

FACT SHEET 2008



handup congo

...a hand up is better than a handout

Current focus:

- Lotumbe village, Equatorial Province
 - Université Protestante au Congo
- Democratic Republic of Congo



HandUp Congo, Inc., understands that the poor in developing countries often simply lack tools to better their lives and their communities — and so supports sustainable community-driven business, education, social and health initiatives. Because creating opportunities for women results in improved lives for children and families, HandUp Congo places special emphasis on women-directed projects identified by the community in which it is working.

CURRENT PROJECTS

HandUp Congo supports the efforts of Fondation Lucie Otaenga (FLO), a local, grassroots nonprofit developed by Congolese women in the village of Lotumbe. FLO's founders, Chantal Befeko Bolingo and Antoinette Mapele Bolembu, are transforming their village as the result of a gift: two manual sewing machines, fabrics and supplies provided by HandUp Congo founders to produce surgical gowns, sheets, and doctors' and nurses' uniforms for the local hospital. FLO is an officially recognized non-governmental organization in the DRC.

From two sewing machines grew FLO's initiatives: FLO Sewing School. After supplying the hospital, Chantal and Antoinette started a community sewing school.

Prenatal Care. Sewing students create newborn shirts and blankets that, given free, attract pregnant mothers to the hospital for prenatal care and to give birth.

Education. Sewing students provide required uniforms for school children.

Income Generation. Profits from custom orders pay for: **Microbusiness Start-Up.** A small 'cafe' outside the hospital where women learn to operate a business.

Health Initiatives. Mosquito nets to protect mothers and their newborns from malaria; hospital fees for poor women; cultivation of a community garden where fast-growing, nutritious vegetables supplement the local fish-based diet and combat malnutrition.

HANDUP CONGO DONOR PROJECTS IN LOTUMBE Community Loan Fund. Interest-bearing microloans are funding tiny businesses for individuals and for the community. Loan amounts vary from as little as \$10 to as much as \$250.

Sewing School & Nutrition Garden Expansion. A grant from the US Embassy in DRC purchased 10 more sewing machines, rehabilitated space donated by the community to enlarge the sewing school, and purchased 50 sets of tools for the expansion of the community garden.

Health. Individual donations purchased a motorized canoe for the regional doctor—also used for local trade—as well as hospital equipment, supplies, and a laptop computer. HandUp Congo delivered eyeglasses, medicines, and medical supplies to Lotumbe's local hospital.

Education. Individual donors have provided school repairs and supplies, training for a local teacher, and books.

Income Generation. Donor seed money stocked a general store that allows villagers to buy locally rather than paddling a week in each direction to the nearest large town. Donors also funded income-generating projects for widows living on less than \$1 a day.

HANDUP CONGO BRIDGE-BUILDING

- ✓ Red Cross Lotumbe visit to assess and improve water safety.
- ✓ Professional development for FLO representatives at HEAL AFRICA, in Goma, funded in part by HandUp Congo donors.
- ✓ Microfinance training for FLO's Chantal Bolingo, funded in part by HandUp Congo donors.
- ✓ Congolese participation in the development of a five-year plan for refractive error control.
- ✓ The Medical Students' Aid Project in Australia collected current medical textbooks for Université Protestante au Congo's new medical school and have made possible a sizable grant to Lotumbe's income-generating capabilities and malaria control initiatives.
- ✓ More than 150 medical students at Université Protestante au Congo have received tuition support, thanks to the Singapore Foundation and CNEC Partners International. As a regional health hub, Lotumbe also will benefit from the university's requirements that scholarship-supported doctors serve in remote hospitals and clinics.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

HandUp Congo, Inc., was established in 2005 and incorporated as a nonprofit in 2006. HandUp Congo, Inc., receives US 501(c)(3) status through its fiscal agent: A World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity (A WISH)— Federal Tax ID: #91-1712077. US donors may endorse checks to AWISH, with HandUp Congo in the subject line, and mail to, Anne Zolnor, 215 S. Ocean Grande Dr. #303, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 USA.

Australian donors may endorse their tax-deductible checks to CNEC Partners International and note in the memo line that the gift is for "FLO" or "UPC." Send to CNEC, PO Box 67, Croydon Park, NSW 2133 Australia.

ACCOUNTABILITY

All projects are tracked, and one or more officers personally visits Congo at least every 18 months.

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