

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



friends of cme trust

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Dear friends,

£1million but what next???

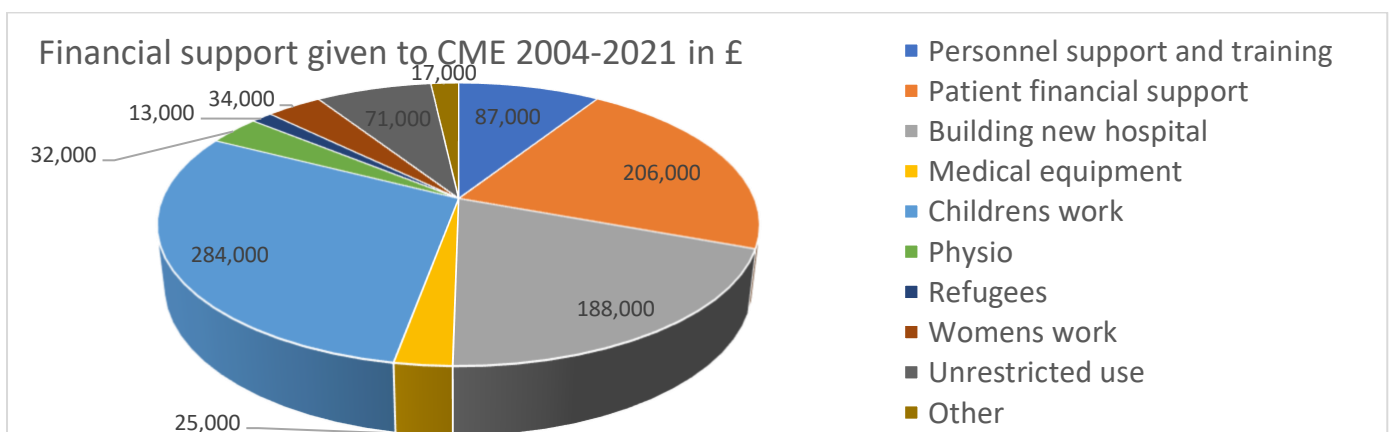
We met as trustees in October and reflected upon how, with your help and support, **we have been able to give nearly £1million** to Centre Medical Evangelique (CME) over the 17 years since we formed the charity. We want to recognise and celebrate that milestone and thank you all for your help in reaching it!

And yet, despite our hopes and prayers, the never-ending challenges in North-East Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) make it so hard for CME to become independent of our support. If we are to sustain the current level of grants – including supporting children like this little boy – we need to raise more funds than we currently receive. So, firstly, please accept our thanks and read what we have accomplished, but **please read to the end, where we humbly ask if you could help us sustain and even grow our support.** The needs are vast.



As a UK-registered charity, our accounts are independently examined each year. From those accounts, our income since inception is made up as follows: unrestricted use £175,000; restricted (project-specific) £793,000 – a total of £968,000. This includes £78,000 of Gift Aid received from the UK Government. From this income, we have given grants to CME to date of £952,000. **100% of our income is given to CME since we have no running or admin costs.** The balance of £16,000 will be given in grants to CME over the next few months.

The grants have been given for the purposes set out in the chart below. We, as trustees, meet several times a year to assess the needs in collaboration with the CME hospital leadership. CME is very grateful for our help and send reports, photographs, and films to show the impact of the grants. In addition to the care and support outlined below, CME, as a Christian hospital, provides spiritual support and teaching for those using its services. A chaplaincy department is very active and oversees daily services at the hospital as well as visits to individual patients. Data from CME shows that in the last 2 years 2,969 patients committed or re-committed their lives to God, and over 10,000 requested prayers.



Our main areas of support:

Patient financial support comprises grants to pay for consultations, beds, operations, and essential medicines which is allocated to the neediest by the hospital doctors and nurses. CME has been able to help thousands of patients over the years. In 2020, 105 women and 109 men were supported, of whom 153 were hospitalised and 48 needed operations. The youngest was one day old; the oldest, 84 years old.



The new CME hospital at Sosé near Beni now comprises an operating theatre and 130 beds in wards for intensive care, maternity, children and two others. The latest, a paediatric ward for children, was very recently opened this year [shown right]. Over its 3 sites, each year, CME provides over 20,000 consultations, beds for 15,000 patients, 3,000 general surgical operations, and helps deliver 3,000 babies.



Children's work has taken several forms. Initially, we provided food for children in IDP camps after they were displaced from Nyankunde. As children returned to Nyankunde, from 2006 to 2012 we paid a base salary for about 200 teachers so that around 7,000 children could attend school – a total of £70,000 over 7 years. Once the government started paying salaries again in 2013, we focused on orphans at Nyankunde – ensuring that families looking after them didn't have to pay their final exam fees, which can be a month's salary. We've provided £30,000 for 1,812 children to take these exams which are so critical for their future prospects. The photo [above, right] shows the primary school children queuing to take their exams this August.



Since 2017, we have also supported orphans from the Beni area who have lost their parents in militia attacks. Many of these children have been severely traumatised and, therefore, need and receive counselling; some were rescued from captivity as child soldiers. In addition, the foster families receive help to pay for school fees, uniform, and materials. Early in the program, it was reported that orphan children were not thriving at school because they were so hungry, so we began providing a daily meal for them and their families at a cost of £7 a month per child. However, with 344 children being cared for, this £30,000 is a large part of our annual budget. **We are therefore in urgent need of more donors to help us maintain this support without compromising our grants to the CME hospitals' poorest patients.**



Are you able to sacrifice £7 a month – perhaps the equivalent of two Costa coffees or a bottle of wine – to help bring hope, food, education, and counselling to an orphaned child?

Please take a moment to consider either starting to give, increasing your current gift, and sharing this need with friends, family, churches, and community groups. Our bank details are: Friends of CME Trust, NatWest bank, Sort Code: 60-12-45, Account no.: 34512004.

Thank you so much for reading, reflecting, and responding to these needs.

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