

# AUSCONGO NETWORK Incorporated

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



### Contents of the Report

1. President's Report.....	Page 03
2. Financial Report.....	Page 05
3. Annual Report from Mbuji-Mayi, Democratic Republic of Congo.....	Page 13
4. Keeping girls at school. Agriculture project report	
5. Digital Skills Report.....	Page 21

## President 's annual report 2018-2019

This year has been again significant for AusCongo Network. A C N as a charity and is now a public benevolent institution registered with A C N C, with tax charity concessions and DRG status. And we have raised more than \$33,000 for kour projects here in and in Congo (see our financial reports). Our finances are well audited. This money includes \$11,000 from PICCA and Kyeema Foundation for chicken vaccination project, \$11,000 from WRA for agriculture and keeping girls at school project, \$1773 from Christmas gift wrapping fundraiser and \$ 300 from membership fees. \$ 5,000 from Good Things foundation for the Be connected program

For me, this is a prowess for a small organisation running without resources and depending totally on partners, volunteers and friends. I am proud to be a president of such an organisation.

### Highlights:

1. **Village Chicken vaccination project:** with the help of Kyeema Foundation(<https://kyeemafoundation.org/>) and Partners in International collaborative community Aid (PICCA) (<https://picca.org.au/>) 13,300 chickens have been vaccinated throughout 15 villages in Mbuji-Mayi/ Congo.

**Digital Literacy project:** With grants from Good Things Foundation , assistance of ECCQ, MDA and Be connected, we have ran get online week ( \$1500) in October 2018 and 219 ( \$1500), \$2000 grants we trained 12 young people to be mentors in this program ( community engagement).

2. **Keep girls at school:** Computer literacy, we have ordered 10 Laptops from Computer 4 learning, a rotary club organisation to continue help people over 55 years old with digital skills. In Congo we have sent 12 computers and we are committed to teaching them computer skills.
3. **Buddy2budd2 solar:** With the help of Rotary club of Greater Springfield Australian school students from Staines Memorial College and Redbank Plains high school, have assembled solar lights to sent to children in Congo/ Mbuji-Mayi
4. **Teacher-in -the box:** With the help of Rotary Club of Great Springfield, Professor Patrice Kabeya from South Africa will come and learn how to teach this program and take the laptop to Mbuji-Mayi to further teaching program.
5. **Agriculture and keeping girls at school project. In partnership with World Relief Austrlia**(<https://www.wra.org.au/>), we are working towards developing the agricultural skills throughout Congolese villages and working with village leaders to ensure that young girls are allowed to continue their education
6. **Agriculture training:** we have bought 14 hectares of land in Mbuji-Mayi, Congo, with the help of Entrust Foundation and have planted 3 hectares of cassava and ran programs to train over 500 people from the local community in agriculture activities.
7. **Efficient-fuel stoves:** With the help of Mr. Barry Hamm, we are assisting Congolese villages to build and use more fuel-efficient cooking and heating methods. Barry is making the toys to sell for this project.

8. **Christmas Gift wrapping fundraiser:** we raised \$1,773 with the help of Memory and her friends. This money helped us pay for the public liability insurance and insurance to work with the volunteers,
9. **Grants:** Gambling community benefit fund grant GCB grant (with the assistance of Susan Chen, project coordinator , we have bought some office furniture, promotion materials, ordered 10 second-hand computers, Susan helped also in managing the Good Things Foundation grants for Be connected program, Grant from MAQ will be used for a multicultural event next year 2020,
10. **Events:** with grants from Good thing Foundation, we were able to hold 3 events: Get online weeks 14-20 October 2018 (\$1500 grant) and 14 – 20 October 2019(\$1500 grant)., Community engagement event (\$2000) used to train youth in the mentoring program.
11. Our lawyer **Mr Duncan Marckward** is back and has paid his membership fees i.e. he is still our financial member and available for any assistance even from the distance., Bob Helyar , our former secretary is back as a financial member, he has paid his membership fees and also promised to be available for any assistance.

