



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



MHCDASA

Mission in Health Care & Development
Australian Support Association





3



5



13



19



8



9



10

CONTENTS

Our Mission, Our Vision	1
Our Year at a Glance	2
Chairperson Report	3
<i>Dr Julie Monis-Ivett OAM</i>	
About Us	6
MHCDASA	7
<i>Committee</i>	
<i>Our Goals</i>	
Achievements	8
Resource Coordinator Report	14
<i>Sharon Geue</i>	
Advocacy	17
Treasurers Report	19
<i>Jenny Weaver, Treasurer</i>	
Thank you	20

Thank you to our Donors and Sponsors

A young boy with a bright smile, wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt, is seated in front of a wall made of reddish-brown mud bricks. To his right, another person in a similar white shirt is partially visible. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor or well-lit indoor setting.

Our Mission

To give hope and build
self-sufficiency in the
community served by
MHCD

Our Vision

To see MHCD communities
flourishing, independent
and empowered

Our Year at a Glance

BMI community development and mission conference
Women's conference for trauma victims

Solar Power

300 Solar Light Packs for Traditional Midwives

Container

82 Beds
100 mattresses
100 + bags/boxes of new clothes
120 school chairs
43 rolls fabric
7 monitors
5 sewing machines
275 solar panels
57 cartons of sterile medical resources

27,500 Birthing Kits distributed



1300 + students educated at Luvungi Secondary



9 Buildings Constructed



1 New MHCD office and conference/training centre
1 New Spring Life Mission Centre church and training centre

1 Tailoring classroom and course

4 Classrooms at Luvungi MHCD Secondary and Technical High School

1 x 8 Toilet block at Sange School

1 x Stella Community Centre in Sange



Graduated

11 Midwives
9 Agronomy
12 Information Technology
90 Hairdressers and Beauticians

Container

7,500 Birthing Kits
1050 Days 4 Girls
100 + bags second hand clothes
34 bags baby clothes
60 computers
5 walking frames

Food Program

1800 students
Luvungi Secondary School
Midwifery College
Dietsch Academy
Sange

Chairperson Report *Julie Monis-Ivett OAM*

Another successful year on many levels!!!

It was very special that our Treasurer Jenny Weaver was awarded an OAM this year in honour and recognition of her tireless work on behalf of women. As a member of Zonta Club Adelaide Torrens, as current chairperson of the Birthing Kit Foundation and as our MHCDASA treasurer, Jenny is passionate advocate for women at all opportunities. Congratulations Jenny on your tireless work on behalf of women and well earned.

Then leading our intrepid sewing group Mission Stitchin in Canberra is Pat Woods who was also awarded an OAM for her dedication to sewing thousands of clothes for orphans and children each year with her devoted sewers. At least 60 large striped bags arrive annually for our container. Her home is a testimony to dedicating her life to bringing joy to children.

Lastly our volunteer at container packing days and supporter of our fundraising events is Dr Joy O'Hazy who also received her OAM for a lifetime advocating for women and working in women's health and with refugee groups. Joy is on the board of the Birthing Kit Foundation, in Zonta and on Habitat for Humanity, past Mayor of Mitcham, worked with Medicines Sans Frontiers in Iran and working in Sudan, and so much more. Congratulations Joy on recognition of a lifetime of service for women and much deserved.



Dr Joy O'Hazy OAM



Jenny Weaver OAM



Pat Woods OAM

It is amazing how a partnership between Australia and DR Congo, two countries so far apart can achieve so much. Each organisation has its roles and each does its best. We work especially for the vulnerable women and babies who have no voice in a country once tragically described in its war years as "the rape centre of the world", most women bury babies, illiteracy is normal, hunger and poverty is endemic and women are powerless to control their lives.

Contraception is virtually non-existent. This is an area that needs addressing, as they actually want contraceptives even in the Pygmy communities of Goma.

Over the years we are making huge inroads changing lives, giving hope, building self-sufficiency and empowering women one community at a time.

In this country we make a difference with our programs.

It is the collaborative support and funding by our MHCDASA committee, many individuals, church groups, sewing groups, Zonta Clubs, Rotary clubs, Kiwanis clubs, Lions clubs, businesses, transport companies and the Birthing Kit Foundation that brings together our achievements. We thank the MHCD staff as nothing is achieved without their commitment and dedication.

You will read of many achievements in this annual report. You may think we achieve so much that we don't really need your help – nothing is further from the truth.

We need people who value what we achieve and want to be a part of our journey. Join us – your commitment can be small or large. You may have skills we desperately need.

Your networking may have unforeseen benefits on the ground in DR Congo.

We need donors to help fund our many programs – no money no program.

Remember all donations are tax deductible. Some work places like banks match donations.

We need regular monthly donors so we can plan.

Dr Luc has particularly asked for donors for the Solar Farm. Until this is finished there is no ongoing power at the hospital. This is our most vital project.

Our container is one of our most costly exercises. We won't send another unless the money is in our bank before it leaves. If a donation of \$25,000 plus comes the container can be named in honour of a special person in your life.

Philanthropy especially with inheritances can have school buildings named after your relative who was a teacher. Similarly with hospital wards, the midwifery college, university buildings and orphanages which all need more buildings can be named.

