

The Camel Express



Newsletter of the Friends of Niger

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Friends of Niger PO Box 452 Haverford, PA 19041

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From the Editor

Dear readers,

Every once in a while I recognize that I am guilty of having freeze-frame images from my time in Niger crowding out current realities. Recently Morou Boureima sent me images of swanky new amenities in Agadez—where he had flown on the Niger Airline which hits all the major cities twice a week! It was hard for me to reconcile the cool architecture and facilities with my static memories of the extremely limited offerings in the early 1990s. Agadez now has charter flights from Europe. I have posted some of the photos he shared of Agadez on the website. My goal is for the Camel Express to nourish memories as well as bring you up to speed with Niger today. I welcome your feedback, story ideas and content.

Amy Wilson, dit Amibula

1) Think of Friends of Niger on Giving Tuesday

Please consider going to our website on Giving Tuesday to support the efforts of the Friends of Niger: <http://www.friendsofniger.org/donate-online/>

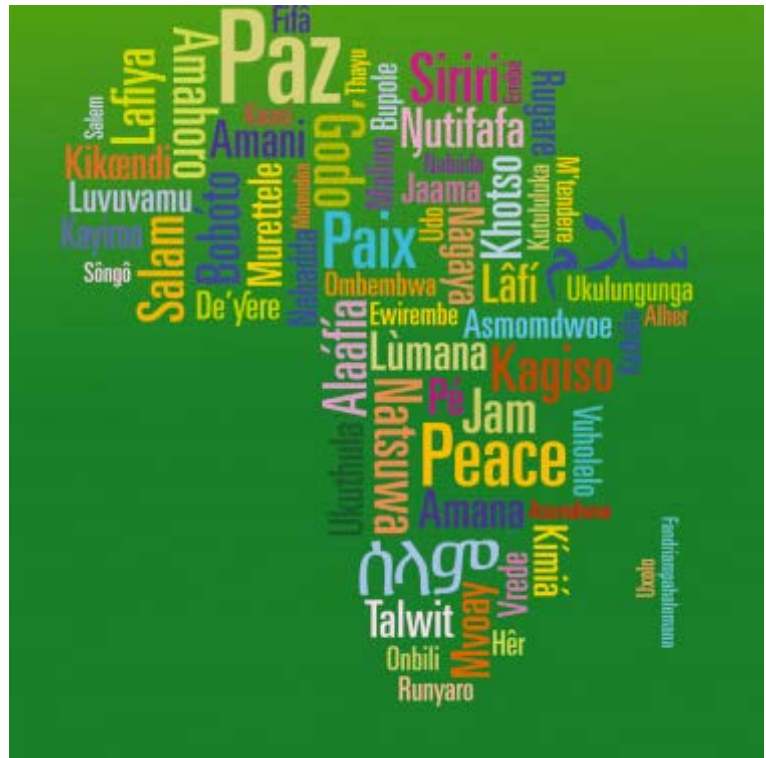
Keep an eye on your mailbox for our annual letter and report about projects and activities. This year's report includes updates on efforts to provide solar electrification in health clinics in Maradi and Zinder regions, individual family Moringa gardens in Dakoro, supplying medicines in Diffa, emergency fire relief and a warehouse for grain storage in Dosso region, emergency feeding for nomadic students and cheese making in Tchintabaraden. This work is made possible with your donations, THANK YOU!



2) Happening now in Niamey: Africa's Continental Summit for Peace

3ème Sommet Continental de l'Afrique pour la Paix Niamey,
Capitale de la Paix en Afrique, du 28 au 30 novembre

