



An NGO working towards improving the living conditions of street children in Congo DRC

**Activity Report
Context
Reports from the
beneficiaries**

**Fifth Year
September 2006**

**The fight against poverty is a sacred duty and a law of
humanity.**

KARIBU KINSHASA: THE PROJECT

Reuniting street children with their families through social work carried out by two teachers, specially employed to this effect. The project is equally involved in micro-credit programmes, creating awareness and training workshops.

The following are our three targets:

- **Street children who have fled their homes because of hunger**
- Children who have fled abusive situations
- Poverty stricken families whose income does not allow them to have daily meals. It concerns families that earn less than a dollar per day for a family of five or two dollars per day for a family of ten.

Micro-credit involves lending 40\$ (32€) payable over a period of nine months at a rate of 6% (equal to the inflation rate). Family and friends provide the guarantee for the loan. This concerns families who accept to take back their children from the streets to which they had abandoned him.

This loan aims to back up the mothers' informal economic activities (e.g. selling vegetables, etc.) in order for them to earn a better living. Besides, they also participate in training and awareness workshops including: introduction to better management, family planning, good hygiene and health issues, among others.

We have four objectives:

- Reduce the number of children in the street which is around 30,000
- Enable the concerned families to feed their children daily
- Enable the children to go to school
- Enable the families to get medical treatment

ACTIVITY REPORT

August 2002: first visit on Mrs. Sita's invitation. She is a Congolese migrant who used to live in the KARIBU Association in France. A report was published after inspection and based on the interviews conducted (around 60).

August 2003: a workshop, initiation to micro-credit, was held in Togo in cooperation with ECHOPE Association. First foundation laid by Henri and Augustin.

January 2004: the first micro-credits are accorded to 26 mothers. It was a success. Construction of our quarters in the Paka Juma residential area under Henri's responsibility.

August 2004: registration of our statutes. Second visit to Congo.

August 2005: third journey. Training workshop with around twelve of our Kinshasa partners.

January 2006: the number of mothers benefiting from the association climbs to 107. The state of affairs is lukewarm: 55% of the mothers refund at regular intervals, 25% refund at irregular intervals and 20% have given up.

These difficulties are due to the lack of sufficient preparation, selection of the families, illnesses which are poorly treated in a poverty context, all these leading to more serious consequences, i.e. the closure of one of our partner association.

February 2006: external evaluation

September 2006: fourth journey. Appointment of a new administrative team- Antoine, Pierre, Placide, Léonard who backs up our two employees Virginie and Thomas, both of whom are competent teachers.

The activities of KARIBU Kinshasa (KK) are based on three main texts: a micro-credit guidebook, a principles of accounting textbook and the administrator's charter. The employees hand in a report of activities every month.

November: measures taken concerning 40 families living in the streets that come from Bribano. They were grouped up in Kinkole, a town situated 50kms away from the city centre. We obtained 60 tarpaulins from UNICEF, for them to use as a shelter and as from January, we will hold training workshops on income earning activities, e.g. selling salted fish.

January 2007: a review of the progress of the supplementary 50 mothers, who are the mothers of the street children, is completed. We begin the introduction to micro-credit phase, combined with training on other better income generating activities other than selling vegetables such as: preparing salted fish, making soap and other household cleaning products.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our annual budget ranges from 6,000\$ to 7,000\$, obtained from about a hundred donors which includes individuals and associations such as Emmaüs Liberté, ESPER, G T M from Meudon, Cash Solidarité, ECODIS. It is quite difficult to follow up all that relates to accounting. We decide that the accounting activities would be handled in Paris. We employed an accountant Jacqueline, and Claude a retired certified accountant and who has always participated actively in associative issues. They are to justify all the expenses

according to precise procedures. We have managed to acquire quite a heritage: a house, solar electricity, and computers, for a total amount of about 4000\$. We pay our employees 100\$ per month.

THE VALUES OF KARIBU KINSHASA

The fight against poverty is a sacred duty and a law of humanity. Our joy comes from healing families who are suffering. Each dollar saved is a dollar saved for a suffering mother or a mother who is going to die.