We have a strategic plan where many larger programs sit until a donor comes. A midwifery college (\$150,000) and accommodation complex (\$150,000) enable students to learn and study in comfort. Currently many midwifery students leave study not because they can't do the work it is because there is nowhere to sleep or study. Sleeping on floors of classrooms is not ideal.

However, many students battle through adversity, such is their desire to succeed and graduate. This year 11 midwifery/nurse students graduated and in total over 40 midwives are in the community now, giving quality professional care in remote villages. Midwifery and nursing is the same diploma. MHCD tries to build a community clinic and provide resources in the villages where the midwives will be returning so there is a place from which to work. The midwives can then charge a nominal amount to create a sustainable business for themselves. They are well respected members of their community – it is deserved and empowering.

This report will share the benefits and impact of the many items in a container. Our container brings resources and joy and the love of all the people who put their hearts and souls into organising its many stages until its successful arrival in DRC at Luvungi Hospital.

Many will question the need for sending clothes and humanitarian goods as medical resources are more important. Everything in a container has its importance. Dr Luc sees the medical goods, solar panels, beds and mattresses as most important for his vision for his people.

I never underestimate the value of giving a home knitted rug and how thankful the women are as they know time and love has gone into making it. Second hand clothes are the bread and butter of our donations into the community, however, new clothes are special and received with pride as they may be the only new clothes the person and orphan may ever receive.

The only true way to reinforce why we work in DRC is to talk to the women. Hear their stories.

In 2014 Lubarika village was devastated when M23 soldiers set up camp for 3 months and raped everyone, killed men, left with the food and even more devastating left with many children to be child soldiers and prostitutes for their soldiers. You wonder how can one recover. Obviously only with resilience as there are other children to care for.

MHCD transported these women and children to Pamela Hall in Luvungi hospital grounds and fed, accommodated and provided free health care. MHCD ran a Traditional Birth Attendant training program and microcredit training programs. By 2016, when I visited, the crops were growing. There was food and income security and the women educated their children and they were empowered with some control moving forward in their lives, however, they still had haunting looks on their faces, they did not readily smile. We also brought 100 home-made blankets to give out and there were smiles on the women's faces. One can't quantify the joy for these women and appreciation for our Australian donors. So thank you for all those who sit every night knitting and crocheting – your blankets are loved and much appreciated.



Lubarika community 2016 still traumatised



A smile on receiving their rugs in 2016



Lubarika women are smiling in 2018.

They are requesting more microcredit programs for more women.

\$1000 provides microcredit programs for 20 women.

About Us

Our Origins: The initial MHCDASA committee was formed from supporters of the Birthing Kit Foundation (BKFA) who had gathered in 2012, in Adelaide, to hear Dr Luc Mulimbalimba, a major field partner of the BKFA, speaking about the impact of Birthing Kits to celebrate the milestone of the 1,000,000th birthing kit being assembled by volunteers in Australia.

Dr Luc presented on behalf of the BKFA at events across Australia organised by Zonta clubs.

The BKFA's main remit was to provide a safe and clean birthing environment for women birthing in remote regions of developing countries, by providing a clean birthing kit, and the training of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) in health, hygiene and how to use a birthing kit. The Clean Birthing Kits (CBK) hold a sheet of plastic, soap, gloves, scalpel blade, gauze and cords in a small press sealed plastic bag. Everything needed to provide a clean birth.



A Birthing Kit Dr Luc with a box of 100 birthing kits The birthing kit contents

When Dr Luc spoke of the challenges for the people of DR Congo and MHCD, and especially with his focus on the vulnerable women and babies it became clear the remit of MHCD was much wider than the BKFA. It involved infrastructure building in hospitals and schools, health, education and looking after the vulnerable women and babies and especially the care of many hundreds of orphans left by the war.

Those around the table discussed the need and decided to form the MHCD Australian Support Association.



In 2014 DR Congo was 186 out of 187 on the UN Human Development Index. The second worse country on the planet in which to live. The people needed our support.

In 2014 MHCDASA was formed— and haven't we made a difference!!!

Founding committee members Ann Miller, Julie Monis-Ivett (Chairperson), Adrian Harris, Doone Winnall (Secretary), Sarah Cunningham and Jenny Weaver (Treasurer).

MHCDASA Committee



Sharon Geue Resource Coordinator, Jenny Weaver Treasurer, Mary McFarlane Vice chairperson
Shirley Lamb Secretary and Julie Monis-Ivett Chairperson. Julie Irwin (not in picture) is
our Public Officer

The committee

- holds at least one annual fund raising event
- gathers resources and sends a container every 12 - 18 months
- transfers money from Australian donors to MHCD in DR Congo
- holds regular meetings and keeps detailed financial records
- advocates for the work of MHCD across Australia
- when possible visits DR Congo to review all programs

MHCDASA - Our Goals

In DR Congo: 1. To support MHCD to build suitable infrastructure

2. To resource MHCD to support the communities

3. To create safety and security in the community

In Australia: 4. To be a conduit to introduce MHCD to likeminded organisations

5. To work with MHCD to find secure long term financing

6. Raise awareness within the Australian community of the integrity of
MHCD and the needs of its communities

7. To build resilience and sustainability in MHCDASA

Achievements

The Solar Light packs for Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAS)



Early 2022 MHCD received a report that, in villages, many babies and mothers are dying during childbirth due to the lack of good lighting at night. MHCD chose solar light packs to solve this problem for TBAs. Delivering babies in darkness can add complications to the deliveries where mothers and babies die. MHCDASA helped with various fund raising campaigns.

