

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



## friends of cme trust

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**November 2012**

**Dear friends,**

A lot has been happening at CME since we last wrote to you and we have tried to summarise the main points below. The Democratic Republic of Congo itself continues to suffer from insecurity and violence. The BBC reported on 20th October the following:

'The UN Security Council says it intends to impose sanctions against leaders of the M23 rebel movement in the DRC. The non-binding Security Council statement condemns the M23 militia for "all its attacks on the civilian population, United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, as well as its abuses of human rights, including summary executions, sexual and gender-based violence and large-scale recruitment and use of child soldiers". It also expresses "deep concern" at reports that external support "continues to be provided to the M23 by neighbouring countries (Uganda and Rwanda)", and demands that such support "cease immediately".'

This instability is mainly in eastern DRC and directly affects CME's work in numerous ways. If you pray, please do so for an end to the violence and for peace across borders as well as within the DRC.

### **Rebuilding of Nyankunde hospital**

Through the help of Samaritans Purse, a new suite of buildings were completed at Nyankunde recently. The photo [right] shows the opening ceremony. 5,000 consultations were performed last year and 4,000 patients were hospitalised. Financially, Nyankunde struggles: the nurses only received 52% of their salaries (which are low anyway) in October since patient numbers are down and those who arrive are often unable to pay for their care. We are thrilled to report that a micro-credit project has recently started at Nyankunde following the pattern of one set up nearby in



Bunia by Fanny Ukety (wife of former CME Medical Director, Tony). The project is run by women for women and aims to give 3 meals a day to their children, as well as paying their medical and school fees. Anne-Christine Horton from Switzerland recently visited DRC to help the project's launch in various towns including Nyankunde.

*Left: Children in the pediatric ward at Nyankunde*

## New hospital at Sosé near Beni

Since our last letter, the water supply, toilets, kitchen and incinerator have been completed at the new Sosé site with funds raised by Dennis Tailor for us last summer. An unanticipated problem arose from the heavy rains which ruined the road to the hospital. Most roads in the DRC are still mud. CME worked in collaboration with the local authorities and using funds we provided was able to re-cut the road [photo below].



In 2011, 20,000 consultations took place and 5,400 patients were hospitalised in Beni. The move to the new site has not been completely smooth. Some patients are still reluctant to travel the 4km out of Beni town and so numbers are down. The wards have to be shared by men and women which is not ideal. However, the beds are usually all occupied. There have also been regular armed robberies in Beni recently and some of the CME staff have sadly been victims.

*Right: The new ward at Sosé filled to the brim!*



## Container

The container full of physio equipment is on its way to Kenya by boat and will then go across Kenya and Uganda by road into DRC. We are grateful to PhysioNet and a number of our supporters who have made this possible through their generosity. The major remaining unknown factor is how much money the customs authorities will demand in duties! Chris Philips is in Nyankunde but has been unwell recently and is currently convalescing.

*Right: Chris Philips treats a patient with burns at Nyankunde.*

## Nyankunde schools

The new school year began in September and more children than ever are enrolled – 7,096. 50% of the teachers are paid by the government – sadly no increase from the previous year, meaning that parents are still having to pay fees. As we mentioned last time, our support of these schools ceased at the end of June. We will look particularly at the impact on the orphans and review our support if it seems that the parents are unable to send them to school without our help.



## Chaplains' report

As well as caring for physical needs, one of CME's goals is to care for the spiritual needs of patients and their families. Last year, over 100,000 were spoken to by the CME chaplains. Over 25% asked for prayer and nearly 1,000 decided to put their trust in Jesus.

Finally, we'd like to send these newsletters by email to as many of you as possible. However, if this is the first time you've received our communications by email and would prefer to revert back to receiving them by post, do let us know. Thank you all for the various ways that you help the people in DRC.

On behalf of the Trustees,

Chris Almond