

SchoolKit Australia Teacher Briefing

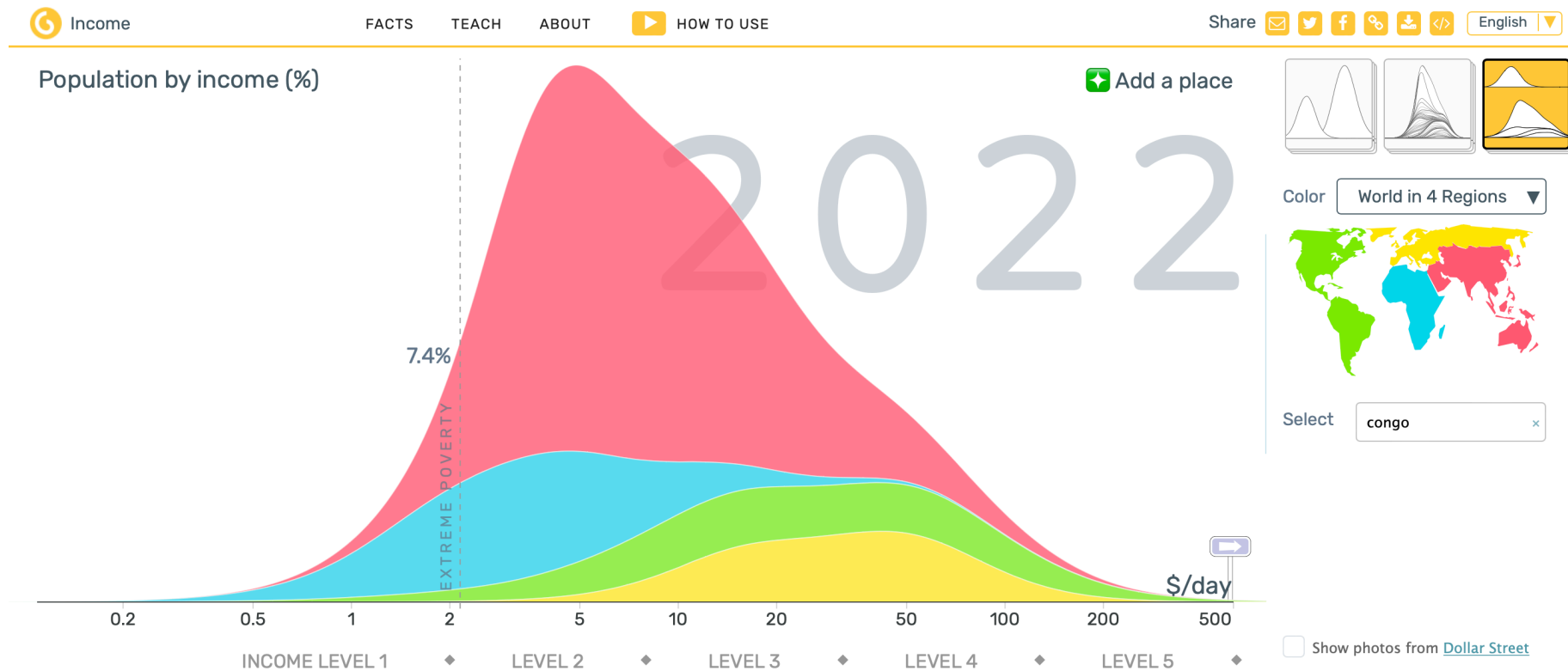


SchoolKit equips young Australians to help children in Goma, DR Congo.

This briefing uses graphics from the Nobel-prize winning site gapminder.org to show why this is especially important.

