

STF Call with Gabriel Stauring in Chad
11.30.11

On the call: 31 callers

STF: Pam Bruns, Gabriel Barreras, Patricia Bitar, Suzanne Johnson, Elena Cortez-Neavel, Nancy Medina

I-ACT: Gabriel Stauring, KTJ Scott

Guests: Patty Williams, Amy Calfas + Friend (Tufts U)

TAs: Merri Weir (Carson), Tassie Hadlock-Piltz (Wildwood), Susan Turner Jones (Sierra Canyon)

Students: *Names removed for privacy.*

MINUTES

GABRIEL INTRO

- Took longer to get to Chad than estimated
- I-ACT team spent 1 day getting permits, and the first plane's engines broke down
- On the flight in Chad the team was 10x over the weight limit, but they were able to bring everything into the camps.

IN CAMP GOZ AMER (2 days)

- On the way to the camp, the I-ACT team was escorted by a truck of 3 men with AK-47s.
- The team met with "Unda" (means leader) of the camp. This position is typically a teacher.
- For the first time, Unda shared the story of his family fleeing Darfur and how his grandmother was killed.

IN CAMP DJABAL (Gabriel was there during the call)

- I-ACT and Gabriel have spent the most time in Djabal, and they have the most friends there.
- Adam moved there to be closer to family and in a camp with more "Fur" tribe representation.
- Rahma is now 16 and is talking about leaving the camp to seek future opportunities. Gabriel hopes he stays in the camp for now given his age and security concerns
- Gabriel also proposed having Adam and Rahma work together to be the librarians. They will also be structuring how the library works and how time is managed between the schools.

Q&A

Ella: Can you describe the atmosphere of the camp?

Gabriel: There are mixed feelings. The primary schools are doing well, but the teens and adults are becoming more frustrated and losing hope. They're not sure if and when they'll be able to go home.

Emma: Will the Libraries have a short or long-term impact?

Gabriel: We are careful not to give a handout. Based on the friendships formed over the years, the libraries are a long-term commitment.

Patricia: What's the status of Adams original library? What does he do now? How does he stay informed on current affairs?

Gabriel: His original library was in another camp and was washed away by rains. When he moved to Camp Djabal he was hired as a teacher. Now he gets his information through radio primarily.

Susan Turner-Jones: How will they get the donkey?

Gabriel: Donkeys are very common here. The people have a special relationship with their donkeys. When fleeing Darfur, it was often the families that could load the donkeys with their possessions, older family, sick or injured that made it to the refugee camps.

Abby: What do the adults do about education?

Gabriel: There is one secondary school that started up, but it's very difficult now.

Amy Calfas: Are the people aware of the political happenings and tensions between North and South Sudan, possible conflicts and how do they related to it?

Gabriel: They are very aware of current issues in North and South Sudan, and they often feel a closer connection to the other marginalized groups from the other side Sudan. They refer to them as, "our brothers." They are also aware and watching what's going on in the Arab and Middle East countries.

Audrey: How do they like the materials and how will the time be distributed?

Gabriel: They are very excited about them. Rahma's eyes just lit up. With more time we'll know how they are doing. On time with the materials, the library will be set up next to the schools and small groups of kids will be able to go over and work with Rahma on the materials.

Pam: How are the Kindles being received?

Gabriel: They really like the Kindles. Rahma is very good at figuring out electronics.

---Call ended with a few connection problems, but the total time was 41 mins.---