



# AusCongo Network

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
2016 - 2017**



# President's Report

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## By Constanin Mukendi

We came into this year with immeasurable optimism. We continue to achieve significant results, and our passion is unstoppable because this work is my chosen focus and purpose for the rest of my life.

Despite the staffing challenges we have experienced with a volunteer team over the past two years, we have not lost hope and courage. On the contrary, ACN has taken up the challenge of moving our special place to the next level and this has been evidenced by the following achievements.

Five project proposals are underway. Dr Donald, CEO of World Relief Australia (WRA), has accepted to take the responsibility of managing all the projects using WRA paid workers. It is agreed that in all the budgets, we shall include costs of project management which will go directly to WRA.

Volunteers will continue to raise funds for our administration here and for project management, especially projects funded by other bodies or organisations. This means that all the volunteers employed in project positions will be working as assistants to support WRA in project management e.g. grant application writing, research and reporting.

This will ensure a more sustainable model internally in regards to human resources.

The five project proposals which are underway and nearly ready for funding and implementation are detailed on the next page.

# Projects 2016 - 2017

## 1. Agriculture Project Proposal

The grant application will be shortly submitted to Entrust Foundation thanks to WRA who have accepted to manage all the projects using their paid staff.

## 2. Internet Project Proposal

This project was drafted by the organisation "Partnering in International Collaborative Community Aid (PiCCA)" and is ready for funding. Initially PiCCA was going to raise funds however their policy does not allow them to go into countries such as Congo (due to its safety as a result of the war and conflict situation).

However, we are still dedicated to seeing this project come to fruition as we know how important its impact will be for this community. We are continuing to seek alternative methods for raising funds for this project, and project management will be overseen by WRA.

## 3. Village Poultry Project

This project, which was drafted and studied by Kyeema Foundation, will be implemented in collaboration with Dr Theodore Mwabi, who is a Congolese veterinary consultant living in South Africa. Dr Theodore is an expert in poultry. He is a highly dedicated stockman who has specialised in poultry production and health with 30 years' experience as a Senior Manager in industrial poultry production. Kyeema's CEO, Celia, and Senior Technical Manager, Dr Mary, are committed to implementing and managing these projects as they have other projects in Tanzania and Zambia.

## 4. Buddy2Buddy Solar

Buddy2Buddy Solar has partnered with schools in Australia where students assemble solar powered lights that are sent to children living in poverty to use for night time reading for those without access to electricity. Greater Springfield Rotary Club in partnership with Rotary Club Mbuji-Mayi/Congo has adopted this as a project this year and for years ahead. Thus far, four schools have accepted to start the project next year including St Mary's College Ipswich, Staines Memorial College, Our Lady's College Annerley, Sunnybank High School and Ipswich Grammar School.

## 5. Bike4Life Project

Bike4Life is a non-profit organisation that alleviates poverty and social injustice by recycling and restoring discarded bikes in order to replace the cycle of poverty with a cycle of hope. We have a partner who can transport the container from the Port Tanzania up to Mbuji-Mayi. We are in final negotiations with Bike4Life's CEO.

## Future Directions

We are very grateful to Mr Jean Calvin Tshibwabwa, the National Director in Congo, who continues working with limited resources due to lack of funding. As a result, they have been evicted from their building, however, as we say, "something good comes from something bad," they went from the previous building paying US\$200 per month to finding a new premise for only US\$50 per month.

No progress has been noticed in the reports as we have not been able to support them financially. However, they continue working in their individual project groups. Our goal is to support them again this year.

### This coming year 2018 - 2019

We want to focus on the **capacity building of our organisation** here and in Congo:

- + Good governance and accountability;
- + Strong management committee well equipped in Australia; and
- + Staff who are well trained and equipped in Congo

This will be made possible if we have some paid workers in Australia to support us, even one or two days a week in administration and project management.

To achieve this, WRA will be managing all the projects with their paid staff. This includes implementation and acquittals for the grant workers. The money will come from the budgets in the project proposals and from our fundraising activities.

Volunteers will be employed only in fundraising activities, administration and to work with WRA as a support to project management until we have enough funds to employ our own paid staff.

Fundraising activities, including a monthly garage sale, and others such as Congo Flavour Dinner, Congo Week in October in partnership with "Friends of Congo" based in America, and other events will be initiated.

To this end, we shall make every effort to implement our strategic plan, to finalise our operational action plan and then make a comprehensive business plan for our organisation.

Once more, thank you all who have helped us directly or indirectly.

Please let us put our hearts, heads and hands together for this noble cause.

