

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



friends of cme trust

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Dear friends,

Since we last wrote to you, much has changed globally and no doubt most of you have been following news about Israel/Gaza, Ukraine/Russia and, lately, the dramatic scenes from the White House and Westminster as the Ukrainian President has had mixed encounters with other world leaders. You may have heard a little about the DRC, which itself has endured dramatic change, especially in the east where CME operates. You can read about the M23 group/Rwandan invasion on the recent blogs on our website homepage here: <https://friendsofcme.org/>.

In this letter, we have included 3 updates.

1. Data from the Beni hospital of CME for the 9 months to September 2024

We mentioned last time that CME has a hospital in the centre of Beni town (49 beds) and also in Sose (83 beds) on the edge of Beni, where it is more vulnerable to attack. As a result, CME has sold off some of the land around the Sose hospital and is going to build a new obstetric ward in the town centre. CME provided the following hospital services in the first 9 months of 2024 (see table *right*):



	Beni centre	Sose
Ante-natal consultations	709	1671
Other outpatient consultations	4596	1056
Operations	41	414
Inpatient care	1602	1063
Births	128	489

We are encouraged to see that Sose continues to be well used but CME needs wisdom in planning ahead. For those of you who pray, ask Jesus to protect the Sose hospital (pictured, *left*) and give peace and confidence to patients and staff to use the facilities.

2. Orphans work



Fortunately, the schools around Beni and Oicha have continued to function despite the insecurity to the south. We sent \$15,000 for the team to distribute 260 school uniforms, backpacks and food parcels for 3 months. Because of the increasing insecurity, we have been asked to hold back making further grants until the situation is clearer.

3. University support

Since our last letter, Aphia and Justin have started at the Christian Bi-lingual University in Beni. The mid-term exams are now taking place and so we will soon have some idea as to how they are progressing with their studies. Unfortunately, Kambale the third student did not succeed in his final school exams, so was unable to attend. We are pleased to say that the total costs of £5,600 for the two students this year have been covered by generous donations. We have sent £4,200 but have been asked to hold back the balance until there is less insecurity. Both Justin and Aphia are moving to new accommodation this month that, it is hoped, will be more secure for them.

Website Blogs

We mentioned last newsletter that have recently updated our website to make it more informative, with news updates in the form of blog posts that will be published more frequently than we send email newsletters. We would love for our supporters to make use of the website and access these posts, which provide a faster way of us highlighting current news in the region, circulating updates from our friends in the DRC, and highlighting our charity's activities. This is a work in progress, so we welcome feedback! Please see our latest at: www.friendsofcme.org.

Thank you for your care of, and interest in, the work of CME and the people of the DRC,

Chris Almond
Justin Burdon
Chris Heard
Hannah Morrell
Remy Toko

Trustees of Friends of CME Trust.