

Dear partners and friends of River of Hope....2020 was not a year to get everything we wanted but to appreciate everything we have. A hard year for most of us and for the project in Congo even more so. It was also difficult to find funds but we are positive then so many good things happened to us. Enjoy the reading

For 2021 we send you lots of health, peace and success with whatever you do.

Corona

On March 19, 2020, the Congolese Head of State decided to declare a state of health emergency throughout the national territory and to close all commercial and sports activities, restaurants, schools, churches with a ban on any gathering of more than 20 people. We received thermometers, and created our own masks from T-Shirt and received more water basins to wash hands.



Tala Mosika sent all the children home and everything was closed. A small team - the family of the Coordinator, the security officer, two teachers and the driver stayed to guard the site. On July 21, 2020, the state of health emergency was lifted, the students - finalists of primary and secondary school prepared and went for the final exams.

School

Secondary School - Great NEWS! In Summer our first 5 students have finished grade 12 and all of them succeeded at the National State Exam. Due to our internet connection and solar power, our 5 students were able to prepare themselves, during the Corona lockdown, at our center with the state program. Two of them we retained as teacher assistant.

Primary School – Great NEWS! 11 finalists of 6th primary have participated in the final exams so they can continue to secondary school and they have all passed with brilliance, distinctions and satisfactions.

Our Teachers – Great NEWS! Our Primary school teachers are since October 2020 finally paid by the government and those of the secondary school should be paid by January 2021.

School start 2020/21 - We have started despite Corona with one-month delay with 180 girls and 150 boys (in the 6 primary classes) were enrolled this school year 2020/21?

<https://tala-mosika.jimdofree.com>

Solar

We are very pleased to inform you, that the entire indoor PV installation was finished in December 2020, as we had to wait for the availability of the technician and some materials from the suppliers;

List of buildings that have solar:

1. Margaretha Medical Center
2. Dormitory for teachers and nurses
3. CSF kitchen and dining room
4. Boys' dormitory and classrooms
5. Office and building 8 - 10 with the two visitors' rooms
6. Coordinator's Residence and the whole building 11 - 13 with the dormitory for girls

We wish to complete the "outdoor lights" in the near future

1. The street lamps for the two inner courtyards;
2. Street lamps for the FIFA soccer field and the sport field.
3. Container for soccer equipment in the middle of insulation work.

Solar water pump

1. The solar water pump

<https://solar-und-bildung-talamosika.jimdofree.com>

Water

After school started on October 12, 2020; We noticed that many of our students coming from a neighboring village, had wounds on their legs that the heal badly and were infected because they were not taken care off and covered by dirty fabrics.

- We found out that it is a water related problem and acted as fast as we could.

We had to alert the health authorities of the Sonabata Health Zone and doctors from the Red Cross, Health Research Center, a WHO and ITM Antwerp program based at the IME Kimpese Hospital in the Songololo Territory. This program analyzes and researches neglected tropical diseases in schools and in rural areas (Pian, leprosy, Buruli ulcer ...) they answered our call very fast and after we were able to pay for their intervention they arrived on Sunday 27th December and took samples from the water and of 14 students, where two cases reveal serious infection. In two weeks, they will come back with the results and an action plan.



o Source: We are since a few months not able anymore to pump up water from our source. So people take more and more water for the household from the river

o Contaminated River: The heavy rain picks up everything and the open defecation is a huge problem and has an impact on the bacteriological quality of Drinking Water Sources. At our center, the kids see for the first time a toilet and have no idea why they need to wash hands. So we do what we can to explain, show and train them but we are not able to tackle the situation in the entire area. The agenda 2030 wants the universal access by 2030.

o Rainwater in the cisterns: We stopped immediately to take water from the river and rely only on the collection of rainwater. We have 2 wells of 35 cubic meters and 5 other cisterns of 5 cubic meters. We still have the challenge that the water must be filtered/boiled before consumption.

GOOD NEWS - And finally, the government has just decided to support us with the machine so we can drill for a well with 140 meters depth to find drinking water.

We need help - to complete this project we need to find the funds for the solar pump, storage tanks and standpipes.

Football

Soccer program activities in summer finished do to Corona two months earlier with a match in the Kasangulu Territory. Our U18 team in 5 matches with three victories (4 - 0), (1 - 0), (3 - 1); a defeat in semi - final: (2 - 1) and a draw (0 - 0).

One thing leading to another, we were invaded by kids who wanted to play in the U12, so we decided to offer a training in Mvululu. A new coach Louis Mwanza for the U12 has taken over. We organized another group of 40 young players in Mvululu. In total 8 sessions per week: 4 in Tala Mosika and 4 in Mvululu with matches between the two teams.

We also tried to organize a check-up with Dr. Sampert Makasi. He monitored the young players and detected problems related to lack of hygiene. The body weight was clearly better since we offer the porridge after each training. Four children can't play do to disease.

Everything went well, except for the U18 teams which are not yet complete, but their coach, Eric Tshimanga is working on recruitment. We hope that in January from the 15th, we can start their training. Fact is that the economic situation of the families worsened since Corona and they need to work at home.

Children of the Military

We plan for the arrival of interns. These are children of parents working for the army.

1. An Inspector visited Tala Mosika to see if all conditions are met. We fulfill all criteria except that at the moment we can't secure drinking water – a basic need!!
2. The General in charge of this file is working on the approval for the financing our schooling program including boarding school for their children at Tala Mosika.
3. They like the campus, and the fact that we teach up to grade 12. The fact that we also have a well-organized and equipped football program impressed them a lot.

We need help with the water project – this project is very important to us because it finances also a part of our operation of Tala Mosika.

Planting Mango Trees

We planted in 2019 a total of 100 mango trees, in the dry season between May and October 2020, 20 of them were ravaged by bush fire, we replaced them on December 5, 2020 at the celebration of Tree Day.

About Tala Mosika

- Radio Okapi (UN)- Interview with Christoph Mbedi
<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/9/16/emissions/okapi-service>
- Radio Okapi (UN) - Interview with Claudia Doron
<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/10/01/emissions/okapi-service/kongo-central-difficulte-de-fonctionnement-de-lecole-tala-mosika>

We have received several visits:

1. parents who came to see the conditions of reception to register their children at our boarding school.
2. The team of inspectors from the Army Social Service came to prepare the contract for collaboration
3. A benefactor by the name of Emmanuel Kongo, came to see if we could take care of schooling of children with disabilities, if our boarding school could be a chance for them.
4. Technicians who came to do the prospecting for the drilling.
5. The responsible of the Sonabata Health Zone, Blaise Toya, do to our water problems.
6. Dr. Delphin Mpanzu and his Red Cross team from the IME Kimpese hospital;