#### **Challenges:**

- **Capacity building here in Australia:** working with volunteer is still challenging, - we need paid workers even casual at one or two days a week, - so we need at \$ 300-600 per week
- Lack of membership, lack of engagement with the community.
- **Capacity building in Congo:** The work and support of our director Jean Calvin Tshibuabua who is working in the implementation of our projects on the field. Without him, nothing can be done in Mbuji-Mayi. But he is working without any support from A C N Australia. We need funds, - at least \$250 per month, to support him monthly considering his invaluable support. He is married with 4 children. He needs transport (car or motorbike) to go into the villages (30 kilometres), he needs communication equipment for reports and promotions such as photos and videos etc, etc., he need funds for renting the office and more space for our activities on the ground.

**Thanks & recognition:** I owe respect and recognition to following volunteers for their contribution: Mr Barry Hamm., - helped with the grant application writing, GCBF and MAQ grant, registration with A C N, Janice who helped in the project management , Susan Chen for her dedication in management of Be Connected program and Gambling benefit community fund \$5000. I really thank Janice, Susan and Hsin-ta for their assistance in the project management. I cannot forget Memory and friends who helped in the events and in the Christmas, gift wrapping fundraiser. Ms Beryl Eb: administration and becoming member of A C N year 201-19-2020, Mr Isaac who is now working as an I.T. officer. I thank so much our partners including Kyeema foundation, WRA, ECCQ, MA for their respective support, I cannot forget our regular donors Mushiya & Pretty Mulanga. With their donation we have been able to pay our rent in Mbuji-Mayi ad support our director Mr Jean Calvin.

In closing, 2018- 2019 has not been easy but we have steadied the ship and I look forward to 2020 with a great deal of confidence. We now have a competent such Barry, Beryl and Isaac and loyal team of volunteers and Memory's friends. I hope that next year will be a year of more success and confidence.

Thank you for your support and confidence.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**AusCongoNetwork Incorporated**  
**Income Statement**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Donations Received		13,844	6,218
Fund Raising Income		1,914	3,288
Grants Received		10,000	-
Membership Fees		30	240
		<u>25,788</u>	<u>9,746</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Bank Charges		-	3
Event Expenses		2,739	1,112
Fuel & Oil		-	50
Insurance		1,625	1,583
Lodgement Fees		55	292
Money Transfer Expenses		-	363
Office Rent and Staff Salary Expenses		-	7,023
Printing & Stationery		420	286
Project Management Expenses		-	343
Subscriptions		-	5
Transfers to Congo		13,611	-
		<u>18,450</u>	<u>11,060</u>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<u>7,338</u>	<u>(1,314)</u>
Retained Profits at the Beginning of the Financial Year		1,232	-
<b>Retained Profits at the End of the Financial Year</b>		<u>7,460</u>	<u>-</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

**AusCongoNetwork Incorporated**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 30 June 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		7,460	1,232
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>7,460</u>	<u>1,232</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>7,460</u>	<u>1,232</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Short-Term Financial Liabilities	3	-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>7,460</u>	<u>1,232</u>
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Retained Profits		7,460	
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u>7,460</u>	<u>1,232</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

**AusCongoNetwork Incorporated**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

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**1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

**(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

**AusCongoNetwork Incorporated**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the Year ended 30 June 2019**

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
2.		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bank Charges	-	3
Insurance	1,625	1,583
Printing & Stationery	420	286
Other Expenses	16,405	9,188
	<u>18,450</u>	<u>11,060</u>
3. <b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Bank Overdraft	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*  
*These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached .*



**AusCongoNetwork Incorporated**  
**Statement by Members of the Committee**

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The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee as set out in the accompanying financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of AusCongoNetwork Incorporated as at 30 June 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that AusCongoNetwork Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

.....

.....

Dated

**AusCongoNetwork Incorporated**  
**Independent Auditor's Report**  
**to the Members of**  
**AusCongoNetwork Incorporated**

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We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of AusCongoNetwork Incorporated (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2019, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of AusCongoNetwork Incorporated is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of AusCongoNetwork Incorporated presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AusCongoNetwork Incorporated as at 30 June 2019 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland).

