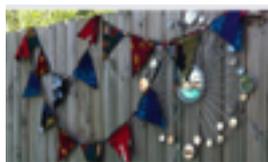


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# MAMA WIMBI



## Progress to Date

Mama Wimbi is a development project based in The Democratic Republic of Congo, in the heart of Africa.

The Mama Wimbi Project was launched last year with a commitment to guarantee a year of education for 33 primary children and to establish a sustainable development model which would ensure that at least some of those children received ongoing education as a result.

We received seed funding from The Rotary Club of Cooma, District 9710,

Welcome to the first edition of our monthly Mama Wimbi newsletter!

The Rotary Club of Hall, The Rotary Club of Belconnen and several individuals.

We bought three sewing machines and a lot of fabric, negotiated use of a workspace, trained the team, paid the first year of school fees and started work.

The Mama Wimbi Team have been working since June 2018 and have produced 430 buntings, enough to get the first 19 of the 44 primary children back to school next September.

The number of primary children has grown because we needed skilled machinists who would could teach the others, without a budget to pay them for their service. Nsmire, Sangani, Masoka and Via joined the team to instruct and lead the others, so it is only fair that their children should be included.

123 buntings have been sold and we are hoping to sell another 150 in our International Women’s Day promotion to Rotary Clubs in the 9710 District.

So, **Phase One** (33 children educated until June 2019) is fully achieved! Congratulations to all concerned!!

**Phase Two** (44 children educated until June 2020) is nearly half way achieved, with several months left to go before fees are due in September.

Since the sewing team is now working 4 hours a day Monday to Thursday and producing 80 buntings per week, it can probably achieve even more.

Of course the parents don’t want their children to have to end their education at primary school, so **Phase Three** will involve sending the older children of the team to middle school.

Secondary schooling is more expensive, so to earn the money to educate our 40 older brothers and sisters of the little ones, we will need to sew and sell another 778 buntings before school starts next September.

Perhaps we will not quite achieve this third goal, but we will do our best and certainly we will enable some of the youngsters to have the school education that we were all able to take for granted.



All are invited to the Mama Wimbi Meeting every 1st Wednesday of the month - 5.15pm Bowling Club Cooma, NSW, where we will discuss and plan strategies and marketing.

