

REPORT ON TEN YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY



TEN YEARS

ten years

This document goes back over ten years of projects, happiness, crises, disagreement, and success, ten years in the life of an association involved in the movement to ensure international solidarity.

The first part briefly retraces the evolutions that Triangle has seen since its creation, in May 1994. It shows the broad outlines of Triangle's history, making distinctions between the early days (1994-1998), the crossroads and doubts (1998-1999), and then the work to re-centre the activities and redefine the association's objectives.

The major events for Triangle are then looked at year by year, in more detail. However, it is difficult to date certain projects, which involve a long preparation period before the mission actually begins (as in Korea or Vietnam), and which are then carried out in phases spread over several years. We have thus adopted the principle of mentioning the initial exploration missions in a country, followed by the event that signals the real start of the project.

THE YEARS 1994-1998 were marked by the team's will to make itself known and strengthen the association's credibility among international financial backers.

Triangle hence increased the scale of its activities at international levels: after Rwanda, new projects were set up in Iraqi Kurdistan and in Albania, and the association's team went on exploration missions, especially to the Republic of the Congo, Mali and Guinea.

Triangle also made a point of boosting its activities at a national level, to conserve its roots. It worked at a local level through contact with the general public to create awareness of its actions in the field of international solidarity. It took part in activities to enhance meetings, exchanges of ideas and expression of citizenship based on knowledge and mutual understanding. It sought to create synergies at a local level by taking part in activities combining various domains, such as humanitarian, social, or cultural fields. This led it to carry out a large number of socio-cultural activities in Lyon in the first few years of its existence: a development education programme in schools with the "Let's talk about humanitarian action" project, organization of the annual bric-a-brac sale in Vaise, concerts, exhibitions, etc. The cultural events were mainly organized in partnership with the *Acte Public* association, based in Lyon. Communication and creation of awareness in different sectors of the public also took the form of participation in shows and forums (Students' Show, Uniterre Show, Lyon Fair, etc.), large-scale dissemination of information via the regional press, publication of its own news magazine "Info Génération Humanitaire", and poster campaigns.



Triangle then sought to strengthen its local presence to collect its own funds and provide fresh financing for projects carried out at an international level. It organized product sales (T-shirts, greetings cards, etc.), made efforts to multiply its partnerships with company labour-management committees and sent out large numbers of mailshots (to collect funds for a specific mission, sell products, increase membership levels, etc.).

Nonetheless, the returns in terms of communication and awareness of the association were rather modest as compared with the energy, time and money spent on activities centred on local targets.

Activities in France and in other countries thus saw growth over the period 94-98, but the necessity of taking on salaried staff and mobilizing considerable human means, together with insufficient volumes of activities, and hence shrinkage its annual budgets, took the association to the brink of a major financial crisis. The cumulated losses reached levels that put the future of Triangle GH into question.

THE YEARS 1998-1999 were pivotal for the association, which reassessed its activities and sought to deal with the problems encountered. There were lively discussions at the meetings of the Board of Trustees. Many solutions were put forward to sort out the problems and redefine the objectives, priorities and "philosophy" of Triangle GH. As the main weaknesses concerned financial management, communication and the internal organization of Triangle, the roles of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee were reviewed, together with the working methods. Tools were implemented to enable rigorous financial control and monitoring. A new organization chart was drawn up, the geographical and sectoral missions were reassigned, and the working tools were standardized.

FROM 1999-2000 ON, Triangle decided to re-centre its activities at an international level, giving up a certain number of projects involving social action (hotels for the homeless, aftercare centre for drug addicts), taking part much less frequently in cultural events, and putting an end to the "Let's talk about humanitarian action" programme. As from 1999, interventions in schools were carried out on request, with most of the invitations coming from secondary schools and sixth-form colleges. The association continues to intervene at university level or with Bioforce, in university and ongoing education programmes. Triangle wishes to remain a local association in the Lyon area, but the team wants to reduce the scope and numbers of the operations in which it takes part. Locally, it concentrates mainly on the Vaise bric-a-brac sale and on the one held in Croix-Rousse from 2003 on.

In 2004, the two main communication tools for Triangle GH are the quarterly magazine "Info Génération Humanitaire" and the association's Internet site, which was put online in 2002 and is updated at regular intervals.

The association gives priority to its activities in the field of international solidarity, and



it has taken on professional status without losing its sense of commitment or its approach. It is breaking new ground by realizing major development projects, especially in Vietnam and North Korea.

1994

► The association was **set up on 7 May 1994** and registered with the Rhône Prefecture on 13 May 1994. Since that date, the articles of association have been modified several times; the most recent modifications were approved during the General Meeting held on 29 November 1996.

Triangle was set up by three former members of Equilibre, a large NGO based in Lyon and specializing in emergency actions. They wanted to set up a structure that was more manageable, more flexible, and more lightweight, to concentrate on development actions.

► In July 1994, three months after the association had been set up, the **first exploration mission took place in Rwanda**.

Between April and July 1994, 800,000 people died in Rwanda, victims of genocide carried out by the Hutus and directed against the Tutsis (a minority ethnic group) and moderate Hutus.

Children were not spared during the massacres, and most of those who survived were eyewitnesses to horrifying murders, especially concerning close relatives, and to the presence of corpses. They suffered crushing psychological damage. For Christiane Pechine¹, who went to Rwanda in 1994 on behalf of Triangle GH, "the children were so close to death themselves that they live in a state of mental chaos. Many of them have repressed their experience of extreme violence and say nothing about it. Their minds and bodies suffer in silence. The images and their brutality take their toll at a subconscious level. Nightmares, night fright, and even daytime panic. If they are given no help, they will vent the fury of this immense violence on themselves or on others".

Just after the genocide, many children had no family left, and no home, and were faced with problems of sheer survival that prevented them from returning to school.

In this context, as soon as it arrived in Rwanda, Triangle was faced with the necessity of caring for children who were psychologically and mentally broken. It turned to the French Committee for UNICEF, which made it a grant, in spite of the association's "youth": it had only been in existence for three months when it obtained this finance for a project to set up a psychosocial centre (Remera). It was located in the north of the country, close to lake Ruhango, and it was on long-term loan from the Foyers de Charité religious community, which had left the country during the war. Triangle rehabilitated the buildings in

1- Senior consultant at Saint-Jean-de-Dieu hospital, child psychiatry department

the centre, which had suffered war damage, and made them available for psychological and educational action concerning unaccompanied minors from the northern region. The centre was to be used to train the headmen, teachers, and parents, and help them to better grasp the psychological trauma in children following the genocide.

► **At the crossroads of humanitarian and cultural activities:
the “Triangular rendez-vous”**

Triangle sought to collect private funds and make itself known by organizing the “Triangular rendez-vous” with the *Accords Publics* association in November 1994. These meetings brought social and cultural aspects together and enabled artists from all horizons, who did not have access to gallery space, to exhibit their work. The artists then paid 25% of the income from their sales to the association, and were thus able to take part in financing the social canteen project in Rwanda (see below).

Successive exhibitions were held from November 1994 on, on Triangle's premises. In March 1995, Nathalie Bochard exhibited her work, influenced by her travels in Central America. In October 1995, Triangle presented an exhibition by Yann Rivron on the Native North Americans. During the private view, Yann Rivron did a painting in public, taking inspiration from a text written and read by Manuel Van Thienen, a poet who has translated contemporary Native American authors.

These events made Triangle an open area, bringing together humanitarian, social and cultural action. They enabled Triangle to come into contact with a wide range of people, create awareness of humanitarian action, and open up dialogue. *“A single work cannot change political or social reality, but it can help to awaken our conscience”*, wrote the heads of Triangle in the issue of *Le Progres* dated 28 October 1995.

1995

► Again with a view to coming to the help of the children traumatized by the genocide, **Triangle installed two “social canteens” in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda.** The buildings, located in two poor districts of Kigali, Nyamirambo and Bilyogo, were refurbished and equipped by Triangle. Thirty or so Rwandans were taken on to run the canteens and provide a meal for 400 children every day, together with medical and psychosocial care.



“Rwandan mothers especially, who are able to create an atmosphere of affective security for the youngsters who are carrying the weight of the war and the death of their parents on their shoulders”².

2 - Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°1, May 1995

As the project unfolded, *“what began as a catering problem turned into mental reconstruction. For the kids, the canteen [became] a place where they found someone who had time to listen to them, share their emotions, and meet their need for hugs”*. For Jeanine Enjolric, a psychomotrician who spent a month in Rwanda at Triangle's request, the canteens became *“a place where the children lay down their mental suffering”*³. The canteens also enabled children who wished to do so to return to the school system. The programme did a lot to enable families to reunite or to enable the community to take care of the children.

▶ However, Triangle had to leave Rwanda in a hurry in **December 1995** following a decision by the **Rwandan government to expulse 63 NGOs** (half of them French). The NGOs concerned, such as Triangle, Doctors Without Borders France, Doctors of the World, Care Australia, Equilibre or International Action Against Hunger were accused of having *“failed in their mission”* through a *“lack of experience”* and of not being able to *“adapt to the criteria necessary for intervention in Rwanda”*, and of not having *“followed the rules”* imposed by the Rwandan government.

▶ **Twelve hours of music at the “Monde à l'envers”**

On 16 December 1995, the “Monde à l'envers” bar, located on the slopes of the Croix-Rousse district of Lyon, organized a special event, with part of the profits going to Triangle. From 3 pm to 3 am, there were rythm'n'blues, jazz and rock on the programme. The funds raised were used to help finance a project being prepared for Albania.

▶ On 9 and 10 December 1995, the sixteenth **“Antiques, bric-a-brac and crafts”** fair was held by the team of the F.C.Lyon Women's Basketball association, led by Sernin Marichal. Part of the entry fees went to Triangle to finance a rabbit farming scheme in Rwanda. The weekend brought almost 10,000 visitors to the Halle Tony-Garnier. The operation was renewed the following year, and this time the funds raised were used to finance projects under way in Iraqi Kurdistan.

1996

▶ The association started working in Rwanda as soon as it was set up. Triangle considered that it was essential to be present in Rwanda, and it wanted to help the country to recover from its deep-seated trauma.

Nonetheless, the association intended to carry out its work mainly in the regions with which the team was already familiar.

Triangle decided to set up a project in **Iraqi Kurdistan** where the founding members of the association had already worked in the past.