**AusCongoNetwork Incorporated  
Independent Auditor's Report  
to the Members of  
AusCongoNetwork Incorporated**

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Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist AusCongoNetwork Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Queensland). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

*D. O. Hartmann*

David Hartmann FCA  
Harwil Auditors Pty Ltd

Dated this *12th* day of *December* 2019

# **Annual Report from Mbujimayi, Democratic Republic of Congo**

## **Village chicken vaccination campaign**

### **report Month of April 2019**

In 15 villages of the city of Mbujimayi, Democratic Republic of Congo

Presented by: **Jean Calvin TSHIBUABUA**

**Senior Project Supervisor and National Director /ACN**

#### **Report plan :**

1. Introduction
2. Project Overview
3. Table of major activities planned and carried out in the project
4. Table of expected results in the project
5. Sustainability of the Project
6. Meetings
7. Funds received during the campaign
8. Encountered difficulties
9. Suggestions

#### **1. Introduction**

Raising indigenous chickens is an important livelihood opportunity for poor communities in the DRC, particularly in Eastern Kasai Province and it is part of a broader livelihood strategy, with diversification aimed at risk management. Poultry contributes significantly to the livelihoods of poor households as a source of protein and for exchange purposes and socioculturally for hospitality and the exchange of gifts to strengthen social relationships. Here in Kasai /Mbui-Mayi, women and children are mainly responsible for the care of the family flock.

We found that the factors limiting chicken production are disease, housing and predators. In our respective areas of Kasai, Newcastle disease (ND) is endemic to Kasai and occurs three times a year, with peaks in April and May and from September to November. This disease can kill up to 90% of the flock, making it a major obstacle to chicken production in villages. For this, ACN in collaboration with KEEMEN FOUNDATION, first through a pilot project to produce the I-2 vaccine which was established in late 2011 at the Veterinary Laboratory in Kinshasa and is easy available in the Province.

The local economy is underdeveloped. The majority of households live in poverty and even educated and skilled people are inactive and have few means of earning income or finding employment.

Rooted poverty means that many young people do not have the opportunity to go to school.

## **2. Project Overview**

The population is mainly involved in subsistence agriculture and animal husbandry. Local government is unable to provide even basic services. Roads are sparse and in poor condition. Most of the villagers move around on foot. Agricultural productivity is low and widely uses traditional methods. Production can be greatly improved through the use of appropriate modern farming practices.

Through the two visions of the following structures: KYEEMA " Empowerment of vulnerable communities " and ACN " Support the empowerment of the populations of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by renewing and restoring local economies; and support the empowerment of Congolese communities in Australia by strengthening their skills and capacities" in this project intervention.

The Newcastle disease is endemic in chicken flocks in many villages. As it regularly devastates family flocks, farmers have little incentive to improve their productivity by investing in additional livestock or management interventions, such as improving housing or complementary feeding.

However, the advent of effective thermo-tolerant vaccines has considerably improved ND control in villages where the project has already been implemented, in areas where immunization campaigns are organized regularly, it is useful to consider basic farming techniques that can increase the amount of meat and chicken eggs available for home consumption and for sale.

Villagers value their chickens, but more often the chickens are left to fend for themselves in conditions of total freedom. This is the case study of villages where this project was carried out.

Chickens find their own food and water, breed randomly, lay their eggs where they deem favorable and raise their chicks themselves. Villagers only slaughter or sell their chickens when it is necessary to do so, and in many villages, eggs are not collected for sale or consumption, but are left to hatch from the hen. This results in low egg and meat production.

Farmers are often cautious about change and naturally less willing to take additional risks or to adopt practices different from those that have worked in the past, management changes must therefore be introduced gradually.











