

RAIN *Shine*

There is Sunshine After Rain

**CONNECTING THE CONGO
WITH THE WORLD!**



RainShine Foundation Australia

2019-2020

Letter from the Board



Gilima Primary School Classroom

All charities play an integral role in society, providing support to those who need it, and in many cases to countries where Government support is not wide spread or not available. The world would be much worse off if charities stepped out of the picture.

Providing access to education

This year has been difficult due to the impact of Covid-19, however we have continued to deliver our programmes to villages in remote Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) funding primary schools. Without our schools the children in Kembisia sector, Poko Territory would not have access to basic education and school infrastructure.

Improving health outcomes

Our programme provides medical supplies, including malaria treatment and a visiting doctor's clinic to remote villages.

Working towards future resource security

We are always looking to see how our programmes will contribute to the communities we work in for a future without RainShine. Essentially we will know we have achieved our job when we are made redundant in a community. In 2020 we commenced a programme in partnership with the DR Congo Bas-Uele Environment Ministry to establish a wildlife conservation area in 3 sectors surrounding the villages where our work is concentrated.

What does a wildlife conservation programme have to do with reducing poverty or providing education? Preserving endangered species and protecting wildlife generates money in communities, which in turn reduces poverty and improves living conditions. Better management of wildlife resources also encourages sustainable land-use planning.

While RainShine Australia is a new charity in its own right we have achieved a lot in 1 year together with our teams in USA, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sweden. In this report we highlight our programmes and invite you to join us in our bold goals for the future.

We also take this opportunity to thank our donors both individual and corporate.

With gratitude we invite you to stay on this journey with us and be the change you want to see in the world!!

RainShine Board Director, Ethel Blair

Improving access to Education and Health

RainShine Australia's mission is improving access to primary and secondary school education, health and infrastructure for children and their families living in rural areas of Democratic Republic of Congo.

The majority of Non-Government Organisations operating in DR Congo currently are doing their work in the larger

towns and villages, so there is a high need for organisations like RainShine to operate and implement projects in remote areas. It is not uncommon to hear references made about northern DR Congo as the poor, forgotten areas.

For a small annual budget of \$12,000 USD RainShine funds 2 primary schools, located in the Epi and Mamili villages in Kembisa sector of Poko Territory, Bas-Uele. In total there are approximately 400 students who attend these schools.

"3.5 million school age children do not attend school in DR Congo. 2.75 million of those children live in rural areas."

Our operational schools budget provides teacher's salaries, school equipment, stationery and books. Basic medical treatment, a visiting doctor's clinic, and Malaria treatment and testing are also a part of this annual budget.

"80% of health resources are located in urban areas that serve 20% of the population"

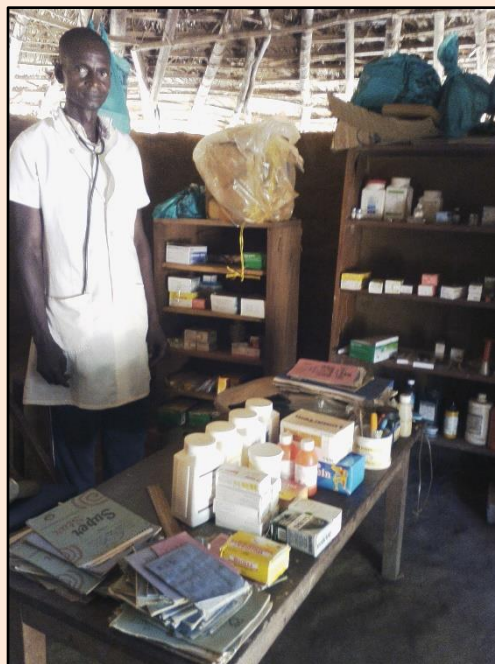
As a part of our involvement in these schools we also communicate our policies on Child Protection to the teachers and administrators. While there are many challenges to implementing our policies we have made some inroads by illustrating to the school

community that RainShine is prepared to enforce our policy with teachers by not supporting them if there are any reports of children being harmed while in their care.

Nothing like a field visit to bring home how hard life is living in rural communities in DR Congo. Essentially if a person is seriously ill in these villages they are most likely going to die.

Our volunteers are not medically trained other than basic first aid. However in 2020, a person who had been bitten by a Viper snake was brought to us in an unconscious state, and we were asked to visit another person who showed advanced cellulitis, which had been caused by thorns that had punctured her calf.

