

**M.H.C.D.**

**MISSION IN HEALTH CARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**(Mission en Soins de Santé et Développement)**

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## **MHCD 2018 GENERAL REPORT**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**DR. LUC MULIMBALIMBA MASURURU**

**MHCD DIRECTOR**

## **APPRECIATION**

We appreciate all MHCD friends and well-wishers who have supported MHCD in the year 2018. Your prayers and support enabled us to realize many projects. You have been close to us during good and difficult times and we truly appreciate your commitment, care and love.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

We are so grateful to God for strengthening us throughout the year 2018. Am also grateful to my wife Delice Marango Mulimbalimba and our children for their support in every step. Many thanks to all MHCD friends who organised talks or meetings for me in Australia concerning MHCD work. May God bless you all.

My sincere thanks goes to:

1. Dr. Elaine and John Dietsch
2. Stella Darmody
3. Dr. Julie Monislvett
4. Jenny Weaver
5. Doone Winnall
6. Anne Miller
7. Mary MacFarlane
8. Sarah
9. Sharon Geue
10. Adrian Harris
11. Rev. Peter Frogley
12. Highlands Christian Church, Mittagong
13. Bethesda Ministries International
14. Ginninderra Christian Church, Canberra
15. Kylie Gaynor Aile
16. Zonta Club of Berry
17. Zonta club of Cumberland
18. Tom Cecil and Computer for Congo

19. Zonta club of Adelaide Torrens
20. Ivan
21. Shirley Lamb
22. Annette Brosing
23. Ronda Boyd
24. Yolande Hass
25. WestWyalong Community Church
26. L Cooke
27. Milly
28. Nathan and Cathy Dietsch
29. Anna and Georgia Shackelton
30. Julie Irwin
31. Elle Brown
32. Emma Humphries
33. Maria Zafar
34. Kathy White
35. Sam Cookes
36. Susanne Harris
37. Susan Riding
38. Darren Hessenberger
39. Sandra Burns
40. Father Thomas Karamakuzhiyil
41. Louise Drinkwater

## **INTRODUCTION**

Mission in Health Care and Development is a non-governmental Organisation working in Democratic Republic of Congo. We are working in various domains like Healthcare, education, community development, microfinancing, electrification especially with renewable energy and many other activities that help in poverty reduction, promotion of primary HealthCare and women activities.

In 2018, we managed to carry out various activities that helped in achieving our goals. Many lives of the children and women were changed for the better and we received testimonies all over Uvira District and from other parts of DRC and even from the neighbouring country Burundi. Many people's lives were changed through MHCD activities and projects. We succeeded in all that through your help and support.

In reading this report, we believe that you will discover most of the activities and the challenges we faced.

## **MIDWIFERY SCHOOL GRADUANDS:**

Mission in Health Care and Development has a midwifery and nursing school called the Great Lakes Medical School. The project started when we had a training of trainers Midwifery seminar 6 years ago that was supported by Birthing Kits Foundation Australia. After the seminar, the participants suggested that they would like to be full trained midwives and they requested MHCD to create its own Midwifery school. We wrote a proposal to the Government and it gave us the Go ahead. DRC midwifery and nursing Diploma program is a four year course. By good Luck, the first promotion completed last year in July. In September they acquired their Certificates and they went back to their villages so they could give back to their communities by first integrating into Health centres and working with the midwives. The agreement we had with them was that after acquiring the knowledge and skills from the Great Lakes Medical school they will go back to their communities and work from there for a period of 5 years and they shall be continuing with the program of Birthing kits distribution and the training of traditional midwives and community health workers in their villages.

In December 2018 they came to MHCD to report back on their field work and it was very very positive. When they were in the villages, they rented small houses and they divided it into various services like reception, consultation, delivery room, small pharmacy and a resting room. The Fourth Year in DRC is for practical's and because they were learning from MHCD premises where they had access to the hospital for practice, it was a great opportunity for them to gain experience. This is why after training they were able to come up with small dispensary and delivery room. Dr. Luc and MHCD Doctors went to visit them in January 2019 and we found that they are doing very well and that the work is bringing positive impact into the community.



The big challenge and problems they are facing by day is that they do not have enough medicine, no medical equipment, no beds and mattresses and the small houses do not have adequate hygienic conditions. We request all well-wishers to help them in construction birthing huts or dispensaries and supporting the program with medicine and medical equipment. Also they are in need of beds and mattresses that we can purchase locally. Most of these villages do not have health centres and the people in the community used to travel for kilometres to get to hospitals, clinics or health centres but through the students from MHCD they can access medical care from them. For the few months they have worked, they have helped reduce infant mortality and mother morbidity and improving the quality of health care in their villages. 10 students graduated and we still have 40 others still at the school awaiting completion of their studies.



*MHCD Midwifery student conducting consultation at a home clinic after graduation.*



*MHCD Midwives with new mothers and babies they helped deliver.*



## **SCHOOL TOILET CONSTRUCTION**

MHCD has a secondary school with a total of 1300 students. The school is also polytechnique because it offers technical courses like tailoring, information technology, mechanics, social studies and electricity. The big challenge we had is that the school did not have toilets and the students were sharing toilets with the sick people since they were using the Hospital toilets and this was not healthy and it was a very big challenge to us. In September 2018, we visited Australia and shared about this issue, some people were touched and accepted to support the toilet construction. Also we had gone with some necklaces and cards that we were selling out to people and all the proceeds went into the toilet construction. We are very happy to inform you that the toilet has been constructed and as at now the students are using their own toilets. The building has 4 bathrooms and 6 toilets. It looks very nice. Since we completed the toilets, the learning conditions have improved and we are so so grateful to all MHCD friends who contributed towards the project and all those who heeded our call in purchasing the necklaces and cards because the money went into the toilet project. We really thank Highlands Christian Church, Ginnindera Christian Church, MHCDASA, and all those who prayed for and supported us. We really appreciate your care, love and support. Attached are photos of the toilets and the students and teachers on the launch of the toilets.









