

Chad National Immunization Days, December 9 & 10

Report

Visits

The 9th was devoted to official visits to our partners in N'Djamena accompanied by Dr. Ahmat Ali Hisseine and PDG Athanase Pouloupoulos.

We met with:

A WHO delegation

Unicef representatives

The Red Cross

The Health Minister, who gave me a recognition certificate for Rotary International

The Mayor of N'Djamena was unavailable since he was taking the President to the airport.

The reality on site is compelling. Obviously, we have made progress against Polio (one case this year), but we cannot let our guards down, because we cannot forget that we had no cases in 2002 and 2003.

➤ Health problems are very acute in Chad:

Maternal mortality rate is 827 for 100,000

Infant mortality rate is 132 for 1,000

There is a doctor for 26,000 inhabitants whereas WHO average is 1 per 10,000.

Children are suffering from malnutrition, malaria, and aids, which explains why they have their own specific UNICEF program.

Rotarians

I attended a club meeting (small) and a benefit for Children hosted by a German Rotarian's spouse from the Club of N'Djamena with more than 300 guests.

Rotaractors were very involved in these NIDs.

Medias

➤ Media coverage was very extensive.

The meeting with the minister was taped and broadcasted that evening on television during an official report.

Dr. Ahmat Ali Hisseine had arranged a 2 h press conference with 10 journalists, which also was seen on television the following evening. (8 min. report).

President of the country

Saturday was a holiday marking the Feast of Democracy. Thanks to PDG Athanase Pouloupoulos, member of the diplomatic corps, RI and its vice-president had been invited to the festivities in Northern Chad, in the Tibesti region, at Fada where I met and talked with the President of Chad, Mr. Idriss Deby about the progress made to eradicate Polio. I thanked him and congratulated him. He appeared a little surprised to have Rotary represented at the governmental function.

I traveled in the company of ambassadors from France, USA, Africa, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, etc. as well as members of the diplomatic corps, representatives from the IMF, the World Bank, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees...in French military planes.

Conclusion

Congratulations to the Chad NPPC chair, Ahmat Ali Hisseine, a man who possesses a very clear understanding of the situation and who is very involved in the campaign. Congratulations as well to PDG Athanase Pouloupoulos. They should be commended for the help they provided to me as well as the great relationships they nurture in N'Djamena.

Serge Gouteyron
Vice-President

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