

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2015

1. JOINT MOBILE CLINIC: CERBC AND ARU EYE CENTRE

Due to lack of transport, the Eye Clinic of Aru suggested a joint clinic together with CERBC Team to provide eye care service to the population in four health Zones in the northern part of Ituri Province.



The collaboration between CERBC and Aru Eye Centre started long time ago and CERBC has been instrumental in training CBR Workers selected from different Health Zones. Those CBR Workers are trained to identify children and adult who have sensory and motor disabilities and also refer those with Eye problems to Aru Eye Clinic for further diagnostic. The Eye Centre usually refers to CERBC all cases who are blind or severe low vision for rehabilitation process.

Statistic report

- 785 eye patients were seen from August - October 2015 by the eye doctor among them 81 patients underwent eye surgery. 55 patients underwent cataract surgery, 18 patients underwent trabeculectomy because of glaucoma (90% primary angle open glaucoma). **Image 01: patients after cataract surgery.**

- 8% of the patients had irreversible blindness because of absolute glaucoma and traditional eye medicine.

- Patients who were diagnosed as irreversible

blind were referred to CERBC team for further education and rehabilitation plan. **Image 2 & 3 : young children with congenital cataract and cornea opacity due to traditional medicine.**



2. IMPROVING THE EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT IN THE NORTHERN DR CONGO

Special education and the promotion of inclusive education remains at the heart of the activities of the Centre for Education and Rehabilitation in Base Community (CERBC -RDCongo). CERBC has now the privilege to implement an inclusive system for the benefit of learners with blindness and low vision in the Northern part of the DR Congo, especially in Ituri Province

The education of children with disabilities, the North- East of the DRC is facing many challenges such as:

1. Lack of integrated program of special education into the National Curriculum at the Provincial and central government,
2. Lack of special education facilities for the education of children and youth with disabilities,
3. Lack of training facilities for teachers in special education and Community Based Rehabilitation for the sustainability, accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities.
4. In order to build the capacity of cadres of primary and secondary education in public and private schools to promote special education for learners who are blind and low vision, this project aims to integrate special education in Sub-Divisions of Primary and Secondary Education which is the main unit for implementation and execution of education at the grassroots level.

Achievements (August - October 2015)



Under the Project <<*Improving the Education, Rehabilitation and Integration of people with visual impairment in the northern DR Congo*>>

- 17 itinerants teachers and 6 school councillors and coordinators were trained on Braille concept and teaching of mathematics, from 21 to 25 September 2015 in Aru north-eastern of DR Congo, by 2 Trainers from Visio Netherlands in collaboration with CERBC,
- Since 2014, about 300 blind and Low Vision students have integrated mainstream schools only in the Aru Territory with 12 teachers trained locally by the CERBC and VISIO International Netherland, in 12 public schools.

image 4-6: Gyntha and Karin from Visio International, Netherlands, training Itinerants Teachers, Councillors and School Coordinators in Aru. Northern DR Congo.

NEEDS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS (2016 - 2020)

Objective: enhance the knowledge and skills of itinerant teachers, Counselors and School Coordinators for sustainable inclusive program of Learners with visual impairment in the Northern of DR Congo

Short time (2016 -2018)

1. One week training in reading,

Educational and rehabilitation Support to CERBC for sustainable inclusive program

Educational

1. Implement a Braille printing press to make accessible textbook production for promoting inclusive education for blind and visually impaired children in the North East of the DRC,
2. Provision of Fifteen Braille machines that include: 12 target schools and CERBC Centre
3. Braille paper for student learning ,
4. Extend the training of Trainers in other 7 Sub-Division of Education in Ituri Province (2018 - 2020)
5. Support the implementation of a National Training College on Special Education for Learners who are Blind and Low Vision (Training and provision of educational material) (2018 - 2020).