*Dr.Luc and Delice launching the new school toilets .*

## **WOMEN IN MEDIA PROGRAM**

This has been one of the most successful programs in sensitizing women issues in different domains. MHCD has Radio and Television Station called IMPACT. 90% of the Congolese people have Radio and at least every day they follow news on Radio. Before, it used to be the Men who were listening to Radio. Afterward, we saw that women and children were the ones who were suffering the most and MHCD began programs of visiting villages and forming midwifery clubs and sensitizing them to listen to Impact Radio. We bought and distributed small Radios and mobile phones that had FM radio applications in them. Since the introduction of the program, the women began following the Impact Station in great numbers and most of the programs were community based.

At Impact Radio, we have a program where women and girls who have been raped testify on how MHCD has helped change their lives. Through the program, we have managed to get many women and girls who have opened up and came to the MHCD hospital to get medication, counselling and training on micro financing. Through the program, most of those who had no hope in life have had it restored, many families have been rejoined and most of the sick have been treated and gone back to leading normal lives. We have another program on Gender equality, the program has helped the women realise their potential and become responsible. We have another topic on Healthcare where matters concerning hygiene, family planning, birthing kits distribution, malaria prevention etc are discussed. The program has been instrumental in improving health care services delivery in Uvira District and women Health standards and conditions have been hugely improved.

In September 2018, MHCD was blessed to receive a donation from the Zonta club of Adelaide Torrens. The funds were used in purchasing Radio calls and mobile phones that we distributed to women in different villages. We purchased Radio calls because of their convenience since no airtime is required and they go as far as 40km for free. MHCD has its own code that's connecting all MHCD staffs on Radio, at Hospital and police stations. We did this because there were people who were having various issues like rape or violence in the villages and it was very difficult for us to reach them. But through the Radio call, Our leaders in each village in case of an emergency will call the Impact Radio or MHCD staffs and they relay the information to the police station and it's very easy to save lives of those in need.

Just one week after distributing the Radio calls, there was a lady who was almost raped in a village called Ndunda but through the tricks and strategies we have given them through the Radio programs on how to handle such situations, she screamed so loudly and our women leader in the village heard. She called Impact Radio and the staff informed Sange police station who were the nearest and within no time the culprit was arrested. Again an ambulance was sent to pick her up and she was taken to Hospital for check-up. The Radio call helped save the life of that lady and the whole village is now alert. We are so so grateful to the Zonta club of Adelaide Torrens



for their donation to such a noble course. The mobile phones are being used for the same purpose but they go far into places the Radio calls cannot reach.



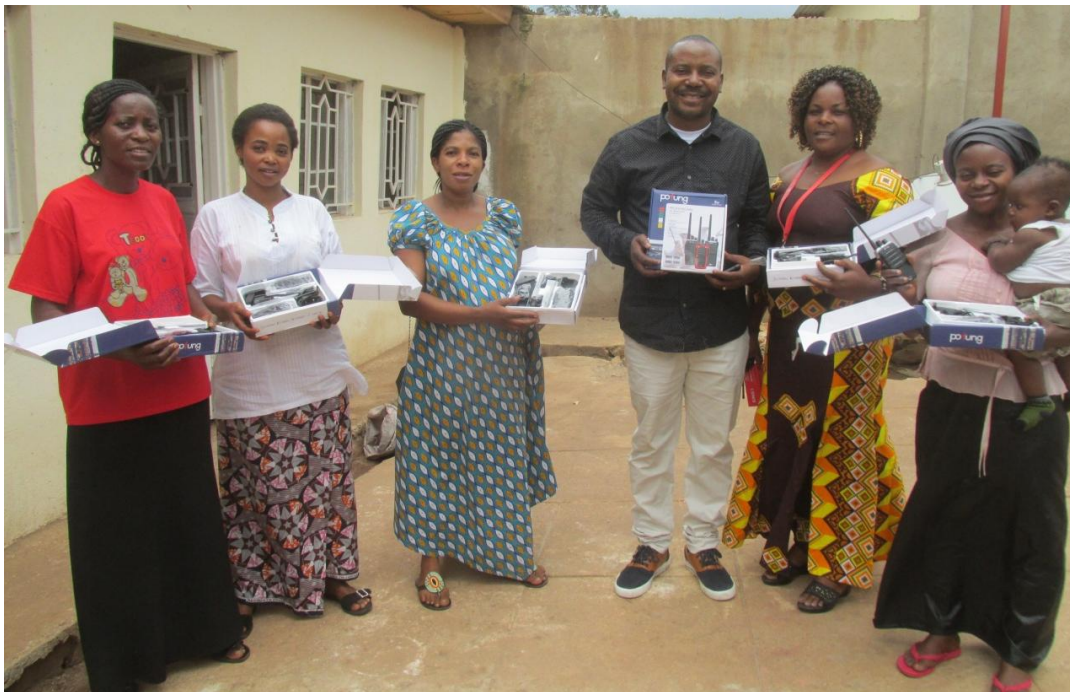




*Radio calls and mobile phones ready for distribution.*







*Dr.Luc giving out Radio calls and mobile phones to journalists and Head of department at the Impact Radio.*

## **MUTARULE VILLAGE**

Mutarule is a village located in Uvira District. It was also affected by massacre like katogota. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2014, unknown assailants invaded the village, found some Christians in the church holding prayers and they massacred all of them. From the church they went from house to house cutting people into pieces by knives, bullets and machetes. Many died with all of their intestines and brains out. This was carried out across the whole village and men, women and children lost lives. Over 33 people lost their lives. Those who managed to escape went into the forests and neighbouring villages for safety. Upto now the culprits have never been brought to book. In demonstrating their anger, the bodies of the victims were buried besides the main road of Uvira District so that all the people who shall be passing by, even the visitors should know that in Mutarule there happened a very sad massacre. This was also to show the international community that they are not caring for the Congolese since even on that day Monusco was nowhere to be seen.

