Engel

Translation and proofreading:

P. Tony Neves, and Fr. James Flynn

Coordinator:

Father Philippe Engel

Bank details :

Pax Bank – Köln

Procura Generale dell'Istituto dello Spirito Santo

IBAN : DE 2537 0601 9300 5720 6004

BIC : GENODED1PAX

www.spiritan-international.org