

## Congo Aid Newsletter February 2024

### THANKYOU

A huge thank you to all the wonderful supporters of Congo Aid. The need remains as great as ever, but the support has once again allowed the children of the CCD orphanage to be loved, cared for, fed, clothed and go to school. In particular we would like to thank St Paul's Grammar School, Caroline Chisholm College and Penrith Anglican College for their energetic and generous support.

### THE SITUATION

As we begin 2024 there are 78 children ranging from babies to 16yrs being cared for by Dorcas, her husband Emmanuel and their wonderful team of helpers in Butembo, eastern DRC.

The dreadful violence of rebel groups in the East of the DRC is sadly ongoing. Many of the children have arrived after their parents have been killed in the attacks. Dorcas has received training in trauma counselling and a specialised program visits to help the children process what has happened.

### OUR FOCUS

Congo Aid continues to be the only regular supporter for food, medical and clothing. The children who arrive are often sick and need hospital care for dehydration, malnutrition, and other endemic diseases. The challenge is meeting the increased prices due to the instability.



National elections were held on the 20th of December, which caused some levels of disruption and instability. We hope the new government will work for peace in the troubled eastern part of the nation.



### FIRE RESPONSE

As most of you are aware there was a fire earlier on mid 2023 which destroyed one of the three houses on the orphanage site. Aside from the shock, it has made daily life even more difficult for the carers and the children.

Congo Aid was able to send money immediately to replace pots, pans, other cooking utensils, clothing, school uniforms and toilets etc. which at least allowed the critical daily functions to continue.

We thank the generous people who donated immediately for these emergency funds and for all the messages of support and love which were passed on to the children, Dorcas, Emmanuel and Bishop Isesomo at that time.

They are strengthened and encouraged by the knowledge that people so far away truly care about the children and them.



### CHRISTMAS 2023 and looking forward into 2024

Through generous support we were able to send Christmas money for the children to enjoy their Christmas. They were very happy!



However the need remains constant, would you please consider support on a monthly basis or as you are able.

Monthly support is \$50 for a child for all their needs of daily life, school and medical assistance. To offer support go to [Congo Aid Website](https://congoaid.com.au) .