When MHCD heard about the problem, we went with clothes and distributed them amongs the displaced mostly children and women, four tonnes of food i.e two of beans and the other two of rice. Those who had fallen sick were transported to Luvungi MHCD Hospital and were treated for free. Last year, most of the displaced people went back to the village and began life slowly. Life wasn't easy because all their possessions had been stolen. They are going through very difficult life as for now. In trying to bring a security solution to the village especially at night, we installed solar street lights on the main streets. We also introduced microfinancing program whereby some have small business while others rear fish and keep pigs. The few we helped are progressing well but again there are many others we haven't been able to reach to due to limited finances. Any support for this village will be very highly appreciated. MHCD ambulance also goes into the village once per week into the village for clinics.





*Mutarule Population lifting Dr.Luc after seeing streetlights for the first time in their village.*

## **KATOGOTA VILLAGE**

Katogota village is located in Uvira District near Luvungi village in Ruzizi valley. It is one of Uvira villages nearing Rwanda and Burundi along the National Road Number 5. Main activity is agriculture. Some women carry out small businesses of selling vegetables, dried small fish, tomatoes, maize flour etc for the sake of getting their families some food to eat and education. The villagers suffered so much during war, on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2002, rebels attacked the village from Rwanda and Burundi and massacred children, men and women with machetes, knives and bullets. Some bodies were thrown away in pit latrines while others into the Ruzizi river. This massacre affected everyone in the village because many children were left orphans, then we had widows while a great number were traumatised till to date.

Every year they have a memorial service for the massacred victims. This year we had the privilege of being visited by some MHCD friends from Australia who visited MHCD activities in Luvungi and Katogota village too. The women in the village talked with them and shared their stories and sufferings. There were almost 80 women present. Those of us who were present when their leader was sharing about their history were left teary eyed. They said to date they still suffer and they have no help apart from MHCD. They said nights are the worst with the darkness and they feel insecure. They requested Dr. Luc, MHCD and visitors to assist them with street lights for the sake of fighting insecurity at night and help them do their small business in



the evenings .They said they usually slept at 8pm due to darkness and feeling insecure.Those coming from the farms and other activities lack places to buy or get food because the sellers leave early for their homes thus many spend hungry nights.They said that the streetlights in Luvungi have changed lives of many people and improved the village standard and they requested that MHCD help them install streetlights in the village.

The village has got many orphaned children lacking financial support for them to attend schools.Most are taken care of by grandmothers and some generous people and are leading very difficult lives since all their belongings were taken away in war.Those who could carry out some small business or agriculture and are just at home lack the funds or capital to kickstartthem.They requested MHCD to assist them with finances to start microfinancing projects in their villages.

In helping them,MHCD started direct impact activities for the sake of giving them hope and improving lives in the village.We ordered for streetlights and installed them in May.We started in Katogota centre where small businesses are carried out and installed 10 streetlights.The whole village will take around 30.We still need 20 to go.We then gave 80 women some funds for small businesses.and for those who chose agriculture we gave them the seed,hoes and pieces of land.

When they saw the lights for the first time,the whole village celebrated and others spend the night outside due to happiness.Those with small business were overjoyed and they chose places under the streetlights to show their goods.The business is picking up slowly.The village is modernized and the villagers feel they have people taking care of them.We thank all MHCD friends and supporters who contributed towards the streetlights and micro financing projects.We kindly request for wellwishers to help us in contributing towards the 20 streetlights remaining so we can install them and ensure the whole main strrt of katogota have lights.

## **MHCD AUSTRALIA FRIENDSHIP MONUMENT**

This was conceptionalised by Dr.LucMulimbalimba and Built by Professor from the National University of Arts in Kinshasa.MHCD thought of the monument as a show of gratitude to many Australians who have hugely contributed to the saving of lives of many people in Uvira District and also in thanking the Australian Government for supporting Dr.Lucs vision and MHCD. It's the first monument in DRC showing friendship between Australia and DRC.

The monument costs were fully supported by Dr.Luc and family.We are so grateful for all the letters sent over by the Australian Government Dept.of Foreign affairs that recognised and thanked for all the work we are doing in DRC and the letters were read out by Dr.JulieMonislve and Jenny Weaver.We are so so grateful to the MHCD friends who came all the way from Australia to participate in the launching

ceremony that was held in Luvungi 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018. We had Dr. Julie Monislvett-Director, Birthing kits Foundation Australia and Chair of MHCD Australia support Association. Jenny Weaver-Chair of Birthing Kits Foundation Australia and Treasurer of MHCD Australia Support Association, Rev. Peter Frogley-Director of Bethesda Ministries International Australia. Ivan Lloyd, Shirley Lamb and Elle Brown.

Rev. Peter Frogley was very grateful for the work that Australians have done in DR Congo and he prayed for continued good cooperation between DRC and Australia. Julie and Jenny thanked MHCD for all its activities on behalf of the Australian Government and they congratulated Dr. Luc. They also gave him a trophy and an Australian Flag.

The monument has 4 statues that represent family, holding hands and on the move. Both adults have a flag each, one of DRC and another of Australia. They signify the friendship of DRC and Australia and that Development and collaboration is ongoing. Also we shall continue to work for positive changes and better lives in the DRC. DRC Government was represented by the Executive Secretary of the South Kivu Government and many other leaders from Uvira District. There were also hundreds of people from Luvungi who came to participate in the ceremony. After ceremony people sang and danced and they were very happy. We also had a communal lunch. It was a great day and all people enjoyed.





*Dr. Julie Monis Ivett and Jenny Weaver giving Dr. Luc a trophy.*



## **MHCD AUSTRALIA FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE**

We constructed this village once more as a salute to the friendship between DRC and Australia. The village has 5 houses and a restaurant that also acts as a waiting room or reception. The objective of the place is to accommodate all leaders and visitors from Australia and other places of DRC. The houses have the same role as that of the Woodward place. The houses are self-contained with solar electricity. One can have their phones charged and use computers or laptops. Our visitors from Australia used the houses.