As a result, MHCD purchased 300 solar light packs, consisting of three lights, an FM Radio, and USB charger. These were distributed to traditional midwives, nurses, clinics and delivery rooms.

Solar Light packs enable women to give birth in much safer conditions

These solar kits have been very successful.

- They provide lighting for midwives who can assist with the birthing of babies at night.
- Children can now study at night, improving their chances at school.
- The solar rechargers allow for a continually working mobile phone and can be a source of income when alternative power fails.
- The radio lets women get important community messages and educational programs from Impact Radio, run by MHCD.
- The kits also improve community safety as women can be forewarned, by radio, of imminent danger and communities can prepare themselves if insurgents are near.

Dr Luc sees this as one of MHCD's most important and successful projects. "We at MHCD take this opportunity to thank all MHCD Australian friends who participated in the fundraisings for solar kits. You really saved lives of many babies, women, and traditional midwives. We received many testimonies and thanks from people who received the kits."

Solar Street lights project has opened with the main street of Luvungi lit at night. Now people can gather again under the lights and sell their produce and socialise into the evening. The people are thrilled. MHCD has provided solar street lights across many communities.

MHCD Luvungi Solar Farm

MHCD started the Solar Farm project to install a 100kw solar farm on Luvungi hospital grounds over 2 years ago. Dr Luc and Delice have collected 1,650 solar panels in Australia which were delivered in 40ft containers in 2021-23. Solar farm installation started in 2022 using metal rails, sand, ballast, and cement. MHCD technicians began the installation and, by April, more than 1,200 solar panels had been installed.

Luvungi town has a population of more than 30,000 people surviving mainly on agriculture. It has never had electricity. Women collect firewood in the forests and it is extremely dangerous because rebels sometimes lie in wait to rape them. **Solar power can keep women safe.**



Solar Farm panels



Technician working on the wiring

The project will supply enough electricity to MHCD hospital to run all of its machines 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This will help improve medical care at the hospital and mean most cases can be handled at the hospital instead of being transferred. Many premature babies lose lives with no electricity to run the incubators. **Solar Power gives improved medical care and saves lives.**

Students in the community or boarding at the school compound will be able to study into the evenings. **Solar Power improves education.**

The solar farm will provide electricity to more than 1,000 houses. MHCD will be able to charge a nominal amount for power to make the hospital more sustainable. Families will be able to charge their phones and listen to Impact Radio. 90% of people have a radio to hear music and news. The solar farm will help MHCD improve the standard of living for Luvungi, and more importantly will serve as a template for progress for the greater district. **Solar Power progresses the local community.**

MHCD secondary and primary schools, midwifery schools and university all have computers, as do the IT, laboratory, and a medical technical room. Solar power to keep these machines going improves education outcomes throughout the community. **Solar Power improves education**

Dr Luc considers the Solar Farm THE most important project to enable progress in the community.



This project is 90% completed. It needs investors to provide invertors and 10,000 metres of wiring to finally connect power to the hospital wards and community at a cost of US\$3/ m. A picture of the wire incase someone can access some either cheaply or for free.

Dr Luc has requested all donations go to this project.

Luvungi MHCD General Hospital

Luvungi General Hospital services over 30,000 people. It is now a 150-bed hospital with departments in paediatrics, internal medicine, gynaecology, obstetrics and surgery. Other services are also provided such as a pharmacy, a medical laboratory, an intensive care unit, emergency medicine, a dental clinic, ophthalmology, an epilepsy clinic, naturopathy, medical imaging, and mobile clinics. Every 6 months, MHCD organises a medical campaign to provide free medical care to the poorest of the poor, those who can't afford medical or surgical care.

Luvungi MHCD general hospital has been in the front line to promote primary health care, reduce infant mortality and maternal morbidity, reducing infections and deaths in Uvira

Territory. While the hospital generates some income it still needs support, especially for the special medical campaigns which it runs. Funds from Australia assist in keeping this vital resource functioning in Luvungi.



Hospital grounds and new entrance



New covered walkways between departments.



The main hospital waiting room with patients sitting on the chairs donated from WCH Hospital.



MHCD Luvungi Midwifery School and Birthing Kit distribution Centre.

The Great Lakes Midwifery School is thriving, with 10 new students for the academic year 2022/2023, making a total of 43 students. It is a 3 year accredited diploma course. They come from different villages in South Kivu Province and Burundi. Dr Luc is thrilled to report that every year the students pass the national examinations with flying colours! With the school attached to the hospital there is a lot of practice birthing babies. They graduate with skills to train Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and distribute Birthing Kits to TBAs and Midwifery clubs across the province. From June 30 2022 to June 30 2023 20,000 in country birthing kits have been assembled at Pamela Centre and another 7,500 kits from Australia came in the last container. So there were **27,500 birthing kits over a 12 month period distributed.**



their local communities to work.

Thanks to the BKFA and Neilson Foundation for funding the local making of these kits and thanks to our dedicated MHCD people for facilitating the assembly and TBAs for making them. The women assembling the birthing kits received a small stipend to start a microcredit project.

