

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

friends of cme trust



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Dear friends

We are writing to bring you some urgent news from the DRC especially for those who pray for the country.

President Kabila

The current President Kabila is due to finish his second term in office on Monday 19th December and, according to the constitution should step down. This appears to be the wish and expectation of many in the DRC but the President has indicated that he will change or ignore the constitution in order to remain for a third term. We spoke with Daniel Masumbuko on Monday and he said that there is much concern in the country with many rumours of uprising if the President does not step down, there is taking up of arms by various groups already and a fear of more chaos and violence next week.

Beni security situation

In addition to the country-wide fear caused by the uncertain political situation, in Beni where CME has its HQ, the last few months have seen on-going insecurity caused by a rebel group that seems to have Ugandan and an extreme Islamic base. Sadly, they have caused the loss of thousands of lives around Beni this year. However, Daniel Masumbuko did report that the last two weeks had been calmer. There is a constant tension though in the town and a rumour can spark a flame of fear. Daniel said that one recently in the afternoon caused many school girls to run randomly for 20km out of Beni with some losing their lives when they fell into a river. His own daughter fell in too but, thankfully, was able to get out.

New orphans

As a result of the massacres at Beni, there are many new orphans who have settled in Oicha not far away. 199 have been identified who we are beginning to help. Some of these children do not even know yet that they have lost their parents. Their psychological needs are complex in addition to the physical and developmental. The help will be overseen by Daniel Masumbuko and will provide, food, school uniforms and materials and trauma counselling. Already as word gets out, more orphans are being identified and so the needs are increasing. If you would like to help financially with this program, please let us know.

Nyankunde

During this last year, around 15,000 people have been cared for by CME at Nyankunde.

In honour of Elsie Harris' time at Nyankunde and her work on behalf of Friends of CME Trust, one of the wards at Nyankunde has been named after Elsie as shown in the photo below.



In this 9 months to September 2016, Nyankunde hospital has cared for 5,112 hospitalised patients, consulted 7,113 outpatients plus a further 2,999 ante-natal consultations. There were 888 births, of which 153 were through caesarian section. A further 620 operations were performed. The most prevalent illnesses are malaria and aenemia which account for 75% of illnesses. Friends of CME Trust provided \$6,491 to help 115 of the poorest patients receive the necessary care at Nyankunde - 45 children under 5 and 31 aged 55 and above; 52 women and 63 men.

Nursing School:One of encouragements in recent years with the stability around Nyankunde, has been the re-establishment of the training of nurses. The photo below shows the large number of students assembling before classes begin.



The other picture shows some of the patients in the Elsie Harris ward. You will see that conditions are still simple but clean. It is good to see mattresses on the beds and mosquito nets which are sometimes not available.

Exam fees for orphans: We received a letter from the Chief at Nyankunde thanking us for our support of the 252 orphan finalists from the Nyankunde schools last year. Without our support, there is a strong likelihood that these children would not be able to sit their final exams since their adoptive parents could not afford the fees. Over 10,000 children now attend these schools. After the war, when we started our support of the schools, it was just over 3,000. So we praise God for this growth in families returning to Nyankunde and coming under the influence of CME and the gospel.

Sincerely on behalf of the Trustees,

Chris Almond