3 - Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°2, December 1995

In the spring of 1991, the Gulf war ended with an armed revolt by the Iraqi Kurds against Baghdad. The uprising, which was quickly crushed by Saddam Hussein's army, led to an exodus. Two million Kurds fled to the mountains of north-eastern Iraq, where the Kurdish population had been present for a long time. To prevent reprisals that, it was feared, would be terrible, the anti-Iraq coalition put the region out of bounds for the Iraqi army. This region, Iraqi Kurdistan, became an enclave protected by the American, British and French air forces. An enclave without a status and a population with a bleak future.

The NGOs thus started working in Iraq in an "illegal" way, entering the territory via Turkey. When the Turkish authorities showed disapproval, the NGOs turned increasingly to Syria, which authorized a certain degree of freedom of transit and provided the NGOs' staff with passes enabling them to enter Iraqi territory.

When Triangle arrived in Kurdistan in 1996, the civil population was suffering. There was no industry at all, and agriculture was in decline; it was unable to provide food for the population. The Kurdish administrative system was crippled. Teachers' and nurses' wages were so low that they were unable to live on them⁴.

The Kurdish population in Iraq was also isolated within the region as such, divided by the fighting between the two main parties, the KDP (Kurdish Democratic Party) in the north, and the PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) in the south.

Triangle decided to draw up and implement a programme in Iraqi Kurdistan, in collaboration with another NGO, **the DIA association**, which was providing support for young people in crisis situations by creating an international network of initiatives of solidarity between citizens. The association, which was set up in 1989, orients its activities towards organization of educational, psychosocial and cultural programmes in countries in crisis. This collaboration led to the creation of the "TDC" (Triangle Dia Consortium), an original initiative in humanitarian circles that enabled the associations to pool their skills and experience at the service of populations in distress. The impetus created by the consortium led to a big increase in the numbers of local and international partners.

From October 1995 on, TDC started to set up and run an **educational programme** in Kurdistan, with the objective of facilitating integration of young Kurds into professional life by providing assistance for development of secondary education (retraining teachers to the necessary standards and refurbishing the buildings) and by encouraging initiatives among the young people (opening community resource centres). Triangle dealt with the material phase of the projects (renovating the buildings and providing school equipment) and DIA took care of setting up the educational, psychosocial and cultural programmes.

The youth integration centres opened in Sulaymaniyah, Duhik, Kharadagh, Raniyah and Darbandikhan were soon very popular with the young people who were at last able to

4 - Article by Gerard Milhes in Info Génération Humanitaire issue n°3, June 1996



get together in places providing cultural activities (painting, sculpture, decoration, writing, sport, video, photography, music) and opportunities for discussion. As Kurdistan was isolated politically and economically⁵, the centres provided a way for young people to shake off their ties to the various political movements, open up, and exchange ideas. They also enabled young people to promote initiatives in various fields. Soran, a young Kurd, and a former *peshmerga*⁶, told Vincent Tournecueillert (a volunteer working in Kurdistan for Triangle GH) about the changes wrought by the opening of the Youth Centre in Sulaymaniyah: *"You know, music, papers and new films don't get this far. Of course, that isn't the only reason why the young people want to leave their country and go to Europe. But perhaps this new centre will help them to change their minds. Even if we are not at peace, young people can talk and discuss things. It's a good start ..."*⁷.

The project's strength thus lay mainly in the possibility of getting other messages through to young Kurds than the political messages of the *peshmerga* resistance.

Triangle oriented its second programme in the region towards the **agricultural domain**, with the implementation of the "potato programme". The embargo was preventing Iraqi Kurdistan from ensuring sufficient agricultural production to feed its population. There were no seeds, or any spare parts for the machines, which were once again replaced by horses. In spite of the fact that its economy is mainly centred on agriculture, Iraqi Kurdistan was still dependent on imports (especially for potatoes) and on international aid. Triangle thus organized activities to generate revenues in the domains of agriculture and livestock, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. Its collaboration with local experts made it possible to adapt the projects to the local conditions. After an assessment by the Department of Agriculture, it became clear that the needs mainly concerned crops of rice, potatoes, sesame, chickpeas, sunflowers, together with bee-keeping and chicken farming. The programme also included an experimental section (creation and experimentation of new seeds) and training for farmers and agricultural engineers, provided in liaison with the agricultural university.

Then, in **October 1996**, the association responded to a request from the HCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) concerning the possibility of running a programme for development of the educational structures and creation of craft production units in **a camp with 15,000 Kurdish refugees from Turkey in the region of Duhik**. Triangle provided educational support (construction of two schools, organizing sports activities, etc.), economic support (construction of a covered market, development of joinery, welding and weaving activities) and agricultural support.

The mission was faced with a tragedy when **Remi Banvillet**, a TDC volunteer working in Iraqi Kurdistan, was killed in a car accident.

5 - There have been no official exchanges with Baghdad for the last four years
6 - A Kurdish fighter who is seeking to create an independent Kurdish state
7 - Info Génération Humanitarian magazine, issue n°3, June 1996.



In September 1996, Baghdad launched a military offensive against certain towns of northern Iraq, which were UPK strongholds. The rival faction of the UPK, the PDK, finally decided to side with the Baghdad regime. This made Triangle's actions difficult and they were suspended for a few days. However, a cease-fire was agreed between the UPK and the PDK, and this enabled the association to resume its development activities in the region and implement new ones.

► Following a meeting between the Triangle team and the artists of the L.I.LY (Ligue d'improvisation lyonnaise), a show was held in March 1996 at the Rail Theatre (9th arrondissement of Lyon). L.I.LY is an association of professional actors, musicians, painters and electricians from Lyon and its region. The profits from the show, which was entitled **"Improvis'Action"**, were to go towards financing a project to set up a workshop to make and repair school furniture in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Actors and musicians from the Compagnie U Gomina, The Mots Dits, the Démouleurs, the Pawolka percussionists, and the painters Yann Rivron and David Sauriat, all took part in the show, in front of an audience of almost 300.

The Rail theatre was decorated by Anaïs Hernandez, the sound and lighting effects for the show were provided by Fa Musique and the event as a whole was run by the Acte Public association.

Improvis'Action was an unforgettable event for the Triangle team, all the volunteer participants and the audience alike.

► **First bric-a-brac sale in Vaise in June 1996**

The sale was open to professionals and private individuals, and it enabled the team to organize a major local event and make a profit. The money came mainly from rental of the stand locations and from refreshments. The income from the bric-a-brac sale makes up a considerable proportion of Triangle's assets. It has grown constantly year after year, and it has become a major event in the life of the district.

► **"Let's talk about humanitarian action"**

"Let's talk about humanitarian action" is a programme to provide information and create awareness among schoolchildren (in their final years of primary school and in secondary schools). The talks, which began in 1996, are aimed at creating awareness among young people as to the accomplishments and the limits of humanitarian actions. The speakers making the talks use anecdotes taken from their personal experience to show the children what humanitarian action is about and go over the problems faced by the associations working in the field. The goal is to get the children to see what life is like for young people their age who live in countries in crisis, and make them want to do what they can to help, at their level.

By the end of 1997, two years after the first talk, 43 schools had been visited with an average of 1,500 pupils attending the talks each year.



The programme was run mainly by Ivan Bles-Gagnaire, an administrator of Triangle. The departure of the active volunteers brought the programme to an end in 1999.

► **A departmental branch of Triangle was opened in Varennes-sur-Allier (Allier).**

The branch is run by Marie-Helene Tostain, whom Ivan Bles-Gagnaire met during his visits to schools during the "Let's talk about humanitarian action" operation.

Its aim is to collect funds to help finance Triangle projects, by mobilizing schools, teachers and pupils, clubs such as the Lions Club or the Rotary Club, and local authorities.

► To support Triangle's action in Iraqi Kurdistan, the cartoonists **Cosey, Plessix, Ferrandez, P'tiluc, Heller, and Lepage** gave Triangle original drawings for printing on T-shirts and greetings cards.



► In reply to a request from the town hall for the 9th *arrondissement* of Lyon, Triangle carried out a feasibility study concerning a "hotel for the homeless". However, after having spoken to a considerable number of people working in the social sector, the association came to the conclusion that that highly specific field was already well covered, and that it involved particular skills that were different from those of Triangle. The project was thus not implemented.

► The *Compagnie Stanislas Foriel* organized a play called "**Histoire d'aimer**" on 7 February 1996 for the benefit of Triangle GH, at the Ravier Centre in Lyon.

1997

► In June, Triangle, which was still present in **Iraqi Kurdistan**, launched a programme of **refurbishment and equipment of 27 vocational training schools**, which was completed in November 1997. These schools train technicians in a wide range of fields: agriculture, medico-social care, economics, industry, fine arts and education. The schools are selected by the ministries and departments of education in the towns of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.

► In the same way as Kurdistan, the Triangle team knew a lot about **Albania** and decided to open a mission there.

The collapse of the communist State resulted in closure of many factories and mass layoffs in the civil service. Unemployment rose to very high levels (up to 90% in certain areas), and the rural exodus gathered pace. The economic and social situation deteriorated to a catastrophic degree, and this hit especially hard among a proportion of the young people, those from poor families living in neglected areas. These young people, who had to fend for themselves and had no vocational training whatsoever, often lived on the street.

On the basis of these facts, Triangle decided to intervene among teenagers on the fringes of society, by setting up a vocational training centre for young people aged 14 to 18. The **FERILASSES** centre (training for children on the street and local helpers/situation analysis/economic and social support) opened on 4 August 1997. It provided a suitably adapted general educational course together with sandwich apprenticeship schemes, with the support of Albanian artisans, concerning professional activities for which there is a real demand and a shortage of qualified labour (dressmaking, catering, hairdressing, mechanics, etc.). The training was validated by the Albanian government. The project was carried out in partnership with the Albanian association *Useful to Albanian Women*.

For Triangle, the end purpose of the training given in the centre was to enable the participants to get jobs with artisans or set up their own small repair or services business.

A training session financed by the European was completed at the end of May 1998: out of 50 boys and girls, selected jointly by Triangle and Albanian social workers, only three gave up their training, in spite of the instability found among these adolescents and their extremely difficult situation as to family living conditions. The social workers managed to convince the parents that the acquisition of job skills was a better investment than earning small amounts doing casual jobs. The training was seen by the young people as a step up the social ladder: *"We're not at school, we're learning a trade"*, they said⁸.