As employees, administrators or members of KARIBU, we have chosen to commit ourselves deeply by gaining joy from healing suffering families and children.

If we remain united with all our heart, none of the difficulties we will encounter can stop us. In accordance to the Emmaüs motto "helping the most needy first", we are invited to embrace a spirit of service, service to the association and to the mothers and not for personal benefit.

THE FIVE MAIN PROBLEMS PLAGUING KINSHASA:

The gradual destruction of the traditional tribal culture due to the rural exodus and urbanisation only compensated for by church speeches. It is quite striking to note that the street children are almost all second-generation children.

Material poverty resulting from the destruction of the economy, which had already been rendered fragile through looting, mainly under Mobutu's reign between 1990 and 1992. The GNP per inhabitant has lowered to 75\$ today as opposed to 240\$ at the time of independence.

A disastrous war that has been raging since 1998 fuelled by the greed of three neighbouring countries (Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi), and which completely destroyed the Congolese's State's capacity to intervene.

The establishment of a town in a very unfavourable area, i.e. in the Congo River bed, whose waters' tidal range can reach 15 metres, and which floods over every year during days or months in area with a million inhabitants.

Public services that have come to a standstill as they are unable to deal with any of their obligations (transport services in general, garbage collection,

maintenance of waster water pipes, urbanisation policies). We visited administrative offices that have been abandoned and full of dust.

This is the very suffering that I came across from day to day, but which is somehow compensated for by strong social ties between warm people who help each other mutually, limitless resourcefulness and the great confidence they have in life.

THE SITUATION OF THE HOMELESS IN KINSHASA:

The NGOs working with the homeless in Kinshasa estimate their number to be around 30,000. This figure was cited by a recent survey carried out by UNICEF.

They include children aged between 6 and 22 years living in groups of between 10 to 30 individuals. They sleep right on the floor, squeezed between each other and they live off odd jobs, begging and petty theft. In one of the city's cemeteries, About 30 women have been spotted living with their newly born babies of less than a year old in one of the city's cemeteries.

These children mostly flee from their families or are chased away following accusations of witchcraft, which has massively increased. They are all second generation children from parents who have themselves migrated to Kinshasa to flee clashes in other parts of the country or to flee the dangerous nature of life in the countryside.

About forty NGOs manage to take care of 6,000 children, under very difficult conditions. They provide housing, mostly meals or at least take them to school.

Considering the magnitude and constant rise of the phenomenon, the local authorities no long believe that creating housing centres will solve the problem. They believe that the problem can only be solved by reuniting families. However, it is not easy to put to practice this solution as the government is unable to finance the project and the families themselves live in abject poverty.

BASIC FACTS ON CONGO DRC

Surface area: 2.345.000 km²

Capital city: Kinshasa. Number of inhabitants: 7 million

Population: 50 to 60 million inhabitants, 25 million registered voters
Population aged below 15: 50%
Population growth rate: 3% per year
Life expectancy: 46 years. Schooling rate: 51%

ECONOMICAL SITUATION

The Marshal MOBUTU looted all the private banks' assets and 50% of financial cooperatives' assets.

In 1990 and 1991 he sent his soldiers to go loot companies.

External debt: 10 to 13 billion dollars, in other words, twice the GNP

Economy decline rate between 1990 and 2000: - 46%

Annual GDP per inhabitant: between 75 and 100 \$

Daily income per inhabitant: 1973: 1,31 \$, 1984: 0,91 \$, 1998: 0,30 \$

EFFECTS OF THE WAR

Deaths resulting from direct violence: 350 000 people

Deaths results from indirect causes linked to the war in 5 years: 3 to 4 million people

Number of displaced people resulting from the conflicts: 3 to 4 million

Child soldiers: 10 to 15 000

HEALTH

Child mortality rate: 126 deaths per 1000 births

Fertility rate: 7 children per woman

URGENT ECONOMIC NEEDS

6% of the population has access to electricity, 22% has access to drinking water

POLITICAL SITUATION

Congo has adopted a new constitution. The President, Joseph Kabila was elected with 58% of the votes against his opponent Jean Pierre Mbemba's 42%. There are still two regions undergoing war to the east of the country.