TBA training and microcredit funding bring sustainable food, income, education for children and empowerment of the women.

Midwifery classroom

Last year 11 midwives graduated to go back to

The MHCD Luvungi Midwifery School is considered one of the best midwifery and nursing schools in Uvira Territory and it is having a great impact in different communities.

Uvira Community University (UCU)

UCU was created to fight against poverty and unemployment among young people, to promote community development and agriculture in the territory of Uvira. Despite good arable land training in agriculture was needed to make the best use of this resource.

Students have been offered the courses of Agronomy, Information Technology and Medicine at our university. The national government has approved these courses. The medical course was only able to be completed for the first 3 years.



9 Agronomy students graduated last year 12 IT students graduated

The Agronomy students teachers researched local foods that are rich in protein to fight malnutrition. After two years work they found one such food is Amaranthe, which is rich in protein and iron and which can be harvested in 3 to 4 weeks. It is an ideal food to fight against malnutrition and anaemia in children.

Amaranthe is rich in protein and iron and is an ideal food to fight malnutrition and anaemia

Sange Educational Program (Dietsch Academy)

John and Elaine Dietsch and Nathan Dietsch created Dietsch Academy Sange. It started with the kindergarten, taking care of orphaned and street children. Each year more than 250 pupils are educated. The Dietsch Academy provides free education, school uniforms, backpacks, books and pencils, medical care for sick pupils, and sometimes food.

Since MHCD started this program in 2010, they have helped more than 4,000 students. Most of these children have finished primary school and started vocational training in carpentry, tailoring, auto mechanics and agriculture. Others that continued with secondary school education received state diplomas in pedagogy (teaching principles), social studies, nursing, midwifery etc. Many are also supporting their siblings and families. Some are now working at the MHCD Mission in the community development department.



MHCD built a block of 8 toilets for the 250 students and teachers.

Many students had left school because of toileting problems so a large toilet block was built. Support for the Toilet construction came from Nathan

Dietsch and the Macquarie Giving Program. Stella Darmody supported the construction of the Stella Community Centre.

MHCD Food Program

1800 students at Luvungi secondary school, the midwifery college and Sange school receive food funded by Highlands Christian Church and Bethesda Missions International.

Through the year special funds were raised and transferred to DR Congo to support a special food program. Students often arrived at school hungry and could not learn properly. The Food Program enabled schools to provide nutritious food for the poorest children. They can now concentrate better on their studies. **Food programs are essential to be able to study.**



New church building and MHCD office in Bungoma Kenya

Bethesda Ministries International funded building the Spring Life Mission Center church which is also as a conference and training center for youths and women, and a food bank. Church on Sundays and weekly a training center for tailoring, Beauty, and IT. Has accommodation with 14 staying and with 3 meals per day.

Traditional Midwives Microfinancing Program in Kenya



Four microfinance projects for traditional midwives were developed for the Maasai Mara.

1. Chicken/goat farming in Bungoma
2. Goat farming in the Maasai Mara
3. Agriculture, vegetable production in Bungoma
4. Local Necklaces production in the Maasai Mara

Over 80 Traditional midwives (TM) in different villages have been supported. MHCD purchased all the animals and seeds. Women worked in clubs of 10 – 20 TMs to assist with management.

Microcredit projects give sustainable food, income, education, medical care and empowerment of the women.



New MHCD office building in Burundi in Makamba province. Has training for IT, tailoring, beauty and baking. Has held a one day Community Development and Mission conference with BMI and local leaders and are holding a women's conference for those who have been traumatised by war.

Uvira MHCD Clinic/hospital

MHCD has a 30 bed clinic in Uvira town offering services in maternity, surgery, internal medicine, gynaecology, obstetrics, podiatry, pharmacy, a laboratory, and naturopathy. Most of the patients are affected by war and very poor or internally displaced people from a refugee camp. The people are so poor they cannot afford medical care. **Poor people need good care.**

Through the Kasenga MHCD clinic, MHCD has been able to treat hundreds of patients every year, helping expectant women deliver, operating on patients with different medical problems and treating children suffering from malaria, worms, bronchitis and pneumonia. The clinic also helps patients suffering from typhoid fever, diabetes, hypertension and war trauma. Girls and women suffering from sexual violence get free medical care and food if it is available.

MHCD's Impact Radio Station More than 600,000 people listen in to radio stations every day in eastern DRC. *IMPACT Radio* broadcasts in three languages Kiswahili, French and Kifuliru (a local Uvira language). Programs focus on education, health, community development activities and social cohesion. MHCDASA raises and send funds to support *IMPACT Radio*. For women the radio is an opportunity for education and a means of increasing safety, sending out information on where to get support, a talk-back service to keep women connected with family and a warning system in times of danger.



New church building and MHCD office in Bungoma Kenya

Bethesda Ministries International funded building the Spring Life Mission Center church which is also as a conference and training center for youths and women, and a food bank. Church on Sundays and weekly a training center for tailoring, Beauty, and IT. Has accommodation with 14 staying and with 3 meals per day.

Traditional Midwives Microfinancing Program in Kenya



Four microfinance projects for traditional midwives were developed for the Maasai Mara.