A month after Triangle started its operations in Albania, the pyramid company bubble burst, creating a financial scandal that ruined hundreds of thousands Albanians, and leading to riots and clashes among the population: "At the height of the disruption in Tirana, we wondered how things were going to turn out. We were not directly targeted, but we played safe, and travelled back to Lyon. Bullets were flying from the rooftops, and we had no idea who was fighting who. That's why we couldn't speak of a civil war, but rather of anarchy. It was surrealistic. [...] It is clear that we will review the programme in the light of these events".⁹

Triangle had to begin by halting its activities during the troubles in March, and the volunteer workers were brought back on 15 March, as were most of the French citizens present in Albania at the time. They returned a fortnight later, to carry on with the work begun in close partnership with the women's association Useful to Albanian Women.

8 - Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°5, May 1998.

9 - Christian Lombard and Patrick Verbruggen (co-managers of Triangle GH) quoted in the article "Triangle in the heart of Albania" - Lyon Figaro dated 20 March 1997.



► **An assessment mission was carried out in the Republic of the Congo** from 3 to 12 November 1997, to study the possible ways of helping displaced people to return to their homes. The mission was a failure, due to the poor political and security situation in



Street in Brazzaville

the country. The assessors, who had not taken full stock of the scale of the political imbroglio and the tension between militias, were in real physical danger. On returning to Lyon, they thus decided against setting up a project in the Congo, as the country was not yet safe enough to enable rehabilitation or development programmes to be carried out there.

► **The initial contacts with Vietnam were made in 1997** and several assessment missions were carried out with the help of the Rhône-Alpes Region and the local authorities in Lyon, to design a project involving the creation of a catering school.

After implementing the “Do Moi” open policy¹⁰ adopted in 1989, the Vietnamese government gave priority to the development of tourism. New hotels were built, and the range of accommodation available was widened. However, only a small number of professional training programmes were set up, and this led to a shortage of qualified labour on the job market. In 1996, the Ministry of Tourism (via the European Commission) called on outside investors to help it to set up efficient training systems.

Triangle decided to answer the call and proposed setting up a Franco-Vietnamese catering school for young people in difficulty, in Ho Chi Minh City.

The idea was first brought up by two people, Ghislaine Hamid, a photographer, and Yves Le Sergent, an administrator of the music and dance festival Octobre en Normandie. On their return from a trip to Vietnam where they met the head teacher of a catering school in Hanoi open to children from poor families, children on the street and orphans, they had the idea of developing a similar project in Ho Chi Minh City. There were many children on the street there, and the economic and educational needs were obvious. They explained their idea to the Triangle staff, who were strongly motivated by this type of project, and decided to launch the project. However, it was not until late 2000 and early 2001 that the project actually got off the ground.

► At the beginning of September 1997, with *Acte public*, Triangle organized the **“Holiday's over”** event, a show with a political dimension that enhanced awareness, brought people together, and encouraged exchanges of ideas concerning citizens' values to combine skills and knowledge. The event lasted from 11 am to midnight, and it brought together about 1,000 people in the Ferré stadium in Caluire. 150 show artists and technicians worked together to put on 22 shows for the audience, including street theatre, music, and contemporary dancing, together with juggling, makeup, drawing and animation sessions for the children.

10 - “Renewal” strategy officially adopted during the 6th Convention of the Vietnamese Communist Party and intended to ease the transition towards a market economy.



- ▶ In February 1997, Triangle hosted an exhibition called “Cultural and historical heritage of the museum city of Berat” (Albania), organized by the association for the maintenance of the museum city of Berat and the Fan Noli Albanian cultural association in Vaulx-en-Velin. The works of Zamir Marika, a photographer, and Agron Pollovina, a painter, showed Berat, a town with a rich architectural heritage.
- ▶ Triangle established its initial contacts with the Tefal labour-management committee, which agreed to take part in the association’s activities by giving it products that could subsequently be sold at low prices to finance the projects carried out at an international level.

1998

- ▶ After an assessment mission had been carried out in November 1997, an initial **programme of assistance in favour of Somali refugees** was set up in January 1998 in Yemen.

Yemen has been a republic since 22 May 1990, the date of reunification of South Yemen (Aden), which was previously pro-soviet, and North Yemen, which was governed by a military regime along feudal lines (Sanaa). Sanaa became the capital of the unified country of Yemen.

In 1994, a civil war was fought between the North and the South. The North won, but the two populations, which had lived separately for a long time, remained opposed to each other because of strong cultural antagonism.

Since 1991, Yemen had been faced with a constant influx of Somali refugees, peasants seeking escape from the poverty and the civil war in their country.

Triangle took several steps in a camp with 8,000 people (Al Gahin): creation of activities to generate income (weaving, dressmaking, joinery, welding and mechanics workshops, allocation of micro-credits to the fishermen, etc.), school support and vocational training for the young Somali people, and social care for the most vulnerable people, especially by setting up community services.

“We have a lot of work to do to provide social care”, said Emmanuelle, a Triangle volunteer working in Yemen. “We have to deal with a host of problems: obtaining passes to travel in the country, providing medical orientation, responding to all the requests. [...] We also manage a commu-



REPUBLIQUE DU YEMEN	
Capitale	Sanaa
Superficie	527 970 km ²
Population	16 387 963 (estimation 1998)
Espérance de vie	59,5 années
Mortalité infantile	72 / 1 000
Alphabétisation	38,5 %
Langues	Arabe
Religions	Musulmans et petite communauté de juifs, chrétiens et hindous
Politique	République créée le 22 mai 1990 à la suite de la réunification entre le Nord et le Sud
PIB	350 USD par habitant



Refugee camp



nity resource centre inside the camp. We have 1,500 children and young people a week who come through. The resources centre also welcomes the Somali women, most of whom cannot read or write, and who can thus have access to reading sources and writing". However, she added, in a refugee camp, "What is lacking is work and wages. So it was logical to set up activities that generate income. The joinery and dressmaking workshops make a start in providing financial independence and the pride that comes with it".

The programme was renewed every year from 1998 on.

► After being alerted by the food situation in **North Korea**, Triangle decided to carry out a study mission in August 1998.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is the last bastion of communism in the world. Its economy is rigorously planned. The arable land is collectivized, State-owned industrial companies produce almost all the manufactured goods, and heavy industry and military production have been developed to the detriment of the light independent and consumer goods sectors.



Since it lost the traditional economic aid that it received from the socialist countries and from China and the Soviet Union in particular, its national economy has been a shambles. The deterioration of the system was made worse by the natural catastrophes that hit the country between 1995 and 1997 (flooding, tidal waves, and drought).

This situation had alarming repercussions, especially concerning food (constant dire shortages for the poorest people). The country did not have the wherewithal to import the foodstuffs necessary to meet the needs of its population: in 1997 and 1998, North Korea had a shortfall of 1.25 million tonnes of food.

In 1995, North Korea thus appealed to the international community for humanitarian aid to enable it to face up to the food crises.

This is why Triangle decided to intervene in the form of suitable programmes in the agricultural sector. However, it took some time for the North Korean authorities to validate the presence of a permanent Triangle team in Pyongyang, as the definition of a Korean project suited to the local situation. It was thus necessary to wait for a mission in September 2000 to obtain an authorization from the authorities.



Bassin versant



► **Financial crisis** (until 2000)

1998 was a difficult year for Triangle from a financial standpoint. The association was showing losses, and the losses were growing all the time. The years 1998 and 1999 were thus a period of far-reaching review and reflection on the possible ways of finding long-term sources of financing, improving the accounting tools, creating a control tool, limiting losses, and optimizing the tools and methods used to find financial backing. The alert was given during the various meetings of the Board of Trustees, and voluntary liquidation was envisaged.

The assessment missions, travelling costs for the volunteers and the mail and telecommunication costs weighed heavily on the operating budget of the head office. The Triangle team thus sought to deal with the crisis by applying the decisions made and the advice given by the Board of Trustees, especially concerning budget control and monitoring and improved anticipation and communication between the team members.

Budgetary control of the missions was tightened and applied more regularly, communication improved, an organization chart was drawn up with a clear breakdown of the tasks, and the financial situation started to improve in 2000.

► **"The Garden of the possible"**

Following the success of the "Holiday's over" day organized the previous year in the Ferré stadium in Caluire, Triangle and the Acte Public Group decided to use the venue once again to organize a cultural event in the summer of 1998. Over 50 theatre companies and groups of artists (music, dancing, performing arts, debates, plastic arts, etc.) gave performances over a month in the quiet, tree-lined location. During a period usually seen as being a "cultural desert", the Ferré stadium in Caluire was transformed into a centre of cultural dissemination, commitment, conversation and encounters. Besides highlighting artistic and cultural expression, the event also set out to increase public awareness concerning the themes of international solidarity. Two theme days were organized: one given over to Algeria, and the other to Sarajevo.

Triangle and Acte Public joined forces in these events to *"combine energies to act as people and citizens with a part to play in society, [...] with a joint desire to act, and to build a collective identity"*. The two associations shared *"values of justice, fraternity, and also fun"* ¹¹.

Unfortunately, the event did not live up to financial expectations.

► In June 1998, the "Cocktail Jeunesse" association held its 6th concert, **"Rock under the stars"**, in Saint-Symphorien-sur-Coise (69), for the benefit of Triangle.

► **Gerard Milhes** took over as President of Triangle from Catherine Verbruggen

¹¹ - Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°5, May 1998.



- ▶ Following the havoc wrought by cyclone Mitch in Central America, Triangle decided to intervene in **Honduras** with a programme to refurbish homes.

At the end of October 1998, cyclone Mitch ripped through Honduras, destroying everything in its path. In Honduras, the cyclone killed more than 7,000 people, with 12,000 more reported missing. 95,000 houses were destroyed and two million people were disaster victims and homeless displaced persons.

It was in this context of urgency, with the victims of the cyclone in shock and completely defenceless (no home, no food), that Triangle decided to intervene.

The project began in January 1999, and by September, the association had rehabilitated 189 homes, in collaboration with the local association *Compartir*. With help from building technicians, the families benefiting from the aid took an active part in the work. Special attention was paid to the foundations and the retaining walls to avoid fresh damage during bad weather.

- ▶ Present in **Albania** since 1997, Triangle finally handed management of the Ferillasses centre over to the *Useful to Albanian women association*.

However, political circumstances were to lead Triangle to carry out further work in the region.

The clashes in Kosovo between the Yugoslav troops and the Albanian independence fighters, and the intervention of NATO¹² in the region as from March 1999, resulted in an exodus of many Kosovar refugees who were spontaneously invited by Albanian families to share their homes.