The good news is we administered treatment and both ladies survived. Following these incidents RainShine started a visiting doctor's clinic in both Epi and Mamili. We intend in the future to look at expanding medical care infrastructure in these communities



Nurse at the small Epi pharmacy

Building Resource Security

When we first went to rural villages in DR Congo we were struck by the limited financial resources available to people to send their children to school and get access to medical care. This problem is wide spread in many rural provinces of DR Congo.

Our first pillar that underpins this programme is to help these communities build resource security by delivering improved access to both primary and secondary education. Currently our focus is on primary school education because we know that enabling children to get basic education will help to provide a productive contribution to the future economy of Democratic Republic of Congo.

The second pillar for this programme is to identify resources in these communities that can be leveraged to build a stronger economy. This pillar leads us to our most recent activity, which is the *Kembisa Wildlife Conservation* programme.

These communities are surrounded by forest with many emblematic animals, for example, a rare threaten antelope called a Bongo is known to be in this area as well as many other animals. There is also the Uele River that continues to provide fish for the villages.



Mural of a Bongo Antelope at Epi Village

The forest is strategically located between two existing wildlife reserves and is in the middle of a wildlife corridor that provides passage for large animals to pass from north to south. In the past various people have generated income from hunting Elephant and Bongo. While organised hunting has not been conducted in these forest for at least 10 years, we aware that illegal poaching and a general degradation of the environment has taken place.

RainShine is now working with the BUTA Environment Minister, Poko Administration, and the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) to establish the Epi hunting area into a wildlife conservation reserve. The programme is at a stage now where we need to secure funding to commence a wildlife survey of the area, which is estimated to cover up to 18,000 km².

There is a lot of experience that suggests protecting wildlife and natural resources helps communities reduce poverty by bringing economic growth to those communities. In the long term future we would look to develop eco-tourism in this community. Already we have seen promising signs of discussions between Poko territory administrators about infrastructure improvements that can be made in the area to improve the local economy.

"The World Bank: many people in DR Congo live on less than \$2.00 a day"

One of the best outcome we can achieve as a charity is help communities to be self-sufficient.

Improving Education and Community Infrastructure

There are many challenges that impeded families in rural villages to lead improved lives and to generate vibrant economies. For example 95% of the 59,000 kms of road infrastructure in DR Congo is not functional, especially during the rainy season. Most goods are transported via motor bike or bicycle.

Where our schools are located there is no tele-communications. In 2019 RainShine in partnership with Invisible Children installed a High Frequency radio in the Epi village.

There is also no electricity or running water in the villages. In 2018 RainShine installed a 500 watt solar system to provide lights to the church and the primary school in the Epi village.

The poor infrastructure in the rural areas of DR Congo present many challenges for communities and also for charity organisations to work in these areas.

On a recent field visit in 2020 we visited the Mamili primary school to see what else was needed to improve the conditions at the school. The Mamili Primary school has approximately 160 students enrolled. On our visit when we met with the teachers we sat in the dust in one of the classrooms. We found it hard to believe that there were no desks for the students to use. It would be very rare to find a primary school in Australia or in the USA for that matter that does not have desks for students to use, but in rural parts of DR Congo this is not unusual.

After returning from our visit of the Mamili Primary school we launched the *Desks for Learning* programme, which involves seeking funds for 79 student desks that can seat 2 students per desk. As at writing this report only 13 desks remain to be funded and 40 desks are ready to be installed at the school after the rains have passed this year. This programme will be completed in early 2021.



Motor Bike is the most used mode of transport

In the province of Haut-Uele, which is another community where RainShine works, we have commenced the *Gilima Primary School* project to rebuild the school in durable materials. The Gilima primary school has a very similar infrastructure to the Epi primary school, which is built in thatch, mud and soft wood. We have now funded the first stage of this project to make 10,000 bricks for the school. In 2018 we did a similar approach at Epi primary school where RainShine funded the making of 20,000 bricks, which will eventually be used in the rebuilding of the school in durable materials.



