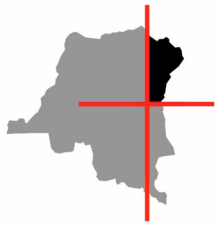


'...helping to bring hope to the people of the democratic republic of congo.'



friends of cme trust

charity number: 1104119

website: www.friendsofcme.com

email: info@friendsofcme.com

charity trustees:

chris almond_justin burdon_elsie harris_chris heard

Postal address: 295, Hillgrounds Rd Kempston BEDFORD MK42 8TH

May 2009

Dear Friends,

Political situation in North-Kivu

Fortunately there have been no further rebel attacks affecting CME sites in the last quarter. However, we were relieved to hear of Daniel Masumbuko (formerly Finance Director of CME and now involved in reconciliation work) and his passengers' narrow escape from danger on the road to Bunia recently. When suddenly shot at by government soldiers emerging from the bush Daniel was able to continue driving, the group incurring no injuries but a punctured tyre. At a time of such chaos and threat from those meant to protect, we continue to pray for the safety of our friends and other hospital staff at CME. Moreover, since a ¼ million people remain displaced in the wider area, the humanitarian situation remains desperate and the operation of CME's hospitals is vital for meeting the medical needs of many.

Report from Medical Director

CME held its annual general meeting in February. A summary of the report from the outgoing Medical Director Philip Wood can be found on our website at the **Projects we support > General Medical** section. Philip writes: "Our purpose as a hospital is to provide the best care to the whole person, and train high quality health staff. Although it is difficult to provide the best after a war, we are once again the reference centre for medical care in North-Eastern Congo, despite our lack of specialists. One of my responsibilities is training newly qualified doctors, of which there were 14 in 2008; most are eager to learn, but many need encouragement to take responsibility. There are more senior doctors undertaking speciality training, and there are hopes to use postgraduate training by correspondence with periods abroad, easing family and work arrangements. Most of the building projects are progressing well, including the new Operating Theatre (OT) and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in Beni funded by the Friends of CME. The rebuilding of Nyankunde continues funded by Samaritan's Purse. The OT in Bunia is now being used." (See photo above.)



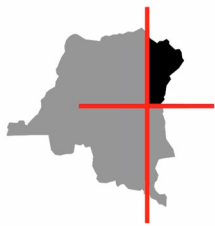
Work in the hospitals

The medical work continues in the 3 sites. A recent report from Beni shows that in the 3 months to March 2009, 51 patients received \$1,500 of free treatment from our 'Adopt-a-bed' funds. Essential medicines which would have cost \$1,000 were also provided to various patients.

Physiotherapy Project Update

Friends of CME Trust supports Chris Philips, recently arrived at Nyankunde to start a Physiotherapy project there. She has been settling in, getting to know the hospital history and work, learning Swahili, as well as beginning physio work with patients. She reports a daily increase in the number of patients returning the Nyankunde hospital after the recent instability. Her latest newsletter can be read in full on our website, under the **Projects we support > Physio >** section.

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Nyankunde Schools Project

In our last newsletter we launched an appeal to help educate 6030 children in Nyankunde. More detail is on the website homepage, in a new 'appeals' section. Please have a look and if you can help support the education of the village's children, at £3.50 per child per year, we'd love to hear from you.

Beni Intensive Care Unit and Ward Building Projects

After considerable delay due to increased prices and problems with the previous contractor, CME now has bricks and wood available (see pictures below) to begin the building work for the ICU (the foundations being already dug). We have received £29,000 in donations which will enable CME to complete the construction. Thank you to all who contributed towards this. Our next project is to build a Ward to accompany the new OT and ICU at Sose (3 miles from the centre of Beni). Please see the homepage of the website for more information on this appeal.



Internally Displaced People Camp Project (IDPs)

During the year we provided funds to help IDPs who had fled north to Beni during the fighting led by Laurent Nkunda (whose arrest we commented on last time). We were able to support 580 households with humanitarian assistance as well as improved income potential through gifts of chickens, soap, agricultural seeds, tools, and sewing machines. 36 women and girls who had been victims of sexual violence received literacy classes and/or training in income-generating skills such as tailoring, embroidery and knitting. 11 of these girls had never been to school before. 28 Pygmies (a marginalized ethnic group) received literacy classes, while 15 other men and women received 6 months of French literacy education. While the IDPs are now less vulnerable, we hope to continue the literacy classes for 6 more months as this was only a beginning.



Finally, we are thrilled to thank Dennis Tailor (from Bedford) who is doing the '3 peaks' challenge' in June to raise money for Friends of CME Trust. This entails climbing the 3 tallest mountains in Great Britain – all within 24 hours! He plans to raise £5,000 for CME, which would meet a third of our budget for the new Ward at Beni hospital! Happy climbing, Den!

Should you like to receive this newsletter in a different format or unsubscribe completely, please email us at info@friendsofcme.com. Thank you for all your support and concern for the people of DRC.

Best wishes
Chris
(on behalf of the trustees)