## **AMBULANCE**

We were very lucky and blessed to receive a medicated ambulance from the St.Johns Ambulance group in Perth Australia.It had been soo long a time that we had been looking for one with no success.We had a small ambulance at the Hospital which had been of help but couldn't manage the workload.Luvungi MHCD General Hospital at now has 120 beds and it's the only rural and mission Hospital providing cheap and affordable healthcare especially for the vulnerable people.When we received the ambulance,it was a sweet surprise to us.We loaded it onto the container together with another car that had been donated.When the container arrived in Dar essalaam,it was detained by the Tanzania customs authorities for close to 3 months.This was due to the other vehicle that had come with the Ambulance in the same container and it was a Ford Model but on the documents from Perth it was indicated as a Nissan Patrol because they look the same.So the Perth group was asked to send proper papers indicating that the vehicle is a Ford and in the mean time,all the goods in the container at the Tanzania customs were offloaded.We lost so many items and were charged soo expensively by them.

We are so grateful to the MHCD friends and supporters from Australia who helped us pay the penalty charges at the customs in Tanzania.It was very stressful but when the container arrived in Uvira,we were overwhelmed by the multitude of people who came to await it.People came from all over Uvira to see the first medicated ambulance from Australia and were very grateful to MHCD and all those who contributed to make sure that the ambulance arrives safely.The peoples joy and happiness filled our hearts with so much happiness and we were comforted.

After one month,the Ambulance was on the roads.We had sent one Doctor and a nurse in Bukavu to have some training in Emergency care.When they came back that's when the ambulance became operational.Presently it's on the roads day and night because it's the only free ambulance in the District.There is an ambulance telephone number that we give out on air at our Radio stations and those in need just place calls and they are picked up.They just contribute with fuel and those who are very poor are supported by MHCD.

The ambulance has brought joy and happiness and it has helped save lives of soo many people in Uvira District.It goes to even remote areas to bring sick people and in many villages they are experiencing it as a first time as it goes around transporting the sick.Soo many expectant women who were at risk of losing lives feel much safer now because of the availability of the ambulance.The ambulance goes into places deep in the villages even those marked insecure and its respected even by the gangs.When they see the ambulance sounding the alarm they respect it and know that its carrying or has come to pick some sick people.

The ambulance also serves as a clinic in the villages.Every week we have two days for mobile clinic and we carry out consultation and treatment.Many villages that do

not have healthcare and with high mortality rates have had significant improvements. MHCD ambulance has saved lives and brought hope to many families in Uvira. Again we thank all those who contribute towards transport costs. Our special thanks go to st. Johns Ambulance Perth Australia.

We are so so grateful to the st. Johns ambulance Perth Australia for donating the ambulance. We request that if you get another ambulance please do remember us, Uvira District is soo large and we are in need of another ambulance for quality service delivery.





*Uvira population coming to have a look at the ambulance.*





## **MHCD FORD FROM MITTAGONG**

MHCD is growing and its activities are expanding by day. Most of our activities are carried out in the villages. The big problem is that the roads are very poor leading to poor communication and very stressful environment. We had a vehicle we had been using but it was a 4 wheel drive and this gave us lots of problems and difficulty. One day we got visitors from Australia headed by Peter Frogley. We travelled from Bukavu to Uvira through Ngomo road in a mini bus. The seats were small and all of us were tall people so for a 4 hour drive on a poor terrain it was exhausting. God touched the hearts of our visitors and they said when they go back to Australia they will look for a 4 wheel drive vehicle for us. By good luck, God touched the heart of Dean and he sent us an email that he had gotten a Nissan Patrol Ford that he will be donating to MHCD. It's a second hand vehicle but very strong and in good condition. He said the church members of the Highlands Christian Church helped replace the old parts with new spare parts and Dean drove the vehicle all the way from Mittagong to Perth. The vehicle came in the same container with the ambulance and in April we received Peter and other visitors from Adelaide Australia and we went through Ngomo road once again but because we had a good vehicle it took us less than two hours to arrive and in good condition because the vehicle was a 4 wheel drive and good. As at now the vehicle helps us immensely in mission trips, taking doctors to mobile clinics and in emergency situations. The vehicle also transports visitors around South Kivu province. We are so grateful to Matthew, Deans son for accepting to donate the vehicle for mission work. We thank also Bethesda Ministries international, Pastor Darren and Highlands Christian church for all their input towards MHCD acquiring the vehicle.





## **MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CAMPAIGN**

Proper healthcare is the foundation of development of every aspect in life. When an individual is in good health, he or she will work and fight poverty and hunger but if not in good health lots of other issues will not be alright. A child in good health can go to school and get proper education which can open up many avenues in life but if the child has no health care all this won't be possible. In DRC and Africa in general, many people suffer due to lack of proper health care. This leads to underdevelopment, poverty and death. Medical operations are very expensive. Disease like Hernia operation in Uvira is USD150, goitre is at USD300 TO 500. Many people in DRC live under the poverty line i.e under one dollar per day so getting such an amount of money is very difficult. Most of the poor just go back to their homes and await their deaths. Due to insecurity and poverty many children are suffering from malnutrition and malaria and WHO reports that everyday hundreds of children under 5 years old lose their lives because of malaria and malnutrition.

In bringing a solution to this problem, MHCD began a medical and surgical campaign that helps care out free operations for the extremely poor people and those who can afford even the slightest amount can contribute with that. Luvungi MHCD Hospital helps a lot in taking care of the sick from different districts of south kivu province even in our neighbouring country Burundi. We started the medical campaign on the 30<sup>th</sup> June

2014 and since then we have operated on around 4600 people who had different complications like Hernia,Appendix,goitre,fibroids,kyst,prostate,fistula,cleft lip and pallet and many other diseases.Those who had given up in life have had their hopes restored and many families that had separated due to diseases that had been thought of before as being curses and that we had successfully operated on have been reunited together and are living happily.Most children who had the cleft lip and pallets malformations can now smile.Many women who had been suffering from goitre and had been spending most of their lives locked up in their houses for fear of being called witches because that's what used to be the case,after the operations they are now free and have gone back to their normal lives.When you see them,they are leading peaceful lives.There are many testimonies from far and wide and the program has been very very successful and a blessing to many.