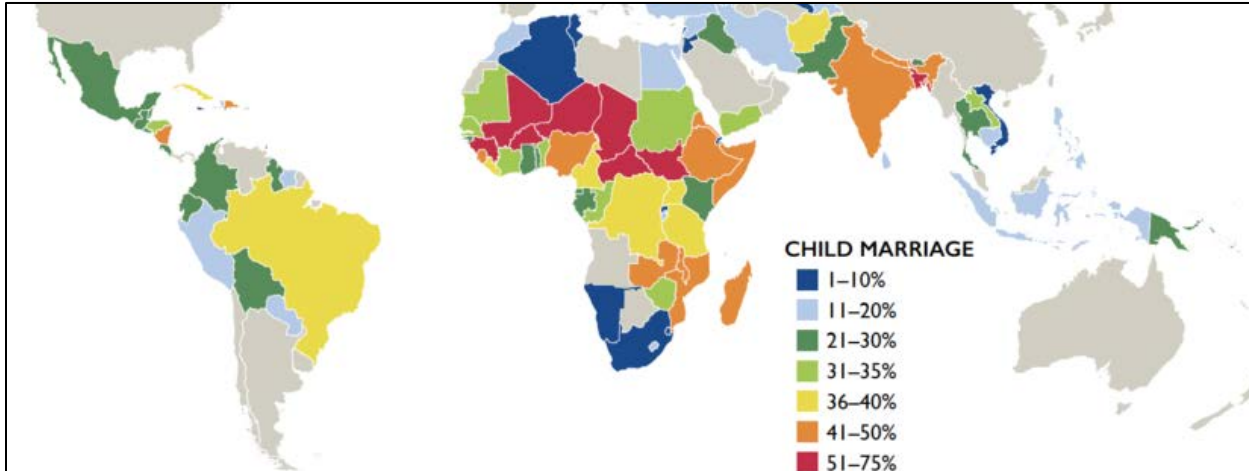
The summit aims to promote the Project « pour une Afrique céleste » and will go a long way to supporting the efforts of African leaders for peace, security, reconciliation, human development, the realization of the ideals of the African Union and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This Summit is also intended to be a forum to contribute to the fulfilment of Africa's dream: « le rêve d'une Afrique unie, d'une Afrique paisible, d'une Afrique pacifique, d'une Afrique prospère ». This dream was expressed by the founder of the Foundation for Universal Peace at the first African summit in Dakar in January 2018.



<http://www.nigerdiaspora.net/index.php/politique-niger/7915-3eme-sommet-continental-de-l-afrique-pour-la-paix-niamey-capitale-de-la-paix-en-afrique-du-28-au-30-novembre>

3) How child marriage harms agricultural productivity

Child, Early, and Forced Marriage are forms of gender-based violence which can also harm agricultural productivity. Child marriage is a global challenge that impedes our progress across all sectors of society, including agriculture. Each year 12 million girls are married before they turn 18 years old with girls in rural marrying young at twice the rate of girls in urban communities.



Fueled by poverty, lack of education, tradition, and insecurity, gender inequality and a devaluation of girls and women underlie all factors that contribute to the practice of child marriage.

Women are heavily involved in cultivating, harvesting, and processing food and bringing it to market, yet early marriage constrains women's productivity. Lack of education, increased care responsibilities, health issues, and imbalanced power dynamics shrinks access to land and other assets, resources, and information. Removing the production constraints on female farmers, including removing the exacerbating challenges that child marriage imposes on adolescent girls and young women could increase their farm yields by 20-30 percent, feeding an additional 150 million people.

Specific suggestions are provided for helping to end child marriage and integrating the needs of child brides into agriculture programming

See full article at: <https://www.agrilinks.org/post/how-child-marriage-harms-agricultural-productivity>

To learn more, read the blog - [The Role of Gender in Agriculture](#).

Gleaned from Agrilinks, the online hub for agriculture, food security and development professionals. If you're not a member, [join now](#). Agrilinks is part of the Feed the Future initiative that addresses the root causes of hunger, poverty and undernutrition, and establishes a lasting foundation for change; USAID Bureau for Food Security (BFS).

4) Support a family whose breadwinner was killed in a hit and run accident—by a British tourist.



RPCV Pamela Britton White (Dosso 1969-70, pamelabwhite@gmail.com) is asking for your support for a family in Niger that has not found justice after a hit and run by a tourist. Pam has been on a quest to seek justice for the family of her Nigerien friend, Oumarou, who was killed in a hit and run accident in Niger in 1975. The perpetrator, a British tourist, a renowned rock star, fled the country after being tried and sentenced, failing to

compensate or acknowledge the loss to the family in any way. With incredible determination and the active support of Nigeriens who worked with and knew the victim, Pam tracked down the rock star in England and had direct communication with him. He admitted and remembered the incident well, had even written about it in published works, but callously refused any word of condolence or any compensation for the surviving family. A GoFundMe campaign has been established to give this family some justice, solidarity and support from the outside world, to acknowledge their loss and suffering. Please follow this link to support Oumarou's family and learn the rest of the story—WHO WAS THE FAMOUS ROCK STAR?

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/seeking-justice-for-Oumarous-family>

5) Cultural Spotlight: Niger Diaspora website

Interested in more Niger news? Check out this website developed and maintained by Nigeriens living abroad.

