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MAMA WIMBI



New Products for a New Year

The start of the 2019-20 school year has been a time of unprecedented change in Goma.

The change of government has introduced a measure of government-funded education and this has allowed generous support, from Australia and South Korea, to be invested in the second phase of skill development for self-sufficiency.

Welcome to the
ninth edition of our
(mostly) monthly
Mama Wimbi
newsletter!



Our partnership with School-in-a-Bag not only provided essential learning materials for 84 happy children but also caused our manager to visit the factory in Uganda which made them, and to give the team confidence to upskill themselves to compete with the Chinese school-bags previously dominating the market in Congo.



The photo on page one shows the sewing team modelling some back-packs which they have sewed using the usual fabrics available in the markets. They have also made a few using fabric from the factory in Uganda, as well as some fashionable bags for local sale, until the time comes for buying schoolbags again.



Eric's News

Eric Baeni, shown here with Alphonse's daughter Sothia, manages the children's correspondence project in Goma and is dedicated to serving others in many ways.



Recently he was attacked with a machete and robbed in his home. He needed a lot of stitches and antibiotics but seems to be recovering well.

His phone and laptop were among the goods stolen, which is going to make his university study more difficult.

However, the 13 desktop computers which will soon arrive in Goma for public internet access and education, thanks to Rotarian Phil Isaacs (for donating and refurbishing the computers) and Sonic Healthcare (for transport) will certainly help.





Alphonse and Jacques work on the Phase Two Strategic Plan in our rented office.



The team sews in our rented light, sociable workspace, using the ever more sophisticated skills they are developing

Solid Progress - Heartfelt Thanks to You!

Looking back just a couple of years to when all our group owned was one laptop and when only a handful of our clients had any saleable skills, and barely knew each other, having nothing particular in common except an inability to pay school fees, it is heartening to see the difference now.

Thanks to the kindness of many who could have looked away, but didn't, and to Alphonse's stoic, fair and diligent management, Mama Wimbi is a precious centre of hope, education and community.

Next year we are aiming for accomodation self-sufficiency for those families who would be homeless without help, and we are considering whether we can help some pygmy children in need of boarding facilities for high school. We are all paying it forward!



Thank you for reading our newsletter, we hope you enjoyed it.

Please share with your friends.

Best wishes from all at Mama Wimbi!

Penny Vos