Sources: Central Bank of Congo, UNDP, Christian Aid, UNICEF

Bribano, one of the areas in which we conduct our activities is flooded thrice a year.

The surroundings of the main railway station in Kinshasa

DURING THE CREATION PERIOD

August 2004, during the drawing up of the association's statutes

Henri, who co-founded the association with Augustin

|

August 2004 during the opening ceremony

REPORT ON THE FIRST GENERATION KISENSO RESIDENTIAL AREA



Mama Albertine, a family with two children under Augustin's care

MPASSA RESIDENTIAL AREA



Mama Rose, mother of three. She buys grains at the city centre and sells them in her area of residence 40km away from the city centre



One of foster families for street children under Henri's care

PAKA JUMA RESIDENTIAL AREA



Mama Christine used to live with her five children under a train; two micro-credits were accorded to her and she now sells manioc flour, locally known as “Chikwanga”. She is therefore able to feed her children through her loans and lives in a wooden shelter at a monthly rent of four dollars a month.



Three of Mama Christine's children in front of their wooden shelter.

REPORT ON THE SECOND GENERATION MOUNT NGAFULA RESIDENTIAL



Mama Elise L (photo centre)

She has under her care seven people: her husband, her four children and two children formerly living in the streets. Her husband is the watchman of land they occupy. She sells peanuts and manioc. Her business improved significantly. She earns 1000 CF (two dollars) per day.

Mama M (to the left) and her husband are both unemployed. They have eight children under their care including two street children. Two of the eldest run a grocery.



The family earns its income from the sales of the lovely grocery run by the two eldest children. This is a photo of them with a former street child (centre).



Mama Chantal N

She has six children who do not go to school and a younger sister who is seriously ill. Her husband is door-to-door cobbler. At the moment we met, he had been away for a week in search of a job.

The photo was taken at 4.00pm and the children had still not had anything to eat for the day.

The live in a house under construction that they have to leave. Their only income comes from their grandmother who is physically disabled.



This is Chantal's mother, Mama K N to the left. She is back after a three-month hospitalisation period. She sells charcoal and peanuts.

THE ADMINISTRATORS OF KARIBU KINSHASA

Galiema residential area. We are off to search for the mother in charge of collecting and who has moved out several times...

From left to right:

Virginie, employed teacher

Mama Helen who sells salted fish; she is very motivated and has entirely refunded her loan.

Antoine, the treasurer used to live in the KARIBU Association's residence in France.

2006, the administration team with some Emmaüs partners in Africa.
From right to left: Thomas, employed teacher, Leonard, coordinator, Placide who is in charge of the employees, Pierre handles PR, Virginie a teacher, Augustin Co-founder, Theophile and Antoine the treasurer.

BRIBANO RESIDENTIAL AREA
152 families are living in the streets since September 2006 after being chased away by the police



These families used to live in a hangar baptised “KOSOVO” for five years. They are refugees in an area that is flooded every year by the Congo River.



