



10 YEARS OF GROWING TOGETHER



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## Let's celebrate US

**W**elcome to the first issue of the quarterly AIRD Newsletter 2017.

It's a great honor that we present to you some of the highlights from our programs in Cameroon, Tanzania and Chad.

This year is very special for AIRD as we are celebrating our 10th Anniversary. Each of us has contributed towards the growth of this organization in various capacities. It should make all of us proud of this milestone achieved.

We should also be motivated by the stories of the lives we have touched through our work. It may not have been easy but our perseverance is what keeps us moving forward. This same attitude is what will take us further on this journey of empowering communities.

As we reflect on the past let us also think of the future and what more we need to do to grow AIRD in the coming 10 years.

The 10 year Journey hasn't been without trials but the triumphs are even greater.

Let us all get into the 10th Anniversary spirit, work harder and carry the banner higher for AIRD to grow from strength to strength with each year that passes.

## A dream shaped into a reality

It was a small dream that has materialized into reality. This is what describes the growth of AIRD since 2007 to date. It is with pride that we have been able to grow from 1 country in 2007 to 9 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in the last 10 years. We have also grown our areas of expertise from logistics to supply chain to construction and now moving slowly into development to assist both the people of concern and also host communities.

The visionaries behind AIRD are Mathias Temesgen, Gizaw Shibru and Menna Tewahade who set out to change the status quo. Armored with their vast experience in disaster management, scanty resources, and the desire to help Africans affected by wars and natural disasters, they together established AIRD.

The organization launched its operations in 2007 in Uganda in a small office located at the heart of the industrial area in Ntinda, Kampala suburb. It was a small office harboring bigger dreams. The goal was to create a credible, transparent, and result oriented organization having a visible impact in all the areas of operation.

This has become a reality because the organization never compromised with its cardinal principles; integrity, transparency, and utmost dedication

to providing long lasting and quality services to the beneficiaries.

Establishing itself as a credible organization in the sphere of logistics, construction, and infrastructure paved way for growth from one program in Uganda in 2007 to nine other countries. They include Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Republic of Congo and Tanzania. This happened in a period of 10 years, an indicator of the big journey ahead.

This growth has not been without challenges such as financial constraints, hostile operating environments, etc. However, due to its solid foundation and core values, AIRD has been able to overcome all challenges it encountered in the past.

AIRD's national and expatriate staff are leveraging their skills and experience in various operations to meet the needs of the beneficiaries and partners. The success

that AIRD achieved in the last 10 years also gives a lesson that the solutions to African problems lie with Africans.

We are very proud of the staff that works for us; 98 % of AIRD expatriate staff are African comprised of Congolese, Ugandans, Chadians, Cameroonians, Burundians, Burkinians, Benin, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Kenyans, Ivoirians, Liberians, Malians, Togolese, Nigerians and Rwandans.

**The achievements attained by AIRD in the 10 years also give a lesson that the solutions to African problems lie with Africans**

## Les 10 ans de voyage - d'AIRD

Il est petit rêves que plus tard se matérialiser dans la réalité. C'est ce qui explique la croissance de l'AIRD d'un programme au début de 2007 à neuf programmes de fonctionnement aujourd'hui. C'est un mile stone pour AIRD en tant qu'organisation pour voir quel impact ont été réalisés dans les collectivités de l'Afrique subsaharienne.

Il donne AIRD une grande joie de voir les gens de préoccupation entre les refuges qui ont été construits, le transport de réfugiés en provenance de zones affectées à des postes frontaliers de l'établissement où il est paisible. Ce ne sont que quelques-unes des activités s'engage dans l'AIRD. Le fait de savoir que le travail améliore la vie des personnes touchées par les conflits et guerres est notre motivation.

L'objectif était de créer un processus crédible, transparent et orienté vers les résultats, l'organisation ayant un impact visible dans tous les domaines de l'opération.

Le cerveau derrière AIRD, Mathias Temesgen Gizaw Shibru, Menna et Tewahade a entrepris de changer le statu quo. Armored avec leur vaste expérience dans la gestion des catastrophes, faibles ressources, et le désir d'aider les Africains touchés par les guerres et les catastrophes naturelles, ils ont établi ensemble AIRD.

L'organisation a lancé ses opérations en 2007 en Ouganda dans un petit bureau situé au cœur de la zone industrielle à Ntinda Kampala, faubourg.

C'était un petit bureau abritant de grands rêves. L'objectif était de créer un processus crédible, transparent et orienté vers les résultats, l'organisation ayant un impact visible dans tous les domaines de l'opération. Cela est devenu une réalité, car l'organisation n'a jamais compromis avec ses principes cardinaux ; l'intégrité, la transparence, et plus grand

dévouement à fournir des services de qualité et de longue durée pour les bénéficiaires.