( <https://kyeemafoundation.org/>)





( <https://picca.org.au/>)


*This project was generously funded and supported by Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd (PiCCA),- and Kyeema Foundation*



### 3. Table of major activities planned and carried out in the project

No.	Planned Activities	Activities done	Degree of accomplishment of each activity
1	To adapt training modules to chicken vaccination in villages, disease control and prevention, housing and other livestock problems according to local conditions in Mbuji-Mayi	Done	100 %
2	Communication and information in the villages of the target district	Done	100 %
	Communication / liaison with government and district authorities	Done	100 %
3	Communicate with communities and community leaders in the target district	Done	100 %
4	Confirm the availability of the vaccine and obtain the required number of doses (vials) and dropper for the first campaign	Done	100 %
5	Organize logistics for vaccines distribution	Done	100 %
6	Develop selection criteria for community vaccinators	Done	100 %
7	Identify technicians candidates and vaccination agents for poultry	Done	100 %

8	Organize logistics and equipment for the training workshop	Done 	100 %
9	Get a refrigerator and other supplies	Not done 	00 %
10	Training technicians / community representatives	Done	100%

11	Training on Children's code	Not done 	00 %
11	Organize ND immunization campaigns	Done	100%
12	Purchase of four bikes for vaccinators	Done	100%
13	Report	Done	100%

#### 4. Table of Expected Project results

No.	Project Results	Comments
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1	Four trained community vaccinators working under the supervision of three officers (supervisors) for awareness and competent in conducting immunization campaigns in targeted villages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Among 4 vaccinators, we have two women and two men</li> <li>- Two Supervisors and a woman</li> </ul>
2	Reduction in losses of village poultry due to Newcastle disease vaccine.	
3	Increase in the production of village poultry in the targeted villages.	Improved community health
4	Increased income and improved nutrition through the sale / consumption of poultry and / or eggs.	<p>Increased income and improved nutrition through the sale or consumption of poultry and eggs</p> <p>Taking care of children education</p>

## **5. Sustainability of the Project**

The community has taken ownership of the project for its sustainability following the initial results, so communities are obliged to continue asking for services provided by the project.

Our fifteen communities are proud to be engaged in a sustainable development for the next campaign and the month of August will be at our expense due to the self-financing of the project. We have extensively developed the KYEEMA model because it is focusing on economic sustainability.

ACN, has become the Vaccine Supplier, and Vaccinators receive ACN bottles as a way to go and vaccinate in their villages that are already targeted by the project.

We therefore support the experience of similar programs implemented by KYEEMA because it has shown that after having obtained the initial results, the participating communities continue to request the services provided by the project.

This project aims to set up a program to improve the health, production and immunization of the village poultry in 250 households in total and well distributed in ten villages in the city of Mbuji-Mayi, and this activity should last 12 months, but then, after the project evaluation, we realized that the project needed to be expanded to 15 villages.

## 6. Meetings

Objectives of various meetings held in the villages	Theme of meetings held in several villages	Participants
<p>The objective of these meetings is to present the extension of the team to the leaders, discuss the types of support and activities that can be implemented, confirm the interest of villagers and define the way in which the community and its leaders will participate.</p> <p>The important role that women play in raising chickens.</p> <p>Ensuring their active participation in all phases of intervention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the extended team and an explanation of their various roles,</li> <li>- Talking about the main objective of the project", helping villagers to fight against poverty by improving the poultry production "</li> <li>- a reminder of our presence in their villages, " helping them to solve problems linked to the local chicken production, not to distribute free goods to people "</li> </ul> <p>Discuss the importance and constraints of chicken production and what can be done to improve production going forward.</p>	<p>Leaders of each village;</p> <p>(representatives of associations, traditional and religious leaders, women organisations, teachers and health sector)</p>

Note: These meetings made it easier for each village to take ownership of the project.

**7. Funding received during the campaign - Total amount received Phase II : 217 \$**

No.	Allocation of costs received during the Immunization campaign phase II	Amount
1	Transport	\$ 30
2	Briefing of new and old Vaccinators and posters in villages	\$ 60
3	Communication and consultation at the Internet Café	\$ 50

- **Balance of phase II = 217\$ - 140\$ = 77 \$**

- **Total amount received : Phase III :**

No.	Allocation of costs received during the immunization campaign phase III	Amount
1	Transport	\$ 30
2	Communication	\$ 25

- **Balance of phase III = 145 \$ - 50 \$ = 90 \$**

- **Available amount in the cash la register : 77 \$ + 90 \$ = 167 \$ (ready to support the next phase)**

**8. Encountered Difficulties**

- - The lack of the refrigerator , which is the driving force behind the project
- - The unavailability of health workers when withdrawing vaccines
- - Lack of understanding among of villagers

