

Congo Clinic Initiative Quarterly

CCI Quarterly Newsletter

www.paulcarlson.org/cci-updates

Issue 4



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How to give

There are two easy ways to send in your clinic support!

1. Donate online at paulcarlson.org/donate.

2. Mail in a check made payable to Paul Carlson Partnership, and indicate it is for the Congo Clinic Initiative. Use the enclosed envelope or mail to:

Paul Carlson Partnership
8303 W. Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631

Mbote baninga (hello friends)!

Today we celebrate a miraculous reality. Because of you, the clinics and hospitals have been sponsored through the Congo Clinic Initiative! **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** We are in awe of what God has done through the CCI collective effort - you! - to provide financial support of the Covenant Medical system in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Indeed 151 sponsors, that is 113 churches, 7 foundations, 31 families, and one hospital, have agreed to sponsor the Congo clinics and hospitals over the next five years. Nineteen of the sponsors we call "Clinic Clusters", ranging from two to ten churches and families coming together to make a clinic sponsorship possible.

The inception of the Clinic Initiative is miraculous in and of itself. The timely juncture of the CEUM request for clinic upgrades and the IMA World Health solar panel research and availability sparked the idea of a solar-based project. This coincided with planning the 50th commemoration of Paul Carlson's martyrdom. It was an opportunity I

could not resist. But once the project was launched I was petrified. Scared silly. What had we done? I was so sure we had launched an ambitious project that we would never realize. But God showed up as God always does. So many of you responded to God's nudge to provide the needed preventative health measures, solar energy, and clean water which will increase the standard of healthcare.

The Congo Clinic Initiative is not just another mission project. It is an initiative of reciprocity. This CCI Quarterly Update is intended to assist you to *develop a knowledgeable heart for Congo*. My prayer for all of us is that, as we go deeper with Christ in our quest to understand another part of God's Kingdom, we will be transformed in the process.

Thank you for your part of this effort to make a collective impact in one of the most marginalized parts of the world.

Together in Christ's name,

Meritt Lohr Sawyer
Executive Director

Congo Facts

Where in Africa is the Democratic Republic of Congo?

Congo is the second largest country in Africa (after Algeria) and largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa. It straddles the equator, has a narrow strip of land that controls the lower Congo River, and is the only outlet to the South Atlantic Ocean.



How big is Congo?

DR Congo is slightly less than 1/4 the size of the United States.



Provinces

The country is currently divided into 25 provinces and the city-province of Kinshasa. The provinces are subdivided into districts which are divided into territories.



Develop a Knowledgeable Heart for Congo

How does the Clinic Initiative help our partners in Congo?

At PCP, we believe that the best way to serve Congo is to support the work that our local partners are already doing. The Congo Clinic Initiative is an example of this.

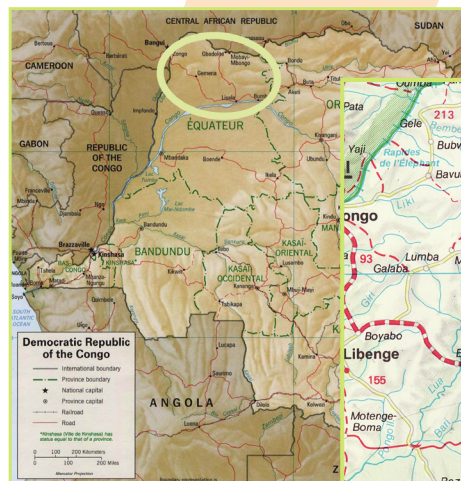
First, it's best to understand the context! The Congolese Covenant Church (called the CEUM) operates a medical system that includes hospitals, clinics, and nursing schools. This church-run medical system is the primary health care option for hundreds of thousands of people in northwestern DR Congo. It is also recognized by the Congolese government. In addition to the support it gets through PCP and other international groups, the CEUM medical system benefits from governmental oversight and many of its staff members receive government salaries.