**B.C. Mukendi**  
**President**

## Acknowledgements

Working with friends and supporters have kept us moving forward and achieving our goals. We are grateful for the following people who have assisted us:

- Challenge Employment & Skilling for arranging a paid worker for 16 weeks. We had a number of paid workers with us who were placed with our Human Resources Manager, Ms Roshni Achar. With this, she has built a strong foundation for human resource management in our organisation.
- Mr Benjamin Forday **gave us 19 used computers** which were sent to Congo. Thank you very much Mr Benjamin!
- Mr Robert Mukombozi and Ms Fernanda Torresi from QPASTT who **donated another five used computers**, which were also sent to Congo.
- Ms Trish Falon, the coordinator of Self-Help Queensland, has done a fantastic job drafting Policy & Procedures, Public Liability Insurance and Personal Accident Insurance documents. She also got our financial reports audited by connecting us to Mr David Hartman. Without Trish it would have been impossible to run the Christmas wrapping fundraiser. Thanks to Trish and all the volunteers who helped at the stall including Ms Memo, Mr Frank, Mr Dieudo, Ms Agnes, Mr Bonheur and Ms Belange. They helped sell the tickets and wrap gifts all week leading up to Christmas which raised \$5,215.
- Consultant Ms Gigi Lacey helped us finalise the Strategic Planning document and reviewed the Policies & Procedures manual. She also helped finalise the application to obtain charity status. I really thank the following people for their contribution to the application of the charity status, namely Mr Peter Forday from SHURT Law Company, our lawyer Duncan, Trish, Charles Alder and our secretary Bob.

I would also like to thank the following people for their contributions:

- Our secretary Mr Bob is still assisting and we owe him all the gratitude and respect. Bob is indispensable to our organisation and his contribution is outstanding. Thank you very much, dear Bob, from the bottom of my heart.
- Kanchan Vekaria, my personal assistant and accountant. Without Ms Kanchan it would have been impossible to have our annual financial report. Thank you very much Kanchan, from the bottom of my heart.
- Ms Stella Gibbs has helped us run the garage sale to start up.
- Mr Blaise Mwilambwe, Congolese Doctor working at Toowoomba Hospital, donated \$1000 to support our capacity building project in Congo.
- Mr Timothy Barlott of Occupational Opportunities for Refugees & Asylum Seekers Inc donated \$2,080.
- Pretty Mulanga, who has been donating monthly through WRA, has given \$600 over the last financial year which she used for her annual tax return and received a tax deduction. I encourage everybody to please follow Ms Pretty. She was happy to receive a tax deduction.
- Kim, Lawyer at Refugee and Legal Services, gave us \$50.
- I thank all the members who have been active in attending our management committee meetings namely Louis Kalala, William Kadima and Rodrick Kayembe.
- My wife, for her support

# Financial Report

## Notes to the statements

- (a) Includes donation from Costa Rica for refugees, individuals and members.
- (b) Income from Christmas wrapping fund raisers and garage sale.
- (c) Income from the \$30 pp fees Auscongo members pay annually.
- (d) Donation via World Relief Australia (WRA) for project.
- (e) Management Fee of 10% of the donation charged by WRA for donation Via them.
- (f) Income from sale of candles.
- (g) Stall fees for MDA event and Purchase of clothes racks for garage sale.
- (h) Expense for Personal Accident Volunteer Insurance and Public Liability
- (i) ATM Charges
- (j) Expense for printing documents and posters as well as purchase of stationery for use in the office and during garage sale.
- (k) Charge on money sent to Congo for running the office via Money gram.
- (l) Expense incurred on posting of documents for sanction for fund raising and Change of treasurer form to fair trading.
- (m) Rotary Club membership for Costa Rica.
- (n) Fees incurred for an audit of the financials for the year 2016.

**President**

  
Constantin Mukendi

Date: 15/11/2017

**Treasurer**

  
Fabrice Kalala

Date: 15-11-2017

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	<u>Notes</u>	As at 30th June 2017	
		<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Cash and Bank</b>			
Cash at Bank - NAB		1,570.07	
Cash In hand		-	
Cash at Aid Agency - WIRA		<u>975.75</u>	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<u>2,545.82</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>2,545.82</u>
<b>Represented by</b>			
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
Accumulated Surplus/ Deficit			3,078.47
Retained Earnings			<u>(532.65)</u>
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>			<u>2,545.82</u>

President



Constantin Mukendi

Date: 15/11/2017

Treasurer



Fabrice Kalala

Date: 15-11-2017

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

For the Year ended 30th June 2017

INCOME RECEIVED	<u>Notes</u>	\$	\$
<b>Auscongo Network (ACN)</b>			
Donations	(a)	6,698.29	
Grants		-	
Fundraising	(b)	5,615.75	
Membership	(c)	<u>290.00</u>	12,604.04
<b>Add World Relief Australia(WRA)</b>			
Donations	(d)	2,010.00	
Grants		-	
Sponsorship		-	
Less Project management Fees	(e)	<u>(821.00)</u>	1,189.00
<b>Add Candy sales</b>	(f)		<u>280.75</u>
			14,073.79
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Event Expenses	(g)	268.00	
Insurance	(h)	1,764.08	
Bank Charges and Fees	(i)	2.90	
Printing & Stationery	(j)	338.38	
Money Transfer charges	(k)	259.00	
Lodgement fees	(l)	8.80	
Subscriptions	(m)	40.00	
Audit fees	(n)	110.00	
Expenses in Congo		-	
Office rent and Staff Salary		<u>11,815.28</u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<u>14,806.44</u>
<b>NET DEFICIT</b>			<u>(532.65)</u>

President



Constantin Mukendi

Date: 15/11/2017

Treasurer



Fabrice Kalala

Date: 15-11-2017



**Verification Statement**

AusCongo Network Inc.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

The association keeps financial records in a way which properly records the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

The association does not have any liabilities as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Statement Authorised by:

*President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Costantin Mukendi', is written over a horizontal line.

*Costantin Mukendi*

*Date: 03/04/2018*