- - Villagers attach value to their chickens, but more often they do their best for themselves in conditions of total freedom. This is the case of villages where this project was carried out.
- - Chickens find their own food and water, breed at random, lay their eggs where they see deemed and raise their chicks themselves.
- - Villagers only slaughter or sell their chickens when necessary and, in many villages, eggs are not collected for sale or consumption, but are left to hatch by the hen.
- - The absence of modern chicken raising practice results in low productivity for both eggs and meat

## **9. Suggestions**

For a good sustainability of this project we suggest as follow :



1. Provide us with a **FRIDGE KIT** to facilitate the vaccines protection
2. Support our villages on **housing and food for chickens** ;
3. Capacity building of supervisors and vaccinators for other projects
4. Stay with us first for a good follow-up despite the distance
5. Consider a field visit here with us
6. Don't abandon us directly
7. Training on other chicken diseases such as : fight against avian flu, and others etc.



## **ACN - DRC- MBUJIMAYI**

# **Keeping girls at school Agriculture Project activity report From July to Novembre 2019**

### **0. INTRODUCTION**

The DRC is exceptionally fertile and has the potential to be the food bowl of Central Africa, but this potential is not exploited due to many factors. In addition, farming practices are generally poor resulting in low yields. It is through this project that AUSCONGO NETWORK has found it good to be on the ground to strengthen the capacities of the population through farming techniques.

This report will make it easier for us to fully understand the progress of project activities through: Presentation of the project environment, Progress of project activities in the field, History of beneficiaries, Difficulties encountered, Suggestions and conclusion.

## - Presentation of the Project Environment



### **The Province of Eastern Kasai is the smallest of the 25 provinces of the Republic.**

It covers an area of 9,699Km<sup>2</sup>. It is limited to the north by the provinces of Kasai-Central and Sankuru, to the east and south by the province of LOMAMI and to the west by the Province of Kasai-Central. It is between the geographical coordinates of 22 ° 57 'and 25 ° 7' east longitude, and 5 ° 43 'and 6 ° 47' south latitude. Its climate is tropical humid with a daytime temperature of the coldest month above 25 ° C. The average annual temperature varies around 22.5 ° C.

The five Territories of the province as well as the city of Mbuji-Mayi are marked by an AW2 type climate comprising a rainy season of 9 months and a dry season of only about 3 months.

The province of Eastern Kasai is one of the three provinces resulting from the dismemberment of the former province of Eastern Kasai which was created by Ordinance n° 66/205 of April 6, 1966. The latter included three districts namely Kabinda, Sankuru and Tshilenge, and two cities, which are Mbuji-Mayi, capital of the province, and Mwene-Ditu.

The Province of Eastern Kasai has currently 1 city including Mbuji-Mayi capital of the province, 5 urban municipalities ; 1 chiefdom and 14 sectors.

## **ACN presentation in Mbujimayi**

### **A summary idea of ACN Mbujimayi**

The Centre was created as a bottom-up approach to the fight against poverty at the grassroots, based on the belief that the trust in the people would allow their creativity, energy and ideas to manifest themselves in a positive way. From the start, ACN members in Australia have provided community members with various Skype training materials on asset-based community development, business circles, savings and credit and cooperatives. It has become the foundation for emerging projects on the ground and is essential to the success and sustainability of ACN's activities.

The Community development and capacity building projects undertaken by the Center have created a solid foundation of trust, relationships and community-based relationships, on which ACN development now rests. Due to the lack of investment in infrastructure, as evidenced by the underdeveloped economy of Mbuj-Mayi, it will be essential to set up this highly connected community in order to allow populations to work effectively with the resources injected into Mbuj-Mayi through ACN Center.

For this, AusCongo Network remains passionate and committed to a bottom-up development, based on assets, respect for cultural traditions and empowerment of ordinary citizens to exploit the assets at their disposal and use them for a positive future. Development is a struggle, a very important struggle which we must not give up.

Thus, this project is carried out in the Group of Bk Ndoba our fields of action.

## **I. PROGRESS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES ON THE GROUND**

### **Meetings with community leaders**

As for the implementation of this project, it was our duty to go down to the field to hold several meetings with various project stakeholders. First, there were more than two meetings held with different chiefs and community leaders involved in the project.



