

## **Rotary E-Club Of Greater Sydney**

### **International Projects Update January 2021**

Our International projects continue to help those in need.

**Honduras Hurricane** – Shell Burich is the co-president of the Rotary club in Honduras who will come to our club in 2021 as a guest speaker to highlight the devastation & recovery efforts by rotary.

**Feeding Dreams** Cambodia held their school for ride fundraiser to raise money to help reopen the school in January 2021. School is back with COVID mask wearing and washing hands regularly is a new school daily activity. The community of Siem Reap are still severely impacted by the collapse of tourism due to covid which was the livelihoods for many.

**School for Life** we have recently hired a new Country Director at School for Life who will start with us in early January. We will also be looking for funding to complete the boys' wing of the boarding in 2021.

**DAK** under the RAWCS Maternal and Child Health project – obstetric surgeries in Bangladesh have re-commenced – not at pre Covid numbers but increasing each month. We expect the surgery count to be around 100 for November.

**KINI** am trying to work with authorities to deal with so many early marriages and pregnancies of primary school girls but isn't easy. Trusting we can chip away at this big issue bit by bit.

**Oecusse, Timor Leste** Two water projects are currently underway, in Lela Ufe and Maunaban, with provision of pipes, pumps and storage tanks to deliver water from springs higher in the mountain down into villages which have run out of water due to a very long dry season.

**Sewaïd** - Just prior to the COVID lockdown we were all packed up for a project in Kiribati, in fact we still have two pallets wrapped up ready to send. We have been waiting for DIK Melbourne to re-commence as they handle the freight to Kiribati for us.

**Mama Wimbi** A German donor has just bought us a heavy-duty sewing machine for \$200 which will help us in our plan to establish a very efficient and competitive school bag factory in Eastern Congo. This team will supply red bags for School-in-a-Bag distribution as well as blue bags for local sale. Our team will also fill and distribute bags for School-in-a-Bag.

We are working with a German social enterprise, DESWOS, to purchase a block of land and construct 4 apartments to house 4 large and fatherless families, with no source of income except the sewing we facilitate. Depending on how that negotiation progresses, we may have enough land to later build another block of 2 apartments over a community centre with sewing/office/teaching/computing and library functions.

We are pleased to be using the same local architect and builder who completed our last building project, a school library, on time and in budget. This construction will allow donor support to be used for more developmentally strategic purposes than paying rent, which is always our aim.

**Bo Childrens hospital** The government will re-establish funding for Malaria, HIV, Measles and the Malnutrition Clinic. The hospital will have a thorough Covid 19 cleaning by the government before reopening. We are currently interviewing doctors for the position of Hospital Superintendent, to replace our much respected Vandi Sombie who lost his life to Covid 19 earlier this year. The nursing staff have been employed at the hospital during its Covid period and will return to working for BCH on 1st December. **RESUMING OPERATIONS** The nurses, administration and security staff have not been paid by the government during this period despite many requests for same. This has been very hard on their families so the BCH Foundation Board purchases a bag of rice for each family to help them through the difficult times. We are looking forward to resuming our care for children. The specialised attention BCH gave children has been missed by the Bo community who had come to trust the staff and the services we offered at the hospital.

### **Hand Up Congo**

**Thanks to Light My Fire**, a US foundation, 900 female students from Nsang'ea Ndotsi High School in Equateur Province's capital Mbandaka and 600 girls 300 km away in Lotumbe schools have been getting an education this year.

**Merci mingi (thanks a lot!) as well to Colin Menzies and Daniel Nelson** in Sydney, who have made it possible for 90 orphaned girls to enrol in Lotumbe schools this year with complete school supplies.

Our long-time colleagues at **DAK Foundation** and the **Disciples of Christ Community in Congo** (CDCC) know that increasing coverage of family planning in the DRC is one of the most effective ways to reduce infant and maternal mortality. [DRC's annual population growth rate of 3.4% ranks among the highest in the world](#) and it is high fertility rates that drive this growth. Thanks to their great teamwork, DAK supplies CDCC with modern contraceptives which Dr Bosolo Yoursen and his team deliver by canoe to remote riverside hamlets in Equateur Province.

COVID-19 and Ebola have impacted Lotumbe's food security. To fight hunger, market gardens with diversified vegetables have been introduced to **women's action groups**.

HandUp Congo partners with the Great Lakes Agency of Peace and Development [www.glapd.org.au](http://www.glapd.org.au) to facilitate the **resettlement of refugees** in rural areas like Wingham NSW.