



AusCongo Annual Report '20-'21



Australian
Charities and
Not-for-profits
Commission



AusCongo Network

ANNUAL REPORT

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WORDS FROM FOUNDER AND

AusCongo President



2021 saw us achieve historic milestones, partnerships and attracted support from like-minded people and the Australian government. I am so proud of the growth AusCongo has had over the last 12 months and look forward to its continued success in 2022.

| **Constantin Mukendi**

This past year, we achieved historic milestones, made new partnerships, attracted support from like-minded people and from the government of Australia. We did these things, with our personal dedication, passion, resilience, and financial support from members, supporters, and partners.

As a dreamer, I have brought my dreams to good people, to our partners, who have the capacity to turn these dreams into realities. We have partnered with Rotary Club, World Relief Foundation, Kyeema Foundation and the government of Australia including Ipswich City Council and local state Multicultural Affairs of Queensland. Our success this year came from partnerships with other organisations and with the government of Australia.

I am so proud of being a president of such a successful charity organisation. Our strength is derived from Australians and Congolese working together to help the Congolese community reduce poverty in a sustainable way.

Utilising community volunteers was not easy this year, we had a high turnover that we were unable to replace.

Barry Hamm, Amber Leggett, and William Croslow delivered some big wins for our organisation, however unfortunately due to personal commitments were unable to continue donating their time.

WORDS FROM FOUNDER AND

AusCongo President

Outside of this volunteer attraction and retention was very low, this impacted on our ability to deliver certain projects. Covid19 restrictions again had an impact on our work, causing us to postpone our festival Congo Flavour three times.

However, despite the lack of volunteers and resources, we have achieved beyond expectation. AusCongo Network has become a leading charity organisation among the African and Congolese communities in Queensland and Australia.

We have become a strong charity endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) along with a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Our financial position this year is strong, with our financial report showing that **we have raised \$87,074.99 this year.**

This is the biggest achievement we have ever reached since the creation of AusCongo Network in 2009. This is incredible for a small charity like AusCongo network. I am so proud.

OUR CURRENT Volunteers



Constantin Mukendi
President



Barry Ham
Tresurer



Memory Chala
Secretary



Harmony Ndjibu
Personal Assistant



Tunde Solanke
*Publicity, Event &
Fundraising Assistant*



Fiona Benedict
Finance Assisstant

2021 Overview

Fundraising & Grant Overview

AUD \$73K Raised



Donation:
AUD \$2.7K



Sponsorships: AUD\$1.6K



Grants
AUD\$64.9K



Membership
Fees AUD\$460



Fundraising \$1.8K



Rotary Club
Stoves AUD\$1.8K



Key Project Contributions

The above funding has contributed to the following projects, we will deep dive into these later in the report.

- **Buddy2buddy solar**
- **Teacher-in -the box**
- **Efficient-fuel stoves**
- **Village Chicken Vaccination**

Financials

Financial Statements

AusCongo Network Inc.
For Year ended 30 June 2021

Statement of Financial Performance

Opening Balance			13,608.51
<u>Plus Receipts</u>			
Donations	(a)	2,787.18	
Grants	(b)	64,900.00	
Fundraising	(c)	1,841.70	
Membership Fees	(d)	460.00	
Rotary Club - Rocket Stoves	(e)	1,857.60	
Sponsorships	(f)	1,620.00	73,466.48
Total Funds Available			<u>87,074.99</u>
<u>Less Expenses</u>			
Fundraising Expenses	(g)	362.46	
Travel	(h)	294.12	
Event Expenses	(i)	8,101.56	
Insurance	(j)	0.00	
Bank Fees & Charges	(k)	15.42	
Printing & Stationary	(l)	568.54	
Transfers to Congo	(m)	4,289.16	
Lodgement & Membership Fees	(n)	256.60	
Scam	(o)	444.63	
Training Volunteers	(p)	1,500.00	
Equipment purchases	(q)	2,416.70	
Website Development	(r)	514.12	
Prizes	(s)	138.75	
Subscriptions	(t)	125.00	
Event Materials	(u)	5,555.04	
Audit Fee	(v)	170.45	24,752.55
Closing Balance			<u><u>62,322.44</u></u>

Financials

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets

Cash at Bank	62,322.44
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Represented by Accumulated Funds

Retained Earnings	62,322.44
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<u>Total Accumulated Funds</u>	<u>62,322.44</u>
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AusCongo Network Inc.

