

'...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 news from the heart of Africa. It is over 6 months since you last heard from us, so apologies for the silence. Of course, much has been going on in the Democratic Republic of Congo and we can only summarise briefly some points which we hope you will find interesting. The latest news at national level is that the government army, with help from UN troops, seems to have defeated the M23 rebel movement sponsored by Rwanda (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-24849814>). This is great news and we hope and pray that it will bring lasting peace to the eastern part of the country.

## **Nyankunde**

This letter will concentrate on Nyankunde, where CME had its origins.

**Physio** – Chris Phillips, the British physiotherapist who we support, has recovered and leaves to return to DRC next week!

**Womens Micro-credit** – We have heard of the continuing significant impact of the micro-credit project for women at Nyankunde run by CEMADEF: (<http://cemadef.org/index1.php?m=0&l=1>). 3,500 women are involved in Bunia and 700 at Nyankunde with many more wishing to join. The project is transforming the lives of the women and their families – as the women's businesses develop, they save for school fees and medical funds as a priority. As a result, we have decided to help fund the CEMADEF expansion at Nyankunde.

**Exam Fees for Orphans** – Last time we mentioned this dilemma. From your support, we paid the exam fees for 318 orphans at the end of the last school year. Without this help, they would have been unable to prove their courses of study. While over 50% of teachers at the 20+ schools have been receiving a regular government salary, we heard last week that a new banking system in DRC has meant they have not been paid for 3 months. This reminds us that life in DRC is rarely easy.





**Hospital Patients** – With the arrival of two American doctors, Nyankunde has seen patient demand soar from 3,500 in 2012 to over 10,000 already in 2013. The photo [left] shows some of the patients in the hospital today.

## Bunia and Beni

Away from Nyankunde, we are pleased to say that we helped repair a badly damaged road outside the CME university in Bunia [right]. We have also continued to send funds to help complete the 4th ward at Sosé near Beni [below]. This will provide separate spaces for women and men, who currently share a ward. We have already sent £20,000 but a further £15,000 is needed. The latest fundraiser set up by Dennis Tailor – ‘Welsh 3s’ – hopes to raise £5,000 of this target!



## £500,000

As I write this letter on behalf of the Trustees, I am struck by the fact that it is now nearly 10 years since we began Friends of CME Trust. Our accounts show us recently passing £500,000 of donations received in that period. Thank you for all you have done to help the poorest of the poor in our world. While there is some hope of peace with the removal of the M23 rebels, there is still much uncertainty and so much to do. In recent years the combined tragedies of over 5-million people dying and millions more displaced (some several times over) leaves a shocking and almost impossible mountain to climb. However, we hope that together with you we have helped to build little bridges through CME's work and to provide hope; for many, hope in a God of the impossible and for others, just a simple knowledge that somewhere in the world people really do care and remember them.

Thank you, as always, for your interest in supporting the people who are usually forgotten.

Chris Almond  
For the Trustees