

peacemail

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 4

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OFF PEAK
AUSTRALIA

act for peace
reduce poverty | protect refugees
prevent conflicts | empower communities



Challenges to Survival in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo is the state military organisation noted as being amongst the most unstable in Africa after years of war, corruption and underfunding. The army is being rebuilt with help from Peacekeepers from the United Nations and the European Union, as part of the peace process which followed the end of the Second Congo War in July 2003.

Foreign rebel groups continue to disrupt the process. These include the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and smaller groups such as Lord's Resistance Army. Much of the east of the country remains insecure, greatly exacerbating the issues for internal refugees, who suffer from food shortages, and the loss of infrastructure from the years of conflict. The resultant

humanitarian disaster has affected children the most, demonstrated by the high level of malnourishment among children under five.

Act for Peace project partners have intensified specialised feeding programs and nutritional education of the parents of young children. The strategy is to improve food security by better household agricultural production. Returning displaced families as well as their host communities, are learning new agricultural techniques and skills to improve food security.

\$50 can save the life of a malnourished child through intensive care and nutritional feeding.

\$80 can provide a farmer with seeds and skills in improved agriculture.

\$120 can develop the teaching skills of a young apprentice farmer.

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

actalliance



Act for Peace
National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA)
Locked Bag 199 Sydney NSW 1230
Free Call: 1800 025 101 E: actforpeace@ncca.org.au
Fax: (02) 9262 4514 W: www.actforpeace.org.au
ABN 64 493 941 795

THANK YOU Partners for your commitment to Act for Peace through your prayers and regular gifts. Through your generosity, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict or extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Sarah on **1800 025 101** or email hgraham@ncca.org.au. Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

On the other hand, if you are not yet an Act for Peace Partner and would like to be, or would just like to help this project, your call or email will be welcomed! *All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.*

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Children Saved from Malnutrition and Communities Empowered through increased Food Security

Dear Act for Peace Partner,

I was distressed about the health of my six year old daughter, Katungu Charline and was advised to move to Luofu for proper care. Following diagnosis, Katungu was moved to the Therapeutic Nutritional Unit in Kayna. I was told she had become malnourished because of unbalanced meals and recurrent displacement. Kayna is an intensive therapeutic Nutritional Unit and I was amazed that treatment is free of charge. Thank you for your support of this Unit.

I was very impressed by all the medical care, nutrition, equipment and the willingness and commitment of staff with my daughter's and other children's treatment. They fed all the children with milk at intervals of three hours every night. My daughter was admitted weighing 12 kg and she was released from the centre at 15 kg having completely recovered.

Due to ongoing insecurity, I am no longer willing to return to Bunyatenge, my home village. I have been educated on feeding kids to avoid malnutrition and I am so really grateful to the staff. They asked me to teach other mothers about the techniques, which I will certainly do, no matter where we find refuge.



Cabbages for good nutrition

Kavira Germaine

An Empowered Community

My name is Kakwira and last November I led an evaluation session of the Therapeutic Nutritional Unit in Kayna with some local people. We expressed great appreciation for the effective response to nutritional and food shortage problems in the community..

We had no idea that we could grow cabbage and carrots in Kayna, they were viewed as plants that could only be grown at higher altitudes. It is like a miracle to see these plants grow in our area. You have given new life to our community with agricultural tools, seeds and agriculturalists to teach our people. We now have plenty of food at very cheap prices and food merchants purchase products from Kayna for other cities where food is needed.

Kayna has become a good place to live because of this response to our food security problems and other sectors of life, such as health and hygiene. We express our gratitude to you for supporting the systems put in place. 70% of the field implementers are local people. We are so proud that our daughters, as well as sons are apprentice agriculturists and hold very important positions in implementation. They can ride motorcycles and have communication handsets. These things could not have happened before in our area. We wish that the experts could remain in our area longer, but realise they have to move on to help other communities. We strongly recommend that authorities in charge of stability and security protect them and that many more might benefit from the services they render.

Kakwira Ladislas, Kirumba Local Authority

Partner's Prayer Points:

Pray for all victims of war and oppression in Africa and elsewhere.

Pray for medical and agricultural experts who, at great personal risk, deliver vital aid and sustainable health and food solutions.

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