In this year 2018,the medical campaign was started in July and it was different because of insecurity problem on the hills of Bijombo in Uvira.This brought about lots of internally displaced persons.This made the program to be very busy,the ambulance was going to different villages and transporting patients to the Hospital.Doctors and nurses were working day and night.Everyday they were operating on average of 10 patients and when the Hospital is full they carryout mobile clinics as they wait on the hospitalised patients to be released so they can give way for others to be hospitalised.Most of those who have been operated on are poor are coming from very far villages so getting food was a big problem.InDRC,relatives are tasked with bringing food and other items for personal use for the patients.The hospital provided only medical care but most of the patients we operated on were very poor,coming from far with no relative and had been displaced.Since most of them are subsistence farmers,they left behind everything including their pieces of land that they depended on for food.This forced the hospital to provide food for them which was very challenging and stressful.

Medical campaign is very expensive because everyday we use medicines and other consumables.Also the ambulance goes around everyday and takes lots of fuel to run it.We bring in specialists from Kinshasa and Bukavu who need transport and food.This time we provided food to the patients.But it is also a very good program because it saves lives of many people,unitesfamilies,brings,peace,hope and happiness and reduces poverty because when they heal they go back to working.This program is ongoing for the Luvungi MHCD Hospital but our finances are very small.We kindly request all well-wishers to please support us in this.

We really thank Ronda Boyd for her contribution and support to the 2018 medical campaign.She was one of the few people who everytime she read a report on the medical campaign her heart was touched to support.We also thank other MHCD friends and supporters who also contributed to the medical campaign of this year.We really appreciate your care,love and support and please do not tire in supporting this program.We still need your prayers and support.

## **OPERATION BLOC**

Surgery is the main activity at the Luvungi MHCD Hospital. 50 per cent of the patients Hospitalised at the Hospital are those who have been operated on. Operations in DRC generally are very expensive. Caesarian and appendix is close to USD150 in South Kivu Province and in Kinshasa USD300. This caused very many poor people to lose their lives due to lack of funds for operation. Since we discovered this, we launched liberty surgical campaign that helps in carrying out cheap operations and for the sick and for those who are extremely poor free operations. For those who can get some money they contribute with USD20 which is also same as free. This helped a lot in reducing deaths and we were able to operate very many people and our Hospital has been known throughout the province as a surgical and humanitarian Hospital.

We had an operation theatre with two operation beds but since we started receiving very many operation cases, we were forced to put up an operation bloc. It's now two years since we started building the bloc. We are very happy to inform you that this year it was completed and it was fully funded by Dr. Luc Mulimbalimbasa family. The operation bloc has a theatre with three operation blocs meaning the Doctors will be operating 3 patients at a time, a sterilization room, Doctors changing room and 2 wards each for women and the men respectively where they rest after operation. It's a modern operation bloc very well equipped with medical equipments from Australia. The operation bloc has added a lot on the Status of the Luvungi MHCD Hospital making it confirm it as a referral Hospital. The Hospital beds, mattresses and other materials at the operation bloc came from the recent container from Adelaide Australia. We thank all those who have been praying for us till we realized this dream. We thank also all those who contributed in the packing and paying for the transport for the container so we can equip the operation bloc. It looks very nice and the patients feel relieved when they enter into it.

## **MIDWIFERY SCHOOL**

The idea of starting up this school came from students of the midwifery training of trainers program (Birthing kit training program). After enjoying the topics they learnt and on seeing how they were able to reduce infant mortality rates in their villages through trainings and birthing kits distribution, they requested MHCD to open a midwifery school that will enable young girls from the poorest villages with no funds for education to come learn on midwifery and we saw that it was a good idea and we decided to open a small college that will ensure continued training.

The school is based in Luvungi village the MHCD Headquarters at the MHCD Luvungi Hospital buildings. Our community workers and village elders carried out an investigation and they picked on two girls from each village and they came to study nursing and midwifery. They picked on young girls who have a secondary school diploma and those who have no money. Many of them are orphaned and they come

from remote villages. Among them were girls from the pigmies' community. There are some other villages that selected a girl and a boy.

After training the students will go back to their villages and help MHCD in promoting the primary health care, treat patients and train traditional midwives plus other community health workers. They will also be in a position to open a dispensary or health centre and carry out births. They will also be carrying out immunizations and transferring difficult cases at nearest hospitals. They will be helping in the birthing kits distribution and carrying out survey on the impact of birthing kits. During holidays they will be going back to their villages and do some of these activities.

We are very happy to let you know that the first class to begin in the school graduated in July this year and get their diploma certificates in Nursing and midwifery. We are very happy to see that our vision has become a reality as they finishing.

### **Graduated students**

We started the school with 20 students who were very active and willing to complete their education. 4 of them were lucky to get scholarships, 16 didn't have any support and it was very challenging to us and the students. From the twenty students, 5 of them left due to various difficulties and problems. Two of them got pregnant and 3 suffered extreme hunger and poverty. When we saw this, Dr. Lucs family began supporting the 6 who didn't have scholarships up to now all the 10 students graduated. It was not easy for us and it took lots of sacrifice so the students could reach this far. It's great that God helped them and they were very committed and clever in school and they made it.

### **Tuition fee:**

We still have 40 students and the cost for each one is USD 540 per year. We are requesting all well-wishers to help us in providing for the education of these students. Your support will provide them with education that will help provide proper health care and save lives of very many women and children in their villages.

### **Impact of the students in their villages:**

Most of these students were traditional midwives, they were helping their mothers in the delivery of babies in their villages. When they finish they will go to their villages and open up birthing rooms or health centres. They will be helping women give birth, carry out immunizations, family planning, counseling and prenatal care. They will also be helping in training traditional midwives. They will be working very closely with traditional midwives. Another activity will be distribution of birthing kits and to make sure that other villages with no kits have received them. Most of the girls are orphans so when they finish they will take responsibility of their families and help their siblings. This will be a great impact on their families and the whole community and that's why we are looking for sponsors so that the eleven who do not have any scholarship may complete and be of importance in their community.