It was from these meetings that several provisions of the project were taken and fixed.



Meeting held with different community leaders and village chiefs under a palaver tree.

**Period: Months of March and June 2019**



( <https://www.wra.org.au/> )

This project was proudly supported by Word Relief Australia

## 1. Selection of a Field Agronomist

Considering the importance and the usefulness of the Agronomist in the project we were really involved in recruiting a person with a skill and experience appreciated by all, as that is important for this project.

To this effect, all administrative formalities were completed, we signed a fixed-term contract for the duration of the project. The agronomist in question is based in the field to monitor - support activities with the beneficiaries of the project.

- The recruited Agronomist is **Venance NGAYABU**

- *He works under the coordination of the village chief and in collaboration with ACN.*

## 2. Project sites:

We have identified sites where ACN is already involved with other projects such as:

1. Bakua Lukusa village
2. Bakua Nkamba village
3. Bena Kabamba village

The above villages are under the responsibility of the traditional Chief of BaKua Ndaba.

## 3. Selection of Direct Project Beneficiaries

Let us notice that its beneficiaries have been well chosen or identified by the village chief taking into account their area of intervention-Agriculture.

**Distribution chart of beneficiaries on sites**

Project sites	Number of beneficiaries	Male	Female
BakuaLukusa village	5	2	3
BakuaNkamaba village	5	3	2
BenaKabamba village	6	4	2
Three sites	16	9	7

## 4. Procedure for granting credits

The following procedures were applied to the village

<i>Project sites</i>	<i>Delivery of funds planned for the beneficiaries of the project to the Great Chief of the Village</i>	<i>Agronomist Technical Agreement on each site</i>	<i>Confirmation of credit granted to beneficiaries in the presence of ACN National Director</i>	<i>Number of beneficiaries identified by the Great Chief of the Village and his notables</i>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
<i>BakuaLukusa village</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	5	2	3
<i>BakuaNkamba village</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	5	3	2
<i>BenaKabamba village</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	6	4	2
<b>Total</b>				<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>

## 5. Agronomist visit by Site

### 1. Sharing chart with credits beneficiaries in July 2019

<i>Project sites</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Crop species provided by the beneficiaries and shared with the Agronomist during his field visit</i>			
		<i>First Category</i>	<i>Second Category</i>	<i>Third Category</i>	<i>Fourth Category</i>

<i>BakuaLukusa village</i>	<i>July 20, 2019</i>	<i>Morel</i>	<i>Amaranth,</i>	<i>Okra</i>	<i>Sorrel, Celery,</i>
<i>BakuaNkamba village</i>	<i>July 21, 2019</i>	<i>Morel</i>	<i>Amaranth,</i>	<i>Okra</i>	<i>Sorrel, Pepper</i>
<i>Bena Kabamba village</i>	<i>July 22, 2019</i>	<i>Morel</i>	<i>Amaranth</i>	<i>Okra</i>	<i>Cabbage Cucumber Pepper</i>

**Note:** After this interview, the Agronomist finds necessary to properly guide beneficiaries taking into account the reality of the environment and the abundance of rains observed this year.

## 2. Orientation chart on crops reality for beneficiaries / Month August 2019

Date	Place	Preferred crop	Duration	Advantage	Disadvantages
02/08/2019	<i>Bena Kabamba village</i>	Maize	3 months	-Preferred by the population at any time -Availability of potential customers -A staple food for Kasai	-Poor yield if all the cultivation steps are not well respected - if the quality of the seeds is not well respected
03/08/2019	<i>BakuaLukusa village</i>	Maize	3 months		
04/08/2019	<i>BakuaNkamba village</i>	Maize	3 months		

## 3. Briefing chart for capacity building of credits beneficiaries per site

Project sites	Date	Capacity building theme	Number of participants	Men	Women	Comment
<i>Bakua Nkamba village</i>	From 15-16/08/2019	-Soil study -Semi online	5	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	It is often important to



