

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



friends of cme trust

charity number: 1104119

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May 2018

Dear friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018. This will be a brief update on our work but also include important information about how we will be communicating with you and looking after your data under the new data protection rules (GDPR).

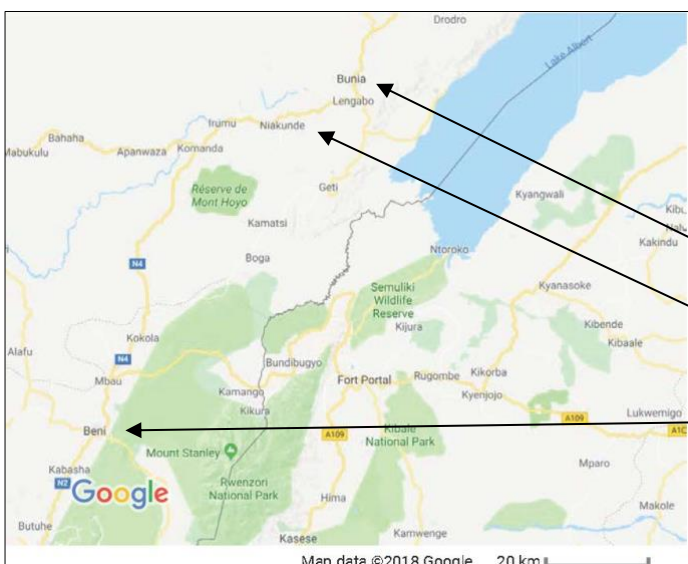
Orphans

At Oicha, we are pleased to let you know that after some early delays in starting the schools due to insecurity, the 315 children we support have now been at school for 6 months and the end of the school year is approaching. The project has proceeded as planned with the children being homed by foster families who we supply with enough rice, beans, milk and bread for a daily meal. The project also provides them monthly with bars of soap. Through your generous support, we have also been able to pay the school fees for the children as well as provide school uniforms, bags and some basic notebooks. We are expecting an updated video from Oicha soon which we look forward to sharing with you.

At Nyankunde, the schools we helped start several years ago now have 10,409 children attending with 265 teachers. We only provide funds for the orphans taking their final exams since the teachers are now mostly paid and the other childrens' fees are paid by their parents. This year, 178 orphans will take their finals at a cost of about £1,500.

Security

At Nyankunde and Beni, there has been more stability in recent months. However, you may be aware that the President promised to hold elections this year but seems to be procrastinating again causing unrest in various parts of the country. This includes the north-east where CME operates.



The map shows the region CME operates in. The border with Uganda can be seen through Lake Albert and south. Bunia, Beni and Nyankunde (spelt Niankunde) can all be seen.

Bunia

Nyankunde

Beni/Sose

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It has been on our news that many displaced people have fled to Bunia where the third CME hospital is located. One report says there are over 200,000 Internally Displaced People there. They fled because of tribal conflict but one of our sources says that the government is stirring up these old disputes to create unrest and then an excuse not to hold the elections. If you pray, please remember this situation.

Data Protection

Many of you will be aware of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that comes into effect this month. We wanted to explain a few things that we have done in response. Firstly, we are committed to protecting your personal data and will only use it for communicating with you and for our record keeping. We will never share it with other organisations. We have updated our Privacy Notice which can be found on our Website:

<http://www.friendsofcme.org/privacy.php>

Secondly, we want to reassure you that we only intend to write to you 3 or 4 times a year, as we have in the past, in order to update you with our work and projects. We are doing this because of your support and interest in the past. We hope that you will want to continue to hear from us because we really appreciate your concern for the often-neglected peoples of north-east DRC.

However, if you wish to change the communications you receive from us, we will always provide an unsubscribe option to you in our emails and you can also email us anytime via info@friendsofcme.com

Charity Accounts

While we are writing, you may be interested to know that we have just published the charity's annual accounts on our website for the year ending 31st March 2017. This link will take you there: <http://www.friendsofcme.org/accounts.php> We remain so thankful for your support, both financially and in prayer.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Trustees

Chris Almond

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