1. Chicken/goat farming in Bungoma
2. Goat farming in the Maasai Mara
3. Agriculture, vegetable production in Bungoma
4. Local Necklaces production in the Maasai Mara

Over 80 Traditional midwives (TM) in different villages have been supported. MHCD purchased all the animals and seeds. Women worked in clubs of 10 – 20 TMs to assist with management.

Microcredit projects give sustainable food, income, education, medical care and empowerment of the women.



New MHCD office building in Burundi in Makamba province. Has training for IT, tailoring, beauty and baking. Has held a one day Community Development and Mission conference with BMI and local leaders and are holding a women's conference for those who have been traumatised by war.

Uvira MHCD Clinic/hospital

MHCD has a 30 bed clinic in Uvira town offering services in maternity, surgery, internal medicine, gynaecology, obstetrics, podiatry, pharmacy, a laboratory, and naturopathy. Most of the patients are affected by war and very poor or internally displaced people from a refugee camp. The people are so poor they cannot afford medical care. **Poor people need good care.**

Through the Kasenga MHCD clinic, MHCD has been able to treat hundreds of patients every year, helping expectant women deliver, operating on patients with different medical problems and treating children suffering from malaria, worms, bronchitis and pneumonia. The clinic also helps patients suffering from typhoid fever, diabetes, hypertension and war trauma. Girls and women suffering from sexual violence get free medical care and food if it is available.

MHCD's Impact Radio Station More than 600,000 people listen in to radio stations every day in eastern DRC. *IMPACT Radio* broadcasts in three languages Kiswahili, French and Kifuliru (a local Uvira language). Programs focus on education, health, community development activities and social cohesion. MHCDASA raises and send funds to support *IMPACT Radio*. For women the radio is an opportunity for education and a means of increasing safety, sending out information on where to get support, a talk-back service to keep women connected with family and a warning system in times of danger.

My role is to facilitate the gathering and storage of goods in Adelaide that will eventually go to DR Congo in a transport container. We do this every 12 – 18 months.

Our container that left in September 2022 arrived in February 2023 and was enthusiastically welcomed and unpacked by hundreds of local people.



Thank our many volunteers without whom this would never happen. Of special note is Tim Geue our Loadmaster who did a brilliant job overseeing the safe packing with his hard working lieutenant in myself!

We were very fortunate until March 2023 to continue using space in two storage containers at Richmond kindly donated by James and Janine Eckermann. With the South road redevelopment that option was lost. We were also fortunate until March 2023 to also be able to secure warehousing through Paul McFarlane at their Port Adelaide warehouse.

We had many challenges.

Challenge 1: Storage for donated goods. Currently there is nowhere and we are refusing donations or asking supporters to store them. So tragically valuable items are now dumped. So if anyone has a shed/shop/warehouse or ground space where a container or 2 can be placed, please let us know as our hands are now tied. jmonisivett@gmail.com

Challenge 2: Booking a transport container. With COVID and ports holding onto containers and ports being blocked, there were few available containers to book and once booked no guarantee until a few days before that it would arrive. After planning and cancelling two container packing dates in April and June due to this inability to obtain a transport container, we were finally able to secure one to pack from September 9 -11.

Challenge 3: Became very costly. This demand for containers manifested with the cost of the containers almost doubling as did the sea and land transport costs and customs fees, making the entire process very costly. Thank you to Stella and Peter Darmody for their donation of \$20,000.



With all of these challenges one eventually asks is this container project worth the effort and costs? Knowing the resources that go into it there is still a resounding YES. One medical scope previously cost \$50,000. The quality of resources can't be bought in DR Congo especially the 44 hospital grade mattresses, 82 almost new metal tubing beds for the orphanage plus 60 mattresses, 120 school chairs, 57 cartons of medical consumables, 200 + bags of new clothes, 1000 + Days4Girls packs, 7,500 Birthing kits and 267 solar panels.

Our second hand solar panels were better than the new Chinese ones bought locally.

Some may think the \$40,000 could be better spent in DR Congo, however, there would be no donation unless there was a container to send.

Was it worth it! Yes it is!

With the help of volunteers we hired a small truck to collect mattresses from the Women's and Children's Hospital then with collection of solar panels, pallets of hospital equipment, school desks and chairs from the warehouse at Port Adelaide. I especially want to thank Chris King and Ivan Lloyd for being so readily available to help with transport.



Over the three days we had around 40 people pack, sort, move, collect, deliver, fold bedding and blankets to fit between chairs, beds, desks, pack clothes into smaller bags to be stuffed into crevices between equipment to maximise every possible space in the container. We also had a sausage sizzle and cake bakers to feed the many helpers.

After the container left, we had half a container of goods left over which normally we would carry over for the next container. Unfortunately with all storage being lost in March it was lovely to be able to help other humanitarian organisations as we donated these goods. Some went to Joy O'Hazy OAM to send in her container to Sudan and some to Habitat for Humanity to sell in their shop.

The goods we are currently collecting are being stored with committee members, but have reached capacity. Other second-hand clothes and brick-a-brack are being delivered to Delice Mulimbimba who has established an OP shop in Murray Bridge to raise funds to pay teachers and hospital staff wages and feed the orphans. What's not sold goes into the next container.

Lyn Thomas and the Plympton Sewing Group continue to donate fabric and make beautiful clothes for the children, as does Maureen Leo, who also makes play rugs for the babies.