For Year ended 30 June 2020

Trial Balance as at 30 June 2021

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Accumulated Surplus B/F	
Donations	
Grants	
Fundraising	
Membership Fees	
Rotary Club - Rocket Stoves	
Sponsorships	
Fundraising Expenses	362.46
Travel	294.12
Event Expenses	8,101.56
Insurance	0.00
Bank Fees & Charges	15.42
Printing & Stationary	568.54
Transfers to Congo	4,289.16
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Training Volunteers	1,500.00
Equipment purchases	2,416.70
Website Development	514.12
Prizes	138.75
Subscriptions	125.00
Event Materials	5,555.04
Audit Fee	170.45
Cash at Bank (NAB)	62,322.44
	<u>87074.99</u>

2021 Projects

Project Performance

Poultry Vaccination Project Kyeema Foundation & Picca



Chickens represent an important source of income and food for locals living in Mbuji Mayi. This project educates and provides local vaccinators a sphere of protection for village chickens against Newcastle disease. We are grateful to Kyeema Foundation & Partners in International Collaborative Aid Ltd. for their ongoing support in helping us teach our communities how to fish.

The report shows that, due to covid19 restrictions, this year only 7974 chickens were vaccinated in seventeen villages and the number of vaccinators has increased, they are now nine vaccinators instead of four initially trained. We have sent them a fridge that functions with solar energy.

Hence, they have now enough vaccines for the next vaccination campaign as opposed to 13000 chickens in the previous years.

With chickens increased now in number, they can feed their families, send children to school, and pay for medical care and finally reduce poverty in a sustainable way.



2021 Projects

Project Performance

Rocket Stove Project

Greater Springfield Rotary Club



Rotary Club of Greater Springfield secured a grant of \$4500 and \$1850 to run this project up to December 2021. The bricklayer was employed in Mbuji-Mayi/ Congo(D R.) to deliver the project and the delivery took place on the same day with Buddy2buddy solar project on 12 March 2021.

The report shows the impact is huge: so far 563 stoves were built in 12 villages .,- 100% of the families who use rocket stoves affirm that the quality of the air in the house has greatly improved when they are cooking.,- each household can now save woods, girls attend schools regularly instead of spending time collecting woods in the bush, study at home to review their lessons.



2021 Projects

Project Performance

Congo Flavour Festival

Congo Flavour festival: we received \$5,000 from Multicultural Affairs of Queensland, \$8150 from Ipswich city council to celebrate a multicultural event and showcase of the Congolese culture. Though it was postponed three times due to covid19, it was held successfully on 13 March 2021.

We are thankful to the Commonwealth, the Department of Home Affairs, to Multicultural Affairs of Queensland, and to Ipswich city council for the support and encouragement. (Photos) for their invaluable support his year 2020-2021.



2021 Projects

Project Performance

Agricultural Micro Loan Project World Relief Australia (WRA)



A C N has partnered with World Relief Australia to deliver “Keeping girls at school through agriculture project.” World Relied Australia has given us a grant of \$11000 to run an agriculture project to help parents keep their daughters in school.

Villagers have received a loan of \$200 each to use for their agriculture activities. At the end of the agriculture season 2020, instead of repaying the loan, they have decided to reuse the same loan and work as a team instead of working individually.

They have now common land where they planted the beans. The report shows that they use two hectares of land to grow beans, after the harvest, twenty-five students were supported by their parents for their studies including fifteen girls and ten boys i.e., the number of girls attending school has increased. Improvement of living conditions in families who took the loans



2021 Projects

Project Performance

Six-month Sewing Social Enterprise Project Australian Government

ACN has partnered with the Australian Government to deliver :

A six-month sewing social enterprise project with a grant of \$60,000.00 from Commonwealth, Department of Home affairs.