Triangle decided to **provide support for the host families** who had severely limited resources. The programme, which was launched in April 1999, lasted 4 months, during which 23,000 packages (food, and washing and cleaning products) were distributed to the Albanian families.

Besides the food support programme, in April 1999 Triangle started a **rehabilitation programme** (insulation work, improvement work on washrooms and toilets) and equipment (school furniture and supplies) for eight schools in Elbasan, to enable young Kosovar refugees to attend remedial classes. After the Kosovar refugees had left, the Albanian schoolchildren continued to benefit from the results of the work, all the more so in that maintenance of the premises is carried out by a committee bringing together parents of the schoolchildren, school staff and representatives of the education authorities.

- ▶ Triangle's action in **Kosovo** was completely spontaneous: it followed on from the support programme for the Albanian host families.

12 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization

In June 1999, a peace agreement, backed by the UN Security Council, put an end to the war between NATO and Yugoslavia. The Kosovar refugees taken in by families in Albania all started to walk back to Kosovo. The Triangle programme was no longer necessary and the team located in Albania followed the columns of refugees who were making their way back to the regions they came from. Large numbers of families had no home left, or one that was severely damaged.

Triangle decided to work in the region of **Skenderaj** (North Kosovo), one of the regions hardest hit by the war. From September 1999 to January 2000, the association **re-roofed 306 houses and installed heating systems in 450 rooms**. It also provided the families with the essential utensils for everyday life.

In November 1999, Triangle set up a **programme of psychosocial help for children suffering from trauma as a result of the war**. The programme was completed by a training course for the social coordinators. The idea here was to provide suitable support for the children and encourage their development by setting up socio-educational actions (pastimes and play activities) and strengthening their social and family environments. More specific accompaniment work was carried out for the children suffering from psychological trauma, and those who were the hardest hit by the war were directed towards centres providing therapy. This programme helped 2,000 children from five schools.

► After the initial programme to provide assistance for the Somali refugees, set up in **Yemen** in 1998, Triangle continued to work on other projects in that country.

In 1999, it worked on a **sanitary project in the Basateen district of Aden** where 25,000 Somali refugees and expatriates had been living since 1991, in highly precarious sanitary conditions, without any running water or mains drainage. The project, carried out jointly with the NWASA (National Water and Sanitation Authority/Yemeni government) was based on 3 levels of intervention: laying water mains and a mains drainage system, and setting up a waste collection system.

At the request of the **Yemeni** government, **the Somali populations** were transferred to a **new site, Kharaz, about one hundred kilometres from Aden**. From June 1999 on, Triangle undertook construction of 550 shelters and latrines, together with the drinking water supply network and its maintenance. The transfer of the refugees from Al Gahin to Kharaz then took place between April 2000 and June 2001. From then on, Triangle GH took care of the following sectors of intervention:

- Management and maintenance of the drinking water supply networks (collection and destruction of household waste, and distribution of cleaning and washing products to the women)
- Food support (setting up a programme of food supplements for the benefit of the children attending the school built in the Kharaz camp)

In November 1999, Triangle started work on the first 18-month phase of a **project to rehabilitate agricultural infrastructures in the region of Seiyun (in Wadi**



Hadramaout), which suffered severe flooding every year. Irrigation work and development work to protect the agricultural land (irrigation basins, protective walls, etc.) resulted in improvements in the texture of the land and thus directly improved living conditions for the 41,850 people who stood to gain from the project. The programme was carried out in partnership with one of the departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, WHAPD (Wadi Hadramaut Agriculture Project Development). It received strong support from the local communities that carried out the work.

The second phase of the project, which involved the same type of interventions in other “sub-Wadi” areas, began in 2002.

▶ **Didier Dematons** made **two 26-minute films in Kosovo**, produced by “JFR Production”. The films, “First humanitarian steps in Kosovo”, and “Expatriates in Kosovo, a Humanitarian Generation”, told the story of the installation and the work done by the Triangle team based in Mitrovica. They were broadcast by the Lyon channel TLM (Télé Lyon Métropole).

Didier Dematons also made a 52-minute film on the life of an Albanian family in Kosovo.

▶ Following the success of its first version in 1996, Triangle organized a second Improvis'Action show June 1999 at the Rail Theatre (called “**Improvis'Action II the return**”), to support its action among Kosovar refugees in Albania. In association with the L.I.LY, the show was a hotchpotch of improvised theatre, songs, sketches, performances, live music, DJs, etc.

▶ **First removal to Vaise**

Triangle moved out of its offices on place Louis Chazette, in the 1st *arrondissement*, and took up its new quarters at N° 93 rue du Bourbonnais in Vaise.

2000

▶ Triangle was still present in **Kosovo**, and in September and October 2000, it opened **two community resource centres in Skenderaj (Albanian sector) and Zubin-Potock (Serbian sector)**. These centres were to become “places with resources”, to promote development and integration of the young people in local society and elsewhere in the world. The centres organized activities (educational, cultural, and sporting activities, etc.) and the young people had to take over the premises by taking initiatives and shouldering responsibilities in their management and organization.

The programme started in July 2000 with major refurbishing work on the buildings (roofs, partitions, paintwork, electricity, etc.), staff recruitment and training (about 35 staff members for both centres), and equipment for the premises (furniture, office automation, computers, etc.). The Skenderaj centre opened on 12 September 2000 in the presence of Bernard Kouchner (the UN civil administrator in Kosovo) .



From May to July 2000, with another organisation, Triangle also conducted a **survey to draw up as detailed a report as possible on the current situation of the children who wandered and worked on the streets** in the Albanian and Serbian zones in northern Kosovo. The survey led to setting up a project to open a day centre in 2001.

In April 2000, Triangle began a **programme of aid for agricultural development in the region of Vushtri**. The plan here was to give fresh impetus to growing potatoes and thus enable the farmers to grow cash crops. By supplying seed potatoes, the association was able to provide the producers in the region with potatoes for consumption and a first generation of seed potatoes. Practical training (use of fertilisers and seed potatoes) was made available for the farmers, together with creation of awareness concerning the principle of redistributing part of the production.

The project also set out to “fix” the rural populations in their original region, and hence reduce the size of the flows towards the towns.

► In response to the European Commission's Master Plan, Triangle, which was already present in Yemen, undertook from September 2000 to April 2001 the initial phase of a project to rehabilitate and install a drinking water supply network on **the island of Socotra**, which had suffered greatly from harsh weather conditions (drought and flooding).



Traditional kharif

Socotra is a big island (3,600 sq. km) in the Gulf of Aden, between Yemen and Somalia. The inhabitants are regularly victims of extreme weather conditions, but there are traditional methods of collecting and storing rainwater. These traditional reservoirs, the *kharifs*, provide the villages with supplies of drinking water and enable them to give their livestock water to drink. Triangle thus used these traditional *kharifs* to meet the islanders' water needs.

The programme was carried out in accordance with traditional methods and using a participative community approach: 5,200 Bedouin villagers were directly involved and benefited from the project in several villages in the regions of Diksam, Momi and Riyad Ilkishin. They dealt with the work to restore or repair the kharifs. The reservoirs were rebuilt in stone, concrete, or fibreglass. When necessary, they were also covered in to avoid evaporation and pollution. As the kharifs are often fed by springs, pipes were installed to channel the water to the village reservoirs. Indirectly, the project had an impact on 40 villages¹³.

13 - Cf. Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°1, December 2001.

► In September 2000, a mission carried out in **North Korea** finally enabled Triangle to obtain approval from the North Korean authorities for the association to put a permanent team in Pyongyang. After negotiations with the local authorities to make sure that the project would be implemented under the best possible conditions, Triangle launched its first programme to provide **support for the cooperative farms** in December 2000.

It was carried out in partnership with the FDRC (Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee¹⁴), with the objective of introducing techniques and inputs (fertilisers, plastic films, irrigation pumps, pipes, cement, etc.), improving levels of cereal and arboricultural production, adding to the irrigation networks for the nurseries, reforesting the hills, building terraces and improving soil quality. The long-term objective was gradual restoration of the environment, together with a reduction in food shortages. The work was taken on with the local officials who provided the manpower and the logistical and administrative support.

“Thanks to the supply of inputs, cereal production (rice and maize) on the farms benefiting from the scheme showed a considerable increase; overall, the yields for these two cereals were doubled. By combining fertilisers, mobile pumps and plastic film, we were able to obtain a significant rise in cereal production levels”, said Laurence Bardon, the head of the Triangle mission in North Korea. She added that “the pilot project was very well accepted by the beneficiaries and it enabled us to obtain concrete results. It had a positive impact on food safety, protection of the environment, operation of the farms and indirectly, on the living and working standards of the population that benefited from it.”



Construction de fumière



Culture du riz

► Two successive study missions were carried out in April and July 2000 in the **Saharawi refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria**.

Western Sahara, a former Spanish territory, is the object of a territorial conflict between Morocco, which annexed the territory in 1975 and claims sovereignty over it, and the Polisario Front¹⁵, which is demanding the creation of an independent State and has set up a self-proclaimed government in exile in the refugees camps in south-west Algeria. A referendum on self-determination for the Saharawi people and placed under the aegis of the United Nations has been planned for a long time, but to date it has still not been held. The Saharawi refugee camps, which house about 160,000 refugees around Tindouf, Algeria, have thus become real towns.

14 - Liaison committee set up following the flooding in 1995, 1996 and 1997 to provide links between the North Korean government and the international organizations.
15 - Armed movement set up in May 1973, to press for the creation of an independent Saharawi State.



► In December 2000, Triangle carried out its first study mission in **Serbia**, in Belgrade, Presevo, and Vrnjacka-Banja, to collect information concerning the problems and expectations of the young people and to meet as many players in civil society as possible. The mission noted that the associative structure is of high quality, and that the skills of the local associations and their commitment in meeting the young people's needs are real.

The Yugoslav wars during the last ten years have created their groups of refugees. Serbs from Croatia, Bosnia or Kosovo, 52,000 new citizens came to swell the population of Zemun, a town with 250,000 inhabitants in the suburbs of Belgrade. According to Vladan Janicjevic, the head of the local council, "only 10% of the refugees have entered local life in Zemun. That is hardly surprising, because there are no jobs. [...] We see a lot of social distress. Lots of children are left to their own devices. They wander round town. We find resentment in the local population concerning the new arrivals; and yet they are our fellow countrymen."

