



# CongoAction

# News

September 2019

*This year has been an exciting year so far for Congo Action and WTC (Working together Congo), due to three major important events that have seen us closer to achieving our overall goal: to establish a permanent, well equipped school in a very remote village, where previously there was none. I feel it is important to share with you those positive milestones by giving you an update of the work we are doing:*

### Feb 2019: Congolese Visit.

A long overdue visit to our projects, made by myself and my colleague Pat Phipps (both self-funded trips). Our last visit together was in 2014, before the building of the new school in 2017, so this was a long overdue visit to see the results of years of planning and fund raising, and see if they met with our expectations.

Due to the appalling road conditions the journey to the school is never easy or straightforward, but we made it and were duly rewarded by the drumming and singing performed by the children who were eagerly waiting for us. They were a bit shy at first, but soon gained confidence and read us a welcome letter they had prepared for us.

We made two visits all together; the first one being an informal visit, to assess the size and quality of the new buildings (six classrooms all together), the second one being more of an official event, when we were met by the village chief, and as guests of honour, invited to view the very exciting performances done in the school playground: children reciting poetry, fun acting, and doing competitive games and acrobatics. We had a very touching and emotional moment when we were presented with a cardboard school model, painted bright green (see picture above).

This model attracted a lot of attention and created much amusement when carried by hand on the plane back home!

All this is to say to all of you who are reading this newsletter, and have helped financially, that you have been instrumental in seeing the school established and making a dream become a fantastic reality for the 350 children attending. The very high success of exam results, enabling the children to move to secondary education (94%), show how much the children and parents value the chance of education.

### May 2019: Katie's Challenge

Katie was the first student who came with me to visit the DRC in 2008. She thus writes about her experience: "I visited this community many years ago, and was shocked by the level of poverty and conflict they continually face. Congo Action has supported them consistently with achievable projects including education. Please help me to continue to support them"...And indeed, Katie has continued to support us over the years, her latest venture being to run 100kms from London to Brighton, which she did on the 25th of May, in 14 hours. What a formidable challenge from a very determined and dedicated friend and raised £675 for the school. Brilliant effort Katie, "Thank you!"

### July/August 2019: Building Work Done

Our visit to the school earlier in the year highlighted the need for further immediate improvements; the school playground was deteriorating due to erosion, and the new classrooms needed gutters to be installed, to save water & feed the water tanks (two of these were bought in 2016) and to protect the buildings.

Vital Kulimushi, our reputable partner based in Bukavu, Kivu, followed the



PHOTOS clockwise from top left: School model presentation, Pat & Martine meeting with the Catholic coordinator, a panorama picture of all children in the playground with new buildings in the background, child acrobat in the playground, Katie at her challenge.

projects through, and all the work was duly completed, just on time for the beginning of the school term.(more photos on our website). Again, thanks to our supporters, and thanks to WTC, our UK partners, Kavumba School is a formidable achievement which attracts compliments from Congolese educational authorities and the attention of neighbouring villages. (The school is now over-subscribed).

THANK YOU to all & everyone who has been part, in a small or big way, of this fantastic legacy.

Again, please note that we would like you to keep in touch with us by following news on our website, or spreading the word through Congo Action Facebook.

Martine Le Buzullier.

