



December 2016

# CongoAction NEWS

*This is Congo Action's annual newsletter, to keep you informed of our work, and let you know what's planned for the year ahead:*

Firstly, a huge thank you to so many of you who have followed our projects, and have remained with us since Congo Action was set up in 2002.



You have been instrumental in seeing our projects coming to fruition; the women's sewing group, the goat raising programme, the building of a new village spring and providing special equipment for disabled people.

We are proud to have achieved all of this because of you. THANK YOU on behalf of all those whose lives have been improved by your kindness and generosity.

The main focus of our work this year has been and remains the **Kawumba primary school**, we have changed priority from individual sponsorship to the school which supports 350 children attending it.

### *Why do we need to remain involved ?*

The Kavumba primary school, built in 2007, is state registered, which means the children can take exams to move to secondary education. The government, however, does not pay the teachers (a very common phenomena in the DRC) and parents are too poor to send their children to school.

This is why your monthly contributions are so critical: they are used to pay the teachers, and cover some of the running costs of the school.

You may have already seen photos of the new water tank that we acquired for the school, with money raised by various individuals. What a brilliant piece of equipment for them all! We have been told that the children are encouraged to wash their hands, before and after school, therefore reducing the spread of Cholera and other diseases.

### *What is the future of the school?*

Built in wood in 2007, the school buildings have deteriorated, and the school is facing an uncertain future,

unless we manage to rebuild it in bricks, as a permanent building, and leave it as a permanent legacy to the village.

This is the project that Congo Action is embarking on for 2017. A fantastic challenge! We need to raise £50,000 in total and have already managed a third of that amount.

This last September, I was inspired by the thought of this new school project, and wanted to make a personal contribution to it. I did so by cycling 600 miles in France, from Bordeaux to Brittany, in the space of 10 days. The event was publicised on "My Donate", and thanks to the generosity of many of our supporters, we raised £1000! What a brilliant and encouraging start! Of course, it is only a small "ride" towards our goal, but I am confident that we can achieve it!

It is also great to hear that the villagers are offering their help by manufacturing the bricks themselves, one by one.....

### *How can you help?*

We've made good progress fundraising but we still need your help to reach the total fundraising target. Tell your friends, tell your family, share our Facebook page and let us know if you or someone you know, could do a fundraising event for us.

(Please note that in the interest of saving money, we would ask you to keep in touch with us by following news and events on our website, or on Congo Action Facebook.)

**Thank you and Best Wishes from Congo Action**

### Photos

*Very top from left:*  
The old school buildings  
A class in session  
The sewing group

*Above from left:*  
Local toddler  
Martine on her bike ride

*Below:*  
More school children  
Village children