Pat Woods OAM and her sewing group from 'Mission Stichin' in Canberra have sent over 60 bags of clothes

Fundraising

It has proved difficult to fundraise over the past year. We tried to organise a quiz night in August to help with the container transport costs but was forced to cancel due to COVID and poor ticket sales. In April Dr Luc organised a Dinner and Silent Auction at the Anglican Church in Mount Barker, which included the Mount Barker Band and Congolese Dancers. Money raised from this event was to help feed orphans.

How you can help us

1. Volunteer to help the committee
2. Donate to our programs to enable ongoing support for health and education projects
3. Donate your time to collect goods for the container.
 - education resources are much valued including school desks and chairs, educational books, French books, coloured pencils, pens, textas, chalk, exercise books, writing paper, wall charts, black boards or white boards.
 - hospitals or private clinics upgrading equipment, like an ophthalmologist, surgeon, dentist, veterinarian or pharmacy, there are many items worth sending to DRC.
 - sporting clubs at all levels who are updating equipment, uniforms and shoes – clean second-hand goods are much loved by the youth.
 - trades resources will enable new trades programs to be developed. All tools, carpentry and electrical goods.
 - sewing groups to donate sewing machines, fabrics and threads.
 - gather clothes from friends as children grow or wardrobes are being cleaned out.
4. We need a committee of medical/dental people that oversees the gathering of text books and goods donated when businesses/hospitals upgrade. Dental, gynaecological, surgical, ophthalmic, orthopaedic and radiology.
5. If anyone has any clean dry storage space, please let us know.
6. Advocate for a representative of MHCDASA to speak at meetings to gain exposure and support

We get many bags of clothes and could pack hundreds more into our container. Gathering clean clothes is a big way to support our work.

Contact Sharon Geue on sharong@builtdesign.com.au or 0403 579 487.

Support our work.

100% of donations are used on the ground to support our programs and people.

The people we support get no support from their government. The women and babies are vulnerable to disease, malnutrition and insecurity. Most women will bury a baby.

Looking at our achievements each year may lead some to think we do not need your donation. Every donation is valuable and enables our programs to grow.

We rely on all donations no matter how small to enable the programs to continue.

Bequests: Should you be thinking to include MHCD/ MHCDASA in your will, know it will enable sustainability of our work long term and your wishes will be respected.

If you donate now you get to see the fruits of your donation now.

Advocacy



One of MHCDASA's roles is to advocate for the people of DR Congo amongst Australian Government agencies and our supporters in Zonta, Rotary, many church groups and individuals.

Jenny Weaver OAM MHCDASA Treasurer and Julie Monis-Ivett OAM MHCDASA Chairperson in Dr Luc Mulimbalimba's ministerial office in Bukavu 2018

Since 2012 on Dr Luc's annual visit to Australia, meetings were organised with several MPs, Senators, Ministers and senior advisors of DFAT and AusAID. The purpose of these meetings kept DRC and its insecurity, poverty, lack of health and educational infrastructure on the radar of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). With DRC not being a Commonwealth country there were few historical ties between our countries. Establishing the DR Congo / Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group in Australia and DR Congo meant at least 20 MPs in each country were involved and committed to discussions. They cared about our relationship.

The work of MHCD in this most impoverished and at times insecure part of Africa is respected and admired. We have one thing that other organisations don't have and that is Dr Luc Mulimbalimba is a person with integrity, vision, commitment and as a MP and pastor is respected.

Some snippets from official letters attesting to Dr Luc's character and work.

The Hon Julie Bishop MP and Minister for Foreign Affairs wrote in 2017 to congratulate Dr Luc's appointment as a State Minister. "Your record of moral leadership and community development in South Kivu Province is highly regarded. Particularly notable outcomes were achieved in your capacity as Director of Mission in Health Care and Development, despite the existing challenges."

Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus knew Dr Luc when Ambassador to Zimbabwe in 2016 and had met him several times in Canberra. In 2018 he wrote "It is with great pleasure, through the kind offices of Ms Julie Monis-Ivett OAM, that I send you this message of greeting and congratulations on behalf of the Government of Australia on the occasion of the opening of the



DRC Australia Friendship Monument at Luvungi Hospital, South Kivu Province, DRC. You are a great friend of Australia, and we would like to thank you for all you have done to advance the Australia/DRC relationship"... your work to promote health care and development in South Kivu has been a model for the whole of DRC, and been greatly supported in Australia."

DR Congo Australia Friendship Monument

Vickie Chapman MP in 2019 wrote “I can attest to Dr Luc’s good character as I have met him on several occasions in 2018 and 2019 to discuss the work he is doing in the DR Congo as a Member for Parliament. During meetings with Dr Luc his passion and commitment to improves the health and education system in DRC, and to improve the community with comprehensive sustainable health care, was clearly evident”.

Dr Luc has been the recipient of awards from the UN and DR Congo Government for his community development work.

Unexpected Impact of political meetings

So behind the scenes of humanitarian aid and community development has been a political agenda at a higher level to one day play out to the benefit of the Congolese people.