Carpenter at Amadi who is making desks for the Mamili Primary School

Each year at the Epi primary school the thatched roofs of the classrooms need to be replaced. The termites slowly eat the wood beams, and the heavy rains each year wash away the walls. We are continually replacing classrooms. RainShine in response to these challenges launched the *Rooms for Learning* programme with the purpose of rebuilding the classrooms at the Epi Primary school in bricks, hardwood timber, and tin. We are seeking funding for this project.

It is very difficult to expect high performance from children who attend schools in rural DR Congo when they are sitting in the dirt, or under trees, or in small, dilapidated, overcrowded classrooms, which are basically cramped mud huts. We know that by building new durable and safe classrooms this will make it easier for our students to improve their daily participation in class.



High Frequency Radio installation at Epi

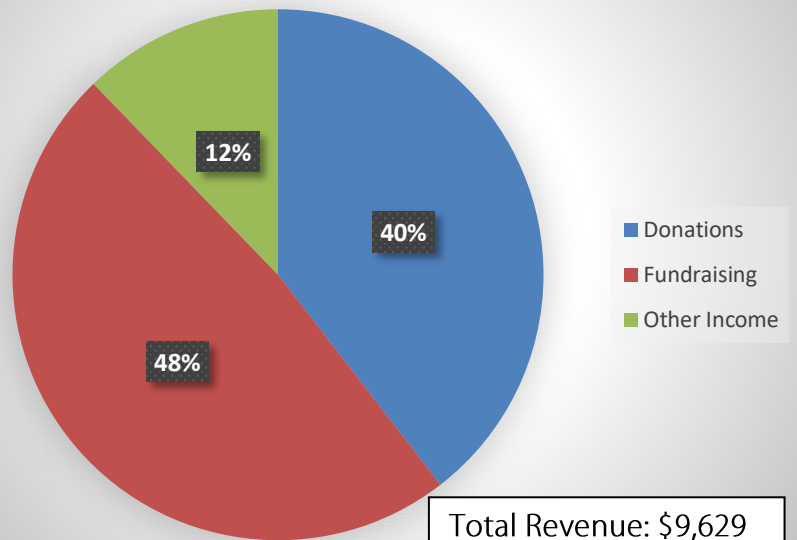
FYI 2019-2020 Financial Record

We wish to thank all of our donors both individual and corporate. Without your support the communities we work in would have a very poor outlook.

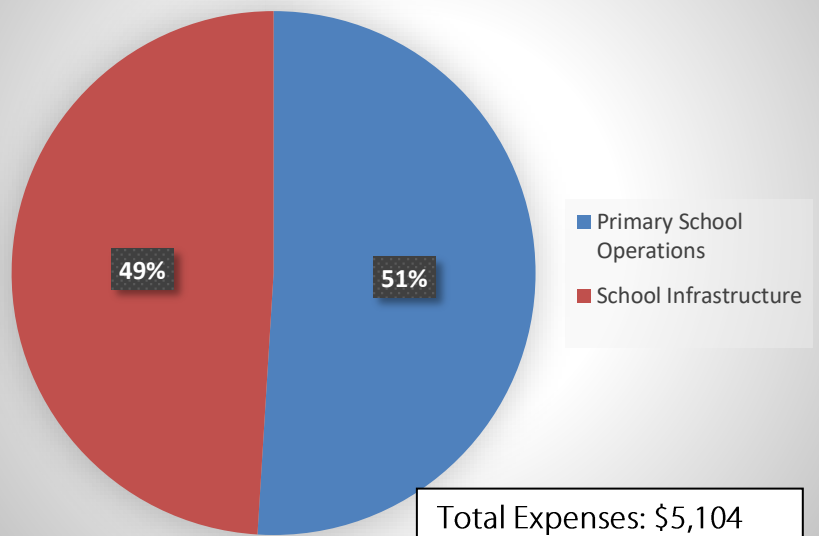


Mike Cave Vice-President Australia doing recycling for fundraising

Revenue (thousands)



Expenses (thousands)



Retained earnings for Period: \$4,525

Meet the Board and our Teams

Many of our Board Directors are hands on developing policies, setting strategies, promoting RainShine, managing fundraising campaigns and seeking donors both private and corporate.

Directors also liaise with our DR Congo representatives to oversee programmes, and travel to DR Congo to work in the field.

RainShine USA was established in 2012 as 501(c)3 charity, and RainShine Foundation Australia was established in 2019 and registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) as a charity working overseas.

