



August 2024

# DR Congo Holding Strong

## Beni School for the Deaf

The civil war in Congo continues to have a devastating impact on our school in Beni. The three farmlands which had been sustaining the lunches at the school have become inaccessible since February because of rebel fighting so we have had to suspend that program. Our sole remaining agricultural efforts are focused on our small kitchen garden on the school premises. There, students have been growing amaranth grain which they recently harvested. Students share some of the spoils with their teacher to thank them for their care, and take the rest home to share with their family.



Thanks to donations from DA supporters, the school was able to distribute soaps, notebooks, pens, rulers, mathematic toolboxes, biscuits, sweets, balloons, and palm oil to all the students. These were received with gladness. The school is providing ongoing training in sign language for the Beni Secondary School hearing teachers. This will help them to teach Deaf students more efficiently. We are looking at providing a safer and more efficient means for the children to get to school. Teachers and staff are currently using motorcycles to pick up the students. We are looking at providing a school bus to transport students who live far from the school.



Student receiving gifts

## Bunia

The children in Bunia church received gifts from Samaritan Purse and were thrilled to receive these not just because the gifts were cool but because they could receive "the same as other hearing children". This made an impact on the Deaf children.



## DR CONGO continued...



### Minova

In Minova, the school harvested crops including 4 sacks of corn and 25kg of beans from the farm. These were served as food for the students who consume corn porridge for breakfast every morning and eat cornbread with vegetables for lunch. In the evening, they eat cornbread with vegetables and sometimes with beans.

### Food Relief

In June, DMI sent \$1,000 to help with the food emergency unfolding in Dr Congo. DAC Director Papy and evangelists Temo, John and Eric teamed up to distribute much-needed food relief to 40 Deaf families. Supplies distributed included rice, corn flour, beans, sugar, oil, salt and washing detergent. Thank you to all our supporters who gave so generously to



this campaign.

The Deaf adults of DR Congo were able to receive small business loans to start enterprises which will help them gain self-sustainability. There are five loan groups, each comprised of 3-5 members, sharing USD9,500 in total. The first year of business is now complete and all loans (except for one group) have been repaid. This is outstanding. These members have now received a second loan to further their business.



*Waiting for food*

## PHILIPPINES

### Bacolod Boarding House

In June, Andrew, Matthijs and Gunnar were able to visit our Bacolod Dormitory during their visit to the Philippines, and were pleased to see how well the students are doing.



Congratulations to Gerald who graduated on 28th May 2024. He received a Technical Vocational Livelihood award with Honours for "exemplary performance and achievement" in his academics for Grade 12 at Bacolod City National High School. He is now studying at the Deaf Evangelistic Alliance Foundation (DEAF) Inc. with Ryan in Laguna. Ryan enrolled at the college on 6th July 2024 and started classes on 15th July 2024. We wish Gerald and

Ryan all the best in their college studies.



*Gerald receiving awards*



*Ryan Menoza*

## Bicol Deaf Action (formerly Fishermen of Christ Learning Center)



The school at Bicol Deaf Action is on summer holidays now after another successful school year during which many of our students excelled. During the 2024 Division Festival of Talent held at SDO Ligao City, one of our students - Charize Nasayao - represented our school in the Story Telling Competition. She was one of the chosen SPED contestants to represent SDO Ligao City at the talent show held in Gubat, Sorsogon and there, she won the bronze medal in the event! Congratulations Charize!!!

On 30th May 2024, six students graduated from elementary school (Grade 6). Congratulations to Jonard Dino, Nerissa Morga, Lolito Nunez, Ge-Anne Padre, Ma. Francheska Patiam and Jozelle Romeo!

Nine students graduated from Junior High School (Grade 8). Congratulations to Joei Baranda, John Buere, Angelica Del Rosario, Christian Masbate, Nicole Mijares, Charize Nasayao, Reggie Palacio and Mart Sabio!

Nine students graduated from Senior High School (Grade 12). Congratulations to Angelo Borigas, Mikaella Factor, Dave Moratalla, Mark Nebres, Mary Obligado, Allen Reolo, Mark Roncesvalles, Jabez Sarte and Evelyn Toledo!



Grade 12 Graduation



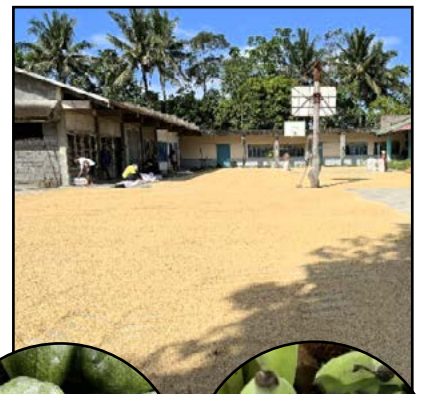
Grade 6 Graduation

Andrew and Matthijs visited our Bicol Deaf Action school in Ligao. They inspected the farm and all the expanding facilities at the school and found the teamwork at BDA to be inspiring. Teachers sifted through rice for impurities and pastors gutted chickens while principals poured drinks. Everyone rolls up their sleeves - it's all hands on deck and happily so. The visit has given DMI's leadership confidence that our next International Conference to be held in the Philippines in 2026 will be a resounding success.