A project to create community resource centres for young people was thus envisaged in close collaboration with local associations. For Vlada Janicjevic, it is essential to open a centre of this type: *"It is in my interest for the young people to have something to do in their free time, for them to learn useful things, new things, computers, English, painting, the arts, for them to have possibilities, a future, and for them to learn to live together"*¹⁶.

► **Creation of the socio-educational, psychosocial and community unit**

Following a decision made by the Board of Trustees to rationalize Triangle's work and reorganize its working methods, and considering that young people have always been at the core of Triangle's actions, especially in Rwanda, Albania, Kosovo, Iraqi Kurdistan and Vietnam, Triangle decided to create a socio-educational and psychosocial support unit at the head office. It was managed and coordinated by Monique Montel¹⁷, with the following objectives:

- Capitalizing on all that had already been done in the field
- Basing future work on wide-ranging, positive concrete experience
- Giving the field further deep thought at the association level
- Ensuring the professionalism of the actions
- Gradually setting up a network of contributors and partner institutions
- Encouraging local initiatives

Besides the material aid essential for populations in difficulty, the unit had to take into account socio-educational and psychosocial care for children in difficulty and for their parents. This aspect involves organizing educational action (games, learning skills, expression activities, etc.), being present, listening, and making constant searches to improve the situation and recreate social links, using the community's human resources to carry out these actions.

¹⁶ - Cf. Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°2, March 2002.

¹⁷ - A specialized youth worker, a former executive in the community health sector and a consultant in the international solidarity sector



► “Albania, Kosovo, one year later”

Triangle co-produced an exhibition of photographs by Philippe Merchez, entitled “Albania, Kosovo, one year later”. The 40 black-and-white photos were given captions by the photographer and were accompanied by texts written by Kosovar children. The texts are about the daily life of the children who lived through the war, the exodus and the return to a country in ruins. The exhibition was the fruit of a year spent in the Balkans.



Kosovo - Temporary school in a tent: “Let me tell you a secret”

It travelled to various locations over more than 40 days: the Press Club, the DRAC (Direction Regional Authority for Cultural Affairs in the Rhône-Alpes region), the Town Hall of the 9th arrondissement, and the Roman Theatre in Fourier.

Within the framework of this exhibition, a conference on the theme of “Albania, Kosovo, one year later, what cultural solidarity?” was held at the DRAC centre. It was led by Denis Tardy (editor in chief of *Tout Lyon*), in the presence of Philippe Merchez (the photographer), Christian Lombard (co-director of Triangle GH), Olivier Brachet (director of Forum Réfugiés), Hervé Loichemol (director of the Auberge de l'Europe Cultural Centre in Ferney-Voltaire), Jesus Miranda (anthropologist, Centre of Anthropological Research and Studies, Lyon 2 University), and the conference was attended by an audience that took an active part in the discussions.

Philippe Merchez' exhibition also led to setting up a study group called “Balkans/Eastern Europe”, with Forum Réfugiés, the partners of the DRAC, Alias Peco, the ARA, Partners for Kosovo and Diagonales Est-Ouest. It was made up of academics, professional specialists in humanitarian activities, journalists, and professional cultural specialists who had links with Eastern Europe, and it was set up to pool the respective fields of experience of its members, boost the domain as a whole, and reflect on the results of ten years of collaboration with Central and Eastern European countries. A similar group was to be set up in Eastern Europe. However, as the partners in Eastern Europe seemed to have strong reservations about the project, the network gradually petered out.

► **The third Triangle brochure**, produced by three volunteer students in communication, was brought out. It was the support behind all Triangle's publications, and it contained, in English and French, the texts drawn up when the association was set up, and updated them in the light of the experience acquired since 1994.

► Triangle celebrated its 6th anniversary

The anniversary took place in two phases. First of all, there was an official meeting under the patronage of Anne-Marie Comparini (President of the Rhône-Alpes Region), which was held in Triangle's offices on 15 June 2000, in the presence of the deputy and mayor of the 9th *arrondissement* of Lyon, Gérard Colomb.

Then there was a private party on the 2 June 2000, with almost 200 guests among the “friends” of the association, in an old stone building on the hillside in Dardilly.

► After several assessment missions and lengthy discussions with the Vietnamese authorities, Triangle was finally able to set up its **project to create a Franco-Vietnamese catering school**, and provide underprivileged young Vietnamese people with an opportunity to find a job in catering activities.

The school provided training in Vietnamese and French cooking techniques, together with training for waiters and waitresses. The vocational training was completed by general education courses (Vietnamese and other languages, basic or further mathematics, general culture, etc.).

A restaurant with space for fifty people enabled the young students to put their theoretical knowledge into practice, and also enabled restaurant and food services operators to find out more about the school, with the objective of making the establishment self-supporting after four years of operation.

The school was run jointly by Triangle and the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DELISA).

In 2001, Triangle continued its efforts to obtain all the necessary authorizations from the Vietnamese authorities, refurbish the building, identify the young people who were to undergo the training, recruit the administrative and teaching staff, and organize the teaching project as such.

► To follow up on the survey carried out from May to July 2000 in the northern region of **Kosovo** concerning children on the streets, a **day activity centre** was opened in Mitrovica in August 2001 to provide the **children working in the streets** with educational, social and psychosocial care.

Many families in Kosovo have just one thing on their minds as they get up every day: finding something to eat. All the members of the family, including the children, do their best to bring back the few euros or marks necessary to survive. The children are thus all at work, in stores and in the markets, or as little street vendors, selling lighters and cigarettes, sunflower seeds or phone cards¹⁸.

About sixty children go to the centre opened by Triangle in south Mitrovica. They can eat there, take part in leisure activities (circus, painting, computers, etc.). They are given support in their schooling, their health, and their hygiene. As part of the job, the staff running the centre visit the families to ensure that they are not left out of the scheme.

“One of the reasons for the success of the initiative is to be found in the active collaboration of the Kosovar structures. The council staff in Mitrovica, the social centre, the municipal police and the judges all take part in the reinsertion work”, said the president of Triangle, Gérard Milhes.

The aid programme for agricultural development, begun in 2000, also continued. From February to April 2001, **seed potatoes and fertiliser were distributed** to 3,000 farmers in the Skenderaj region.

18 - Cf. Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°2, March 2002

In April 2001, **a second aid programme for agricultural development was set up in the Vushtri region: support for the veterinary centre.** The support took the form of supplies of equipment and vocational training, together with an insemination programme (3,000 batches of semen). A German veterinary surgeon, working as a volunteer, provided training in the Vushtri veterinary centre.

► In October 2001, Triangle set up a **programme to boost potato crops in the Elbasan district (Locality of Stebleve) in Albania.** The project was part of a larger plan for economic development in agriculture, to increase local production and improve the food situation for the rural population in Albania.

When the communist regime collapsed, in 1991, Stebleve was the major centre for seed potato production for the whole of Albania. In less than ten years, the destruction of the cooperative farms and the uniform redistribution of the land to the farmers resulted in a sharp fall in production. Xhevit Boregi, an agricultural engineer living in Stebleve who acted as programme coordinator for Triangle's mission, analysed the reasons for the drop. "When the dictatorship fell, it was a major shock for the whole population.

Everyone wanted to go to the towns, and the village was all but deserted. [...] The real reason for abandoning the land in Stebleve was that we were afraid we would not be able to manage our farms. At the time of the cooperative farms, the farmers only had to deal with one aspect of production.

And then, all of a sudden, they had to manage a very small farm, on average not more than one hectare. And they had to do it without any working tools, and without any preparation for a market economy!"¹⁹.

The project thus had to enable the farmers to restart a traditional type of production to generate income, by supplying them with seed potatoes that would be used to supply the local market with potatoes for consumption and first generation seed potatoes.

The programme was completed by technical training and support adapted to suit the potato growers' association in the region.



¹⁹ - Cf. Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°2, March 2002



▶ Triangle's interventions for the benefit of **Saharawi refugees** began in 2001. The first priority was to set up a support programme providing social services for the disabled (after a survey of the young handicapped people in the camps). A care centre for the disabled was also built and equipped in the Ausserd camp²⁰, which enabled about one hundred handicapped children and adults to benefit from care and recreational activities.

A long period of fieldwork was necessary before setting up the centres, to assess the requirements to be met as a priority and create awareness in the organizing teams as to how best to deal with the various types of handicaps. For the Triangle team on the spot and its principal, *"the crucial question was finding out exactly what a centre of this type was. What should our objective be? Should we make teaching our main concern, to the detriment of the paramedical aspects? How should the children be divided up? Using age criteria? Or using the handicaps as our criteria?"*.

▶ **The second phase in the programme to provide access to drinking water and restore the kharifs on the island of Socotra**²¹ started in April 2001, and ended in April 2002. It concerned other villages that were deeply affected by the bad weather conditions, and it brought relief to another 7,500 inhabitants. *"In the end, Triangle helped to meet all the drinking water requirements for the whole of Socotra"*²².

▶ Triangle carried out a survey mission in Bhuj (Gujarat province), India, following the earthquake that struck the northwest of the country on 26 January 2001. Action was envisaged to provide social and psychosocial support for the victims, and especially for the children.

However, collaboration with the Indian partners turned out to be difficult, and the funds collected were insufficient, so Triangle GH decided not to go through with the project that had been planned initially. The association preferred to transfer the grants that had been made to it, to the organizations that were already present and operating in India.

▶ New launch of the association's 4-page magazine, called **"Info Génération Humanitaire"**.

The first issue was published in December 2001. It is published quarterly.

2002

▶ The support programme set up for the cooperative farms in **North Korea** in 2001 shed light on the poor state of the drinking water supply system. In all the farms, the water supply system was old and certain elements were no longer serviceable. The pipes used were rusty and there were a lot of leaks throughout the network. The water in the wells was contaminated, surface water ran into them without having been naturally filtered.

20 - The Ausserd camp is in the Tindouf region, in southern Algeria.

21 - The initial phase of the project was carried out between September 2000 and April 2001 - cf. above.

22 - cf. Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°1, December 2001.

red by the ground, and the phenomenon of contamination was accentuated by the fertiliser spread in the paddies. Soakaways were used for the latrines and the waste water was poured on the vegetable gardens.