The CEUM medical system operates in three of DR Congo's 26 provinces: North Ubangi, South Ubangi, and Mongala. Within these provinces, healthcare is organized into a number of "health

zones." Each health zone has a hospital and anywhere from 10-25 clinics. In each of these zones, there is a doctor and a small administrative staff that oversees all of the clinics in their health zone. Individual clinics have 1-4 nurses, assistants, and grounds keepers. Each clinic works with a community health committee, and all of CEUM's clinics have chaplains. Often, the local pastors serve as chaplains. Ideally, these clinics are to be spaced so that people shouldn't have to travel more than 10 km to get to a clinic. Clinic nurses refer cases they can't handle to their health zone's hospital.

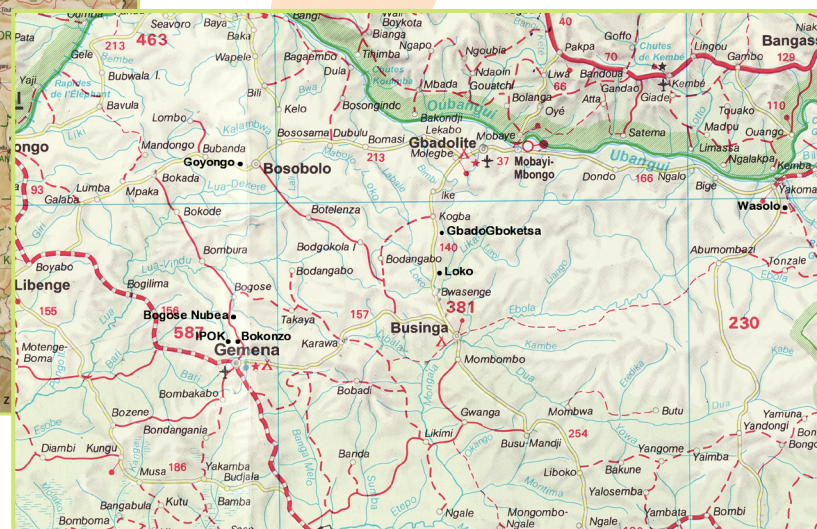
Additionally, the CEUM operates a smaller hospital in an adjacent health zone and has a series of clinics in neighboring health zones. In all, the CEUM has over 600 medical staff members.

Funds from the Congo Clinic Initiative are used to reinforce this health system and improve the CEUM's capacity to provide quality healthcare to the people of their area.



Circled: the Ubangi region

Right: a close up map of the Ubangi region



Clinic Updates

How to Install a Solar Panel



After crossing oceans, navigating rivers, flying over jungles, and surviving sometimes treacherous Congolese roads, solar panels are finally delivered to a team of local technicians. Seven steps are required from preparing to turning on the lights. Read on about our fabulous solar installation team and how the first 63 panels are installed on clinics.

Step 1. Prepare

Before the technicians can install the panels, frames for each need to be created to hold them in place wherever they are mounted. Solar panels often cannot be mounted on thatch roofs, which a lot of clinics have, so some panels are mounted on metal poles next to the clinic.



Step 2. Transport

Sometimes this is a simple road trip, other times, it is much more complex! In this photo, technicians walk up a stream with their equipment to the Nugaza clinic. The technicians are carrying solar panels, batteries, cables, connectors, charge controllers, inverters, battery boxes, frames, posts, cement, and tools.



Step 3. Mount

The panels are mounted on the roof if the roof is stable, otherwise they are mounted on a metal pole next to the clinic and secured in the ground with cement. Entire communities help raise the panel!





Step 4. Install

Next, the technicians run the cables from the solar panel to the equipment inside the clinic. The battery box is below the inverter, which is used to keep the batteries safe and secure from potential damage.



Step 5. Turn it on!

The final step in the installation process is to make sure everything is connected and ready to go. And now for the big moment: turn on the lights! Gaspay shows off the new light and is very proud of his team.



Step 6. Maintenance

After installation, the systems are maintained by the solar technicians on a quarterly basis. Usage and all maintenance operations are logged by the nurses and technicians to ensure longevity.



Step 7. Thanking God

Our Congolese friends stop and thank God for providing the solar panels, technicians, and PCP, so their clinics can have electricity.



For more photos of the step-by-step solar installation process, view our slideshow at paulcarlson.org/cci-updates.

We are so encouraged by Gaspay's team and their dedication to installing the solar panels. Even if they have to carry their equipment through streams and rivers, they will do whatever it takes to get solar power to the clinics in their communities!

