

M.H.C.D.

MISSION IN HEALTH CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

(Mission en Soins de Santé et Développement)

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MHCD 2019 GENERAL REPORT

PRESENTED BY:

DR. LUC MULIMBALIMBA MASURURU

MHCD DIRECTOR

WORD OF THANKS

We are so grateful to God for his protection over us in the past year 2019. It was one of the hardest years in our lives and that of MHCD but we are so grateful to God who has seen us through. Some corrupt politicians came together with an intention to stopping the community development projects we are doing but by Gods grace everything is going on well. We thank all MHCD friends in DRC and Australia who stood with us during the difficult time and as a result all the work on the ground is going on well. We are so grateful to all those who prayed for us and encouraged us too. May God bless you all and we are so grateful for everything.



Dr. Luc Mulimbalimbabas family

APPRECIATION:

I appreciate and thank all MHCD friends and supporters who supported in 2019. Thank you very much for all your efforts, sacrifice, love, care and support. You have been a great blessing to us. To those who donated and we knew them personally, we are very grateful and also to those who we never knew them, thank you so much. Am proud of you all and I love you very much.

SPECIAL THANKS:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank MHCD friends who sacrificed for the sake of MHCD. You were with us in happiness and through turbulent times. Thank you very much for all your efforts, love, care, support and prayers. You have been a great blessing and close friends to us. May the Almighty God richly bless you and your beautiful country.

My special thanks goes to:

1. Stella Dalmody
2. Dr. Elaine and John Dietsch
3. Julie Monis Ivett
4. Jenny Weaver
5. Sharon Geue
6. Shirley Lamb
7. Mary MacFarlane
8. Julie Irwin
9. Father Thomas
10. Pastor Peter Frogley
11. Pastor Darren
13. Nathan Dietsch
14. Ivan Lloyd
15. Claire Coleshill
16. Kylie Gaynor Aile

17. Ginninderra Christian Church , Canberra
18. Highland Christian Church , Mittagong
19. Mt. Barker Anglican Church
20. Strathalbyn Anglican Church
21. Rotary Club of Como
22. Momentum Church
23. Zonta Club of Berry
24. Zonta Club of Adelaide Torrens
25. Zonta Club of Southern Gold Coast Tweed
26. Zonta Club of Central Goldfields
27. Pastor Raff Shaw and Ancientwells Middleton
28. Kelvin and Ingrid Dobie
29. Kathy White
30. Tom Cecil and Computers for Congo
31. Birthing Kits Foundation Australia
32. Pat Wood and Mission Stitchen
33. Sandra and Colin Burns
34. Marielle Sloss
35. Pastor Mark and Annette Elliott Loxton
36. Nigel Croser and Tyndale Christian School
37. Angela Williams
38. Maggie Pointon
39. P and S Dundas
40. West Wylong Community Church
41. Mark and Yolanda Hass
42. Susan Donaldson
43. Robert Couper
44. MHCD D.R.Congo Staffs

DEDICATION:

I dedicate this report to my Wife Delice and children who are supporting me every day and to all MHCD D.R.Congo and MHCD Australia Support Association Committee members.

Please find the names and positions of MHCD D.R.Congo Committee Members



MUTULA RUGANIZA AMANI.

Degree in public health.
Coordinator.



M'SASA FIKIRINI KITE.

Medical doctor.
Medical director of Luvungi



AMISI KIDATA FEFE.

Degree in English and Counseling.
Principal of Luvungi Secondary and Politechnic school/hospital



BULOZE SHABANI FURAHA.

Diploma in education.
Treasure of Luvungi hospital.



SHETANDIKO KANJOGOLO SIMON.

Diploma in education and Theology.
Treasure of MHCD Luvungi.



NDIGOZA MWENGA AUGUSTIN.

Degree in Agronomy.
Deputy Principal of Luvungi secondary and Politechnic school.



SAFARI SHUMA SOUSTHENE.

Diploma in education.

Principal of Luvungi Primary School.



LUHALA MBIRIZE LOCKE

Diploma in Education.

Director of Impact Radio Luvungi.



KOBIRI BIGAYANABYO Charles.

Diploma in education.

Secretary of Luvungi education fund and treasure of Luvungi secondary and Politechnic school.



SYLVINE ISELT LIKE

Diploma in education.

Treasure of Luvungi education fund and Luvungi secondary and Politechnic school.



MULEGWA INNOCENT PATRICK.

Degree in Information Technology.

Uvira Community University Secretary .



KASHINDI KIMONGE Mathieu

Medical director.

Doctorate in Medicine.

Medical director of Uvira MHCD Clinic and Head of medical services.



RUNANE KABAZI Martin
Degree in Rural Development.
Supervisor .



KASONGO WA KASONGO Chrispin.
Degree in Nursing
Director of nursing at Luvungi
hospital and Uvira clinic



TUBAZALIE TAMBATAMBA Lavie
Diploma in media and Education.
Deputy director of Impact Radio
Uvira and cameraman.



ANGELA KASIMBI Grâce.
Diploma in Midwifery.
Head of Midwifery and Birthing
kits Program..



MATUMAINI MUHOTA
Degree in Nursing and
Midwifery.
MHCD and Uvira clinic treasure.



MAMY MIRINDI.
Diploma in education.
Director of Impact Radio Uvira.

INTRODUCTION

Mission in Health Care and Development is a Non Governmental organisation working in DRC. Many of its activities are carried out in Uvira District and they have helped change the lives of so many people especially children and women. MHCD operates in 3 main domains namely: Healthcare, education and community Development. Under community Development we have various activities like agriculture, microfinancing, infrastructure, Bicycle for Health and Development etc.

As a result of all these activities, MHCD has grown to have various branches throughout the District and their impact has been great prompting even those outside Uvira District to come and learn from us.

Since the year 2018, MHCD decided to focus on self Help projects. In order to be a long-lasting organisation, we saw that proper infrastructure will help each department to function properly. When I visited Australia, we came up with a 3 year plan with the MHCDASA group and among the activities to be carried out was the construction of schools and other buildings at the Hospital. On arriving in DRC we also held a meeting with the MHCD DRC and agreed on the construction and opening up of Health centres in the villages where there were none and where healthcare was very difficult. We focussed on the villages where our graduated students came from because our objective was to train them then they go back to the villages and be of service to the communities. And we succeeded because they all went back to the villages after training at the MHCD midwifery school.