So in February 2002, Triangle decided to undertake a programme to **rehabilitate the drinking water supply system and the waste water drainage systems** in eight cooperative farms (concerned by the initial Triangle programme). The goal here was to provide access to drinking water, reduce the number of cases of illness linked to poor water quality, and create awareness in the community as to hygiene problems, especially in the schools and health centres. 45,000 people, including 13,000 schoolchildren, benefited from the programme (rehabilitation of 75 washrooms and 57 latrines, 150 wells and 47 km of water mains). 65 collective institutions (schools and health centres) were concerned. The project, which was planned to last 10 months, was finally extended until July 2003.

Triangle also intervened from July to September 2002 in the domain of **reforestation**. The unprecedented economic crisis that North Korea had been facing for ten years or so had led the rural population to cut down the forests on a massive scale, which had dramatic consequences in terms of the environment and protection of the valleys (fields and houses). In partnership with the FRDC, Triangle supplied material and technical help to the centre of reforestation in the Taedong district (province of South Pyongan). It intervened at the various phases of plant production and planting, to increase production and productivity levels for the saplings in the nurseries and the reforestation centres. An assessment was also made concerning the requirements in this domain for new sites in the province.

A project covering **reforestation and protection of the environment in the region of South Pyongan and South Hwangae** was also under study in 2002. It was set up in a nursery over a period of 4 months. An assessment was made, and Triangle decided to continue and to extend the project to other districts and new nurseries in 2003 and 2004.

In June 2002, Triangle began work on a large-scale **polder rehabilitation project in the South Pyongan province**. These polders, which were created by the North Korean authorities in the 1970s in the wide river deltas on the west coast, were damaged by the tidal waves in 1996 and 1997. The authorities were unable to deal with these problems, due to a lack of technical resources and maintenance, and the polders became unfit for agriculture. Triangle took action to rehabilitate 2,000 hectares of alluvial plains to enable their renewed use as paddies. The aid consisted of providing technical means, equipment and construction materials. Triangle also coordinated the work. The programme enabled rehabilitation of 10 km of existing dykes, together with the systems used to control water levels in a polder covering 4,000 hectares. The end purpose was that of ensuring significant improvements in the yields from the arable land.





To continue Triangle's actions concerning the eight cooperative farms, a **project to install insulation in the schools and health centres** was implemented. The objective here was to carry out insulation work, install heating systems, and replace the doors and windows, to improve levels of user comfort (children and patients) in these community infrastructures.

► The preparation work for the **project to create a Franco-Vietnamese catering school was completed at the end of 2002**. The school opened in December 2002, following an inauguration ceremony in the presence of representatives of the Rhône-Alpes region, the French Consulate, the Vietnamese authorities, etc. In its first year, it took in 40 pupils, mainly youngsters aged 15 to 18, from homes run by the government. The training, free of charge, in "cooking" and "table waiting", will help them subsequently to find a job, and hence to meet their own requirements and those of their family. During the 12 months of training, 75% of the time is given over to practical work. Triangle GH entered into the project management as a partner of Delisa²³ for a five-year period, ending in 2007. At that date, the project will be taken over by the Vietnamese authorities, with full management powers and responsibilities.

The initial results were highly positive, as out of the first 40 trainees, 29 took the examination and 27 went on to find a job.

"I am really surprised to see how lucky I am to be able to take the training course at the catering school for underprivileged children in Ho Chi Minh City. I was a child on the streets, and a victim of certain social prejudices, and now I am studying in a modern, pleasant school, and no one has asked me to pay a penny of school fees: incredible! After six months of studies in the school, I was able to acquire professional skills necessary to work in hotels and improve my knowledge of languages and civics. I now have a good job as a trainee in a very well-known hotel in Ho Chi Minh City", wrote Nguyen Ngoc Tuyen, one of the pupils in the 2002-2003 table waiting section, in the *Info Génération Humanitaire* magazine, issue n°8, September 2003.

In September 2003, 60 new pupils entered the school. Two new groups were recruited in May and September 2004, to give a total of about 150 pupils.

23 - Department of Labour, war Invalids and social affairs of Ho Chi Minh City





Starting day for the pupils of the first group in December 2002



Cooking lessons given by Miss An (with her back to the camera)

► The programme begun in 2001 in the **Saharawi refugee camps in Algeria** was boosted in 2002 by the construction and equipment of a second centre for disabled people in the Dakhla camp, in partnership with the National Union of Saharawi women. The training provided for Saharawi staff (course leaders and youth workers) now covers all the camps, which house about 160,000 refugees.



Dakhla Camp

A **“micro-credit” pilot project** was implemented in the Dakhla camp in 2002. It is used to set up stalls selling everyday products, and the income generated by the activity helps to support the disabled people and their families.

A **project to supply and manage stocks of mechanical spare parts**, for tanker trucks, food trucks and ambulances, has also been set up.

Finally, Triangle took over **management and maintenance of the UNHCR²⁴ operational base in Rabouni.**

24 - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



► The second phase of the project to **rehabilitate and build infrastructures to protect agricultural land from flooding**²⁵ in **Yemen**, in the Wadi Hadramaout region, started in March 2002 and was completed in December 2003. The project also included building roads (at the end of 2003) to provide easier access to the region and its markets (for sales of products or purchase of equipment for the farms) for the farmers and the other beneficiaries of the project.

► In March 2002, Triangle finally opened two youth centres, in Zemun, near Belgrade, and in Vrnjcka Banja in southern **Serbia**. The objective of these centres is to encourage development and integration of young people in local society and elsewhere in the world, by setting up "resource centres". This is achieved not only through the activities that are carried out there (educational, cultural, sporting activities, etc.), but also through the importance of the initiatives that the young people have to take and the responsibilities they have to shoulder in managing the premises.



Graphic creation workshop

“*With painting, for example, we go straight through to feelings, observation, opinions, in short, to the intimate experiences of each person. Through art, everything can be expressed in a peaceful way. Painting, working in clay, pyrography, etc., act as liberating factors*”²⁶.

► As a continuation to the programme of aid for agricultural development in the Vushtri region, in **Kosovo**, Triangle helped the Vushtri beekeepers' association in 2002. Triangle provided support in terms of equipments and vocational training.

► Triangle continued its activities in **Albania**, and in December 2002 it set up an **agricultural and economic development project in the locality of Miras (region of Korçe)**.

The programme provides support for three local associations.

The objective of the first association of farmers, "Mirasi", is to facilitate sales of the agricultural production in the locality (onions, beans and apples) on the Albanian market, and also to raise quality levels and increase quantities, yields and means of production (transport, packaging, mechanization, etc.).

A second association, "Progressi", enables the women to set up activities to generate income on the basis of local products (bakeries, etc.).

25 - The initial phase began at the end of 1999, cf. above

26 - cf. Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°5, December 2002.



Finally, a fishing association brings in extra income for the farmers from fishing activities (sales of fish, organizing activities on the lake, etc.).

In Stebleve and in Miras, Triangle's methodology is to strengthen civil society by creating rural associations responsible for their activities, and which work alongside it to reach the objectives set during joint meetings and group discussions. For Dov Rosenmann, manager of the Triangle GH Albania project, *"It is these associations that set the pace for change, and for evolution in the projects"*.

▶ Triangle moves again, for the **2nd time**.

The team occupied its new premises at N° 1 rue de Montriblound, in Vaise, where it has spacious, well-lit premises that are better suited to its work.

▶ Triangle opened its **internet site** in June 2002 : www.trianglegh.org



▶ A 52-minute documentary, **"Socotra, an island between two worlds"**, was directed by Didier Dematons and co-produced by Triangle. It is about the *"Rehabilitation of the drinking water supply network on the island of Socotra"*, an operation that provides support for a population that the rest of the world has forgotten. The project was financed by ECHO for 2 years. The film takes the audience to the ECHO offices in Brussels, Amman in Jordan, and Socotra. It includes interviews with a certain number of players: inhabitants of Socotra, Triangle volunteer workers there, and professional specialists from the European Union.

2003

▶ Triangle continued its activities to help the **Saharawi refugees in Algeria**, with a project to **create a bakery** in the Assouert *wilaya* (administrative district), to provide a long-term activity for a group of disabled adults. The activity makes improved integration of the disabled people possible in Saharawi society, and provides strong mental stimulation for the beneficiaries. Furthermore, the entire population of the camp benefits from quality service at low prices, while giving increased value to the disabled in Saharawi society.

At the same time, through the financial help provided, the programme encourages the creation of small local outlets selling bread, and run by the disabled people themselves.

A **third centre for the disabled** was built in **El Ayoune**.

A **small-scale bleach production unit** was set up to supply the institutions (hospitals, schools, etc.).



In 2003, the “**micro-credit**” project set up in 2002 in the Dakhla camp was extended to the three other camps, Smara, Aoussert, and El Ayoune.

► Following the earthquake that wrought severe damage in **Algeria** on 21 May 2003, Triangle provided support for associations and various local initiatives by setting up **structures to receive, listen to and provide psychological help for the people suffering from the consequences of the earthquake.**

On 21 May 2003, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale shook northern Algeria. The consequences in terms of loss of life and structural damage were dramatic; the final figures showed 2,260 dead and 10,260 wounded. The earthquake, the strongest felt in Algeria for 20 years, came on top of the trauma resulting from acts of internal terrorism and successive natural catastrophes suffered by the population for more than ten years.



Location of a school destroyed in the earthquake

Triangle decided to intervene in the Bordj Menaïel district by creating a fixed structure to take in people and provide psychological help, run by a team. It also set up a mobile unit to reach people in isolated areas and those who were unable to travel to the fixed centre.

Triangle also intervened in schools, by setting up extracurricular activities, distributing school supplies, taking part in rehabilitation of a school and providing support for the families and teachers.

► Following the programme to provide support for the reforestation centre in South Pyongan province, and a survey carried out in 2002, Triangle intervened the following year in a project concerning **reforestation** (rehabilitation of 3 nurseries) and protection of the environment in South Pyongan and South Hwangae provinces. Attention was paid to the nurseries and the transplantation areas for the plants, to combat soil erosion, and produce firewood and fodder. Triangle also trained the local actors in the field of combating deforestation. At the request of the North Korean government, the training was accompanied by a study trip to China: 7 North Koreans from the Forestry Ministry went to Shenyang university (Northern China) to take part in a theoretical course on the new technologies used and visit the nurseries.



Study trip to China

The programme carried out in **North Korea** in 2002-2003 to rehabilitate the drinking water supply system and the sanitary structures in 8 cooperative farms, brought to light the age and the state of disrepair of the installations together with the risk of serious epidemics and water-borne diseases. The poor quality of the water and the mains drainage installations is the main cause of infant mortality in North Korea.