S'établir comme une organisation crédible dans le domaine de la logistique, la construction, et de l'infrastructure a été pavée pour la croissance d'un programme en Ouganda en 2007 pour neuf autres pays. Ils comprennent le Burkina Faso, Cameroun, République centrafricaine, Tchad, République démocratique du Congo, Libéria, République du Congo et en Tanzanie. Cela s'est produit dans une période de 10 ans, un indicateur de la grand voyage à venir.

Cette croissance n'a pas été sans défis, tels que les contraintes financières, hostile des environnements d'exploitation, etc. Cependant, en raison de sa solide base et les valeurs fondamentales de l'AIRD, a été en mesure de surmonter tous les défis qu'il a rencontré dans le passé. L'AIRD nationaux et mettent à profit leurs compétences et leur expérience dans diverses opérations pour répondre aux besoins des bénéficiaires et partenaires. Le succès qu'AIRD réalisé au cours des 10 dernières années nous donne aussi une leçon que les solutions aux problèmes africains se trouve dans les Africains.

AIRD est un modèle symbolique pour les Africains, leur montrant que s'ils essaient eux aussi peuvent faire une différence dans la vie des moins fortunés, tels que les réfugiés, les personnes déplacées et les apatrides. Cela se reflète dans une citation de l'ancien président sud-africain Thabo Mbeki "en tant qu'Africains, nous devons partager la reconnaissance que chacun d'entre nous risquons de perdre si nous ne parvenons pas à transformer notre continent."

Environ 98 % des Africains expatrié AIRD composée d'Ougandais, Congolais, Tchadiens, Camerounais, burundais, Burkinians, Bénin, Érythréens, Éthiopiens, Kenyans, Ivoiriens, libériens, maliens, nigériens et un rwandais.

## CIYOTA avec AIRD prend en charge du projet d'existence dans l'

AIRD Kyangwali parraine un projet sur l'amélioration des moyens de subsistance durable parmi les réfugiés de Kyangwali en colonie, en Ouganda.

selon le directeur des Opérations, Musarait Kashmiri, l'argent est destiné à soutenir le projet d'équiper les réfugiés avec des compétences d'entrepreneur pour se nourrir.

Ce projet à l'COBURWAS Organisation internationale de jeunesse à transformer l'Afrique (CIYOTA) est destiné à l'avantage des femmes, des jeunes et des personnes handicapées dans le règlement.

Mme Kashmiri dit "AIRD vise à appuyer les ONG nationales en partageant un même objectif d'offrir des solutions de développement durable à des personnes d'intérêt. C'est sur cette base que l'AIRD a établi un partenariat avec CIYOTA sur un projet d'existence ciblant les personnes de préoccupation en particulier les jeunes. CIYOTA est une ONG ougandaise établie par les jeunes réfugiés de RDC, Rwanda, Burundi, Soudan et dans le camp de réfugiés de Kyangwali."

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CIYOTA a commencé comme une initiative menée par des jeunes inclus, défini pour protéger et améliorer la vie des plus vulnérables. Il est maintenant un modèle pour l'excellence en éducation non seulement aux réfugiés mais aussi pour les communautés environnantes.

Le projet parrainé par l'AIRD est destiné à l'équipement des jeunes d'acquérir des compétences dans l'Art et le design qui, à leur tour, former 100 enfants qui vont à l'école.

# AIRD supports CIYOTA with livelihood project in Kyangwali

AIRD is sponsoring a project on sustainable livelihood enhancement among refugees in Kyangwali settlement, in Uganda.

According to the Director of Operations, Musarait Kashmiri, the funds provided to CIYOTA is meant to support by equipping the refugees with entrepreneur skills to sustain themselves.

This project under COBURWAS International Youth Organization to Transform Africa (CIYOTA) is intended to benefit women, youth, and people with disabilities in the settlement.

CIYOTA is a Ugandan NGO established by refugee youth from DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sudan in Kyangwali refugee camp."

CIYOTA began as an inclusive youth led initiative, set to protect and improve the lives of the most vulnerable. It is now a model for educational excellence not

for only refugees but also the surrounding communities.

Ms. Kashmiri said "AIRD aims to support national NGOs by sharing a similar objective to offer sustainable development solutions to persons of interest."

It's on this basis that AIRD partnered with CIYOTA on a livelihood project targeting persons of concern especially the youth.

The AIRD sponsored project is aimed at equipping youth with skills in Art and Design who will in turn train 100 school going children. Additionally, the project is intended to set up a piggery project for mothers to have a source of income to support families and educate children. It will also offer supporting skills in tailoring and small business management to women, girls and people with disabilities to empower them with leadership and entrepreneur skills.