In this year 2019, we have not only continued to carry out our former activities but also focussed so much on construction because good infrastructure will help MHCD to be self reliant. Wishing you good reading of the report. We trust you will get to understand more about our activities.

UVIRA COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY / BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTION

Uvira Territory is located in the East of DRC. Its the only district in the whole of DRC with 4 neighbouring countries namely Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Zambia through Lake Tanganyika. Its geographic position makes it so prone to war. Most wars that have affected DRC have started from Uvira. Most people lost lives, many girls and women raped and lots of peoples wealth stolen away leaving them very poor. The only way MHCD thought that could bring good future was through education. Uvira District had never had University only colleges. Because of this, many high school students when they finished their studies could move out of Uvira to Bukavu, Lubumbashi, Kisangani and Kinshasa where there were universities so they could learn. People from poor backgrounds could not afford to go to Universities because of the high costs. This caused backward development in the whole of Uvira Territory. In bringing solution to this problem, MHCD started a university called Uvira Community University which is a community and proximal university whose main objective is to reduce poverty, fighting hunger, promote human rights, Promote primary healthcare and provide cheap health care in the villages, promote peace and reconciliation amongst different tribes in Uvira District and promoting agribusiness which will enable people earn income from agriculture. The mission is to fight ignorance through education which will help communities to become self sufficient. Train youths who after their education will be able to go back to their villages and transform lives. The vision is to see the youths taking up the frontline in development and leadership positions and to improve lives of people leaving in DRC.

We started the construction of the 2 buildings with 9 classrooms in January 2019. We finished the construction in August 2019. The building was funded 80% by Lucs family and 20% by MHCD friends and supporters from Australia. The university has 2 campuses, one in Luvungi at MHCD Headquarters and another in Uvira town but this year we started with Luvungi campus. The University has various faculties as named below but this year we started with three faculties namely Agronomy, medicine and Information technology.

We really thank Dr. Luc Mulimbalimba who took the initiative of opening the University in Uvira which is the first University in Ruzizi valley and Bafuliru mountain. Despite all the problems Dr. Luc and Delice faced from June to December this year, the University was opened in October 2019 amidst all the financial challenges. We thank the team on ground in Luvungi who worked tirelessly to see the University opened and running. Most of the students are

accommodated at the MHCD Woodward place and the Pamela community centre is the auditorium.

Uvira Community University opened in October 2019 and has 75 students. It offers the following faculties: Computer sciences, information technology, Agronomy, management and Economics, Law, political and administration science, medicine and Faculty of psychology and Education. Its registered with the ministry of Higher education and the board heading Universities in DRC.

As we had said earlier on, it has good lecture rooms that have been recently constructed and completed. The rooms have chairs and tables from Australia. It has one of the best computer laboratories in Uvira District and internet. At the MHCD Headquarters, there are guest houses that will be accommodating visiting professors plus other volunteers.

The Chancellor is Prof. Stanislas Baleke. He is a Doctor in Anthropology and education. Head of information technology department. Is Tom Cecil, the Director of Computer for Congo Australia. It was launched by Rev. Peter Frogley , the international Director of Bethesda Ministries International.

Other objectives of the University is to train Youths and women who will be able to reduce poverty, speak for the less fortunate and bring change and development in their village.

Uvira Community University plans to extend some building this year. The nine rooms we are using is being shared with the students from the MHCD technical school so we need to construct other rooms that will be used solely by the University. We need a library building ,offices, dining hall for students, more accommodation, toilets and bathrooms and a computer lab to house at least 200 computers. The fees is USD 500,same with the midwifery school so they could learn without any problem but because all of them are coming from poor backgrounds, they cannot afford this money even if it's cheaper in comparison to DRC higher education costs. We decided to give them scholarships but we have not found supporters to help. We kindly please request well-wishers to support the students so they can be able to complete their programs.



Uvira Community Uvira Students with Tom Cecil from Australia





Uvira community University, Luvungi Campus buildings.



Hostels for University Students.

LUVUNGI EDUCATION FUND

Luvungi educational Fund is a program helping students learning at the Luvungi technical and secondary school successfully complete their studies. Most of the students are vulnerable and come from poor backgrounds. Others have been affected by war. We have young girls who were raped during war, orphaned and street children. Some of the young girls who were raped fell pregnant and gave birth hence we also have single mothers at the school. Most of them came to join the school with a lot of trauma. We managed to give them counselling while offering free medical care and they joined school. Our school is polytechnic and we have departments like tailoring, information technology, mechanics, social studies and pedagogy. The courses enable them to get skills that can help them be self employed or get small work that can help them support some of their siblings. In 2019, our school was one of the best in Uvira District because at the National examination, all the students in the pedagogy and IT classes passed. Some tried to look for jobs while others joined university. Last academic year in 2018/2019 we had 1600 students, in this year 2019/2020, we have 1100 students and the school is going well. Luvungi educational Fund is managed by Pastor Darren and the Highlands Christian church Mittagong which is a branch of Bethesda Ministries international. We thank them for the good work they are doing of providing education to the vulnerable people of Uvira. We thank also Pastor Peter Frogley and entire church members of Ginnindera Christian church Canberra for supporting Luvungi educational fund and other MHCD projects. We thank too Nathan Dietsch for supporting Luvungi Community Canteen which provide food to the teachers of MHCD, including Sange Dietsch School. May God bless you all. While reading the report you will find a lot on the Luvungi educational Fund and MHCD primary secondary and polytechnic school.



Tailoring school student doing practice.

MHCD MIDWIFERY SCHOOL / CLASS ROOM CONSTRUCTION

Mission in Health Care and Development has a midwifery school. The vision of the school came about during one of the trainings of our Birthing kits train the trainer projects. Many students came for the training for three weeks and they expressed interest to do a full course so they could become fully trained midwives. The Government approved the school and gave us the registration, we started the school and in September last year 2018 the first lot graduated with a Diploma in Nursing and Midwife and all of them went back to the villages helping the sick. The work they are doing is very good and we are receiving testimonies everyday from the villagers and leaders. They do not only help deliver babies but also consult, do pre natal's and post natal's, conduct immunizations, treat women and children on the common diseases like malaria, typhoid and also do family planning on women. They work as medical officers in their villages and since they had lots of practical's at the Luvungi Hospital, it exposed them to different kinds of challenges and they are able to handle some of the most difficult challenges and the communities are very happy about that and they appreciate them so much.