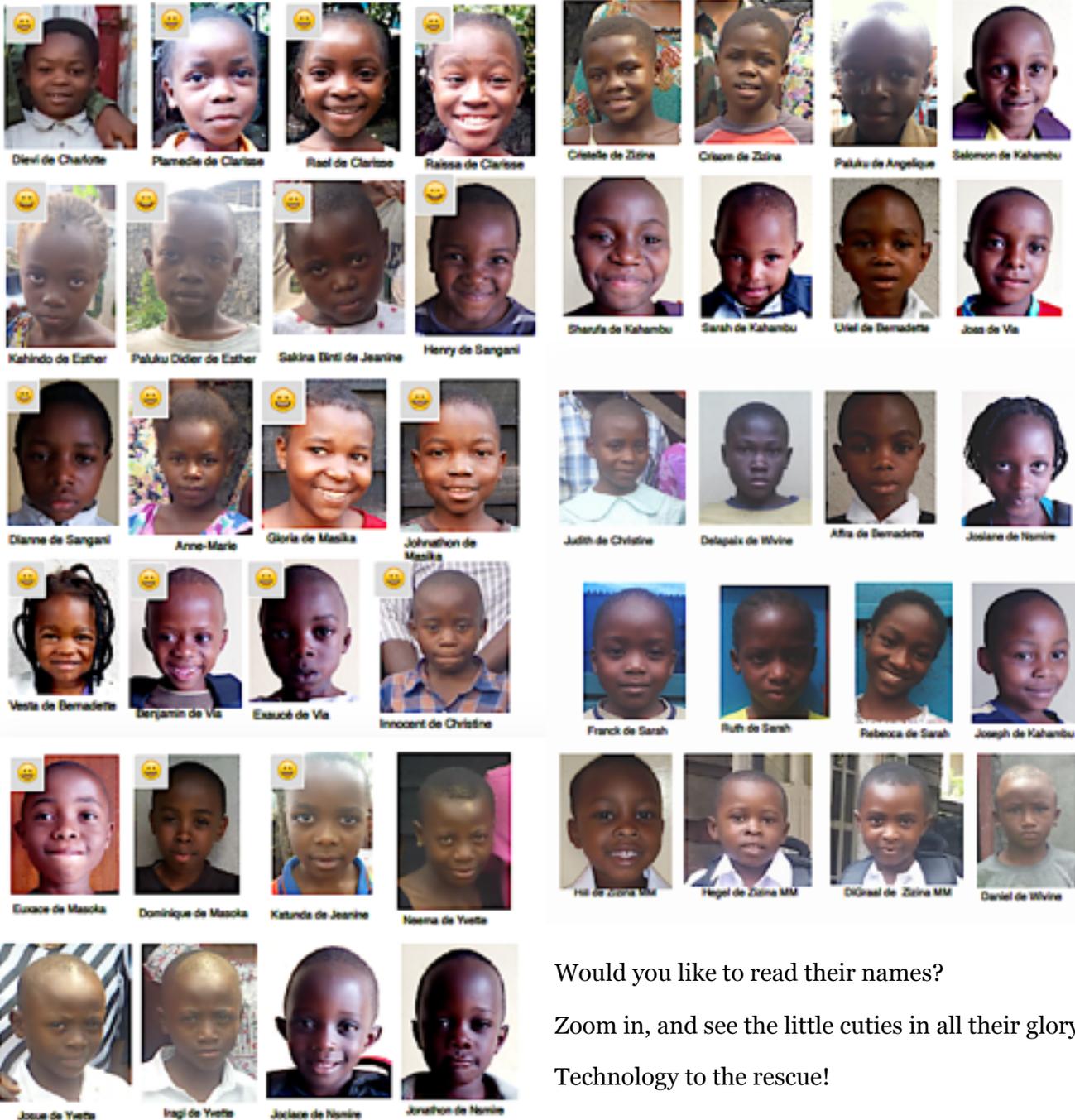
### Gloria’s Story



The team was surprised when 14-year-old Gloria appeared and asked if she could help. They taught her how, and she kept working for months without making any specific requests for anything in return. It turns out that Gloria hasn’t been able to go to school since grade 3. Her mother suffers a mental illness, and her father is gone. Her little brothers, Johnathon (8) and Victoire (4), had no hope of ever having \$67 to pay for a year of school. Thanks to their sister’s courage and diligence, all three will at least finish primary school now.

# Tracking Our Progress...

A smiley sticker shows that the 2019 tuition fees are already in hand!



Would you like to read their names?

Zoom in, and see the little cuties in all their glory.

Technology to the rescue!

## Fundraising Opportunity

Do you know a club or group who would like to raise some money for its own projects by retailing Mama Wimbi buntings?

This is a wonderful opportunity to do well by doing good!

Contact Penny on 0429170739 or [penny@mondeto.com](mailto:penny@mondeto.com) if you think you might.

## A New Venue

Most of the work so far has taken place in the reading room attached to the library of Rutuboko School, in the town of Goma, near the Rwandan border.

The Rutuboko school board has decided to make different use of the space so that work was suspended for a few weeks whilst we sought another venue.

We are pleased to have found one! It does cost \$20 a month but a sponsor in Chile is kindly providing the funds for now.



## Mama Wimbi Around The World

Marc ordered ten buntings and the proceeds paid for 8 year old Johnathon's first ever year of schooling!

This one is decorating a Buddhist Shrine in Singapore.

Isn't that beauty more than skin deep?



# When Helpers Need Help



Alphonse and Bernadette Idumba are the secretary and treasurer of SBV, which manages Mama Wimbi operations in the the Congo.

In addition, Bernadette sewed the prototypes of our product, taught the beginners how to sew, went to the markets to buy the machines and other supplies, keeps track of stock, manages quality control and posts the product. She keeps and sends the receipts and liaises between the sewing team and project management. She sews every hour the workplace is open, as a role model of diligent application.

It is hard to reconcile all that with the fact that this family is facing eviction for lack of funds to renew their lease. Keeping the family fed and dressed is all Alphonse can manage, due to the lack of employment opportunities in Goma.

The rented house costs only \$56 per week, but the lease is 10 months. The patience of the owner is exhausted because they are already 2 months overdue, so they are carrying on working and praying for help.

Australians can receive tax deductibility through Rotary. Go to [www.rawcs.org.au](http://www.rawcs.org.au) and choose Mama Wimbi Buntings for Education and Independence, project number 103 of 2017-18.

# About Us

I'm Penny Vos, Penelope Vos on social media.

I am the project manager and a member of the Rotary Club of Cooma, which registered the Mama Wimbi Project with Rotary Australia World Community service in May 2018.

The project promptly won a Pink Umbrella Foundation Grant, a pleasingly auspicious beginning!

Solidareca Bonvolo (SBV) is Cooma Rotary's local partner organisation in Goma. It manages the purchase of materials, payment of school fees, compilation and transfer of receipts and photos, negotiation of venues and reporting.

The president, Alphonse Waseka Kamango, does most of this work himself, and supervises closely when tasks are delegated.

I was elected Vice-President of SBV in 2018, after several years of membership.

Solidareca Bonvolo means "Solidarity Goodwill". The organisation was legally established in Goma in 2004.



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

Please share with your friends to make our world better.

Happy February from all at Mama Wimbi!