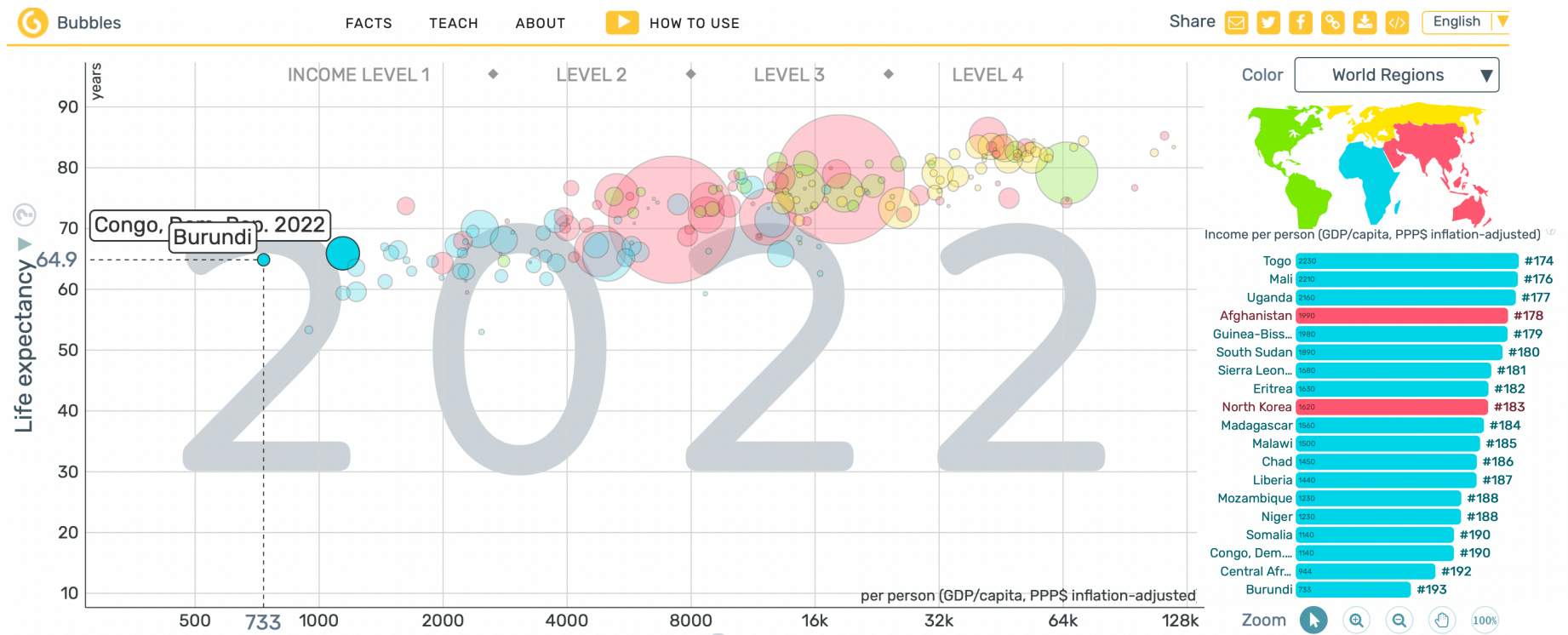
I. Why Africa?

This graph shows that the majority of the world's extreme poverty is in Africa.



2. Why DRC?

This chart shows population by the size of the bubble, continent by the colour, and wealth and life expectancy by position.



We can see that DRC is the world's poorest populous country and that the only poorer countries are tiny neighbours Burundi and the Central African Republic.

3. DRC should perhaps be the richest country in the world on the basis of its natural resources. Unfortunately, this has attracted and encouraged an extraordinary degree of government corruption, so that the services provided to the people of DRC by the government are more scant than almost all other countries. Even primary schooling is not provided on a public basis, despite claims to the contrary. Unusually high levels of corruption in DR Congo limit the provision and effectiveness of many forms of foreign aid.

Distribution of aid directly to the children who need them is a very secure and practical solution.



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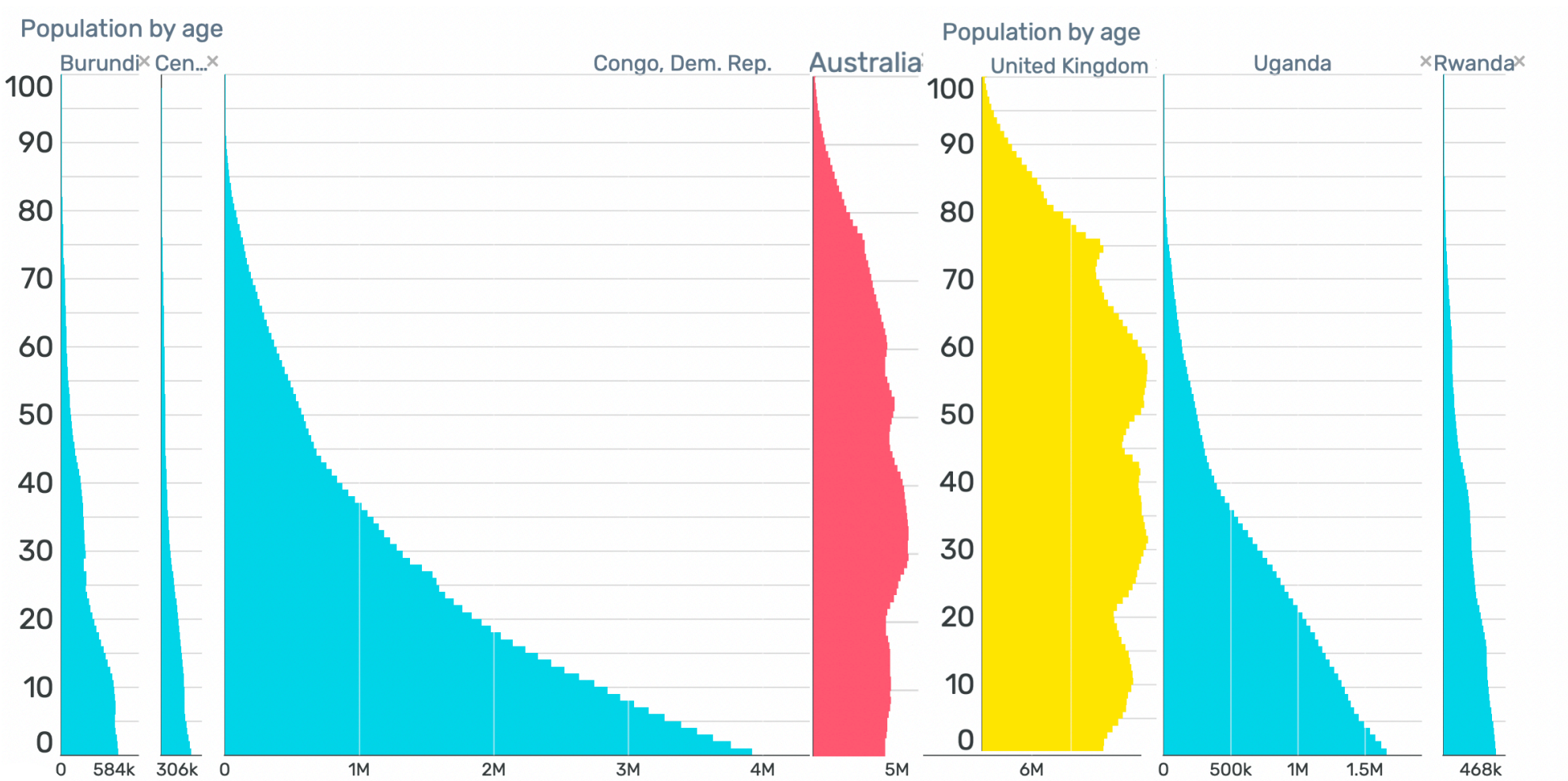
BOTTOM 10: VERY HIGH RISK