Even though they are doing a good job, at the Luvungi MHCD grounds we do not have permanent buildings for the midwifery school. They usually learn in the afternoons in the same building as those that the Secondary students learn from which is very challenging to the students and lecturers. To solve this problems, MHCD together with MHCD Australia support Association came up with a plan last year and one of the activities was to build 6 classrooms for the midwifery school. In March 2019 I was lucky to visit Australia and did some fundraising and we managed to get funding for constructing one classroom. We have seen that getting all the money at once to construct the 6 classes will be quite a challenge and so we have decided to do it progressively. The classroom was build and looks very nice. When the midwifery students saw it coming to a completion they were very very happy. They sang and danced because of so much joy. It was a great joy for them to see their own classroom. The classroom is big and well constructed and the class with the highest number of students are the ones who will use it and they are the first years who are many so they are the ones using it. In DRC, a nursing program runs for 4 years so we are still in need of other 3 classes; offices and technical room. This will make a total of 6 classes we needed.

We really thank all MHCD friends and supporters who contributed in one way or another so we could get funds for constructing the first class. Our sincere gratitude's goes to the entire team of the MHCD Australia support Association

members who worked day and night to raise money through the quiz night, Father Thomas and the Mt. Barker Anglican church for their selfless fundraising, Zonta club of Central Goldfields, Zonta club of Berry, Rotary club of Como, P and S Dundas, Robert Couper, Ginnindera Christian Church, Pastor Raff Shaw and the entire congregants of Momentum Church. We sincerely appreciate all your efforts and sacrifice. Through your generosity, we have managed to construct one classroom and we really appreciate that.

We kindly please request you not to faint at heart but to kindly consider again supporting the construction of the classes project. Your contribution towards this project will help save lives and improve Health care services for many people living in DRC. We shall send this report together with the financial one and the receipts so you can see how the money was used. 100% of your donations went into the classroom construction, not even a dollar was used on administration. This is how MHCD works, all the donations go to the specified projects. Again many thanks for your support, love and care and may God bless you.







Midwifery students.

KATOGOTA COMMUNITY MARKET

Katogota is a village located in Uvira territory. This is a village that has suffered so much before of massacre during one of the Congo's wars. The Rebels from our Neighbouring country stormed into the village and butchered almost everyone. Many women and girls were raped even young children of under 10 years. Most of the houses were burnt down, belongings were taken away and those who managed to escape have lived in trauma and stress. It's been a very difficult history to erase from their minds.

To help console the village come back to normal life, MHCD started many activities for the sake of improving life standards of the people in the community. We distributed pigs and created fish ponds for them as one of the micro financing programs and we gave them some microfinance's for the sake of carrying out small businesses for the women. They sell small things like dried fish, vegetables, charcoal, fruits, sweet potatoes etc. Though this, it helps them in their day to day lives and they can take their children to school and have some food on their table.

The big challenge they faced was lack of a market building from where they could carry out their transactions. They used to sell just in the open by the roadside with no table to put their goods. It was very challenging in terms of hygiene. Also during the rainy season, they could not go and sell because of the weather, and during extreme sunshine too they couldn't get to go to the market. This caused a stall in their progress.

In bringing a solution to all this, MHCD had a meeting with the women leaders and they requested for a market building from where they could be selling their goods. From their times of selling the first batch of pigs and the fish together with those who had been carrying out small sells, they had contributed together part of their profits that they had been putting aside so they could build a market. Also Dr. Luc and Delice Mulimbalimba contributed some money and we are very happy to let you know that we managed to build a community market in Katogota village. The market as called The Market of Martyrs in remembrance of the fallen villagers.

When we launched the market, everyone's eyes were filled with tears of joy because we never imagined that we could build a community market in Katogota village. The market has been a solace to them and as a mark of peace, unity and reconciliation. We are so grateful to all those who contributed towards the success of this project. Our sincere gratitude's goes

to the Rotary clubs of Wagga Wagga who supported the pig project last year, Dr. Elaine and John Dietsch, Rev. Peter Frogley, Darren, MHCD Australia support Association members, BMI churches in Mittagong and Canberra and all those who when they visited Luvungi went to Katogota village to talk to the victims, encouraged and prayed for them and supported them. Your presence was a great consolation and they managed to work hard for the sake of their village. We are grateful too to all those who have through the years supported those who have suffered in war and we haven't written them down individually, may you know that you are so dear to the people and we appreciate so much your efforts.





Katogota community Market





Launching ceremony of the market lead by Dr Luc Mulimbalimba.

LUBERIZI HEALTH CENTRE AND MATERNITY

Luberizi is a village located in Ruzizi valley, Uvira District. It's one of the most populated centres with almost 15 000 people in and around the village. The main challenge they were facing was receiving proper, good and affordable health care because they did not have a good clinic. They only had health centre and most cases they used to refer to Luvungi Hospital and during the night it was very difficult. The population requested MHCD to open a medical clinic in their village, MHCD leaders conducted a research and they identified a true need of a clinic in the area.

The villagers came together and gave MHCD a house that we opened as a clinic. The clinic is temporal and in future we will need to construct one. The good thing is that villagers came together and gave the house to us and we began our medical activities there. MHCD rehabilitated the house and painted it, bought medical equipment's, medicine, Hospital beds and mattresses, chairs and tables and we started the activities. The population was very happy to see they have their own clinic and medical Doctor. It was the first time they had had a medical Doctor in their village and this touched their hearts so much.

Every day they receive many patients who come to receive treatment. The clinic has a maternity unit and theatre. Operations for hernia, appendix, kyst are done there and then they transfer the major ones to Luvungi MHCD Hospital. The clinic has brought a big impact in the village because the villagers do not have to travel soo far to receive medical care and funds that they could use for transportation for medical care is now put into other uses in the village. We receive good testimonies everyday concerning the medical clinic.