Nous sommes tous des Nigériens de la diaspora résidant dans la capitale de l'Europe, Bruxelles. Nous restons très attachés à nos racines. Nous sommes conscients du fait que les Nigériens de l'extérieur - quel que soit le pays où ils résident - apprécient se retrouver au sein de « la communauté » pour échanger sur notre devenir respectif souvent en lien avec celui du pays.



Intéressés et préoccupés à participer à notre manière au développement du Niger, nous avons choisi d'utiliser nos compétences pour créer du lien entre les différentes communautés nigériennes réparties de par le monde. L'idée du site « Nigerdiaspora » est née de cette volonté. Sans pour autant être représentants de partis politiques, notre attachement au Niger nous avons cependant l'ambition de donner une dimension politique, dans le sens de « citoyenne » (s'occuper des affaires publiques pour permettre à chaque personne de jouir de ses droits civils et politiques) à ce projet conçu comme plate-forme d'informations et de dialogues au service du développement du Niger. L'expression des opinions sera respectueuse, la polémique est la bienvenue quand elle poursuit un objectif constructif.

Nous comptons sur votre contribution responsable. Votre expression sera respectueuse des interlocuteurs et de leurs points de vue. Elle sera élaborée dans un esprit critique constructif. Le respect de cette règle de vie nous permettra de favoriser la libre expression de chacun des acteurs de notre site. Nous vous remercions de votre compréhension.

<http://www.nigerdiaspora.net/>

6) Surrounded by chaos, Niger is a nation on the edge, from National Geographic

"The West African country, a crossroads for trade and transit in one of the world's roughest regions, is clinging to stability. But for how long?

It is an ancient, low-slung city with a sultan's palace and a 500-year-old mosque at its historic center, the outlying neighborhoods composed largely of mud and straw, with more than 130,000 inhabitants, not counting the Boss's many clients just passing through.

A PRECARIOUS CROSSROADS, the arid expanses of Niger have been a nexus of trade and transit for centuries. Impoverished but relatively stable, the country is surrounded by conflict zones where Islamist terrorist groups have taken root. Western, UN, and regional military forces all increasingly see Niger as a crucial base for combating extremism in the region.

Nearly nine of 10 migrants in northern Africa are on the move to seek better economic opportunities. They follow well-worn routes through lands where the governments are weak and terrorist groups are thriving.

Thousands of UN and French troops are deployed in Mali to maintain regional stability. Yet groups linked to the Islamic State and al Qaeda regularly attack both military and civilian targets.

Since 2011, Boko Haram, the insurgent group based in northern Nigeria has sought to recast that country as a state based on sharia, or Islamic law. The group is linked to as many as 37,530 deaths.

As many as 300,000 migrants came through here every year."

This story by Robert Draper, photographs by Pascal Maitre appears in the July 2019 issue of National Geographic magazine

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2019/07/niger-clings-to-stability-in-west-africa/#close> (note you have to subscribe to read the article but it is free)

7) News

- ***After two years of activity MSF forced to leave Mainé Soroa.*** *Three months after a violent attack by unknown assailants on its office in the Diffa region, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been forced to stop providing medical and humanitarian assistance to people in the area.*
<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/story/niger-after-two-years-activities-msf-teams-forced-leave-mainé-soroa>
- ***Data collectors map routes to get malaria medicines to rural health facilities.*** *A survey collected data on health facilities in Niger to address distribution methods, storage conditions, and commodity inventory levels is now being mapped using GPS.*
<https://medium.com/usaaid-2030/mapping-niger-153ded451634> from Meredith McGehee
- ***Niger: Ex-smugglers complain about a downturn in business. By Emma Wallis***
Published 2019/11/28
<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/21174/niger-ex-smugglers-complain-about-a-downturn-in-business> from Pamela White
- ***Catholic Relief Services working with farmers to deploy wasps as biological controls to tackle millet head miner and prevent catastrophic crop damage.***
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-climate-change-niger-farming/in-rain-short-niger-wasps-deployed-in-war-on-crop-munching-worm-idUSKBN1Y1182> from Pamela White

YOUR DONATIONS FUEL THIS WORK

You may make a donation at any time. To donate now, you can either go to www.friendsofniger.org to use PayPal, or write a check payable to Friends of Niger and mail to: Friends of Niger PO Box 452 Haverford, PA 19041. Thank you very much.

For more about Friends of Niger:

- Our website (volunteers needed to help with the website): <http://www.friendsofniger.org/>

- Join & follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfNiger/>
- Submit news topics and articles: camelexpressnewsletter@gmail.com
- Contact President John Baird, president@friendsofniger.org

"There is no way to peace; peace is the way."

"please reply to this email to unsubscribe"

Restaurant in Agadez