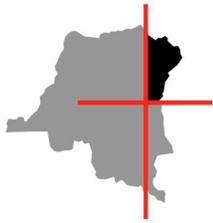


'...helping to bring hope to the people of the democratic republic of congo.'



friends of cme trust

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August 2009

Dear supporter,

Greetings from a wet and cold English summer, and welcome to our third quarterly newsletter of 2009. As many of you know, despite peace agreements and democratic elections *officially* ending what is sometimes called 'Africa's World War', conflict and humanitarian crisis continue in DRC. It is estimated that 45,000 people are dying each month from conflict-related causes (primarily hunger and disease) – almost the same rate as during the war itself (1996–2002). Against this awful backdrop, we present stories and images of hope and development through the work of CME hospitals in the North-East.

Medical work at CME hospitals

In the 1st trimester of 2009, CME had available 219 beds and 170 personnel. 2,889 patients were admitted and bed occupancy was over 80%. Nearly 5,000 pregnant women were consulted plus a further 5,000 other patients. 25% of these had malaria. The mortality rate was 4%. CME helped arrange for over 7,500 people to receive education on HIV/AIDs – plus 2,200 pregnant women – through seminars, 40 radio broadcasts and 13 film presentations. Nearly 300 students follow CME's university-level courses but finding the money for the fees is a problem for a number of them.

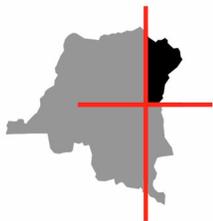


Left: Nancy and Philip Wood, with their teams at CME Bunia. Nancy has been particularly involved in a diabetes clinic, and Philip in surgery. Philip took a trip to CME Beni in May to carry out a week of surgery there.

Beni orphans child sponsorship programme

For 4 years, we've been supporting a project in Beni for children orphaned in the recent conflicts, whose relatives cannot afford to send them to school. The project is coordinated by Daniel Masumbuko's wife Claudine, who ensures that selected children's school lessons and materials are paid for. We've been able to give \$7,501.35 over the 4 years, with the number of children increasing from 76 (in 2007) to 131 in 2009. Masumbuko and Claudine send their gratitude for the generous support which enables this project.

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Physiotherapy project at CME Nyankunde

Chris Philips' latest Nyankunde Physiotherapy project newsletter is on our website: www.friendsofcme.com > Projects we support > Physio. Do take a look! She tells of helping care for a paralyzed man and getting a bulk of supplies back to Nyankunde from the UK, including laptops, glasses and mobile phones. She's also been using her leprosy training to care for and educate sufferers, including providing cats to stop rats nibbling desensitized toes in the night!

Nyankunde School Project

The coordinators of our education work at Nyankunde, Jean-Luc and Annie, report that the children in the schools project are doing very well and sent these photos. We would still like to raise funds to extend the project beyond the end of this year.



Students in class



Students in their uniforms (mostly!)



Nursery School class

Building Projects at CME Beni

Work is progressing well on the Intensive Care Unit which CME is building with our funding. In these photographs you can see the brick and roof work progressing, concrete external walls added, as well as a view inside. In the right-hand photo the completed Operating Theatre building is on the left, waiting to be made operational once the ICU and Ward are ready. The benefits of this site to CME will be significant savings in rent which will free up more funds for direct patient care. Current plans are to move operations there as soon as a maternity ward is completed but CME has no funds of its own to build this. Hence we are still raising funds and need in excess of £15,000.



Thank you for your ongoing support. To unsubscribe, please email: info@friendsofcme.com.

Best wishes,
Chris (on behalf of the trustees)