We are so thrilled that the project has already started and will end in March 2022, this will be a big achievement



2021 Projects

Project Performance

Buddy2Buddy Solar Project Rotary Club of Greater Springfield



ACN has partnered with the Rotary Club of Greater Springfield to deliver this year 3 projects:

Buddy2buddy solar project

Despite covid19 impact, fifty lights were delivered satisfactorily in a school in the Democratic Republic of Congo / Mbuji-Mayi, and reports show that the buddy students who received them wrote letters/ messages of thanks to their buddies who made the lights here in Australia.

We have reported back to Staines memorials College and Redbank Plains High schools.

We hope that these schools can run another project next year or create relationships with friend students in Congo.



2021 Projects

Project Performance

Teacher in the Box Project

Teacher in a box provides offline access to educational materials to students who do not have internet access, at a minimal cost.

It was delivered in May 2021 thanks to Professor Patrice Kabeya Mwepu who traveled from South Africa with the laptop and trained them how to use it.

After the demonstration and training on how to use it, huge needs have arisen or emerged, they need more than 150 laptops for schools and community centers.

With Rotary Club of Greater Springfield, we are working on fundraising to provide for these needs. A fundraising dinner will be held on 02/11/2022 in the civic centre ,Ipswich city council.



Fundraising Overview

The festival “ Congo flavor “ received also the sponsorships from other services providers such as Multicultural Australia (\$500), Queensland Program for survivors of torture and trauma (QPASTT) (\$500,- ACCESS Community services (\$5000), Africare disability services (\$500), Multilink Community services (\$1000)

1. Donations:

- We received from Browns Plains shopping center Grill'd Restaurant \$300 through their annual competition program

- PayPal has donated 2 cheques of \$100 and 710\$ mounting up to \$810.

- Support from the members, families, and friends with the support of our members, family, and friends, we raised funds through Christmas Gift wrapping, Membership fees, Donations, My birthday party fundraiser.

2. Challenges & Conclusion :

Success attracts success. We are determined to continue to work with the same passion and commitment. This year we want to concentrate our efforts on fundraising activities and capacity building.

For this reason, we are planning to have a fundraising dinner on 02/04/2022 at Ipswich City Council in the civic center.

We would like to celebrate the 12 years anniversary of AusCongo Network in October 2022.

Shortly we are going to run the Christmas gift wrapping at Redbank Plains shopping center from 16 November to 24 November 2021.

We want to continue to partner with Rotary Club to support our projects overseas and raise funds here in Australia.

As working with volunteers is incredibly challenging, we want to raise funds and employ casual paid workers or consultants,- even 1 or 2 days a week in our office.

We are looking for people with grant application writing skills to continue applying for grants wherever possible.

Thank You!

This year, it would have been impossible to run projects from Australia to a community centre overseas without the support of others working behind the scenes. I would like to thank Mr Barry Hamm, our treasurer for working as part of my brain. All our finances are strong and of high standards. They are audited satisfactorily. With him, we can explain to our members, to our supporters and to all who have contributed to our charity why they can continue helping us help others.

Mr Paul Roger, the president of Rotary Club of Greater Springfield for his support and assistance. Paul helped deliver the three projects: Rocket stoves, Teacher in the box and Budd2buddy solar project. Mr Paul was working behind the scenes for the success of these three projects. I thank him so much sincerely.

Mr Jean Calvin Tshibuabua, our representative and National director of our community centre in Mbuji/Mayi I Congo DR is doing a commendable job. Without him, running a community development centre from overseas can be impossible. Jean Calvin has a B.A in community development and much and strong experience in community development for having worked with USAID, Caritas International. In addition to his experience and qualifications, Jean has a sense of responsibility and altruism,- he works as a volunteer with limited resources sent from here. Jean Calvin is my heart , my head, and my hands in Congo. He is indispensable.

I really thank all the members of the management committee for their support and dedication: Mr. Tune Solanke has been working publicity and at events, Memory Chala has been working as a secretary, Rodric Kayembe was working as an event manager, and Clarice Ngalula has been contributing with advice and attendance.

We cannot forget Esther Dimoke with her friends including Samantha, Vanessa, Dorcas Kadima for their assistance at Christmas gift wrapping.

Thank You!

My special thanks go to Mr Duncan Marckwald our lawyer, Mr Bob Helyar, our former secretary for their financial annual contribution for many years.

“ With heart, head and hands together nothing is impossible - A. Kelly.”



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