BDA has created another income-generating project, this time a Self Service Carwash. This is a brilliant initiative which is proving to be profitable. Set up in a corner of the school facing the main road, it consists of coin-operated water and soap machines which drivers and riders can access at any time. As it is a fully self-serviced operation, no other expenses are needed. Our own Matthijs tested this, performing his Christian duty by washing a stranger's motorcycle during his visit to the school!

It's harvest season again and it's encouraging to see how much the harvests contribute towards the self sustainability of Bicol Deaf Action. Local farmers come to dry their rice at the school drying area and mill their harvest at the school's rice mill. BDA also harvests their own fruit and vegetables including avocados, bananas, jackfruit and coconuts. This year the school enjoyed a bountiful harvest with copra sales alone generating PHP10,000 (AUD265) income. The coconut shells can be made into charcoal.



# KENYA

## Immanuel Integrated Christian School

The kindergarten has a nice new look due to meeting the required standards for the classroom environment. The teacher, Passy, oversees early childhood education and is to be applauded for making her classroom a point of reference in the entire sub country for other kindergartens to benchmark. The classroom has 'talking' walls, is well arranged, neat, brightly



coloured, tiled, spacious, well ventilated, well lit, has age-appropriate furniture and is student-friendly. Our Deaf students are in love with the new curriculum.

IICS participated in a Teacher's Seminar in April. It was a 2-day program that was designed to empower the teachers with the essential skills and knowledge required for the effective implementation of a Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). The meeting was organised and held at the County Headquarters Board Room. We had the privilege of taking all our teachers to the seminar.

Our teachers had an opportunity to learn the foundational principles and goals of CBC, unravelling subject-specific curriculum designs and were taken through practical activities geared towards enhancing their interpretation and alignment with the new curriculum. The training also centred on nurturing inquiry-based learning, refining professional documents and seamlessly integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into the CBC framework for Deaf students. With frequent seminars and teacher training, IICS is now well positioned to implement the new CBC in an integrated setting.



Earlier in May, IICS students undertook a tour of Homabay County on the shores of Lake Victoria for an adventure. The students visited the historic Simbi Nyaima with an emphasis on gaining knowledge, skills, and cultural insights through various activities and experiences. Future tour opportunities will provide learning opportunities, cultural exposure, hands on experience, personal development and also memorable experiences that enrich the students' lives as they mature into adulthood.



Students continue to participate in sports to improve their physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The new CBC requires that all students be taken through swimming classes. Parents joined on the school trips to support their children in undertaking such lessons. During this quarter, the students were taken for a swimming class at Pikadili, a commercial private resort/hotel that offers services to schools at a cost. The students really enjoyed the outing plus the swimming classes that come with it.



Our students continue to eat balanced meals at school courtesy of DMI. The school ensures all students have a nutritionally balanced diet.

Wesley, the principal, took the teachers for a Bench Marking tour at Kisumu Golden Elites Academy. During this trip, which was fully sponsored by the parents, we took our two top students from each year - including our Deaf students. We took them for an interactive education tour, where the students joined their counterparts in their respective classes and participated in all the activities at the Academy for the day. Kisumu Golden Elites Academy is a leader in the implementation of the new CBC. It was a rare opportunity for our students to be introduced to Computer Coding, which is currently part of their new curriculum. During this tour, the students were introduced to the Association of Christian Schools International - Kenya chapter, where our students and staff were introduced to the role that English plays in the lives of our students and how it encourages them to embody their faith as participants in God's story through Christian education. Our teachers have registered on their webinars to understand their teachings before we allow our students to participate.

The photo on the next page shows a modern laboratory at Kisumu Golden Elites Academy. IICS's goal is to build a similar effective laboratory for its campus in the near future.



Wesley and some teachers visited one of the students – Roy - who was recently paralysed after a stroke. He is a sickle cell patient. He has missed school for the last four months. Wesley will be checking in on Roy's health. He is slowly improving.



*Roy, third from the left.*

IICS were privileged to be visited by a team of three ladies from Deaf Child Hope. They were passing by on their way to visit their school in Kisii County. They took the opportunity to get updates on the students they are sponsoring. They also came along to collect DCH sponsorship Christmas Cards from the students who are on their list of sponsored students. The students wrote and drew their favourite pictures and thank you notes on the Christmas cards to their DCH sponsors. They were happy with the progress made at our school since their visit last year.



## MYANMAR

### Muir School for the Deaf

We are so grateful to the supporters of Deaf Action and Deaf Ministries International. Our recent campaign to raise \$10,000 to provide much-needed food and school equipment in Myanmar raised over \$24,000 in three days! This is fantastic and will ensure that the students and workers in Myanmar will be cared for and the operations of the school will continue unhindered. The school is a safe haven for many during this time of horrific warfare. Funds raised in the campaign are being used to provide food and stationery, travel expenses, electrical works, and to support the accommodation of families who lost their homes and loved ones in the war.