Rev. Peter Frogley from Australia launching Luberizi MHCD Clinic.





NDOLERA/MUGOGO HEALTH CENTRE AND MATERNITY

Ndolera is one of the villages in Uvira Territory and is found deep in the mountains. The roads to the village are impassable, only way to get there is by foot, bicycle or motorbicycle. Its a village that was soo much affected during the war by the rebels. It served as the main battle ground for the rebels and this made villagers lead very difficult lives. Many women and young girls were raped and many young boys forced to become child soldiers. One of the biggest problems they experienced was lack of health centre that led to many deaths.

The nearest Hospital for them became the Luvungi MHCD Hospital but during the night it became very difficult for the sick to come to Luvungi leading to loss of lives. By good luck, 2 of the midwives graduands from Luvungi Midwifery School went back to the village and opened a health centre. They started working from traditional houses made of mud walls and grass thatched. Inside the room there were no chairs, bed or table. The sick were sleeping on mats. Midwives were working under very difficult conditions but they never gave up, they continued working in those conditions saving lives of many people. They mainly worked on delivering babies, immunization, pre and post natal care, family planning and treating common diseases like malaria and typhoid. They also train traditional midwives, distribute birthing kits and educate the community on hygiene.

After visiting them and seeing the good work they were doing in January 2019, MHCD thought it good to construct Health centres and support them with chairs, tables, Hospital beds, mattresses, medical equipment's and medicine.

We managed to build a health centre and equipped it. As at now they have moved from the traditional house and the mat beds and the sick can now sleep on beds and under a proper roof. The health centre brought about positive change for the whole village and the villagers now feel at home. The mortality rate has greatly decreased and life standards have improved. The Health centre has helped boost other activities of the village and made the village advance.

We really thank Dr. Luc Mulimbalimba's family, Ndolera community, MHCD D.R.Congo and Australian Friends that helped us with funds that we used to purchase Hospital beds that were locally made in Bujumbura Burundi, Purchase mattresses, chairs and tables. Your support changed lives of the

community people in Ndolera and they really appreciate you all. Your support has improved lives of the whole community especially women and children. While talking with one of the women, she said she is very very thankful to see that there are people as far as Australia who have heard their cries and are helping them. Your support not only helped improve health care system but also all round.



MHCD Ndolera Health Centre.





Dr Luc visiting the Ndolera Health Centre with hospital beds and mattresses



Dr Luc Mulimbalimba Launching Ndolera Health Centre.

MHCD SECONDARY SCHOOL / CLASS ROOM CONSTRUCTION

In the Academic year 2018/2019, MHCD Luvungi Secondary and polytechnic school received many students. We registered 1600 students from different villages. When they came to learn they found we did not have enough buildings to accommodate all of them. We told them we do not have enough space for all of them since our capacity was of 800 students and we asked them to go to other schools around. They refused and said they do not have the money to pay because other schools are very expensive. They said they were happy to learn from outside as long as they get their diplomas. They came for around two weeks just learning from outside and when we saw their eagerness, we opened another classroom at the MHCD restaurant which is also open but with a roof which was much better than learning from outside.

We immediately took up the responsibility of constructing other 6 classrooms for them. We are very happy to inform you that in this year we have constructed one classroom from donations from my family together with some MHCD friends from Australia. We really thank Rev. Peter Frogley and the whole congregation of Ginnindera Christian church together with Pastor Darren and the entire Mittagong Highlands church. Your support was very handy and we added it to the funds we had and we managed to construct the one classroom. From the 6 classes that had been at the Restaurant, the Form 2 class that had 70 students are now learning from their own class. They were very happy to start using their classroom. The new building has brought new hope to other students and they too know that they will manage to get their own classrooms some day. Our gratitude's to all MHCD supporters and friends who supported the program in one way or another. May God bless you.

WHEELCHAIRS FOR KIDS DISTRIBUTION

Wheelchairs for Kids is a MHCD DR Congo program in collaboration with the Wheelchairs for Kids Australia. The program involves distribution of free wheelchairs to children who are physically handicapped and who do not have any means to get the chairs. Most of this group comes from the villages and Rural areas and they are not in a position to purchase wheelchairs. In DRC the costs of one wheelchair ranges from USD150 TO USD250. Most of the vulnerable group live under the poverty line and cannot afford this much money.

Parents to the handicapped children have suffered a lot due to the immobility status of their children and this has affected the whole family. Most remain at home taking care of their children and cannot fend for themselves leading to extreme poverty. Many of these children miss schooling and as a result the illiteracy rate among them is very high.

In bringing solution to all this and giving hope to these children, MHCD started a Rehabilitation and Re education centre under the Luvungi MHCD General Hospital that is concerned especially with educating, sensitizing, rehabilitating and the reassembling and distribution of the wheelchairs. Since we began the program MHCD has distributed more than 300 wheelchairs in different Districts and provinces of DRC. We receive the wheelchairs for free from Australia and we distribute for free.

There has been a huge change in this program towards the handicapped children and their families at large. Most of the children can now attend school and ever since we started the program, we have successfully gotten into schooling 212 children and they are very happy. They go to the school with the wheelchairs and use its table for writing. This has restored hope and joy in their lives.

Again, most of these children weren't able to use bathrooms on their own but with the wheelchairs it's become easy for them. Most villages in DRC have pit latrines and it proved very difficult for them to use. The wheelchairs have increased mobility for the kids and they can go around on their own which is very beautiful. One of them testified that since he was born, he couldn't get out of the house due to lack of legs. But since Dr. Luc Mulimbalimba and MHCD gave me legs, I can now go around and discover different places in Luvungi. The legs he says we gave him are the wheelchairs. Now he has many friends of which he is very thankful of grace of wheelchairs. When I heard the testimony I was filled with tears of joy and I thanked God.

The wheelchairs have helped reduce poverty such that the parents who could stay the whole day at home taking care of the handicapped children can now go out and look for food and other needs for the family. This has caused great impact not only in the families but the whole community. One woman said that ever since her child got the wheelchair, she is no longer tied at home, she goes to the market to sell vegetables. She said her children suffered greatly of malnutrition but now they are slowly regaining their Health.