One such event happened in 2014 when after a meeting with Hon Julie Bishop, then Minister for Foreign Affairs. Dr Luc shared with Ms Bishop over lunch that the UN soldiers were hated by the Congolese people. The soldiers had all the resources to protect the local people yet allowed women and children to be killed and stood by doing nothing. It was not the remit of UN soldiers to protect the local population mainly those within UN camps and UN employees. Julie Bishop was to chair a UN subcommittee later that year and took this information with her and she secured Resolution 2117 which allowed for the first time ever UN soldiers to protect the local people. This was a major deterrent for the many rebel groups along the borders and enabled the DRC army to set up small camps at towns to protect the people. A level of security they had not had before.

The impact of that lunch meeting in Canberra was felt everywhere the UN operated.



Meeting with Provincial Government officials in Bukavu

MHCDASA Treasurer's Report *Jenny Weaver OAM Treasurer*

MHCDASA started the year with just over \$25,000.00 saved in its account to fund a container being sent to MHCD in Luvungi. The container, which left Adelaide in September 2022 and arrived in January 2023 was a costly exercise, absorbing nearly \$41,400.00 in direct and indirect costs. Extra expenses were incurred at every stage, a more expensive container, increased fuel and hence land and sea transport costs, plus exorbitant and unavoidable new customs fees.

Donations of over \$135,000 were transferred to MHCD during the year, some of this money was specifically sent to cover container costs being incurred in Africa. MHCD also received a container from "Computers for Congo" during the year and this too incurred some local expenses.

Expenses in Australia were the unavoidable bank fees and the disposal cost of surplus and unusable mattresses, which was funded by a special donation.

Special fund raising campaigns garnered support but only one MHCDASA event was held during the year. Just over \$2,000.00 was raised at a special fund-raising dinner in Mount Barker in April 2023 for an *Emergency Food Program* administered by MHCD.

\$7,300.00 was donated during the year via donors paying regular amounts into the MHCDASA account on a fortnightly or monthly basis throughout the year.



Container has arrived.

Woman with her Days4Girls pack Op Shop opened June 2023

Thank you to Our Donors

Once again MHCDASA thanks the people across Australia who have donated so much during the year. At a time when many people are noticing the rising cost of living and trying hard to make their money go further, these donors have generously helped the people of eastern DR Congo who are living precarious hand-to-mouth existences.

Stella and Peter Darmody

Stella and Peter were crucial to the support of the container delivered by MHCDASA this year. They also made a wonderful donation for the *Solar Light Project* and Stella committed to the *Kenya Midwives Project*. However, their most generous help was a large donation made to build the *Stella Community Centre* in Sange Village. We cannot thank them enough for the huge contribution they have made to the people served by MHCD.

Dietsch Family

Nathan Dietsch, with the benefit of matched donations through the Macquarie Giving Foundation, along with Elaine and John Dietsch have continued their support for Sange Village and the *Dietsch Academy* in particular, which educates the children of this impoverished town. As one of the most disadvantaged

populations served by MHCD, Sange Village has needed huge support, and the help provided by the Dietsch family has been spectacular. We thank them for their generosity.

Highlands Christian Church

HCC has maintained its support throughout the year with regular and reliable donations allowing many children to get an education in areas served by MHCD. This commitment is very much valued and is vital for progress in the area.

Other Churches supporting MHCD

We thank the congregations of the following churches for maintaining regular donations to MHCD : -

Bethesda Ministries International
Ginninderra Church, ACT
West Wyalong Church, NSW
Echunga Uniting Church, SA
Macclesfield Uniting Church, SA
St Pauls Anglican Church, SA

Regular Midwifery School Supporters

Yolande Hass, Ivan Lloyd and Dr Berna Kim support the *Luvungi Midwifery School* on a regular basis, ensuring that the students complete their studies and have the funds to return to their communities to provide primary health care for birthing mothers. These three donors have supported the midwifery students regularly for many years and we thank them for their on-going dedication to this project which creates qualified health professionals for the community.

Zonta Clubs

Thanks to the Zonta Clubs of Adelaide Torrens and Central Goldfields which provided support for MHCD's projects helping women, particularly the *Solar Light Project* and supporting the *Impact Radio Station* which employs a group of dedicated female journalists and presenters.

Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs

We thank the Victor Harbor Rotary Club for its very generous on-going support. Kiwanis Clubs in the Adelaide Hills and Sydney and have also been generous.

Individual Donors

Dedicated donors give monthly to MHCDSA, maintaining cash flow for the myriad of MHCD's activities. Kylie Aile, Claire Coleshill and Tanya Doherty have been the longest serving in this group and we thank them for the security of income it provides to MHCD.

Special donors for individual projects

There is also a substantial list of individuals, including MHCDSA Committee members, who have donated open-heartedly for both specific MHCD causes and one-off major events. The special *Food Program* is an example with fund raising by MHCDSA which enabled MHCD to support many hungry children.

We thank all of you for your thoughtful gifts.

Microcredit programs selling goods



**MISSION IN HEALTH CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Postal Address:
PO Box 218
Kent Town SA 5071

Adelaide Office:
190 Fullarton Rd
Dulwich SA 5065

Darwin Office:
Level 1, 66 Smith St
Darwin NT 0800

T: (08) 8333 3666
F: (08) 8333 0666

reception@leegreen.com.au
www.leegreen.com.au

Lee Green & Co Pty Ltd
ACN: 008 215 094
ABN: 76 008 215 094



Member of Russell Bedford
International - a global
network of independent
professional services firms

I report on the attached Financial Statements, comprising the Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2023 and the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year then ended, which have been prepared from the books and records of the Association, maintained by the volunteer Treasurer on behalf of the Committee.

