

Contribution of the US Embassy in Ndjamena Distribution Ceremony May 2014



*Distribution of an in-kind contribution made by the US Embassy in Ndjamena to newly-arrived refugee students from CAR. From left to right, Ms. Adèle Marie Kahota, UNHCR Associate Community Services Officer, and Ms. Marie-Ange Foulah, representing the US Embassy, 19 May 2014.
Photo: V. Ndakass/HCR*

Context

Continued conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) caused the flight of some 13,000 CAR refugees to Chad in 2014, about 2,000 of them to Ndjamena. Among this population, UNHCR has identified some 160 students, 85 of whom are currently enrolled at the Ecole Polytechnique, d'Ig n rie, de Commerce et d'Administration (EPICA).

Intervention

Through UNHCR advocacy, in early April 2014, EPICA granted partial scholarships covering the tuition fees of 85 refugee students. To assist with their basic needs, UNHCR was able to secure accommodations, food, access to health and a distribution of non-food items (NFIs). A total of 58 students, including 17 women and 41 men were assisted with transportation and 27 students living outside the campus benefited from subsistence support.

The EPICA campus is composed of a total of 8 dormitories, 3 for women and 5 for men. While students are provided with shared rooms, they lack basic needs.

To assist the students, the US Embassy in Ndjamena made an in-kind contribution composed of towels, blankets, shoes, clothing for men and women, as well as soap, washing powder and other basic needs.

Ceremony

On 19 May 2014 a ceremony was held at EPICA to distribute this contribution. Ms. Ad le Marie Kahota, UNHCR Associate Community Services Officer, opened the ceremony by welcoming the guests. She made reference to UNHCR's supporting partners, the US Government and its staff in Ndjamena, the Centre de Support en Sant  International (CSSI) and the staff of EPICA, and noted the arduous process of advocating for assistance for newly-arrived CAR students in Ndjamena.

UNHCR thanked its main partner, the Government but also the staff of the US Embassy in Ndjamena for their generous contribution and humanitarian support of refugee students.

The representative of the US Embassy, Ms. Marie-Ange Foulah, extended her thanks to UNHCR for its tireless effort to provide humanitarian assistance not only to refugee students but all those who have been forced to flee conflict in the CAR. Refugee students were also reassured of the continued support of UNHCR and EPICA.

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*EPICA campus with the delegation representing the US Embassy, UNHCR , CSSI and the refugee students from CAR, May 2014.
Photo: V. Ndakass/UNHCR*

EPICA

M. Amollah Toua Robert Golbey, the Dean of EPICA, added a note of thanks for the contribution of the US Embassy through HCR. He also took the opportunity to remind students of their commitment to their studies and urged them to exercise discipline and hard work in their work.

“We, at EPICA, demand a culture of excellence. We urge students to strive for the best and we monitor their progress. We will not tolerate students who do not apply themselves” M. Amollah T R. Golbey assured the audience.

Goal

The contribution of the US Embassy will help to improve living conditions of newly-arrived refugee students from CAR so that they are better able to continue their studies and flourish in the future.

Next Steps

UNHCR is working hard to secure a library subscription for the students by June. This will help students to conduct research for their academic success .

UNHCR would like to extend its deep gratitude to the US Embassy and its staff in Ndjamaena for their generous contribution to refugee students from the Central African Republic.