

Hello to all our friends, sponsors, fund raising supporters, and the many more people who have an interest in the work we are doing in the DRC, Congo. We thought you may like to read this brief summary of what Congo Action has achieved this year:

The women sewing groups

This year, we trained 14 women, who now have a trade to support themselves. We also bought a workshop and a home for a group of disabled people who have organised themselves in running a co-operative and helping each other according to their needs. We continue to raise money to buy sewing machines in the DRC.



The children sponsorship programme:

We are continually re-assessing the children's situation, by a yearly visit to ensure that your sponsorship is benefiting them. We have many, many children on our waiting list, all very deserving cases. This is still running well, with a steady number of children and sponsors.

So if you could spread the word to your friends, family, work colleagues, that would be so helpful!

The micro –credit programme

This has been running for two years. The charity lent small amounts of money to villagers so that they could start a small trade of their own. We are very pleased to say that we have had some return on our money, which we will now be circulating to other groups.

On the home front:

Please see CongoAction's new website for yourself at :www.congoaction.co.uk. Thank you to Valerie, one of our long term volunteers for redesigning it. Congo action is also available on Facebook. (link available on our website).

This year's fund raising efforts included: a quiz, a barn dance, a fashion show, and the Maidstone Mela. Each event brought some additional funds to support our "Muganzo school" and teachers.

Two of our new volunteers, Edward and Dan, ran the Kent coastal half marathon in September, and raised £139 for CongoAction. Well done for their determination and stamina!

One of our 2012 fundraising "event" will be on 1st of January the launching of "CongoAction 100 club" lottery. We need 100 people to sign up as members for the club to be viable. Each share will cost £10 per year, and there will be 10 draws, commencing in March 2012, each with prizes of £20, £15 and £10. We will be contacting as many of our supporters as we can after Christmas and invite you to sign up, and hopefully you may pass the invite to your friends and relatives, as a painless yearly "one off" contribution to our work. Thank you!

CongoAction has a new sponsorship secretary: welcome to Pat who will be in contact with all our sponsors soon.



Yes, the economic downturn has affected our work and we are all feeling the pinch in one way or another. But we are not being beaten and remain hopeful that the efforts and money donated can give children an education, and people even less fortunate than us, a sense of purpose, hope and self respect.

Thank you!

Wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

From all of us at CongoAction.