To follow up on the initial programme financed by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Triangle thus decided in November 2003 to set up a new project concerning **water and drainage installations in the region of South Pyongan**. The project is to be completed at the end of October 2004. It supplies clean water and suitable sanitary installations for 16 new communities

on 8 cooperative farms and also to a local hospital. It is aimed above all at improving living conditions for children. 26,000 people stand to benefit from the operation.

The collaboration with the Korean departments concerned has been strengthened as compared with the previous programme. Two pilot projects have been implemented:

- A project to supply water using solar-powered pumps, installed on two different sites, to deal with frequent power failures
- A project to rehabilitate latrines in schools with implementation of a waste composting process for agricultural use.

► Thanks to support from the DFID (the British Department for International Development), UNICEF and the UNHCR, the community centre in Basateen (**Yemen**), which was closed down in December 2002, was reopened in August 2003. The main activities provided are intended both for the Somali refugees and the Yemeni population in an underprivileged district of Aden. They consist mainly of kindergartens, play and recreational activities, vocational training, language and computer courses, creating awareness concerning HIV, and social work.

► Four years after leaving Kurdistan, Triangle returned to **Iraqi territory** to assess the necessity of an intervention.

Iraq had gone through war, oppression, dictatorship and a total embargo that lasted 12 years and resulted in poverty and isolation for the population. In spite of the access provided by Iraq to humanitarian associations (previously only present in small numbers because of an arrogant political choice that consisted of denying that the population was in need of help), and the absence of a recognized legal authority made it impossible to guide the NGOs and coordinate interventions in the first few months following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

From September 2003 on, in a desire to re-establish the bases of the administration, the ministries more or less took up their functions again. However, it was in this uncertain context that the population had to face up to its daily difficulties²⁷.

27 - Excerpt from the article "Return to Iraq" by Christelle Montes, taken from the Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°10 (March 2004).



Sticking to its usual working methods, Triangle opted for proximity to the population. As from September 2003, the team installed in Baghdad met with the ordinary people, the local actors, and the institutions, to prepare an initial plan of action. The association started by setting up a programme to distribute **“winter kits”** (mattresses, blankets and heaters), to provide help for the poorest families in the Hurriyah district of Baghdad



Hurriyah district

during the winter. The project was implemented at the request of the Iraqi district committees that were working to come to the help of all the disadvantaged people. Thus, moving beyond specific aid, the programme enabled those concerned to get to know the district and its inhabitants and work in collaboration with the district committee to identify projects that meet their needs.

► Exploratory mission to Sudan in January 2003

Since the independence of the country in 1956, the conflict in Sudan has seen only one brief period of calm, following the Addis-Abeba agreements in 1972. As soon as independence was granted, the Arab and Muslim government (close to the former elites stemming from the Anglo-Egyptian condominium) clashed with the population in the south of the country. The latter remembered the times of slavery and refused the hegemony of a power and a culture that were too different from their own aspirations and traditions. The attempts to force Arab customs and principles - and not Islam - on southern Sudan led to a conflict whose violence was shared, and which, like other crises, became a pretext for intervention by other countries.

The war between the Arab and Muslim north and the Christian and Animist south (represented especially by the Popular Army for Liberation of Sudan, the APLS) flared up again from 1983 on, and the discovery of oil fields in the 1980s further complicated the issues at stake in the conflict and modified a large number of these elements²⁸.

After a half-century of civil war that had resulted in over two million victims, and five million displaced persons, and led to some of the most deadly famines in modern history, at the end of 2002 Sudan seemed at last to be moving closer to an issue to the conflict. After an initial peace agreement had been signed in Machakos (Kenya), Triangle carried out an exploratory mission in January 2003, and envisaged setting up a mission in Sudan.

The exploratory mission opened up prospects of Triangle's long-term presence in Sudan, with possibilities of management of development programmes in the water, agriculture, and social sectors for the populations suffering indirectly from the war and the worsening living conditions. A “Triangle” volunteer worker has thus been in the country January 2003.

28 -Excerpt from the article “ Sudan. Almost a half-century of war...” by Ivan Deret, taken from Info Génération Humanitaire magazine, issue n°11 (June 2004).



► Project under study: the **“immigration question”**

On the basis of a proposal made by Philippe Merchez and Olivier Brachet, a project designed to provide help for immigrants in France has been studied. Its objective is to provide concrete solutions to make the voluntary return of immigrants easier and provide the means of worthy reinstallation in their country of origin. The project has to lead to setting up a constructive programme in this particularly sensitive domain, and create, in France, a unit to listen to those concerned and make proposals, together with a structure that would make it possible to finance reinstallation and provide a real professional project for each person making a spontaneous request for aid, without constraints of any sort. Providing support for these reinstallation projects involves setting up contacts between the persons concerned and an International Solidarity Organization working on development projects in the country of origin. The return to their country of origin would of course have to be a voluntary one for the persons concerned, and the process would be accompanied by a professional project and supported by the ISO sponsoring the person. The idea is to come to the help of those who have been refused asylum, and offer them an economic alternative in their country of origin. The project, which is still in its study phase, would be carried out by Triangle, in partnership with the “Forum Réfugiés” association.

► A **“Water and drainage”** unit was set up in August 2003. It is managed by Ivan Grayel, a hydraulics engineer. It has been added to the “Socioeducational, psychosocial and community action” and “Agricultural development” units, to complete and strengthen the association's intervention capacities in its three main fields of action.

The “Water and drainage” unit has two main objectives:

- Capitalization of the projects
- Creation of a technical library

It is also preparing a definition for a TGH “technical quality label”, which would be applied to all the projects linked to drinking water supplies and improvements in sanitary conditions.

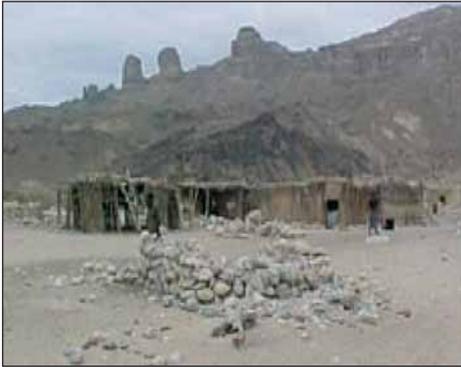
It enables us to follow up on projects under way in the “water and drainage systems” field from a technical standpoint, assess the projects, and carry out exploratory missions.

► **First bric-a-brac sale organized by Triangle in Croix-Rousse**

For a first time event, the bric-a-brac sale was a great success. It brought together 242 exhibitors for a day. The food and refreshments were provided by the “Dalle et Pépie” association, which passed on part of the profits to Triangle. The fact of delegating these tasks freed the team to take care of the sale as a whole and improve communications with the general public.



► In March 2004, Triangle set up a **programme to improve the primitive sanitary living conditions of the isolated population in Wadi Masila in Yemen**. This project consisted of supplying drinking water (digging wells and building latrines) for the populations of forty or so nomad and sedentary communities located in Wadi Masila (governorships of Al Mahra and Hadramaout). The objective was to ensure access to drinking water on a long-term, secure basis for the populations benefiting from the scheme,



Dwelling in Wadi Masila

to avoid outbreaks of disease and the risk of epidemics stemming from lack of hygiene. Taking into account the cultural and social context for this isolated region, a campaign to increase awareness of hygiene had to be organized for the inhabitants of the villages. The project is still being prepared, and the plans for the moment are to carry out a pilot programme in the village of Magrobat, to assess the results obtained and adapt the programme to suit the beneficiaries' actual requirements.

► Triangle has been present in Baghdad since 2003 and it has worked mainly with the people living in the Hurriyah district (one of the most underprivileged districts in the city) to set up the most urgent projects, and in 2004 it began work on a project for **urgent rehabilitation of the mains drainage network in the Hurriyah district**. The association is implementing the project with the help of Baghdad Town Hall and that of the district committee for young Iraqis in Hurriyah. This committee, made up of a group of intellectuals and young people holding university diplomas, was set up on 15 April 2003 with the goal of pursuing humanitarian objectives after the outbreak of war in Iraq. It was able to contact the families and identify the most urgent needs. Its partnership with Triangle made it possible to set up the project and taught the committee how to move on to a professional status and become financially independent, in order to make its presence felt as a local NGO. On the one hand, the mission has to clean the waste water and rainwater drainage networks in 6 neighbourhoods of the Hurriyah district, and on the other hand, it has to repair and maintain the specialized vehicles used to maintain the networks.

This activity will be accompanied by distribution of cleaning and washing products for the most vulnerable families and a campaign to create awareness in all the people living in the district.

The project should have a direct impact on the health of the population in the district (400,000 inhabitants).

► Triangle intervened following the **rail catastrophe in Ryongchon in North Korea**, in which (apparently) 160 people died and 1,300 were injured. In partnership with the local association Helpage DPRK, which provides support for old people, the association distributed soap and edible oil for 18,000 vulnerable people.

The “**reforestation and protection of the environment in the provinces of South Pyongan and South Hwangae**” project entered **phase II**. The objective here was to set up new pilot activities in the 3 nurseries (new techniques for the plant production and experimentation area) and to repeat the activities carried out previously for 3 new nurseries. 1.2 million people should benefit from this programme, which sets out to promote the current techniques. Another study trip to China is planned together with visits to the nurseries rehabilitated by the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide. The goal of this is to enhance awareness among the local actors and at the Forestry Ministry concerning the problems of deforestation and combating soil erosion.



► **The programmes in Yemen to provide aid for the Somali and Ethiopian refugees**, begun in 1998, are continuing. In 2004, Triangle's work in the Kharaz camp is centred mainly around social work with two major themes.

On the one hand, *social work*: a team of social workers based in the camp pays regular visits to the cases identified as being highly vulnerable (children or old people living alone, disabled persons) to provide them with specific aid (food, hygiene equipment, etc.) and, depending on their needs, orient them towards the services concerned (administration, hospitals, etc.).

On the other hand, *community work*: this is aimed at encouraging the refugees to play an active part in community life and not content themselves with their assisted status. Thus Triangle's activities are continuing at the level of the community centre and vocational training (dressmaking, joinery, etc.), language and computer courses, together with leisure activities (games, video room, library, etc.) and sports activities.

► In **Albania**, the agricultural and economic development project in the locality of Miras (begun in December 2002) has reached its extension phase.