Australia and USA Board

Louise Marsden
President Australia et
Secretary USA

Mike Cave
Vice-President Australia

Ethel Blair
President USA
(2018-present)
Secretary / Treasurer Australia

Robert Freedman
Treasurer USA
(Past President 2012 - 2017)

Marty Jensen
Director USA

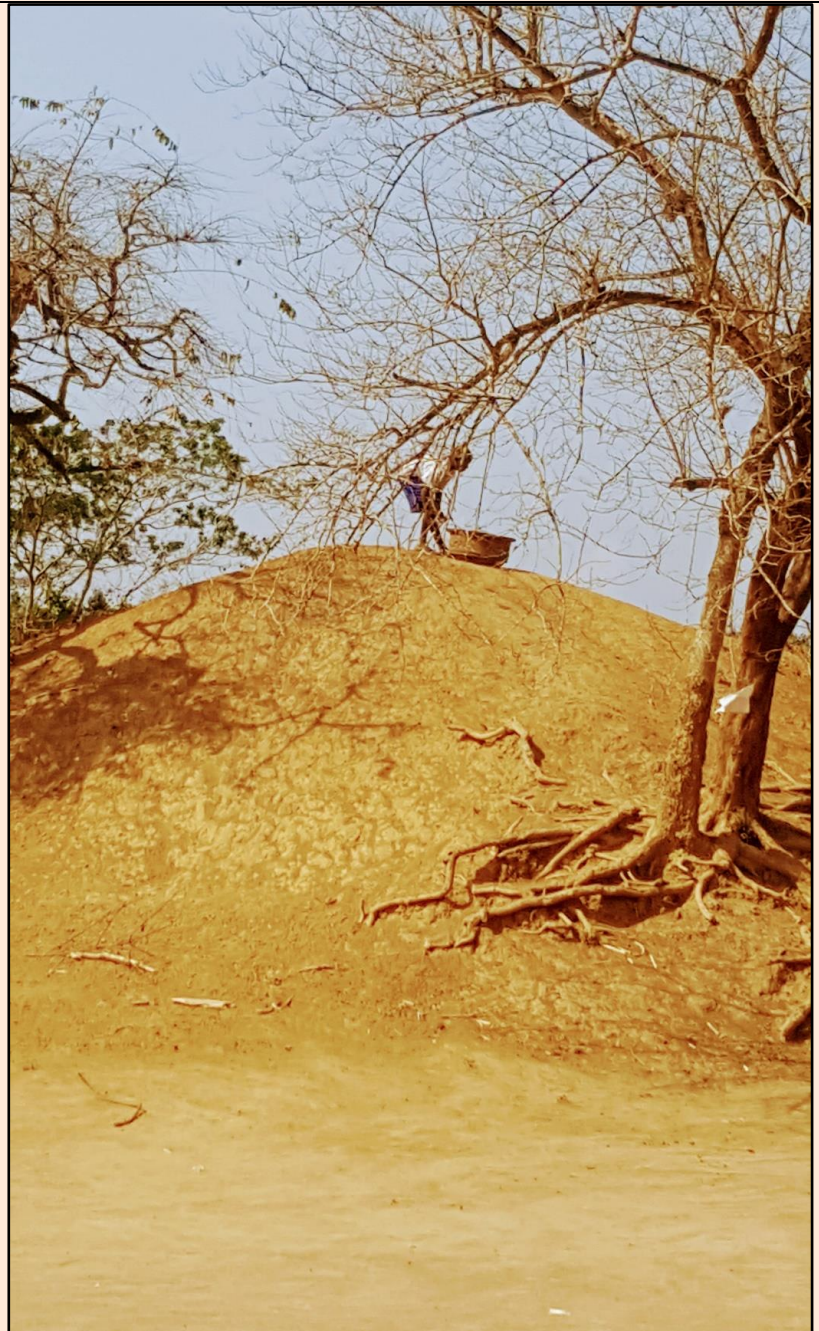
Maria Löwbeer, Sweden
Fundraising Team Leader

Democratic Republic of Congo Team

Abbé Jean de Dieu MIMBUGBE
RainShine Administrator
Dungu

Père Robert BATIKOTE
Project liaison with Invisible Children
Project Manager Gilima Primary
School Rebuild project, Dungu