Some of the women beneficiaries of the livelihood project doing tailoring work



A young beneficiary doing carpentry work. He acquired the skill from the livelihood project

## CHAD

### Boat construction eases patient transportation

For several years, the refugees in Mayo Kebi suffered from lack of transport to access the trading centers and health facilities. The refugees receive treatment from Centre de sante Gueguo hospital in Lere town, approximately 30 kilometers from the settlement.

It was especially difficult in the rainy seasons when Lake Léré over flows and floods the surrounding land, thereby making access to health center impossible. This, however, is no longer the case as AIRD assisted this community in conjunction with UNHCR with the construction of a motorized whaleboat.

Under the supervision of the



The constructed boat docked at L. Lere

workshop manager, George Tsongo, the experts in AIRD's logistic team constructed a red wooden hull boat, covered with flat sheets of 2mm thickness. According to Tsongo, they chose to make this type of boat because it's easy to maintain and has longevity to a minimum of 15 years. Wooden benches with backrest

were fixed to ensure the comfort of patients while travelling.

The boat has capacity to carry 30 to 40 people. To make the boat durable, it will be able to carry a maximum of 25 passengers instead of 40. Twenty five life jackets were also purchased to ensure the safety of every passenger.

## Nduta and Mtendeli refugees construct shelter, schools



**AIRD engineers in discussion with UNHCR (Shelter & CCM), DRC (Shelter) NRC (Shelter & WASH) and TWESA (Shelter)**

In Tanzania, AIRD is implementing a pilot project in Nduta camp to get refugees more involved in the activities that affect them such as construction of shelters and schools.

Under the supervision and guidance of the AIRD construction experts, the refugees are expected to construct the shelters by themselves, including walling.

This gives the refugees an opportunity to be a part of the decision making and construction process. Most

importantly, the refugees also acquire construction skills which they can use in other construction projects carried out by AIRD.

Mary Chigumira, the Tanzania Program Officer, says the refugees who participated embraced this approach and prefer it to the old model where the shelters were constructed for them. The participants also said that unlike in the past, this approach is time saving and the shelters and schools are constructed in a shorter period.

## Project diversification in Mtendeli

AIRD Tanzania program is implementing a project to provide vocational education to refugee women.

The project is funded by a grant from Australian AID under the Direct Aid Program (DAP) and it is aimed at empowering women in refugee camps. The grant will benefit women in the newly created camp of Mtendeli, located in Kakonko district. The project will equip women with skills to help them earn money and contribute to household incomes.

They will also possess the capacity to start small businesses from which they can generate income to take their children to school.

The project which started in January 2017 aims to make women in the camp, self-reliant through skills building.

By running this project the AIRD Tanzania program is diversifying from logistics and construction into livelihoods.

## CEO explains AIRD vision to Cameroon staff

“AIRD’s vision is to work and serve people of concern from the North to South, East to West of Africa and beyond such as Asia,” said AIRD CEO Mathias Temesgen Daniel. He was addressing the Cameroon AIRD staff at the Yaounde office during his visit last year in August.

Mr. Mathias explained to the staff that AIRD was established to change perceptions about the African image of dishonesty and laziness. “We aim to set an example to the world that Africans can do honest work by utilizing resources given to them responsibly in a transparent and accountable way.” He said.

Mr. Mathias said these values have pushed the organization up the ladder and earned the trust of partners to work in different countries. He also appreciated the staff for all their hard work and dedication to implementing activities that often involve stressful conditions and uncertainty.

Mr. Mathias urged the staff to keep up the AIRD dream and contribute to doubling it as the African dream by expanding the organization’s operations from 9 countries in Africa to all over the continent and the world at large.



**AIRD CEO Mathias Temesgen Daniel (middle) flanked by staff at Yaounde Office (2016)**



**Some of the AIRD Cameroon staff at Meiganga Field Office. The Program has a second Field Office in Batouri and Sub Offices in Maroua and in and Bertoua (2016)**



Cameroon staff excited after receiving Certificates. This was after a data encoding training held at Bertoua Field Office last year.



Boat after the first phase of construction by AIRD Chad program

## Upcoming events

*World Malaria Day : 25 April 2017*

*International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: 19th June 2017*

*World refugee Day : 20th June 2017*



The ladies of the Cameroon Program, Yaounde Office beaming with smiles in a photo with the Director of Operations Musarait Kashmiri. They were dressed in identical clothes to celebrate International Women's Day (2016)

## AIRD Communications Team

These are the women and men who make up the Communication Team. It is because of their drive, hard work and commitment that the first Newsletter of 2017 is out. This is just the beginning of what the team has for you.

*If you have interesting stories and pictures taken while in the field, please share on this email address: [brenda.a@airdinternational.org](mailto:brenda.a@airdinternational.org)*

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