Our program is not only distribution. The wheelchairs for Kids D.R. Congo team carry out a survey in villages and rural areas and pick out those who are extremely vulnerable and cannot afford to purchase wheelchairs for themselves. They sensitize and educate the family and the handicapped

child on how to adapt and improve their lives. If they see a need of a medical check up they put the concerned in the ambulance and take them to the Hospital. At the Hospital the team reassembles the wheelchair and fit the kid. The family is then educated on taking care of the wheelchair in case of a minor breakdown. MHCD team then organises a distribution day in a village or town they marked. On the material day, the whole community is assembled, we have a time of singing and dancing and then we distribute the wheelchairs to the kids in front of the gathering. Most ignorant people think that being handicapped is a sign of witchcraft or curse and this caused many families to be separated. But because of the assembling day, many people in the communities now understand its something that can happen to anyone. The parents have time to testify 3before the community and the community together take care of the children and the wheelchairs. Through this program many families which had been separated have come together. We appreciate the great sacrifice of the Wheelchairs for Kids Australia.



Wheelchairs for Kids distribution in one of the villages of South Kivu Province.





KATOGOTA HEALTH CENTRE

After constructing a community market in Katogota village, another big problem was medical care. Katogota has a Government Health Centre but its very expensive. Malaria treatment is almost USD30,maternity costs USD30 and just recently, one man cut himself accidentally with a machete on the leg and when he went there, he was requested to pay USD40.He had only USD 2 and he bled so much close to death. They came and informed Luvungi Hospital,by good luck I was around and we immediately sent the Ambulance to go pick him. He was treated and he only paid USD 5.The difference was big comparing the USD40 he had been requested for in Katogota. This is why Katogota community requested MHCD to build for them a health centre.

When MHCD staffs visited the village, they found there was one organisation that had an old building that they were not using and when we explained to them the need of a health centre they donated it to MHCD.MHCD conducted the rehabilitation and equipped it. By good luck the Rotary club of Como donated some funds to support the midwifery program. We used part of the funds to rehabilitate the house, purchase hospital beds, mattresses and chairs. We took two nurses from our midwifery school who had graduated and they went their started working. The medical centre has progressed very well and most villagers prefer the place. They conduct deliveries, immunizations, pre and post natal care, family planning and treating common diseases. It has been a blessing for the whole community. We are so grateful to the rotary club of Como for their donation that helped rehabilitate the house and purchase some materials. Thank you very much for your efforts and sacrifice.

BUSINGA DISPENSARY AND MATERNITY

Businga is one of the villages in Uvira Territory and is found deep in the mountains. The roads to the village are impassable, only way to get there is by foot, bicycle or motor bicycle. It's a village that was so much affected during the war by the rebels. It served as the main battle ground for the rebels and this made villagers lead very difficult lives. Many women and young girls were raped and many young boys forced to become child soldiers. One of the biggest problems they experienced was lack of health centre that led to many deaths.

The nearest Hospital for them became the Luvungi MHCD Hospital but during the night it became very difficult for the sick to come to Luvungi leading to loss of lives. By good luck, 2 of the midwives graduands from Luvungi Midwifery school went back to the village and opened a health centre. They started working from traditional houses made of mud walls and grass thatched. Inside the room there were no chairs, bed or table. The sick were sleeping on mats. Midwives were working under very difficult conditions but they never gave up, they continued working in those conditions saving lives of many people. They mainly worked on delivering babies, immunization, pre and post natal care, family planning and treating common diseases like malaria and typhoid. They also train traditional midwives, distribute birthing kits and educate the community on hygiene.

After visiting them and seeing the good work they were doing in January 2019, MHCD thought it good to construct Health centres and support them with chairs, tables, Hospital beds, mattresses, medical equipments and medicine.

We managed to rehabilitate one house that had been donated by one of the village elders that we turned to be a health centre and equipped it. As at now they have moved from the traditional house and the mat beds and the sick can now sleep on beds and under a proper roof. The health centre brought about positive change for the whole village and the villagers now feel at home. The mortality rate has greatly decreased and life standards have improved. The Health centre has helped boost other activities of the village and made the village advance.

We really thank Dr Elaine and John Dietsch that helped us with funds that we used to purchase Hospital beds that were locally made in Uvira, mattresses, chairs and tables. Your support changed lives of the community people in Businga and they really appreciate you all. Your support has improved lives of the whole community especially women and children. While talking with one of the women, she said she is very very thankful to see that there are people as far as Australia who have heard their cries and are helping them. Your support not only helped improve health care system but also all round.

SANGE DIETSCH ACADEMY

Sange Dietsch's Academy (School) is located in Sange village, Uvira territory, South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The village had a terrible tragedy a few years ago. A petrol tanker overturned and exploded sending a huge fireball through the very centre of the village. Over 200

people died and many were left badly burned. Many houses were destroyed and this has had an ongoing effect on the village to this day. The villagers had already been suffering and were badly affected by the war and then the explosion and deaths were a further tragedy and brought more suffering for them. The fire and the war left many children orphaned in Sange village and many of them have been suffering from malnutrition because of lack of food. Others have been dying from diseases as they do not have the money to afford medical care.

When hearing of all these problems, Dr Luc Mulimbalimba and Nathan Dietsch decided to start a Nursery School in Sange. Since we started the Nursery School we have been receiving more and more pupils each year. The School has been growing and now we have not only a Nursery School but also a Primary School. We are happy to inform you that many children have completed Primary school and joined Secondary school. Others, after completing primary school, joined Technical Colleges and learned skills like carpentry, masonry and they are now providing for their families. Last year others completed their secondary school education and now have a National Diploma. Others are planning to join University next year. We thank Nathan Dietsch very much for supporting this school for all these years. Your support has been making a huge difference to the lives of these children. You have supported not only those orphans but have also supported the whole village. Thank you so much as Sange School has become one of the best programmes we have as there are very few challenges or problems because of your ongoing support. We really appreciate your help.

We also provide medical care for those children who are sick. We have also provided food for those who are malnourished. The Nutrition Programme has become very important and we have been receiving and feeding other children in the area who are suffering from malnutrition as well as children from the Sange School. At present we are thinking of building a Nutrition Centre so that this project can become a village/community programme. The School has brought joy, unity and reconciliation in the village and the villagers are very proud of their school.



