

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



friends of cme trust

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Dear friends,

We apologise that it has been some time since we wrote to you.

Medical Work

We are pleased to say that CME hospital has continued to function from its three sites in Nyankunde, Beni and Bunia throughout 2022. We are waiting for statistics from 2022 but, in the previous year, preventative care was given to nearly 30,000 people, consultations were provided to over 24,000 and 9,400 people were operated on. The original hospital at Nyankunde (*photos right*) has 172 beds out of a total of 374 beds across the 3 sites.



Elections and Insecurity

The north-eastern part of the DRC, where CME functions, is still very insecure although it rarely hits our western news. On a national level, our friends in DRC report that tensions are mounting as presidential elections have been planned for December 2023. More locally, the east of the country has been plagued by a new terrorist group: the M23. One news report said: *'Despite billions of dollars spent on one of the United Nations' largest peacekeeping forces, more than 120 armed groups continue to operate across the east, including M23 rebels, which the DRC has repeatedly accused Rwanda of supporting. Kigali denies the accusations, even though a panel of UN experts said there was evidence to the contrary.'*

The ADF terrorist group have remained active around Beni and sadly have started attacking medical facilities in the Beni/Butembo area, including murder and kidnapping of medical staff. It is truly worrying as well as being so evil. As a result, CME have moved its operating



theatre, maternity and most medicines out of Sose into Beni town. The photo (*above*) shows the 5 buildings in Sose that we have helped build and which provide 114 beds. For those of you who pray, please remember these difficult challenges for the country and CME staff.

Children's Work

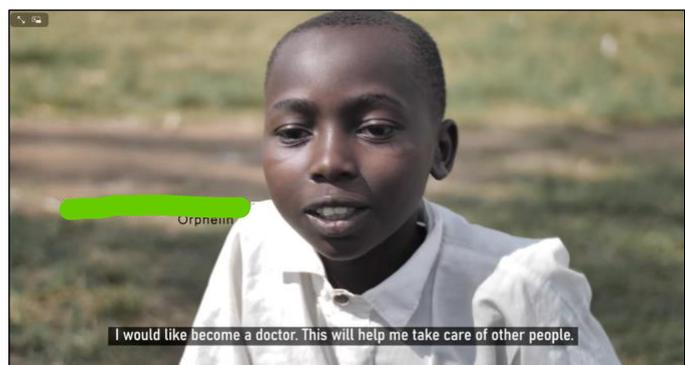
Nyankunde: We have supported another 95 orphans at Nyankunde who took their final school exams last summer at a cost of £2,000. 20 of them finished secondary school and we received video interviews from some (*photo: right*) setting out what they hope to do next. Without our support, the host families would struggle to pay for these exams which cost \$45 – a significant proportion of their monthly income.



Beni and Oicha: When we last wrote to you, we were unsure if we could continue our support of 300+ orphaned children in the Beni/Oicha area – providing school fees, school materials, uniforms, food and trauma counselling. In 2022 – thanks to many of you and a wonderful new gift from a UK charitable trust – we were able to help 330 children and their families at a cost of £32,000. This provided food for 6 months during a shortened school year due to insecurity.

We have now received the data for the new school year. 317 children are currently enrolled but the costs for the year have increased from £90 a child to £133 due to a combination of: a) More children moving into secondary schools where fees are higher and there is no government subsidy - \$13 per child; b) The need to buy school uniforms and materials this year (last year the children used them for a second year) - \$16 per child; c) Food inflation - \$7; and d) a weaker £ against the US \$. Schools started on time this year and so we want to provide 8 months of food which will cost £42,000.

We've just received a 6-minute video on the project, which you can also find on our homepage (*photos below: screenshots from the video*). Please click here: http://friendsofcme.org/Videos/CHILD_CARE_PROGRAM_SUPPORT_OF_FRIENDS_OF_CME_2022_web.mp4



Support so far: We are delighted that we have commitments already of £38,250, which is such a great start!! Thank you to those of you have been part of this, to those who are sending us gifts each month, and to the aforementioned UK charitable trust for another year of funding.

THANK YOU SO MUCH,

The Trustees: Chris Almond, Dr. Justin Burdon, Chris Heard, Hannah Morrell, Dr. Remy Toko