*Students who graduated together with Dr.Luc and lecturers*



## **LUVUNGI EDUCATION FUND**

Luvungi Educational program is a MHCD project together with the Highlands Christian Church. The project is concerned with supporting orphans, street children and other vulnerable children who were not lucky to get secondary school education funds. It's also involved with supporting single mothers and young girls who have been affected by rape from the war times. Most of these people stayed at home since they did not have any support for education. In helping them, MHCD opened a secondary technical college that has various sections including tailoring, general mechanics, automobile mechanics, electricity, social studies, information technology, veterinary and agronomy. The school is registered by the government with a diploma level program. This year, after the national examination tests, our students in the social studies all passed with flying colours.

Last year we had 850 students and among them 124 were being supported by the Highlands Christian church and Bethesda Ministries international. The school fees per month per student is USD15. A year the total cost is USD150 which is very difficult for the students to get. We tried to reduce up to USD5 so they could contribute but still it was very difficult for them to pay. This brought about very many challenges and difficulties at the school because we could not get finances to cover school and teachers expenses. We really thank Highlands Christian Church Mittagong Australia for the support they sent this year because it helped us cover some expenses and the children were able to complete their academic year. We were so blessed with your support because it gave the teachers hope and courage to continue teaching and the vulnerable children that you support saw that there are people out there still caring about them. Those who graduated this year have instilled hope in other students and they too feel they can succeed like the rest.

When Peter, Darren, Dean, Steve, Marc and Tracey from Australia paid a visit to MHCD, they had the chance of talking to some of the students and they informed them of the problems and challenges they face everyday. Some were raped when very young, some had their parents killed in war, and others got pregnant as a result of rape and are now single mothers on their own since their families rejected them and others have taken responsibility of their siblings and getting food to eat is a problem. We were filled with tears and sadness on hearing their stories. This is why Pastor Peter and Darren of the Bethesda Ministries International decided to support education of the students through MHCD technical college in Luvungi. The education gives them hope, joy and encouragement because they know that when through they will have a good future and will have independent life. The good thing is that when they complete their education they will be contributing with something small back to the school when they get employment and this money will help others who have difficulty in paying fees for their secondary school.



We still have many orphans at the school who need your support. We kindly please request all well-wishers to please support this program so we may support other students who are extremely poor. When you support one student, you will be supporting a whole community. Your support will not only give education but also bring hope, joy and employment in future thus changing lives of people in the community. This year we registered 1300 student.







*Some of the school students learning at the MHCD restaurant because of lack of classes while some are learning while standing due to lack of chairs.*

## **DIETSCH ACADEMY SANGE**

Sange is one of the villages of Uvira District situated 30km from Luvungi .In 2009 the village suffered a catastrophic accident when a tanker caught fire and blew up into flames killing more than 300 people.The tragedy left behind many orphans and widows.Schooling became one major issue for the widows.One day asDr.Luc was going through Sangeand he realised that most of the children stayed behind at home and suffering from malnutrition.He then decided to open a nursery school and a clinic for the sake of the children.Then MHCD wrote a report on the Sange situation and requested well-wishers to support the children and the school.Through the grace of God Nathan and Cathy Dietsch from Australia offered to support the kids.From that day to date, the family has been supporting the children with free education, medical care for the sick and food for the malnutrition.The school to date has supported 3500 pupils and we have some into the Secondary school.

Most of their guardians had been traumatised because before the fire there had been war during which many people were killed bringing about poverty.This caused stress so much and many single women didnt have a way in life.Through Dietschs family and other donors from Australia we started a micro financing program whereby we opened pig raising, fish ponds and small businesses. They also came together for educational purposes and how to get on in life and self-sufficiency. This helped in relieving trauma and stress and gets little money.For now they are doing goo and pressing on inlife.Nathan and Cathy Dietschs together with Dr.Elaine and John Dietschs sacrifice alot in supporting the village and they send support every month to help the children and the school.This is why the villagers requested we name the school Dietschs Academy Sange.We are truly thankful for all their efforts and sacrifice towards the less vulnerable/Through their support, hundreds of vulnerable children have received education and saved lives of thosesuffering from various diseases and malnutrition.

The school caters majorly for children below 7 years because they are the ones with a higher mortality rate.After providing free education at nursery.we are also supporting them in primary school.Those who are extremely sick are transported by the ambulance to the MHCD Luvungi Hospital.This follow up program has made the project very successful and many villagers are happy with it and has brought positive impact to the whole community.

In September 2018 we started the academic year for 2018 /2019.We got support from Nathan and Cathy Dietsch that enabled us purchase school kits that we distributed to every child.Each kit had a school uniform, sandals and other school materials.This year we have 160 pupils and each kit costed USD20.For their mothers and guardians; words could not express their joy and happiness. They asked us to thank Nathan and Cathy Dietsch on their behalf .We organised a welcoming party



whereby we organised food for the children with their mothers or guardians and this brought about lots of happiness to them. We had constructed two rooms' classes that have proven to be small for them and so we would like to expand on them that we have laid the foundation and which will be more modern.<sup>2</sup> Thank you very much for all your support and prayers. Please do not tire in continuing to support Dietschs Academy Sange.



*Pupils of the Dietschs Academy before getting school Uniform.*







*Pupils very happy for getting free uniforms and sandals.*

## **INTERNET, SOLAR STATION AND COMPUTER CENTRE**

For more than 10 years MHCD Luvungi has never had internet connection. It had been very hard to communicate especially with our partners in Australia. For us to write an email we had to travel to Uvira, a distance of over 60km or Bukavu which is the same distance. This was very stressful and time consuming for all the staffs and most of us usually opted to stay out of connection for all the time we were in Luvungi.