Photos of the first time we started Dietsch Academy Sange.





MHCD Staff have prepared food for the students.





Pupils eating their meal.

KAHORORO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kahororo is a village which is located in the Congo but neighbours Burundi near the Kamvivira border. Since the village began they had never had a school. In 2009, when Dr Luc Mulimbalimba and Dr Elaine Dietsch visited the village for the first time, 90% of the children were not being educated and were staying at home taking care of their siblings. It was very challenging for the village because most of the villagers could not read or write. A few of the families could send their children to school but it involved sending them to Kiromoni and Kamvivira Uvira across a lake Nyangara in small traditional boats. During the rainy season it was a problem for the children to go to school because the lake flooded and, very sadly and tragically, some children were drowned so the parents did not want to send their children to school during the Rainy Season. Kahororo village had also been badly affected by war because rebels from Burundi had invaded the village and raped most of the village women and stolen all the goats and chickens and this meant much more suffering for the villagers. To bring a permanent solution to Kahororo, Dr Luc and Elaine Dietsch started Kahororo Primary School. In the first year, as well as the small children, we also had youths from 12-16 years of age join Class 1, 2 and 3 at the Primary school. So they were able to be educated we allowed them to come with their younger siblings to class. This made the programme very successful. We built the first four classrooms with mud bricks and iron sheets and when the villagers saw the first iron sheet roofed buildings in their village it was a sign of the good beginning of development in their village. They had been told to believe that if you built an iron sheet building you would be killed by witchcraft. So they did not believe that Dr Luc Mulimbalimba would survive. But when they saw that he was alive and visiting their village often they understood that what they had been told was a lie. They then started to work very hard to put iron sheet roofs on their houses. We are very happy to let you know that now, in Kahororo village, there are many houses with iron sheet roofs.

The school programme has grown so large that we have formed a committee of villagers who will now take care of the school. After Impact Radio Uvira Station, which is an MHCD radio station, had been talking about the impact of the school in the village, some of the Catholic sisters went to visit the village and they connected the village with an International organisation. We are very happy to let you know that the International Organisation helps to build three classrooms and two toilets in Kahororo village. Kahororo village now has a nice building with three classrooms. Because they have many students those three classrooms, plus two classrooms that have been built by MHCD, are now not enough to accommodate all the students. The villagers have realised the importance of the school and now send their children there. When MHCD staff visited Kahororo last month they found that there are students standing outside for their lessons. Another big challenge they are now facing is that they need support so that the teacher may continue to teach there because most of the students, especially those who are orphaned, cannot afford to pay for

their education. We are very grateful to God that Luc Mulimbalimba's and Elaine Dietsch's wish and prayer to give education to Kahororo village have come true. We are proud to see that they have nice buildings in their village. We started from zero but, through your prayer and support, Kahororo has been developed. We kindly please ask all well-wishers to help us build two more classrooms. For now we are asking for iron sheets and funds for mud bricks so that we can quickly build two classrooms for the children who are learning outside. Thank you very much for supporting Kahororo village. Your prayers and support have really changed that village and they now have their own school.



Photos of the first time we started Kahororo School in Kahororo village.





New Kahororo school building.



One of the class rooms that need to be built.

CONTAINER OF COMPUTERS FROM COMPUTERS FOR CONGO

MHCD has a programme, in the DR Congo, called Computers for Life. The main objective of this programme is to train youths on Information Technology and to open computer centres in villages. Through this project we have been able to open Uvira Community University which has a degree course in Information Technology. MHCD are working closely with Tom Cecil, the Director of Computers for Congo Australia. The two organisations have been on the front-line in promoting IT in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Tom Cecil and Computers for Congo have been sending many computers to the DRC and, through that support, we have managed to open computer centres in many villages. We have also opened have a good computer centre at MHCD Secondary and Polytechnic School.

We are very happy to let you know that in October 2019 Computers for Congo sent a container with 1,000 computers, printers and computer accessories to the DRC. The container arrived in the DRC in December 2019. Computers for Congo paid for the transport of the container from Australia to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and MHCD paid for the container's transport and Customs charges from Tanzania to the DRC. The collaboration of these two organisations worked very well and, when the container arrived in Luvungi, we distributed computers and computer accessories to many other districts and provinces.

Tom Cecil has recently volunteered in the DRC for 3 months and we thank him for accepting to work in the Congo while Dr Luc was in Australia. We also thank him for agreeing to go to the Congo and for believing Dr Luc that everything would be good and safe and there would be no problems. We also thank very much the DRC Government leaders who issued a Special Visa for Tom Cecil so that he could enter the Congo without any problems. These leaders also helped with transportation of computers from Luvungi to the villages so that the villages could open computer centres. While in the Congo, Tom Cecil taught IT as a lecturer to University students. He also organised and set up a Trainers Programme for all the people who will receive computers and open computer centres. Tom also visited villages and opened computer centres. We also opened computer laboratories in three Universities in South Kivu province. Other computers were sent to North Kivu and Kasai provinces. The programme is going very well and many youths are very happy to learn Information Technology and computer programmes. For many of the youths, learning in the villages, it was the first time they had touched a computer and they are now very happy to learn Information Technology.

The work of MHCD and the Computers for Congo Australia is going well on the ground and our vision is that Uvira Community University will become the leading IT University in the DRC. We are very happy because most of the computers went to different places in D.R.Congo and MHCD has kept 275

computers and laptops which we will give to University students for practice and opening the new computer centre for the University. We have a vision to open computer laboratories in Uvira and Luvungi. We are asking all well-wishers who have second hand computers to please continue to support the MHCD Computers for Life programme and the Computers for Congo Australia organization. DR Congo has a population of 80 million and we have many schools that don't have computers. Many children and youths finish their secondary school without even touching a computer. You cannot study without knowing how to use a computer in today's world because everything, including research, is now on computer sites. This is why we are in need of more computers. We would be very grateful for donations of second hand or new laptops for our computer projects. We really thank Computers for Congo Australia for providing computers in many villages in DR Congo and again we thank Tom Cecil for accepting to volunteer in the DRC for 3 months. May God bless you.



