

## De-urbanization - help for the villages



*Simple brick oven: bricks stacked up high, covered with mud, fire inside*

Dear friends,

According to a recent survey in the United Nations' annual Human Development Index, Congo DRC has the lowest living standard of 187 countries. Statistics are very hard to find here, but it is estimated that only around 60 % of the children go to school which parents have to pay for.

70 % of the people live in the undeveloped countryside, called the bush, with the most extreme poverty and illiteracy. Hardly anybody wants to go and help there because the situation and circumstances are so difficult.

Most aid organizations work in and around Kinshasa or cities in the war-torn East. The rest of the country is pretty much left to itself. They lack basic infrastructure, like proper roads, which makes certain goods extremely expensive. One bag of cement in Kinshasa costs 14 \$, in Tshikapa 39 \$ and it still has to be transported to the village. One liter of diesel in Kinshasa is 1.4 \$, in Tshikapa 3 \$.

People move to the cities because there is the money, but when they arrive, most don't find any jobs and end up in poverty. Kinshasa keeps growing on all corners because people settle there, hoping for a better life, but instead it increases the trouble.



*Machine for pressing bricks by hand: clay, a little oil & some elbow grease. After being burned they become very strong*



*Michel, Andre & team measure the land for the construction of the school & made 14000 bricks for it - oven & storage.*

We adopted one abandoned newborn baby, but there are constantly new babies abandoned because some people end up in such a bind that they don't know what to do. That's one thing people in the bush told us they would not do. As poor as they are they don't abandon their children.

There are more than 70 orphanages in Kinshasa with a total of about 4000 orphans and around 17000 street children. About 80 % of the people have no proper job. We heard of houses where four families live together, one room per family including all their children, with a common kitchen, one toilet and one living room for all. When the children grow up, some of them live on the street and girls prostitute themselves at a very young age. Sometimes whole families live on the street because they have no other place to stay.

How can we stop this trend, unless we do something at the grass root level? In spite of all the difficulties and obstacles, we hope to set an example that things can change.



*Staying with the fam. of Prof. Mpona, our friend since 2003*

Our goal is not just to build a school with no fees and an agricultural project in the bush, but also to give people a broader viewpoint. We want to give the villagers a new outlook on life and change things right where they are. At the same time we try to inspire influential and affluent people to build more farms and schools.

While we were in Europe raising



*Prof. Butsana's family took us in as strangers when we landed & had no place to go. They loved & recorded Jos' songs*





Jos, Wolfg., Minister of Social Affairs Mr. Kambere Kalumbi and Gilbert - applying for charitable status of "ADH Congo" awareness and support for this project Michel and Marc and their team at the farm in Mushapo started to buy and prepare materials for the school with the finances we received for it. They produced 14000 bricks from clay and burned them to make them durable. They measured and cleared the land for the building and prepared the woodwork for the roof and the foundation. We are just waiting for the right moment to buy the cement as it is extremely expensive right now. In January we are planning to go there with Michel to help oversee the construction work.

On Youtube and our website you can find the video "School-project in Mushapo 2011" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWld-Gejhqs&feature=related> and the "Interview with München TV 2011" <http://www.a-d-h.org/?p=1523> in German.



Mr. Griebel from "München TV" interviews us & our friends.

You can also find on both websites video clips about some of our older projects.

A special big THANK YOU goes to the German Embassy in Kinshasa for supporting our efforts! They wrote us why they decided to support our project: "We have the impression that your project is well thought through. Besides that, it is situated in an area which otherwise receives very little help." We are very thankful for their



Presentation for different supporter groups: Prague choir members (l), artists from Duisburg Baerl Art School (r), ...



*... children in the school of Wolfgang's sister Annette (l) & in Parsberg's kindergarten (r). All actively support our work!*

grant which covers the building materials and for all the support we receive from others to pay the workers and our team's expenses. We were able to find sponsors for almost all 120 children who will go to this school, but we need to find a few



*The kids like to play with Anissa and when Daddy speaks she steals the show!*

more. Let's do all we can to give hope to these precious people in the villages to build a better life right there so they don't run away and end up with more problems in the cities. Thank you for all your help! We really appreciate it!

With heartfelt greetings,

*Wolfgang, Lenka, Anissa, Jos and team*



*We travelled 5000 km visiting people in Germany, here with three sisters & their families. Happy Barbara and Anissa!*

**Bank Account:** Aktive Direkt Hilfe e.V., Postbank Dortmund, Account 298 000 461, BLZ 440 100 46 **IBAN Number:** DE 92 44010046 0298000461, BIC: PBNKDEFF