It's now three years since we started thinking of having an internet connection in Luvungi. We started by constructing a building that was waiting for equipments for the internet connection. We were lucky to get into contact with a partner called Tom Cecil, the director of Computers for Congo from Australia who has been donating computers to MHCD. We started by opening up a computer training centre that has been able to train over 800 youths in information technology to date. When Tom first visited Luvungi he was touched and he supported the purchase of the internet satellite dish at Luvungi. We went in Burundi to purchase the equipment's. When Dr. Julie Monislvett and Jenny Weaver heard that we had already purchased the equipments they supported the installation of the solar station that has a capacity of 5kw. We installed the solar station at the MHCD compound in Luvungi and we are happy to let you know that as at now we have internet connection and electricity in Luvungi 24hrs.

Internet connection has helped solve many problems. Contacts with our partners has improved, students carry out research and learn many things from the internet, people in Luvungi and surrounding come to the cyber café to send emails and other things and it's improved the quality of MHCD guest houses and cottages. Woodward place and the DRC Australia friendship village have wi fi connection and even our visitors are comfortable sending and receiving mails. The internet has helped develop Luvungi and it's now connected to the world.

We are again very grateful to all those who participated in the packing and transportation of the MHCD container from Perth and Adelaide Australia because the tables in the internet room are from Australia. We also got a printing machine from Adelaide. Dr. Lucs family contributed with chairs, wiring of the rooms and all the transport costs from Bujumbura Burundi to Luvungi.

We thank all those who have supported this computer and internet project in one way or another. Through your prayers and support, we now have internet in Luvungi. The connection will be purchased every month at USD210 and we have 3 volunteers who are engineers in IT working at the centre who really need your prayers and support so they may continue to help in the training of other students and making sure we continue having good connection in Luvungi.





*Tom Cecil after installing the Internet Dish at the MHCD Luvungi .*



*MHCD Computer for Congo Cyber cafe*



*MHCD and computer for Congo training centre.*







*New MHCD solar station.*





## **CONTAINER FROM MHCDASA ADELAIDE AND PERTH**

In 2018 we received two containers full of goods and medical equipments. One was from MHCD ASA Adelaide and the other from Perth. We are so so grateful to all those who participated in the packaging and paying for the transport from Australia to Dar essalaam. The container had Hospital beds and mattresses, school chairs and tables, ultra sound machine, Days for girls, clothes, sport shoes, water purifying pump, shoes, physiotherapy equipment, dental chairs and equipment, operation table, consultation table, sheets, blankets and computers and laptops.

When the container arrived in Luvungi at MHCD Headquarters' the community went to receive it and it was great joy. They sang and danced and it was a great joy for the whole community. The community assisted in offloading the goods in the container and the distribution began. For transporting and distributing the goods we used vehicles, bicycles and by foot: The community came down from the hills to carry the goods to their respective villages. We gave out clothes, days for girls, sports and medical equipment, sewing machines etc. Days for girls pads were a great gift to the girls and women and they really enjoyed getting and using them. MHCD constructed an operation bloc that was empty but through the container we got medical equipments like Hospital beds and mattresses, operation tables, Anaesthesia machine, Reanimation machine, tables and chairs and for now The theatre looks very nice. The blankets, sheets and pillows have been of great help to the sick and has enabled them to relax well. Of the sheets and the pillows are used in the accommodation complex that we have at MHCD too. We distributed lots of clothes and shoes to children in different villages, babies at Luvungi Hospital, many women, traditional midwives, community health workers and many other vulnerable people who were in need. The places where vehicles could not reach we used motor bicycles and in impassable paths we went on foot. We went up to Buheba, very high on the Mountain distributing the goods and carrying them on heads. Every village was very happy to see us, people were singing and dancing and they asked us to thank all those who were involved in the collection, packaging, transport and who were in one way or another a helping hand in ensuring that we get the container of goods over to DRC on their behalf.

Some of the tailoring machines that we got we gave to the MHCD tailoring school in Luvungi and we distributed others to women groups in Uvira and Kabare District. Women and lecturers are very proud of them because they are very strong compared to the pirated copies from China. We got many tailoring materials that enabled the children gain practical knowledge and as at now they have started sewing clothes.

We are so so grateful to the MHCD Australia Support Association from Adelaide, Zonta clubs from Perth and Adelaide and all well-wishers who assisted tirelessly in collecting and packing the container. Thank you very much for all your

efforts and sacrifice to the needy people of DRC.I know that it was not an easy job but it took much sacrifice so that the container may reach us.We thank so much too the Ginnindera Christian Church from Canberra,Highlands Christian Church from Mittagong and Ronda Boyd from Sydney for supporting the transportation of the container.Thank you too Peter Frogley for helping in collecting other goods that came in the container.We really appreciate all your efforts and sacrifice.

There are many other items that came in the container that we have not been able to include in this report.But kindly know that every thing that was sent was valuable and helped so much in improving the lives of the needy in DRC.In Every village we went,the community were joyous and appreciated every gift we have them.Thank you so much to all of you who donated items into the Container.May God bless you.















*Days for Girls Distribution.*









## **YOUTH AND SPORT ACTIVITIES**

The Youths of Uvira District were very happy to receive the sports equipment that came in the container. We got sports shoes, soccer balls and sports clothes. We visited villages like Luvungi, Lubarika, Katogota, Ndolera, Buheba, Makobola, Bwegeza, Luberizi, Mutarule, Sange, Kiliba, Kawizi, Kaala, Swima and many other centers and villages of Uvira District. Each village received a full pack of sports attire for free and it was the first time for most of them receiving such gifts. They really appreciated and thanked the companies and associations from Australia that donated the gifts to them.

Sports is very integral in DRC because it brings about unity, peace and reconciliation and through this, the youth come together from different cultures and tribes and they play together leading to very special and memorable moments for them. Before playing, they have 30 minutes of discussing different topics that help them in improving their communities. The program has given birth to many youth leaders and helping them become independent. Also we have discovered talents in many youths in soccer that will be of great help to them in future..