The new academic year recently began with 24 students reporting to the school. The school is continuing to run despite the battleground which the Kalay area has become. There have been many deaths and many villages burnt to the ground. So many people have lost their homes and properties. Some of our school families have fled into India, others to Central Myanmar and others still to the jungles and other remote countryside places. We are grateful for our faithful staff which continue to serve at the school and for the close communication we continue to have with them.

## UGANDA

### Ugandan National Association for the Deaf Vocational College

Mary & Solome are on their second term break. They will be returning to UNAD for their third term on 9th September 2024. They have been improving well in their work, especially their practicals. Solome received an average score of 58% for the second term of her Year 2 Knitting Course. Mary received an average of 53% for for the second term of her Year 1 Knitting Course. They would like to say thank you to their sponsors for helping them attain an education and skills for self sustainability. They are so grateful.



### Neville Muir Comprehensive School



The Neville Muir Comprehensive School is experiencing challenges in the second term. 126 students have reported to the school, a decline owing to the challenges the school is facing.

The main challenge has been the broken borehole pump for the water. The school had nowhere to get clean water and the students and staff were using swamp water! This was, of course, problematic in its own right but could have resulted in the school's closure by the health and education authorities. Fortunately, during our trivia fundraising evenings, the \$930 needed to repair the pump was raised and it is now on the mend.

Other challenges include a lack of sewing machines. Our current machines are already old, faulty and spoiled and they can no longer work for the students to use. The students were patiently sitting to take turns to use the sewing machines.

We are running a campaign to help the school buy new sewing machines. The cost is \$5,800. We were able to raise half of this from the trivia nights and Christmas campaign. Yet \$2900 is still needed. Your support would be greatly appreciated by Dennis (Principal), staff and the students at the school.

The school still lacks food every term. They have another new maize harvest coming for the students' posho but it won't be ready for another three months.



## RWANDA

### Tresor Nsengimana



Tresor is to be congratulated for passing his pre-school class for the 2023-2024 school year. He will start Primary School (Grade 1) in September for the 2024-2025 school year. He received a score of 79.4% and has moved up to second position in his class. He has high marks of 95% in Social Studies and 88% in Art & Culture. What a wonderful achievement! This is the new-life change that student sponsorship brings.

## BURUNDI

### Ephphatha Deaf School

The Ephphatha Deaf School recently received a generous donation of 51 new mattresses for the students. This significantly improves the students' sleep quality and overall wellbeing. They are still seeking 68 more new mattresses to ensure all students have comfortable sleeping arrangements.





\$40  
PER MONTH

# GIVE THE GIFT OF Sponsorship

**We urgently need sponsors to  
support these students!**



Sandar Naing  
(Girl) Grade 2  
Myanmar



Machozi Paluku  
(Boy) Grade 2  
DR Congo



Beni Nininahazwe  
(Boy) Grade 3  
Burundi



Princess Jeliane Broqueza  
(Girl) Grade 8  
Philippines

To sponsor any of these students, please go to our  
website: <https://deafmin.org/child-sponsorship/>  
or email: [info@deafaction.org.au](mailto:info@deafaction.org.au)

## AUSTRALIA

### Trivia Nights a great success

Fundraising trivia nights were recently held in Melbourne and Sydney. These were a lot of fun and raised \$9000 in total! Thank you to all the nerds and non-nerds alike who made it such a fun and successful evening. The Melbourne fundraiser was hosted by St James Anglican Church, Pakenham where around 90 people turned up to feast and to enjoy the action. The Sydney event was hosted by St Marks Anglican Church, Northbridge where around 70 people

turned up (another friendly rivalry between the cities emerging?) to enjoy more gluttony and splendor. Thanks to all those who participated at these events. Thank you to Amy, Kay, Susi and Australian Board member Grace who worked so hard to make the nights so successful. Thank you also to our generous sponsors who provided silent auction items on the night.

## MELBOURNE



## SYDNEY



Thank you to the businesses that supported the Trivia Nights and Silent Auctions



[www.deafmin.org/deaf-action/](http://www.deafmin.org/deaf-action/)

### DA DONATIONS:

School, Employment and Aid Projects

(tax deductible in Australia)



Please make cheques payable to: Deaf Action



Details for bank Transfer:

BSB: 633-000

Account: 145834263



Credit Card facility available through PayPal (secure) on our website.



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## 2024 Wish List

Here is a list of all the things Deaf Action and DMI would love to achieve in 2024. We are excited to report that, thanks to our generous supporters, we have already achieved many of the goals on the list! Thank you!



Andrew Miller  
International Director



Matthijs Terpstra  
International  
Development Coordinator



Susi Tjhai  
Finance Coordinator



Amy Jack  
Communications  
Coordinator



Kay van Namen  
Sponsorship &  
Administration  
Coordinator



**Sponsorship Coordinator:**

**Kay van Namen**

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Neville Muir (OAM)  
& Lill Muir  
DMI & DA Founders

Thank you for continuing to support our school students, teachers and self-sustainability projects.  
Warm regards, Kay (Sponsorship Coordinator)