

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



friends of cme trust

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Dear friends,

Apologies that it has been so long since we last wrote to you. There has been much uncertainty in the region in which CME operates and, therefore, it hasn't been possible to get all the information we hoped to pass on to you. However, because there is still much to tell, I am writing this letter now.

CME hospital activities in 2018



During the previous year, a summary of CME's work is:

Consultations	32,680
Hospitalised patients	11,759
Surgery	3,098
Births	2,449
Christian conversions	648

CME employed 320 staff, including 29 doctors and 128 nurses.

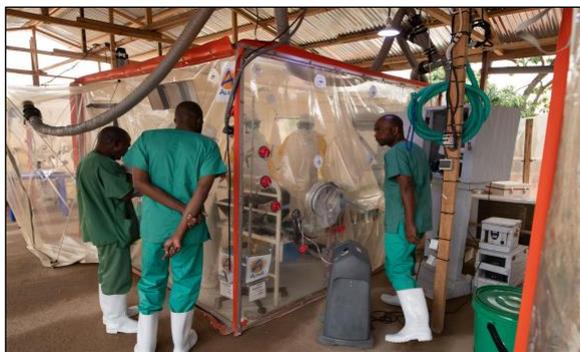
CME hospital continues to run 3 hospitals: the original one at Nyankunde; one in Beni/Sose (which became CME's 'home' after the 2002 attack on Nyankunde and continues to be the CME admin centre); and another in Bunia (today a city of nearly 1 million people).

Nearly 20,000 women received help through antenatal consultations, the hospital laboratories carried out nearly 150,000 tests, and the pharmacies produced nearly 35,000 products which were either used at the CME hospitals or distributed to other hospitals.

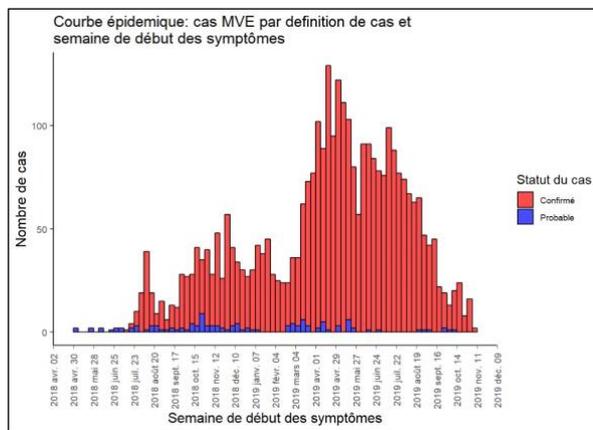
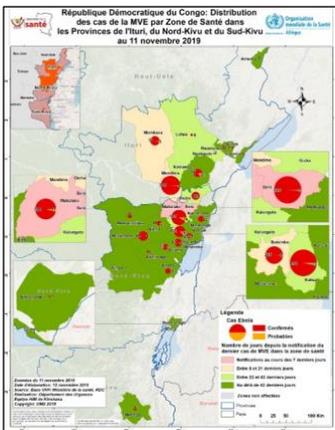
As well as its medical work, CME continues to be a major training centre. 100 students studied further education courses at the Nyankunde Medical Institute. Most studied nursing but others studied pharmacy, laboratory, dentistry and physiotherapy. There was an even number of male and female students and a 92% pass rate. At graduate level, CME's university in Bunia trained 580 students – of which 68% were men and 32% women – with a pass rate of 68%.

Ebola

Ebola has continued to plague the area of North-east DRC where CME works. The images below show where Ebola has caused most harm and the reducing incidence. Tragically, there



have been nearly 3,300 cases of Ebola with 2,200 deaths across the region. CME have been directly involved in caring for those with Ebola. Thankfully, no employees have died because of the effectiveness of vaccines.



The image on the left shows that Beni is one of the most affected and has registered 685 deaths, the most of any town. Nyankunde and Bunia have had 2 and 4 respectively. The graph on the right shows that the number of cases has dropped to less than 25 since September and to less than 5 at the last count. This is great news but please pray it will end completely.

Construction update



In the first picture [far left], the CME leaders welcome former Medical Director Dr. Jo Lusi back to Nyankunde outside the newly restored chapel. We have sent CME £18,000 to date for the construction of the new children's ward at Beni/Sose seen in the picture [far right]. Another £25,000 is required and we would really welcome any donations.

Oicha orphans

One of the biggest impacts of the Ebola virus and the on-going insecurity in the CME area has been on schools which have struggled to remain open. At Nyankunde, we support 26 schools with over 10,000 children. Specifically, we paid for 128 orphans to take their final exams. In addition, 210 orphans at Oicha near Beni received our help to ensure they had a meal each day, could go to school and received trauma counselling. The last school year finished in August and we have been waiting to hear when they will be able to re-open.

The new President has visited the area which is almost unprecedented and has brought some hope. He has also launched a military initiative against the militia group that has caused so much trouble. He has also promised that free education should be available and so schools should not charge fees. This would be great but so far the schools have not received funds to replace the fees, so cannot pay their teachers who have, accordingly, gone on strike! The good news is that, firstly, 333 orphaned children have returned and are waiting to start school, secondly, after receiving a wonderful anonymous donation of £10,000 we hope to have enough funds for these children, especially if we don't have to pay school fees. We will keep you posted!

We received a short 4-minute video from this project which shows what we are providing and hears from children and adults involved. It can be viewed on our website by following this link: http://www.friendsofcme.org/Videos/2019-OEIL_ORPHANS_OF_OICHA_BENI_DRC.mp4

Also, on the front page of our website, we post updates on Ebola: <http://www.friendsofcme.org/>

Thank you as always for remembering the people of north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of the Trustees
Chris Almond