



## SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA NEWSETTE

Official Project of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
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Includes: *FOCUS ON NIGER ... materials for a chapter program, fundraiser ideas, and an update on collections by members*

### SFA COLLECTION UPDATE

January is always a good time to look back and assess one's efforts during the past year. Many people make resolutions consciously or subconsciously. Others forego this rite and concentrate on addressing goals as the need or inclination arises throughout the year. Whatever the case may be, it is evident that many DKG chapters and their members undertook to include support for the Schools for Africa project this past year.

Lacey Stone from the New York office of the UNICEF/U.S. Fund reports that a total of **\$56,381** has been donated by Society members since the project began at the start of the 2010-2012 biennium. This time last year around \$9,000 had been collected making this past year's collection upwards of \$47,000. What a marvelous first full year response! Wouldn't it be wonderful to have at least **\$75,000** donated by the 2012 DKG International Convention this summer in New York City? Call it a resolution or call it a goal, but undertake to make this a reality. Remember, the donation form is located on the DKG Web site ([www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)). Click first on the Educational Excellence Committee link on the homepage and then the SFA icon at the bottom of that page.

### THE CORNER SWAP SHOP

\* **KUDOS** to Amy Miehle, Gamma Chapter in Alpha Alpha State (PA), for sharing multiple SFA fundraiser ideas in the Winter 2011 issue of *The Keystoneian*. A sampling of her ideas appears on the reverse.

\* **KUDOS** to Alpha Alpha State (PA) President Louann Shrader for challenging every chapter in her state organization to raise \$100 over the biennium for the Schools for Africa project.

\* **KUDOS** to the many state organizations who are providing their members with a link to the SFA area on the DKG Web site. This is the fastest way to access the most up-to-date information and materials on this international project.

How are you promoting the SFA Project? Send your ideas to Cathy Daugherty at [emerita07@comcast.net](mailto:emerita07@comcast.net) so that they may be shared with other Society members through the CORNER SWAP SHOP.



Image courtesy of [www.watrust.co.uk](http://www.watrust.co.uk)

### EMPOWER WITH PROGRAMS

Explore how donations to the SFA campaign are making a difference in countries served by this UNICEF/U.S. Fund program.

#### PROGRAM IDEA #9: "Matching a Face to a Place"

##### Objectives:

1. To introduce members to the personal stories of children benefiting from their donations
2. To inspire contributions to the SFA project
3. To "inform the members of current economic, social, political, and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society" DKG Purpose 7

##### Program Outline:

- Divide members into small groups to explore one of several SFA countries.
- Prior to the meeting prepare folders containing materials on each of several SFA countries—a different country for each group. Include these items: a copy of the SFA Newsette featuring that country; a current event article on that country; several copies of a personal story from UNICEF's *SFA Results* site on that country; other items as available from the internet and/or library sources.
- Label folders by country; decorate with map/flag.
- Give each group time to examine the folder's contents, to discuss the impact SFA specifically makes in that country.
- Ask groups to put their findings on a flip chart sheet for easy sharing with the full membership.
- Close by passing a "penny plate" on which members put their loose change as a donation.

##### Resource Ideas for this Program:

- *SFA Results* by country stories/pictures can be downloaded at [www.schoolsforafrica.com/results](http://www.schoolsforafrica.com/results).
- Download DKG/UNICEF flyers from the DKG Web site and duplicate for members.
- *SFA Newsette* issues found on the DKG Web site.

# FOCUS ON: **NIGER** ... Info about this African Nation

*Share this information with your chapter when promoting the Schools For Africa project.*

**Location:** West Africa, southeast of Algeria, landlocked and bordered by seven countries: Algeria and Libya to the north, Chad to the east, Nigeria and Benin to the south and **Burkina Faso** and **Mali** to the west [latter two are also in the SFA campaign]

**Area/Population:** 1,266,700 km. (slightly less than twice the size of Texas) with a population of 16.5 million. The population is predominantly rural, mostly clustered in the far south and west of the country. Median age is 15.2 years. Life expectancy at birth is 53.4 years total (52.13 for males and 54.7 for females). The child mortality rate is exceptionally high, almost 25%. Still, Niger has the highest fertility rate in the world, 7.2 births per woman. This means that nearly half (49%) of Niger's population is under age 15.

**Terrain:** Niger's terrain is predominantly desert plains and sand dunes, with flat to rolling plains in the south and hills in the north. The Niger River in the southwest flows through the country's only fertile area. Lake Chad is at the southeast corner of the country and is shared with three other countries.

**Climate:** Niger's climate is extremely hot and arid, making it one of the hottest countries in the world. In the extreme south there is a tropical climate on the edges of the Niger River basin.

**Capital:** Niamey (1.004 million inhabitants, 2009)

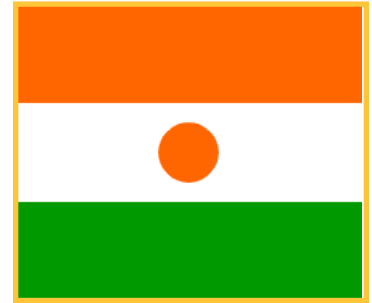
**Government:** Niger was a French colony and proclaimed its independence in 1960. Since independence Nigerians have lived under five constitutions and three periods of military rule. Now Niger is a semi-presidential republic, whereby a president is head of state (Mahamadou Issoufou) and a prime minister (Brigi Rafini) is head of the government.

**Languages:** Niger is a multi-lingual country. French is the official language, spoken mainly as a second language by people who have received an education. There are a total of 8 national languages widely used: Haus, Djerma, Fulfulde, Kanuri, Tamachek, Toubou, Gourmantche, and Arabic.

**Mortality Rate:** Infant mortality rate – 81 deaths per 1,000 live births.

**Literacy:** Definition/age 15 and over can read and write ... 29% (total pop.); **17% (female)**

**Major Infectious Diseases:** In Niger infectious diseases and malnutrition of young children are the principal causes of mortality. Niger's major health challenges relate to poverty, malnutrition, inadequate hygiene and sanitation. The major infectious diseases are malaria, meningococcal meningitis, diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever.



## **RESOURCES:**

- Information from <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5474.htm>, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger>, AND [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ng.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ng.html)
- Flag image from [www.mapsofworld.com/flags/niger.html](http://www.mapsofworld.com/flags/niger.html)
- Map image from [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ng.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ng.html)
- SEE ALSO: [www.unicef.org/infobycountry/niger\\_57530.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/niger_57530.html)

## **FUND-RAISER IDEAS for the NEW YEAR**

Here are several ideas taken from Alpha Alpha State's winter 2011 newsletter:

- Set the price for your next chapter meal event \$1 higher and donate the extra funds to SFA.
- Donate \$1 for every meal you eat out in a week.
- Donate a designated amount for the number of years you have been a member of DKG.

How is your chapter raising donations to support the Schools for Africa project? Submit your ideas so that they can be shared with others through the *SFA Newsette*.