I have examined the summaries, prepared by the Treasurer and all supporting vouchers provided, including bank statements and am satisfied that the details recorded therein truly and completely represent the transactions of the Association for the year.

It is not possible for me to comment on the cash receipting procedure without being physically present when each receipt is written. For this reason, my report is based only on amounts actually banked.

Signed at Dulwich this 27th day of November, 2023.

TIM MAJOR



LEE GREEN & CO PTY LTD

ref: CLIENTS/NFP Audits/mhcdasaad.doc

**Mission in Health Care and Development
Australian Support Association Incorporated**

Statement Of Receipts and Payments

For the year ended 30th June, 2023

	2023	2022
Receipts		
Donations and Fundraising Receipts	\$134,247.57	\$150,822.58
Total Receipts	<u>\$134,247.57</u>	<u>\$150,822.58</u>
Payments		
Bank Fees	\$420.00	\$450.00
Donations to MHCD	\$135,145.00	\$133,416.00
International Freight Expenses	\$23,090.93	\$2,272.30
Mattress Disposal	\$680.00	\$0.00
Total Payments	<u>\$159,335.93</u>	<u>\$136,138.30</u>
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>(\$25,088.36)</u>	<u>\$14,684.28</u>

Balance Sheet

30th June, 2023

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
NAB Operating Account	\$15.98	\$25,104.34
Total Current Assets	<u>\$15.98</u>	<u>\$25,104.34</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$15.98</u>	<u>\$25,104.34</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$15.98</u>	<u>\$25,104.34</u>
Members' Funds		
Retained Surplus	\$25,104.34	\$10,419.96
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	-\$25,088.36	\$14,684.38
Total Members' Funds	<u>\$15.98</u>	<u>\$25,104.34</u>

**MISSION IN HEALTH CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE

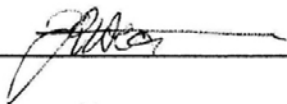
The attached Financial Statements, comprising the Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 2023 and the Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year then ended, present fairly the results of the activities of Mission in Health Care and Development Australian Support Association Inc. for the year ended 30th June, 2023 and its state of affairs as at that date.

Having made sufficient enquires, the Committee has reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to meet its debts as and when they fall due.

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.



Chairperson



Treasurer

November, 2023

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE


In accordance with Section 35(5) of the Associations Incorporation Act, 1985, the Committee of Mission in Health Care and Development Australian Support Association Inc. hereby states that during the financial year ended 30th June, 2023 -

- (a) (i) no officer of the Association;
(ii) no firm of which the officer is a member; and
(iii) no body corporate in which an officer has a substantial financial interest,

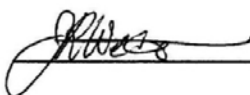
has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the officer, firm or body corporate and the Association.

- (b) no officer of the Association has received directly or indirectly from the Association any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value.

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.



Chairperson




Treasurer

November, 2023

Thank You to Our Supporters

Donors to fund raising events	Container Resources	Probono Donors and volunteers
Mt Barker dinner and silent auction evening	Days 4 Girls 1050 washable sanitary packs	Lee Green and Co Pty Ltd Auditor Tim Major
Cocos Hair and Day Spa voucher	Birthing Kit Foundation 7,500 Clean Birthing Kits	James and Janine Eckerman 2 Storage containers
Hahndorf fruit and veg gift baskets	Equinox 10 boxes of new women's clothes	Dave and Suzanne Green from EnvyUs Design
Solitaire Boutique cars raffle and auction items	5 sewing machines, fabric rolls, medical goods from Country Ambulances, baby clothes and goods from Treasure Boxes	Ivan Lloyd many trips collecting solar panels, mattresses, waiting room seating with Dr Luc
Janet Ayliffe art work Strathalbyn band Congolese dancers	Women's and Children's Hospital 44 hospital grade mattresses and waiting room chairs	Ron Crouch Transport free transport of goods from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra to Adelaide
	80 bags of new children's clothes and blankets from "Mission Stitchin" in Canberra and 30+ bags from Plympton Sewing Group.	Port Adelaide warehouse storage space donated by Paul McFarlane and Peter Buik
	Multigate donor of 4 pallets of medical resources and 44 pallets of face masks	MHCDASA committee and our many volunteers for gathering the goods and taking them for storage
	270 Solar Panels Tyndale and Concordia college 60 Computers, desks and chairs	Transport of solar panels and storage from Loxton to Elizabeth
	85 beds, bedding, 50+ mattresses	Volunteers who help pack the transport container
	Mary – Ellen O'Brien new dance costumes	The Congolese community who helped pack the container and supported events
	Hundreds of bags of clean second hand clothes	Storage of face masks by Hentschke transport
	Volunteers Maureen, Mary, Shirley, Heather and Sash Fergusen retirement home women who knit caps, toys, and jumpers	



A young woman with dark skin and short hair, smiling, is holding a white sign with both hands. She is wearing a pink button-down shirt. The background shows a tree trunk to her left and lush green foliage to her right.

WE TRADITIONAL
MIDWIVES OF DRC
NEED SOLAR KITS
FOR
LIGHTING