

## News letter: February – March 2012



### 1. March 8th, Woman's month. Deaf girls on the parade

No one should be left behind in society. Deaf girls from the Aru School of the Deaf, ESMA, demonstrate their abilities, competence and membership in an active society. Ready outside the office of Aru Sub County, Deaf girls are the first to lineup for the walk followed by thousands of other girls, students from regular schools



Each week the Directorate of Aru School for the Deaf receives new parents, who bring deaf children to register. Things never done before. But because of the limited capacity of the boarding, the Directorate of ESMA refers many children for future years.

#### Needs:

- Construction of classrooms and a dormitory with suitable conditions for Blind and visually impaired.

**Fig3: A parent coming from Watsa (200 km) brings her deaf child for enrollment at school.**

## 2. Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired



Some progress has been made in the education of the blind and visually impaired. The student Dyepili in the third year of secondary school uses a magnifying glass in class. This magnifier has been left to ESMA by *Dr. Tony Ukety, Coordinator of the World Health Organization's River Blindness Prevention*

*Program* in 2007. It was a Gift from the Swiss NGO (Mission Evangélique Braille). Unfortunately this magnifier glass is unique and can not serve other students with visual impairment at the same time. Each child who is blind or has low vision needs access to appropriate technology to enable him or her to read and write and learn Braille for academic growth.

Indeed, to achieve its objectives, the CERBC needs educational materials for blind and visually impaired. In collaboration with Africa Braille Centre (ABC), Nairobi, CERBC would like to translate into Braille 300 books in three specific subjects: math (100), French (100) and science (100), adapted to the needs of blind children in primary and secondary school to allow them to benefit from the lessons as well as their classmates not blind and promote inclusive education as well. CERBC is appealing to any person or organization willing to contribute for the success of this program .



## Education of the Blind and Visually Impaired (Continued)



Four other students with visual impairment were identified and referred to the Aru Eye Centre for consultation. After consultation with Dr. Samuel Adiba, Ophthalmologist, students were redirected to CERBC for rehabilitation and educational assessment in order to have specific training. All these four students require education, Orientation and Mobility and other

Daily living skills. This collaboration between the two institutions (CERBC and Aru Eye Centre) is a key factor to promote eye health care, rehabilitation and special education in the community.

***Fig 5: Kahambu, a 13 year old girl suffering from ametropia. She needs glasses +3.00 units for reading and writing.***

***Fig 6: Florence Tsandiru, a 17 year old girl, suffers from a congenital optic disc with visual acuity of less than six meters to the left eye and no perception of light in the right eye.***



### 3. The Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Impairment: Audiology Service



11 patients under 5 years were consulted. We have used the *distraction test* (see fig7), but the results are not accurate because of the lack of certain equipment such as Digital sound level meter.

#### Challenges:

- Lack of hearing aids since January,
- Improved sound proofing for good hearing test conditions.
- Lack of a technician for maintenance and repair of audiology equipment. For now the Centre uses a single audiometer, There is need to repair the second one.

### 4. Physiotherapy and orthopedic Service



Four (5) mobile clinics were conducted within Aru and Watsa Health District. 255 patients were consulted and treated, and also at the Centre among them were four children who had congenital deformities. The corrections were done using plaster cast treatment at the Centre. Those children are monitored at home by CBR Volunteers.

#### Needs:

- Lack of an appropriate vehicle for mobile clinics,
- Many families with children requiring orthopedic surgery and physiotherapy are not able to support themselves.

Fig 8: Plastering at the Clinic of children



Fig 9: The two physiotherapists on motorcycle for a mobile clinic in Biringi (160 Km,return)Fig 9: The



## 4.

## Community Based Rehabilitation service (CBR)



The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is one of the main activities of CERBC to meet the needs of the population at the grassroots level. Since October 2009, ten (10) volunteers were selected from the <Community Link> and were trained in CBR to support activities of the Clinic and the School through early detection, referral, monitoring and home based care. Each CBR Volunteer was given a bicycle for his community service.

### Needs:

- Train 10 other CBR Volunteers for the Health District of Watsa and provide them with bicycles,
- Refresher course of former CBR Volunteers and provide them with new bikes for the service



About 70 % of the population served by the Centre for Education and Community Based Rehabilitation (CERBC) are peasants with very limited resources. Many children with disabilities are identified by CBR Volunteers who are still using old wheelchairs, given to them either by some Catholic Priests or well-wishers, which currently require repair or replacement of spares or replacement with a new one. But among them, many other children identified have never had the chance to have a wheelchair or a tricycle for their disability.

### Needs:

- Granting wheelchairs or tricycles for children with physical disability, the only way to help them attend the nearest school. A tricycle manufactured locally can cost US \$ 200



Fig: 11, Student from ESMA with an old wheelchair,

Fig: 12: A new young boy identified without assistance

## Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), continued



One of the objectives of CERBC is capacity building for people with disabilities and their organizations as well as the empowerment of parents with disabled children. Through CBR volunteers, DPOs are identified and CERBC provides training for members on several aspects: social, health, organizational as well as the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Fig 13: DPO of Ingbokolo center (90Km) in front of their office after a short meeting with Mr Ismaël, the Executive Director of CERBC.**

## Mission, Vision and Values of CERBC-DRCongo

### Vision

Ensure a holistic integration of people with disabilities into the community.

### Mission

To serve as a training and rehabilitation centre, to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and enable them to integrate fully into society.

### Core values

As a Christian organization we promote:

The spirit of collaboration within the communities we work with,

Love, compassion, and non-discrimination among people,

Equity for all races, gender and religion

**Help us to help others**  
**CERBC – February – March 2012**

**Merci/Thanks**

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