

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



## friends of cme trust

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Dear friends,

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2018. We will start with the bad news but please read on to get the good news later!

### **Ebola**

Some of you may be surprised to hear that in recent weeks Ebola has been causing deep problems in the region in which CME works. Sadly, as is often the case, it is not considered newsworthy in the UK. 144 cases have been suspected and 113 confirmed. 66 of the 113 have died to date. Some of the cases have been admitted/treated at CME's new hospital in Sose. Thankfully an experimental vaccine has been given to CME staff and no one, so far, has caught the disease. The outbreak has caused further heart-ache and worry for a population already under stress. We have just sent £2,300 to respond to the most urgent needs identified by CME.

### **Insecurity**

Insecurity in the Beni/Sose region continues to be a problem with regular attacks by a group called the ADF which appear to have origins in Uganda and claim to be an Islamic terrorist group. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allied\\_Democratic\\_Forces#Beni\\_killings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allied_Democratic_Forces#Beni_killings). On Saturday 22nd there were 26 deaths in Beni by the ADF. These were also reported on the BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-45295217> On the other hand, Bunia and Nyankunde are mercifully calm. There was a separate attack in Oicha on the night of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – with one death.

### **New Paediatric Ward at Sose**



The new hospital at Sose has requested our help in building a ward for children since they have been sharing with adults so far. The estimated total cost is £44,000. We've sent £9,000 to start this process. These photos show the progress made during the first week of building. If you would like to send a gift to support this build, we'd love to hear from you!



## Children's work in Oicha

In Oicha, we are pleased to let you know that the 315 orphan children we have supported have completed their second year of school and are now on holidays (generally helping with harvest) until they restart in the next month or so. The project has proceeded as planned with the children being homed by foster families who we supply with enough rice, beans, milk and bread for a daily meal. Last year, a video was made featuring two children. The girl, Sisca, is now 13. She was recently interviewed and explained how she was walking some way behind her mother when she was attacked and killed. Sisca was further traumatised when her father abandoned the family after his wife's death. Sisca said, about her school, "We were taught profound lessons on the character of God's love; that even if our parents can abandon us, God in his unconditional love can take care of us. I miss school and my friends during holidays and my dream is to become a Doctor specialising in head surgery". The boy, Patrick, is now 15. He was intent on revenge after his father was killed and although he finds it hard in the school holidays, he remembers what he has been taught and says: "It motivated me to resume school the next two years so that I can benefit again from the classes". Our next video is nearly finished and will be posted on our website soon with updated stories of Sisca and Patrick.

At the moment, with the children on holidays and because of the insecurity, we are uncertain as to the costs for this new school year (last year it was £25,700). While we have already received generous funding of £18,750 to continue this project into the next academic year, we are not asking for additional support until we have clarity on the costs. The children return from the harvests in the next two months so we will have a clearer picture then and will write to update you on the remaining funding needs as we desire to continue support of all the orphaned children who enrol for class.

## CME Hospital Activities Update

CME has currently 374 beds over its 3 sites. It employs around 250 full-time staff including 18 doctors. 550 students are studying medical degrees at the CME University (ISTM) in Bunia and a further 80 students at the nursing school (IEM) in Nyankunde.

	<b>2017</b>	<b>First semester 2018</b>
Consultations	22,190	15,600
Hospitalised patients	10,132	6,675
Surgery	3,744	1,163
Births	2,937	2,222

Sadly, 3% of the patients hospitalised died. Malaria causes 40% of the admissions. 52 babies and 5 mothers died in childbirth. Through funds we provide, CME subsidises the treatment costs of the poorest in the community – children under 5, the elderly, disabled and pregnant women. In 2017, CME helped 118 people with £9,716 of medical costs (of which half was for surgery). Part of CME's mission is to tell of the love of God as well as show it through its medical care. In 2017, and to date in 2018, 826 people have been 'saved' and 1,760 renewed their trust in God.

Thank you, as always, for your interest in our work. Should you wish to change the communications you receive from us or unsubscribe you can contact us via email at: [info@friendsofcme.com](mailto:info@friendsofcme.com)

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Trustees

Chris Almond