Rehabilitation : Training of staff : Low vision therapist and Optometrist

3. EDUCATION OF LEARNERS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS: A COMMUNITY CONCERN



From 2004 to 2015, Aru School for the Deaf (ESMA) has registered **387** children and young who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Current statistics: 57

a. Primary school: 38 deaf and hard of hearing

b. Secondary and vocational: 19 learners

Image7: Young Deaf in Secondary and vocational training

Challenges

Due to lack of school fee and boarding fee, many parents are not able to support their children, reason why 330 (85%) of children who are deaf and hard of hearing are at home without any form of education.

We are appealing to anyone who may be interested to support this marginalised group which is already missing the right to education to get in touch with CERBC. Find our contact at the end. 300\$ is enough to cover school fee and boarding for one deaf child per year (60\$ for school fee and 240\$ for boarding)

4. HEALTH

1. EAR CARE AND HEARING HEALTH



- 177 patients were seen,
- 59 Audiometric Tests were performed,
- 35 (19%) Patients were tested having hearing loss among them 10 had profound Hearing loss,
- 19 patients with hearing loss were young children between 2 and 18 years old,
- 12 Hearing Aids were fitted

Image ..08: Performance test of 29 months girl.

5. ORTHOPEDIC CARE AND PHYSICAL THERAPY



- 210 patients were seen with orthopaedic problems, among them 176 were seen during the outreach program

Pathologies	Number	%
Club foot	8	21
others congenital malformation	4	10
Cerebral Palsy (CP)	12	32
Hemiplegia and Spinal Cord Injury	8	21
Osteomyelitis	4	10
Burn contracture	2	5
Total	38	

Surgery done

Pathologies	Number	%	Operated	Not operated
Club foot	8	21	0	8
others congenital malformation	4	10	1	9
Osteomyelitis	4	10	2	8
Burn contracture	2	5	0	5
Total	18		3	15



Image 09 : Dr Kabagambe and Jules orthopaedic officer doing surgical correction of child with congenital malformation

Out of 18 children and young with different malformations, who needed surgery only (17%) were operated, while 15 or 87 did not due to lack of financial means. In total **142 children** and young with different malformations are still on the waiting list. **180 \$** is enough to save one child

6. EMPOWERMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION,



Image (10). ELODY, 22 years old, with Profound sensory neural hearing loss, trained in Dress Making and Knitting at ESMA , after completion of the training program, she has been selected and employed by the school as Assistant Trainer for other deaf and hard of hearing.

7. PARTNERSHIP : CERBC - DRCONGO AND SENIOR EXPERT SERVICE (SES), GERMANY

One week training in modern kitchen: Skills development to rural Congolese women, teachers from CERBC/ESMA and young girls with disabilities.



The presence of Mr. Siggi LILLWITZ from Senior Expert Service (SES) to support CERBC 's activities in northern DR Congo was highly appreciated and it was of great importance to married women, single mothers, teachers, students and girls with disabilities. The one week training contribute directly to the transformation of their daily lives by adding different cooking techniques from which they could not benefit without the help of this Germany Expert from SES.



53 participants were trained among which 49 women and 4 men, completed their training and they were awarded the certificate of participation. 18 lessons were learned including the concept of Diet, malnutrition and the appropriate diet for people with diabetics and hypertension.

What a surprise!!!!, just after the training one of the single mother got a job in Kibali Goldmining a South Africa company working in Northern DR Congo.



image12&13: Theory and practical way of cooking Bread and Pizza using local available material

The capacity building of women's skills remains a priority, and requires special attention in order to promote their social and economic status. It can also help to fight malnutrition, reduce childhood mortality due to malnutrition which is also one of the causes of disability. The training was participatory, experience chairing, group discussion and practical cooking. The teaching methodology was adapted to all levels of participants, some had higher level of education (diploma, degree etc and others not). The participants were able to make a nutritious meal at lower cost with local products.

Together we can do more
Contact us at cerbc_drc@yahoo.com
or www.cerbc.org