► **Assessment mission in Darfur (Sudan)**

The Darfur region, in northwest Sudan, flared up in February 2003, transforming the tensions and repeated crises that had been occurring for about twenty years into a full-scale civil war with dramatic human consequences. Alongside the north-south negotiations, two rebel groups took up arms to bring pressure to bear on the authorities to ensure that their region, which was suffering from impoverishment of its natural resources, together with chronic underinvestment, would itself become the object of negotiations. A violent conflict then began between Muslims, in which the traditional divisions between the nomadic “Arab” tribes and the pastoral, or more often peasant “African” tribes were exacerbated, or even used as tools.



After the uprising in February 2003 of almost all the "African" tribes in Darfur, which initially inflicted several defeats on the government forces, the latter decided to link up with the nomadic Arab militia, the "Janjaweed". The Sudanese government provided them with arms and gave them a free rein. After displacing the local population, the militia continued to harass them in the camps that they set up spontaneously, and where they were living in utter destitution. The extreme scarcity of natural materials and water in Darfur, the start of the rainy season, and the early certainty that there would be no harvests for the coming year, made the situation of about 800,000 displaced people more than worrying. Furthermore, for the most part, there was no way of reaching the groups, and so it took some time to organize humanitarian aid.

Although it had initially concentrated on projects to support the peace process (north-south) which was then likely to reach a conclusion quickly, Triangle GH, in its concern to adapt its action to suit the immediate needs of the people involved and a situation of extreme urgency, made an assessment in western Darfur in May 2004. It was there that urgent interventions were prepared while awaiting a solution to the conflict and the possibility of contributing to long-term improvements in the situation of the populations concerned.

A project to provide assistance for the displaced populations in Al Junaynah (west Darfur) was thus set up in June 2004, in partnership with the Terre des Hommes (TDH) association. The partnership enabled the associations to take overall care of the refugee camp, by carrying out a large number of activities. Thus TDH worked on the trauma and provided psychological support for the displaced, and Triangle GH centred its action on the material aspects of organization of the camp, such as:

- Construction of shelters
- Distribution of drinking water from tanker trucks
- Construction of sanitary infrastructures and enhancement of awareness as to hygiene
- Rainwater drainage work.

► Laos

Following the partnership contract signed between the Rhône-Alpes Region and the province of Khamouan in Laos, and after an initial exploratory mission had been carried out in 2000 by the association's team, Triangle GH decided to implement an establishment mission in May 2004. The aim here was above all to meet the political heads, gather information and assess the possibilities of intervention for Triangle GH.

After a certain number of discussions with the authorities, visits to the province concerned, and meetings with the regional agricultural departments, Triangle GH envisages setting up an agricultural development project in the Province of Khamouan, and especially in the district of Nakai (one of the poorest in Laos).



► **Creation of the agricultural development unit early in 2004**

As agricultural development programmes make up a major share of Triangle's activities, an "Agricultural development" working unit has been set up to increase the pertinence of the work done by the association in this domain, capitalize on the actions carried out and enable further reflection and development of the practical aspects. The unit is managed by Pierre-François Grange, an agricultural engineer, who has specialized in tropical and Mediterranean agro-forestry, and has been a member of the Triangle team for three years.

Triangle has already developed projects to provide support for the agricultural sector in the domains of urgency (distribution of agricultural inputs), post-urgency (boosting an agricultural activity, construction/rehabilitation of hydraulic structures) and development (support for agricultural community structures). These projects have enabled populations to improve the bases of their agricultural production (rehabilitation of irrigation networks, boosting a particular type of production, etc.). However, Triangle wanted to go further by systematically proposing development actions that integrated all the components affecting a given agricultural problem, from production to commercialization.

The "Agricultural development" working unit also has the objective of developing a partnership network with the major French players in the field of agricultural development (engineering schools, institutions, professional specialists, etc.). With this in mind, the unit took on a student from the ISARA (Institut Supérieur d'Agriculture Rhône-Alpes) for 6 months. Her work gave rise to a dissertation at the end of her course and enabled implementation of monitoring and assessment tools adapted to suit TGH's agricultural projects.

► The three technical units, "Socioeducational, psychosocial and community action", "Water and drainage" and "Agricultural development", in collaboration with the local desks, have set up project monitoring tools in 2004, to make Triangle GH's actions more efficient and coherent in the various missions.



PROJECTS

projects

Comment: the dates in brackets correspond to the starting dates for the projects

KOSOVO

- ▶ Rehabilitation of individual houses in Skenderaj (1999)
- ▶ Psychosocial support for children and training for the group leaders (1999)
- ▶ Creation of two community resource centres in Skenderaj and Zubin-Potock (2000)
- ▶ Agricultural development aid (boosting potato growing) in the Vushtri region (2000)
- ▶ Distribution of seed potatoes and fertilizer to 3,000 producers in the Skenderaj region (2001).
- ▶ Support for the Vushtri veterinary centre (2001)
- ▶ Support for the beekeepers' association in Vushtri (2002)
- ▶ Survey of the situation of children on the streets in the Mitrovica region (2000-2001)
- ▶ Opening of a day care centre for children working in the streets (2001)

YEMEN

- ▶ Support for the refugee populations from Somalia (1998 and renewal each year)
- ▶ Mains water supplies and drainage in the Basateen district in Aden (Phase 1: 1999; phase 2: 2002)
- ▶ Installation of a new site to take in Somali refugees (1999)
- ▶ Rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures (1999)
- ▶ Rehabilitation of the water supply network on the island of Socotra (Phase 1: 2000; phase 2: 2001)
- ▶ Improvement of the primitive sanitary living conditions of the isolated populations in Wadi Masila (2004)

NORTH KOREA

- ▶ Support for cooperative farms (2001)
- ▶ Rehabilitation of drinking water supply systems and sanitary structures (2002)
- ▶ Support for the reforestation centre in south Pyongan province (2002)
- ▶ Rehabilitation of polders (land reclaimed from the sea, dyked in, drained and put into use) in south Pyongan province (2002)
- ▶ Insulation work for the schools and dispensaries in 8 cooperative farms (2002)
- ▶ Reforestation and protection of the environment in South Pyongan and South Hwangae provinces (2002)
- ▶ Reforestation and protection of the environment in South Pyongan and South Hwangae provinces - phase I (2003)
- ▶ Water supply and drainage project the South Pyongan region (2003)
- ▶ Reforestation and protection of the environment in South Pyongan and South Hwangae provinces - phase II (2004)
- ▶ Aid for the populations affected by the Ryongchon disaster (2004)

ALGERIA

- ▶ Support programme for disabled people in the Saharawi camps (2001)
- ▶ Construction and equipment of a day care centre for disabled people in the Saharawi refugee camp at Ausserd (2001)
- ▶ Construction and equipment of a second day care centre for disabled people in the Saharawi refugee camp at Dakhla (2002)
- ▶ Training of the Saharawi staff extended to cover all the camps (about 160,000 refugees) (2002)
- ▶ Programme to supply and manage mechanical spare parts for the trucks used to distribute food and water, together with the ambulance vehicles and the programme vehicles, by setting up a mechanical workshop (2002)
- ▶ Management and maintenance of the UNHCR operational base in Rabouni (2002)
- ▶ "Micro-credit" pilot project in the Dakhla camp (2002)
- ▶ Extension of the micro-credit project to the three camps of Smara, Aoussert, and El Ayoune (2003)
- ▶ Construction and equipment of a third day care centre for disabled people in the Saharawi refugee camp at El Ayoune (2003)
- ▶ Creation of a small-scale bleach production unit to supply the institutions (2003)
- ▶ Creation of a bakery in Assouert wilaya (2003)
- ▶ Creation of a unit providing shelter, listening and psychological care following the earthquake that occurred in May 2003 - implementation of psychosocial and socioeducational actions for the people who suffered as a result of the earthquake (2003-2004)

VIETNAM

- ▶ Creation of a Franco-Vietnamese catering school (2001)

IRAQ

- ▶ Distribution of blankets, mattresses and heaters to vulnerable families (2003-2004)
- ▶ Urgent rehabilitation of the mains drainage network in the Hurriyah district of Baghdad (2004)

SUDAN

- ▶ Assistance to the displaced people in Al Junaynah (west Darfur) (2004)

ALBANIA

- ▶ Practical training for the students at the University of Social Sciences in Tirana (1996)
- ▶ Creation of a vocational training centre for children from underprivileged areas = Ferilasses Centres (1997)
- ▶ Support for the Albanian families who took in refugees from Kosovo (1999)
- ▶ School rehabilitation and equipment (1999)
- ▶ Programme to boost potato growing in the locality of Steblevle (Elbasan region) (2001)
- ▶ Agricultural and economic development project in the locality of Miras (Korça region) (2002)
- ▶ Agricultural and economic development project in the locality of Miras (Korça region) - phase II (2004)

SERBIA

- ▶ Community resource centres for young people (socioeducational and cultural training activities) (2001)



HONDURAS

- ▶ Rehabilitation of urban housing (1999)

RWANDA

- ▶ Social canteens for children (1994)
- ▶ Creation of activities generating income (agriculture, livestock farming, crafts, etc.) and training for women in agriculture and livestock farming in urban areas (1994)

IRAQI KURDISTAN

- ▶ Opening of a cultural centre for young people in Duhik (1996)
- ▶ Opening of a cultural centre for young people in Qaradakh (1996).
- ▶ Opening of a cultural centre for young people in Ranya (1996).
- ▶ Opening of a cultural centre for young people in Derban Dikhan (1996).
- ▶ Rehabilitation of the Fine Arts Institute in Sulaymaniyah (1996).
- ▶ Rehabilitation of the Fine Arts Institute and construction of 7 music rehearsal rooms in Duhik (1996).
- ▶ Opening of a community resources centre in Sulaymaniyah (1996)
- ▶ Rehabilitation of a boarding school building for students at the Central Teacher Training Institute and creation of a cultural centre in Sulaymaniyah (1996).
- ▶ Rehabilitation of the Fine Arts Institute and construction of a theatre in Erbil (1996).
- ▶ Rehabilitation and equipment of the Central Teacher Training Institute in Duhik (1996).
- ▶ Support programme for development of the agricultural economy in the Governorship of Duhik (1996).
- ▶ Programme to provide assistance for the Kurdish refugees from Turkey (1996)
- ▶ Rehabilitation and equipment programme for 27 vocational schools (1997)

