



December 2015

CongoAction NEWS



How are things in the Congo?

This 2015 newsletter is to update you with the work we have been doing on your behalf, and to say thank you for your interest and support to Congo Action.

Kavumba School

The main focus of our work remains our **Kavumba school**, in the remote village of Muganzo, Kivu. At present, the school has 280 children registered, (141 boys, 139 girls), aged between five to 11, but with some older ones too, and it has gained a lot of popularity in the area. Since the closure of individual sponsorship in June 2014, we have invested your contribution to running the school, paying a fee to the seven teachers, buying educational materials, and improving the facilities (decent toilet buildings). In spite of being state registered, the teachers are still not receiving a salary from the government (a common problem in the DRC). It is therefore vital that we keep encouraging the teachers' loyalty and devotion to educating the children. So far, the end of the year exams have reflected the excellent teaching standards, and also the fact that children are able to move on to secondary education. We recently received a request from the school to install a water tank, to facilitate children's hygiene and avoid the spread of diseases. We are currently fund-raising for this fund-raising for this project, which we hope to achieve early in 2016.

Other projects completed in 2015

A sewing training programme at Cidjo:

Four women are currently being taught by "Janet", one of our competent ex- students, and training is due to be completed in February 2016. The students will each receive a sewing machine; this will enable them to generate their own income, and improve their family general health and well being.

Providing access to water:

At the request of villagers in **Kinjuba**, we agreed to finance the repairs of a water spring (out of order for 15 months). The spring is situated near a health centre where nurses had had to use rain water for all their nursing tasks. When in March 2015 the spring started functioning again the nursing staff were delighted to have the fresh running water again available to facilitate their work. The Kinjuba spring also serves some 500 families living in the area, and makes life easier for children who often have the re-

Photos

Very top from left:
A goat and owner in the goat's stable;

Repaired spring;

Patient under care at Andre Thijs' mission

Above from left:
Local children;
Sewing class

Below:
Another goat!





sponsibility of fetching water! Furthermore, villagers have organised themselves in a committee to take care of the maintenance of the spring.

Cikoma spring:

Another spring repair was also completed in May 2015, following requests from the village of CIKOMA. Due to the spring being out of action, women and children felt very vulnerable as they had to walk into isolated countryside to fetch water. The repairs of Cikoma spring brought relief and joy to all concerned.

Helping the disabled

Disabled people are very much undervalued by the DRC government. Most help come from religious establishment, such as the very practical help provided by Pere Andre Thijs, a Belgian missionary, with 49 years of experience of working in the DRC, and very highly valued part of our working team. (See further details of his work on our website). Should our finances allow, we would like to continue to support his outstanding work and determination to give the disabled people the support that they deserve.

Goats projects:

We also continued with our contributions to the goats projects at Bunvikane and Cidjo providing funds to assist with vet's fees and medicines. In addition we funded the purchase of one male breeding goat for each village to enable them ultimately to provide a "Congo Action" goat for each member of their community.

Back in Britain

Fund raising efforts

I am sure, like us, you have been concerned by recent reports of the excesses that some charities have indulged in with regard to fund-raising. This can make our fund raising efforts much more challenging, but please be reassured that we invest ALL

money received directly into projects, and expenses are kept to the very bare minimum: hence if you wanted an update of our work, we will ask you to look at our website from time to time, where we make every effort to log all news relating to the Charity. (www.congoaction.co.uk)

Fundraising news

Mela

In September, the team attended the MELA event in Maidstone, and managed to raise £200 from the sale of our African crafts.

Jo Golding

This month of December, Jo Golding, a very enthusiastic and warm-hearted local cub leader, raised single handed the sum of £422 from selling our crafts, and distributing them to all & sundries as Xmas presents. Well done Jo and Thank you!!

JUST TRUST

Thank you also to "JUST TRUST" and all private donors who have sent us their generous donations throughout the year.

2016 Fund-raising

Edward, one of our trustees who visited the projects in the DRC, is planning to run the 2016 London Marathon, and is looking for sponsorships. Should you feel able to support his efforts, please use the events/ donation page on our website. Thank you.

**Warm greetings
and best wishes
to you all**

Martine & the Congo Action team

Photos

Above left:
Edward in front of the Congo Action stall at the Mela in Maidstone

Above:
A village scene showing mum carrying the baby and a heavy load on her head

Below:
A disabled child being helped at Andre Thijs' mission