Worship in Lingala

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

E Kuna na ekulusu, ngai
Namoni Ye, Mokonji na nkembo
Natiyoli makambo na nse,
Kopesa Yesu yoso na ngai.

Mokonji na ngai, nalingi te
Kosepela makambo na mpamba,
Namoni esengo solo na Yo
Masiya, mpo okufeli ngai.

Na moto, maboko mpanji mpe
Makila Yo osopeli biso.
Namoni mpe bolingo na Yo
Na mawa be kosangana nye.

Mokili mobimba ekoki te
Kokabela Mobikisi Yesu,
Likambo moko ekoki na Ye,
Motema mpe bolingo na ngai.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Pronunciation tips:

A's are pronounced "ah" (like "father")

E's are pronounced "aaa" (like "lake")

I's are pronounced "ee" (as in "bee")

O's are pronounced "oh" (as in "boat")

U's are pronounced "oo" (as in "tooth")

Y's are pronounced "yeah" (as in "yellow")

Fundraising Ideas

Couples for Congo Fundraiser Dinner & Dance



Highrock Acton Covenant Church in Acton, MA recently held a dinner and dance as a fundraiser for their support of the Congo Clinic Initiative. Pastor Will Barnett says, "We had about 75 people attend and raised a \$1,000. Mostly folks were from our church or one of our network congregations, but we had several people invite family or friends from the community. We were also able to raffle off items contributed from a number of local businesses. It was a great community-building, partner-building, invitational event while raising awareness and investment in the Congo Clinic Initiative. We'll definitely do it again next year, but are already thinking about how we can improve it and make it even more successful!"

Share your fundraising ideas!

We would love to share your ideas with our CCI partners! Please email us at pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org.

Kids Corner

Tobeta Maboko (African Clapping Game)

Tobeta Maboko is a game kids can often play at school or even between household tasks. It is essentially played like our “Rock, Scissors, Paper” game, only it is done with the feet to a clapping beat.

First, the clapping beat: The beat is a 1, 2, 3 pause 1, 2, 3 pause 1/beat. Second, the action: As the players clap the last, single beat they jump into the air. Then, in a quick motion as they are about to land, they make their choice. The choices are:

1. Right foot out in front.
2. Left foot out in front.
3. Feet split side-by-side.

For simplicity, we'll say the Right Foot Forward (as it begins with “R”) will be ROCK (as it also begins with “R”). Next, we'll say the Split (as it begins with “S”) will be SCISSORS (as it also begins with “S”). And finally PAPER will be the left foot forward as it's the only one left. It is important to mention that the players (especially in pairs) be looking at each other's faces and not the other's feet! The game can be played with any number of participants or in small groups.

Variation 1: Illumination – Large group reduces to one last player as everyone competes with leader. All who win over the leader remain in the game and others sit down.

Variation 2: Round Robin – Large or medium size group. Stand in circle and begin with random player. The player “plays off” with person on the right. Loser sits and winner passes on to the next person on the right. Last one standing wins.

Variation 3: One-on-One – Pairs play for a set number of points. The first one to arrive wins. The players simply compete against each other and the winner gets a point.

Variation 4: Triples – Three players play and the “odd-man-out” gets a point. If all are different, they play again. Players try to avoid points and the first one to the set number ends the game and the lowest points win.



Watch a video of the clapping game at vimeo.com/paulcarlsonpartnership/clapping-game.

Lingala Lesson for Kids

1. Mbote! (Mm-BOH-tay)
2. Ojali? (Oh-ZAH-lee)
3. Najali. (Nah-ZAH-lee)
4. Nkomo na yo nani (n-KOHM-boh nah yoh nah-nee)
5. Nkombo ny ngai (n-KOHM-boh nah n-g-ahee)
6. Ojali kosala nin? (Oh-ZAH-lee koh-SAH-lah nee-nee)
7. Merci mingi! (mair-SEE ming-GEE)

Hello!
How are you?
I am fine.
What is your name?
My name is (your name).
What are you doing?
Thank you very much!

Snacks for Kids

Plantains
(fried bananas)

Materials needed:

- Plantains
- Knife
- Oil
- Pan
- Paper towels
- Salt

Directions:

1. Peel as a banana.
2. Slice as potatoes.
3. Deep fry or pan fry in oil.
4. Drain on paper towels.
5. Salt to taste.