Container of computers arriving in Luvungi.





Tom Cecil with MHCD Staffs in Luvungi.

BIRTHING KITS PROGRAMME

It is now more than 13 years since MHCD began working with the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia. Over these years we have together managed to distribute more than 300,000 Birthing Kits; we have trained more than 1,200 traditional midwives and organised midwifery training seminars and we have arranged seminars for training the midwife training personnel. The Birthing Kit Australia Project is one of MHCD's programmes and MHCD has been working very hard to make sure the kits are distributed to traditional midwives in village areas. We received kits from the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia and MHCD staff and volunteers distributed them to different provinces, districts and villages. We have distributed Birthing Kits to more than six provinces in the DR Congo. There are no roads to most of the villages where the kits are being taken so MHCD staff and volunteers are walking and carrying boxes for more than 6-12 hours to reach these villages. We thank them because for many years they have been doing this difficult task with energy and a solid commitment to saving the lives of many women and babies and because of the Birthing Kit programme we have managed to reduce the infant mortality rate and morbidity in many villages. Birthing Kits help to prevent HIV/Aids and tetanus for the babies and their mothers because the mothers can deliver in a safe, clean environment. The programme also helps to bring together

traditional midwives. We have formed Midwifery Clubs where traditional midwives can meet and discuss different topics like nutrition, primary health care, micro-financing, agribusiness, introduction of nursing, midwifery, gender equality and many topics which help them to reduce poverty and promote healthcare in their villages. All these programmes have been very successful and we are very happy to have achieved this.

We thank very much the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia because for many years they have been sending us kits for free and MHCD has been distributing these birthing kits for free. MHCD has never asked for even \$1 for a kit. We are working very hard and making sure that the kits arrive in villages safely. MHCD also has a programme for making Birthing Kits locally. With the support of the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia organisation we have been able to make birthing kits locally twice in Luvungi and Uvira. This programme has helped so much to improve the lives of babies and women and to support local midwives.

One of the largest impacts that MHCD and the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia has brought to the DRC is the creation of the Midwifery School. Many girls who have been educated to secondary school level came to us and asked to be trained as midwives. They had been working as traditional midwives in their villages. We contacted the DRC Government and they gave us registration and a curriculum to start the Midwifery School. MHCD constructed the buildings and we are proud to tell you that our Midwifery School is one of the best midwifery schools in South Kivu province. We have had two graduations of students from the school. They are doing very good work in their villages. We have also organised a programme for the training of Trainers seminars. We have achieved this vision of the Midwifery School through the close collaboration of MHCD and the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia and we are very proud to see how these two organisations are making a huge difference in the DRC. MHCD was the first organisation to distribute Birthing Kits in the Congo and it is the organisation that has introduced Birthing Kits in Kenya and Burundi. We are very happy to see that now there are many organisations distributing birthing kits in Kenya, Congo and Burundi. We are pleased that the good work we have been doing in promoting birthing kits in the DRC and Kenya has been very successful and Burundian traditional midwives are now requesting birthing kits from us. The Birthing Kit Foundation Australia has been a great help to MHCD. It has helped MHCD to mature as an organisation. MHCD has also been a help to the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia because of the good work we have been doing and now there are many testimonies stating that birthing kits can save lives in developing countries. MHCD has also shown that the Birthing Kits Foundation Australia has been saving lives in developing countries through distribution of their birthing kits. We are proud of MHCD and the Birthing Kits Foundation Australia because, through our years of working together, our two organisations have become two of the most respected organisations in the world. We thank all the Birthing Kit Foundation leaders who have been working very hard to make sure we receive the birthing kits. They have been

close friends when we have been faced with difficulties and challenges and their continued support has helped us to have the energy and drive to continue saving lives and helping poor people.

The Birthing Kit programme is going very well and we do not only distribute to traditional midwives but we also distribute kits to Government health centres and hospitals, community health workers and expectant mothers who are 8-9 months pregnant. Before we give the kits out we teach the mothers how to use them. If there are no birthing kits when these pregnant women go to see traditional midwives they give the traditional midwives a kit and show them how to use it. However, in most of the places where we distribute the kits to expectant women, the traditional midwives and expectant mothers already know how to use the kits so it is easy for the women to take a kit to a traditional midwife. In all the years MHCD has been on the front-line promoting and distributing kits in the DRC and elsewhere we have not asked for money and we do not get involved in political or religious activities. We give to every woman who needs it and that makes the programme in the DRC very successful. That is why even the DRC Government, through the Ministry of Health, has come to MHCD and asked us to write a proposal so that the Govt can be involved in the distribution of Birthing Kits in other provinces where the kits have not yet been distributed. The good work that we have been doing, and the good testimonies that have been written, are the reasons that the Government has come to MHCD and asked us to collaborate with them. At present we don't have any kits but we are hoping to get kits soon so that we can continue with this great programme.

We have also organised many community development projects in collaboration with ZONTA clubs. These community development projects include fish pond projects, micro-financing, farming projects and the distribution of mobile phones to traditional midwives in villages. The mobile phone programme has been doing very well and links traditional midwives, community health workers and MHCD staff. The traditional midwives have been using phones to inform MHCD staff when there has been violence against women in a village. MHCD then informs the nearest police station so the police can go and help the women. Also the mobile phones have been used to call for the MHCD ambulance so when there is a serious health problem in a village the ambulance can go and collect the patient. We thank ZONTA Clubs Australia for their support. They have been in the front-line supporting our micro-financing projects and the radio programme. Through their support we have been able to save many lives of babies and women, to bring peace, unity and reconciliation in many villages and to empower traditional midwives. Thank you very much ZONTA for working with MHCD. We thank you also for supporting the Midwifery School.



Baby delivered by use of birthing kit.





MHCD LUVUNGI COMMUNITY CANTEEN

As mentioned earlier on, MHCD staffs at the schools and Hospitals have been going through very difficult times. They were coming to work without having taken any meals because they did not have it and their families too remained without food. This was very challenging to them and their families. The good thing is that even if they went through such a trying time, they continued coming to work from 8am to 5pm while working very hard. We encouraged them in their work and we thank God that they adhered to all we told them.