	DEU	Germany	Europe	10.00	12
	SGP	Singapore	Asia	16.71	13
	AFG	Afghanistan	Asia	74.71	187
	VEN	Venezuela	South America	75.42	188
	GNQ	Equatorial Guinea	Africa	75.43	189
	LBY	Libya	Africa	76.47	190
	ERI	Eritrea	Africa	77.10	191
	SSD	South Sudan	Africa	77.90	192
	YEM	Yemen	Asia	79.38	193
	COD	Congo, Dem. Rep.	Africa	80.12	194
	PRK	North Korea	Asia	87.97	195
	SYR	Syria	Asia	90.66	196



4. This chart shows the extent to which DR Congo is a land of children.

For those who care for children, DRC is where they are.



5. Why Goma?

Bonvolo operates in Goma, a town on the Eastern border of the Democratic Republic of Congo, between Nyiragongo volcano and Lake Kivu.

It is the site of the First and Second Congolese Wars which started in 1997 and arguably continue with a death toll over 6 million, more than Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Ukraine and Syria combined.

The Nyiragongo Volcano erupted in 1977, 2002 and 2021 causing some loss of life but extensive property loss for the poorest people, who cannot afford to live in a safer neighbourhood.

Violence by dozens of armed militias in the East of Congo provides an excuse for poor democratic process and inadequate policing. Despite this, Goma is considered safe compared to the surrounding countryside, hence the large population despite the lack of employment options and the impossibility of growing food on the lava-covered ground.



The community Bonvolo serves by provision of training, workspace, equipment and marketing consists mostly of internally displaced persons, often fatherless families, fleeing violence.

The community we provide is therapeutic and enables the members to support each other rather than remaining unconnected on the fringe of Goma society.

Goma is at high altitude and about as far from any coast as it is possible to be in Africa, which makes shipping expensive.

In addition, it is at high altitude and requires transit through several other countries, increasing the cost of fuel and import/export duties, both formal and otherwise.

The local people speak Swahili as their first language and do their schooling in French. English is an unaffordable luxury for most of them. Lack of English limits the availability of charitable and commercial support.

The Nyiragongo Volcano erupted in 1977, 2002 and 2021 causing some loss of life but extensive property loss for the poorest people, who cannot afford to live in a safer neighbourhood.

For reasons such as these, the community we serve is especially grateful to our donors, who provide support despite the special difficulties that apply in Goma.



The struggle to realise human rights is all the more precious where it is least convenient.

Why Bonvolo?

- ♥ We work where we are needed
- ♥ We are interested in making the experience special and memorable for your students.
- ♥ We see you as an important part of our community and offer you attractive opportunities to be involved.
- ♥ We have trustworthy financial records with clear reporting categories.
- ♥ More than 80% of funds go directly to the cause, often specifically to the specific initiative chosen by the donor.
- ♥ We have dedicated and experienced leaders who are committed to effective service in our field and location.
- ♥ Board members are involved in supervision and conduct themselves according to a publically shared ethical framework.
- ♥ Board and executive work pro bono, any and all benefits are disclosed.
- ♥ We report progress against strategic goals.
- ♥ We can and do describe how our programs work. Evaluation and improvement are embedded in our organisation.



Thank you so much for your participation!