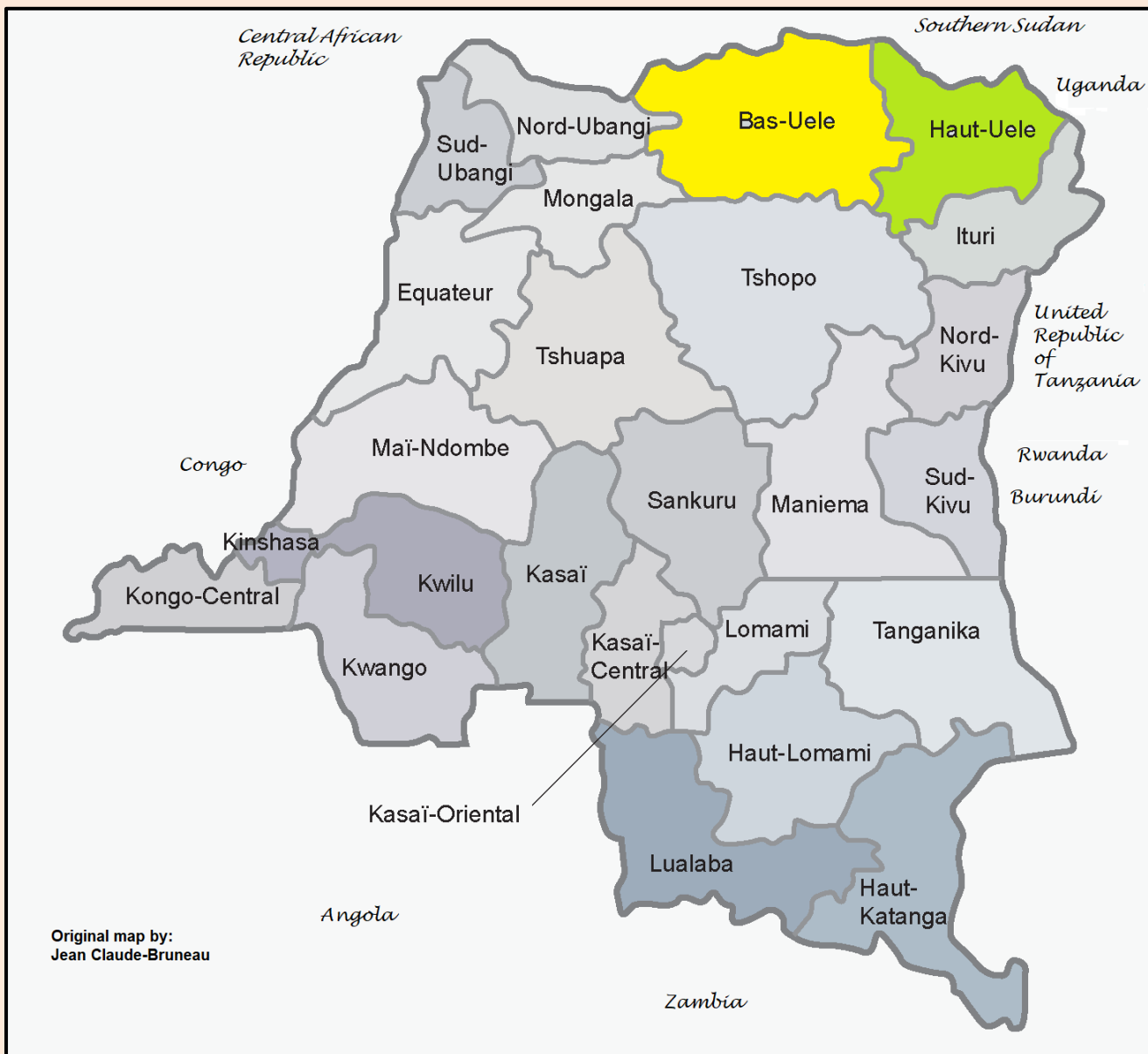
Père Nicolas Meya TAKIS
Project Manager Mamili Desks for
Learning project, Amadi



Where we work

Our projects are located in the Bas-Uele province of DR Congo, with 1 primary school project located in Haut-Uele. Population of Bas-Uele is approximately 1,093,845 and for Haut-Uele 1,920,867.

Both provinces overall are predominately agrarian and poor. There is limited telecommunications, very poor roads, no electricity and water infrastructure, and a weak economy.



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Active Campaigns:

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