The hangar
the governor

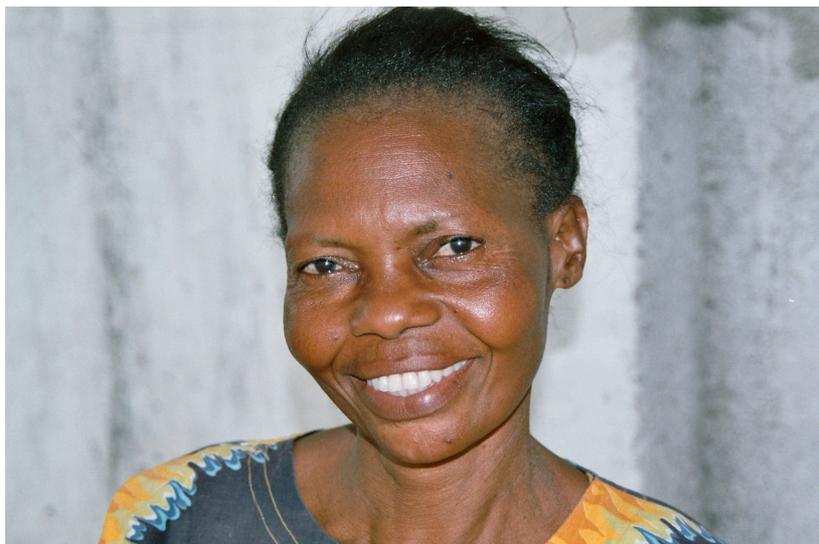
was sold and
chased them

away. 45 of them remained in the hangar. They have agreed to go to the piece of land situated at 50km away in Kinkole that was allotted to them. In exchange, we distributed tarpaulins to them, which we obtained from UNICEF.

We are actively preparing the mothers to deal with micro-credit to stop them from selling the tarpaulins, and avoid them ending up in a dangerously passive situation.

LEMBA RESIDENTIAL AREA

Mama Ester has 7 people under her responsibility including 3 children whose father is dead. When we met her she was selling peanuts which makes her earn 300CF (2-3 dollars) per day. Our 30\$ loan allows her to sell bananas as well, which makes her earn a supplementary 200CF. By September, she had refunded 22 of the 36 monthly instalments. The delay is due to the hospitalisation of her sister.



Mama

ESTER

NGABA roundabout market



Mama Antoinette has five grown-up children and 11 people who depend on her. Her husband who is paralysed lost his job as a nurse. In spite of her illness, she has managed to refund 60% of the amount she was loaned.

She underwent technical training on how to dye cloths and would like to develop this activity.

Her daughter Laetitia, an adolescent who would constantly run away from home, wanted to go and live in the streets. Owing to our teacher's help she has gone back to school.



Mama Antoinette Kitoko's stall is the first one on the right. She sells various items: salted fish, fish buns, bread, etc.

MASINA RESIDENTIAL AREA



Mama Sophie KOUTSOKANAKO sells fish at the Masina market from which she earns 700CF (1 and half dollars) per day. This income allows her to feed eight people including her four children. She is a hardworking woman who has refunded almost all her loan. She is surrounded here by Thomas, one of our employees, and Placide to her left, one of our administrators.



Mama ROSE sells peanuts. In prosperous months she earns 15,000 CF per month, the equivalent of 500 CF (1 dollar) per day. 12 people depend on her including nine children. One of the babies is suffering from malaria (to her left). The photo was taken at 4.00pm and none of them had eaten anything that day.

Association KARIBU

KARIBUcontact@free.fr

Social Residence
Agreement of 19th June 1998

Declared : J.O. of 29 May 1985

A co-development NGO with countries of origin



Appeal for contributions and/or donations 2007

Total Annual contribution

Persons without income: 3 €

Person earning taxable income: 30€

Persons earning income exempted from taxes:
15 €

Total amount of a micro-credit loan in

Congo DRC: 40€ for a period of nine months

Christine Lulendu
Second micro-credit.
Four children, one dead.
Was homeless before.



Every person possesses the resources to succeed one's life and to participate in the construction of a world that is more human.

I the undersigned

Residing at :

Tel. :

Email :

Hereby declare that I would like to :

join the association / renew my contribution / give a donation for a precarious case / for the micro-credit project in Kinshasa to function for **2007** (delete where inapplicable)

give a contribution.....and/or a donation of.....

accept to participate actively in solidarity actions

support the values and the vocations of the association :

1 – by welcoming migrants and assuring their integration through housing

2 – by defending migrants' rights and fighting against discrimination

3 – by participating in solidarity development projects in their countries of origin

4 – by promoting the culture of their countries of origin and conveying this culture to the second generation children

Signature.....date.....

You can opt to make an individual donation or a permanent transfer

KARIBU Association postal account national identity:

Etablissement : 30041, guichet : 00001,N°de compte: 19 740 49 L020, clé RIP 48,

Domiciliation : La Poste centre financier de Paris 75900 Paris chèques France