We are happy to report that from donations and fundraising last month, the MHCDSA transferred to them the funds and they purchased food and opened a canteen called MHCD Luvungi Community Canteen. In the canteen we have foods like cassava and maize flour, dry fish, cooking oil, tomatoes, sugar, salt, juice, soap etc

The canteen operates as a credit unit where they can buy food on credit and when they get the money they come to pay later. It's also cheaper because they get the food at wholesale price.

We also introduced breakfast and lunch for teachers and medical staffs. From 1ST December they started having meals at the MHCD compound and this gives them good courage to teach the students and treat the patients well. When we introduced the program, they testified and greatly thanked

MHCDASA and other friends and supporters who worked so hard and supported them so they could get funds for food.

Since July 2019, full time staffs never got any wages, but we are very happy to let you know that in December they got some funds as wages which will help them get food for a while for their families as they continue working. We thank so much all MHCD friends and supporters who contributed to this program.









MHCD Luvungi Community Canteen





LUVUNGI GENERAL HOSPITAL

On 1st December 2019 we started the Liberty Medical and Surgical campaign for the sake of providing cheap, quality, and affordable medical care to vulnerable people of D.R.Congo and Burundi. Everyday women are delivering babies, the sick are coming for consultation and treatment and Doctors are conducting operations. We purchased medicine and medical consumable materials that help a lot in carrying out the jobs.

Since we started this program, hundreds of people's lives have been saved. The program has helped so many especially the underprivileged, it has brought hope and unity amongst many family members who had earlier on been separated but have since received counseling and medical care. We thank all MHCD friends who generously contributed funds that went towards purchase of medicines and consumables and as at now the Hospital has medicines that help in the daily runs. Mutula, the new MHCD coordinator held a meeting with all the staffs and explained to them how very many Australians came together and did a fundraising for the Hospital. They were very happy and appreciated so much to hear that many friends and Australian supporters are still thinking about and supporting them even if Dr. Luc is not on the ground. They asked us to thank them on their behalf and that they will make sure all activities are going on well as planned.

The Impact Radio in Luvungi also aired about the ongoing support from MHCDASA and friends and supporters from Australia. The population were happy to hear about the medicine donation and the cheap operations to be carried out at the Hospital. Most of those already operated on are giving their testimonies and this brings hope to those who would like to come to the hospital for treatment and we received many of them. One of the women who had suffered from Fibroids and kyst for a period of two years visited one Hospital in Uvira District to get operation but she was requested to pay USD300 for operation. Since the lady was very poor, she sourced some \$100 from the relatives and sold every tangible thing in her house but again when she went with the money to the Hospital they refused to operate on her until when she raises \$300. She went back home but struggled with the intense pain and suffering. Since she didn't have enough strength she could not work and this affected her children, they could not afford to pay for their school fees. One day while she was lying on her bed and listening to impact Radio, she heard a testimony of another lady who had the same problem as hers and had been operated on for only 20\$ and she was doing very well. The next day she came to Luvungi MHCD Hospital and was surprised to be asked only 20\$ and was operated on and did very well then went back home. The remaining 80\$ went back into a small business and she is selling small items. She also testified how the Hospital helped her and that her children will be back at school soon. This is how liberty, medical and surgical campaign is helping not only sick people but the whole community.



The lady above gave birth to triplets. Since the beginning of the year, we have now had 3 women giving birth to triplets at the Hospital.



MHCD Doctors conducting operations at the MHCD Hospital Theatre





The above women gave birth at the MHCD Luvungi Hospital and Uvira clinic and they were presented with birth certificates.



MHCD staffs receiving boxes of medicines for the medical campaign.



Mutula the new MHCD Coordinator organising meeting with all MHCD staff early December 2019,

FAMILY CAR IN AUSTRALIA

We are so grateful to Pastor Raff and Denise Shaw and the entire congregation at the Ancientwells Middleton Church for the fundraising they did and thereafter the family car they enabled us buy since we are a big family of seven and therefore needed a seven seat car for going around. We were surprised in a few days to hear that Pst. Raff conducted a fundraising and raised 5000 AUD. We added AUD2000 as a family and bought the landcruiser Toyota that we are using here in Australia. When we go back to Congo we shall go with it so it can help in mission work. Thank you very much Pastor Raff for supporting us with a family car.



MHCD SECONDARY AND POLYTECHNIQUE SCHOOL

As we had said earlier on, we launched a food program where we provide breakfast and lunch every day to the teachers. This helps motivate them to teach well since most of them come to school on a hungry stomach. We also opened a canteen that will help feed their families. This food program has been of great benefit to the teachers since they are motivated to teach much better. They testified and said that the food program had encouraged them in their teaching endeavours and not only that but also it had given them much needed strength especially with the knowledge that their families back home receive some food from the canteen. The students testified that the teachers have really improved in teaching and overall classroom engagement was very good. They say that since the teachers began the food program, they have put in very hard work. This program is also at the Dietsch Academy Sange. The teachers are enjoying having breakfast and lunch at school. We really thank Nathan Dietsch for supporting this program.



MHCD Staffs after launching the community canteen.



MHCD staffs having lunch at the MHCD compound

ECHUNGA FUNDRAISING EVENT

We thank so much Fr.Thomas,MHCDASA and entire Anglican church members who worked tirelessly to ensure success of the fundraising event.The Fundraising was great and from this report you can tell the many positive outcomings.We were very surprised at the fundraising event to see the African community congratulating Dr.Luc for all the good work he is doing in Congo and they donated another car to Dr.Luc and MHCD which will also go to DRC on a container with medical equipments for mission activities.We thank Dr.Lucs friends from DRC,Burundi and Kenya who came together and gave MHCD such a great gift.May God bless you all.Your gift has greatly encouraged and motivated us.





CONCLUSION

Thank you very much for giving your time to read the MHCD December report. We really appreciate everything you did so MHCD activities in DRC could get back to normal. Thank you also for your prayers, care and support. Please do not tire in supporting MHCD activities and projects and on our side we shall make sure that every cent donated will go into its intended use. MHCD staffs on ground are sacrificing a lot so that all the activities may run smoothly.



Dr Luc and Delice Mulimbalimba.

DR LUC MULIMBALIMBA MASURURU
MHCD DIRECTOR.