<b><i>Bena Kabamba village</i></b>	From 17-18/08/2019	-Improved seed choice	6	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	distribute materials to participants
<b><i>BakuaLukusa village</i></b>	From 19-20/08/2019		5	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
Total	6 days	3 themes	16	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	

#### 4. State of crops by sites of beneficiaries

Project sites	Crops	State	Ongoing activities	Comment of the Agronomist
<b><i>Bakua Nkamba village</i></b>	Maize	Good	Hoeing/weeding	<b>Regular monitoring is required at each site</b>
<b><i>Bena Kabamba village</i></b>	Maize	Good	Hoeing/weeding	
<b><i>BakuaLukusa village</i></b>	Maize	Good	Hoeing/weeding	

#### 5. Encountered difficulties

- The accident of the Director on a service mission
- Loss of the motorcycle that can be used for several trips to reduce the transport costs
- The amount planned to serve 16 members for a pilot project lower than needs expressed in different villages

#### 6. Population suggestions :

- We have also shown our willingness to work with ACN in this project
- We find useful to be on the ground because capacity building is our desire
- The means we have do not allow us to produce well and support our children's education
- Our Government has not yet taken care of our children who are in our private schools

- We support ACN and confirm our availability to work on the project

## **7. Conclusion**

The project is well received in the village and the credit granting system is well respected ; and the project is well managed by the Chief and his government under the technical guidelines of the Project Agronomist. We hope the objectives set for this will be achieved. Despite the accident from the ACN-RDC-Mbujimayi National Director, the project is still under way.

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## **II. FINANCE OF THE PROJECT: See annex credit chart**

**Drawn up at Mbuji mayi on 29/11/2019. For ACN project Agronomist and Jean Calvin TSHIBUABUA.**

## Some beneficiaries photos in full action in the fields



Under the guidance of the project agronomist in the corn fields





**Maize weeding period under the coordination of the agronomist**



**During the period of plowing the fields**

**Under the guidance of the agronomist**



**Follow-up in the germinators**



**Leek plantation**



This project was proudly supported by World Relief Australia (<https://www.wra.org.au/>)

## Digital Skills Projects

Digital Skills Report funded by Good Things Foundation in the program “ Be connected ” program”(<https://www.beconnectednetwork.org.au/grant-program>)

Following the success of last year's Get Online Week event, ACN recognized the significance of digital literacy in improving the lives of older Congolese Australians. Simple day-to-day digital skills such as mobile GPS navigation, online banking, online shopping or accessing government services are crucial may prove difficult for those who have not been exposed to digital technology. ACN aimed to build the digital skills of older Australians to ensure that they can access these tools safely and with ease. This year, we ran a number of projects with the support of the Australian federal government's Be Connected initiative, the Ethnic Communities Council of Australia and Multicultural Australia.

### Be Connected Digital Learner Sessions

ACN hosted six monthly digital learner sessions at Redbank Plains Community Centre run by volunteers. Up to 30 older Australians were supported in our drop-in sessions, where they were able access the online Be Connected learner resources.



### Community Engagement

ACN hosted a community engagement session on 1st July to hear the needs of our multicultural community and how we can better support them in learning digital skills. Key challenges were identified, including access to digital devices, language barriers and ongoing support and learning for older people.

## Youth Leadership Training

ACN recognises that our community's young people are key to supporting their elders in digital learning. A one-day leadership training workshop was held at the WG Hayden Humanities Centre, Ipswich, to gather local young people who were passionate about improving their community. The young people who attended this training formed a working group to lead the delivery of our 2019 Get Online Week event.



## Get Online Week 2019

This year's Get Online Week was held on 19 October at Redbank Plains Community Centre. This event was the culmination of months of hard work and preparation by our youth leadership team. The event was a cultural celebration and dinner that featured presentations and talks by our digital experts, the young people themselves! Older participants were taught how to access online banking services, MyGov and email among a range of skills and advice imparted by our youth. Thank you to the amazing team of young people who worked tirelessly to make this event happen: Seti Balebanga, Memory Chala, Bonheur Chala, Usein Lukonga, Ruvimbo Mhuka, Elize Mwandu and Rehema Nabintu. This is one of ACN's first youth engagement projects and we hope to continue to engage with the young people of our community going forward.





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