*Dr. Luc distributing sports materials to youths and hundreds of people have come to participate in the activity.*



## **RONDA AND ARTHUR BOYD MOTHER AND CHILD CLINIC**

This is a department of Luvungi MHCD Hospital. Its concerned with the treatment of women and children. It has a maternity unit, children's clinic and incubator room. Everyday more than 5 women deliver and more than 20 children are treated. This idea came about when we saw that Ronda and Arthur Boyd were passionate about helping women and children in Congo who are suffering. Many times when we wrote emergency reports, Ronda was always ready to support us and look for a solution. This greatly encouraged us and she stood out as being very special to us and MHCD and that's why we named the department Ronda and Arthur Mother and Child clinic.

Ronda Boyd has contributed a lot in the development of Luvungi MHCD Hospital. The first ambulance we had was a donation from her. She also donated to us a generator before we got the solar station, she has contributed alot towards the medical campaign and just recently we had a problem of chairs at the MHCD secondary school and when we told her she supported the purchase of them. She has done alot for MHCD that we may not be able to list all. We really appreciate all her efforts and sacrifice that she has continually put in for the sake of MHCD. Your support helped save lives of so many women and children and we really appreciate that. You have been for many times a model to us and you have encouraged us to continue serving the poor and the needy.

We also thank MHCD Australia support association that assisted us with a container of Hospital beds, mattresses, incubators, chairs, tables etc. that we have at the Ronda and Arthur Mother and Child Clinic. Thank you for all your efforts and sacrifice you have put in to see Luvungi MHCD Hospital equipped.

Ronda Boyd we love you so much and we appreciate everything you are doing for us.







*This Mother is very happy after her child received treatment at the Ronda and Arthur Mother and Child Clinic.*

### **PAMELA COMMUNITY CENTRE AND WOODWARD PLACE**

Pamela Community Development Centre and Woodward place is a conference and training centre Hall involved with the training of women, men and youth who have gone through very difficult times especially in war. Woodward place is for accommodation and when they come around they spend their time there. The construction of the two buildings were supported by Stella Darmody whom we are so so grateful to for all the sacrifices and efforts she put in to have the building completed at the MHCD Compound. In the year 2018, we were able to train 260 individuals at the centre especially women. We trained them skills in breadmaking, juice making, French fries and tomato sauce. After training they went back to their villages and were looking for capital so they could start their own small ventures. Everytime those who successfully complete are awarded certificates.

The centre also serves the Secondary school students as classrooms because we do not have enough classrooms for them to study. On Tuesdays in the evening and Sunday we use it as a church. It is a real blessing to us and the whole community of Luvungi. We use it for other functions too like seminars, conferences and weddings and this year we celebrated 8 weddings there. One of the weddings that touched hearts so much was of a physically handicapped young man and his prayer was that

he holds his wedding in a good Hall. When he came to MHCD, we allowed him to use the Hall and on his wedding day so many people came to witness it. It was a blessing and joy for the whole Luvungi community and all the people appreciated the development that Pamela community centre brought in Luvungi. Many people who had lost hope and joy have had it restored through the centre. Again we thank you Stella Darmody for supporting this program.











*The new couple celebrating their wedding at the Pamela centre.*



## **WHEELCHAIRS FOR KIDS**

Wheelchairs for kids distribution is one of the MHCDs program that was very successful in 2017/2018. We thank so much wheelchairs for Kids Australia that gave us a 20ft container full of wheelchairs. When the container arrived in Luvungi Hospital, we began distribution. Our approach is that MHCD Doctors and nurses carry out research in the villages to find out the number of children in need of wheelchairs and they identify the extremely poor who cannot afford the wheelchairs and who would like to attend school. Afterwards, MHCD ambulance goes to bring the handicapped children back to the Hospital, they are examined then they are given wheelchairs and taken back to their villages. At the village, MHCD calls villagers and organise a ceremony where the wheelchairs are officially presented to the children. This program has been very successful in sensitizing the whole community to know that disability is not a curse or communicable disease. Those who were hiding their disabled children in the houses feeling that they bring shame to them have gradually embraced the state of their children and are living with it. We also teach the community to take care of the disabled children. Through this program, the whole provinces have come to learn about wheelchairs for Kids and the demand for the chairs have grown by day. We have distributed 350 wheelchairs and all of them are progressing well. Almost all who received the chairs testified and said that their children never had legs but through the program they have new legs that help them in mobility. Personal hygiene too has been improved amongst those who received the wheelchairs while others use the wheelchairs to go to school. We are so so grateful to the wheelchairs for kids perth for supporting us with wheelchairs.







*After reassembling the wheelchairs they are ready to be distributed to children.*









## **GOAT KEEPING PROJECT IN NYIRAGONGO DISTRICT/GOMA**

MHCD has a project in Nyiragongo District, North Kivu province near Goma which is involved with supporting the pigmyies living in very difficult environment. They live in very poor houses that allows water in during the raining season, they do not have food, water and healthcare facilities. Its now many years we are working with them in education and birthing kits distribution but we saw that it will be good to start activities which will help reduce poverty and suffering. Last year we received a support from Adelaide Australia and we bought pigs as a microfinancing project. After few months, they saw that the pigs were very difficult for them to raise due to the demands for care involved. They chose on goats instead of pigs because they do not need full time attention. They sold the pigs and bought goats which are going on very well. Some of the goats have already given birth but the big problems still facing them is healthcare, water and house conditions. This is why we request all well-wishers reading this report to please help the pigmyies improve their situation.







*Nyiragongo pigmies receiving goats from MHCD. Each family received one goat.*



## **CONCLUSION**

Thank you very much for reading MHCD 2018 General report. I believe you understood the work and activities we have been doing. We succeeded to do all this activities through your care, love, support and prayers. Thank you also for all those who gave us advice in different projects. We are so so grateful to all the volunteer visitors who came on ground to see firsthand what we do. My prayers are with you and kindly we still need your support in this year 2019 because we still have many projects with no support. We shall be very happy to hear from you and to see you here in DRC this year. I can't conclude this report without thanking all those who hosted me while in Australia, organised various talks and fundraisings and who attended the various functions I had. May God bless you all.

For more information about MHCD, Please visit

**[www.mhcdafrica.com](http://www.mhcdafrica.com)**

**Dr. Luc MULIMBALIMBA MASURURU**

**MHCD Director.**