

Dear Friends;

April 05, 2020

'Thank you to everyone who is helping, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you' - these were the closing words from Georgette as we ended our WhatsApp conversation on today.

Congo has closed its borders and has also closed all movement between Kinshasa and the rest of the country. This has meant that our planned trip to visit Georgette has been postponed. She was very disappointed as there are several problems and opportunities she wanted to discuss with us.

In the face of COVID-19, we still want to be faithful in our commitment to the children we all support in Congo. Based on the conversation today with Georgette, here is their situation:

- Georgette has 45 children and youth at her site. 9 older children are in other locations;
- Movement in and out of Kinshasa is forbidden, so food is not getting into the city, increasing prices by 5 times, so meal sizes are reduced to stretch the food budget;
- The children must stay on the site, so only Georgette can go out for necessities. Without distractions like the internet, this is hard for the children - and Georgette;
- 5 children had malaria, took medications on site and thankfully recovered;
- One of the responsible older boys broke his leg, was x-rayed, and is apparently successfully being treated by a traditional healer – it's a type of fracture for which this can work well enough;
- Guylain, the medical student, is working in the hospital every day, and sleeps in a classroom away from the others, to self-isolate from the rest of the orphans.



We had planned to hold a tuition fundraiser on May 1, but have postponed that event, and the children are not likely to be in school until September. As the schools are doing here, students are encouraged to study at home, and there will be fees associated with taking exams in June.

It is so important at a time like this to have steady income that we can count on, for our planning with Georgette. Please consider a monthly contribution if you are not already doing so.

You can contribute one-time, or monthly, at the ADW site on Canada Helps:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/accountable-development-works/>

We also accept e-transfers to nel.derksen@congoschildren.ca

Again, thank you for your support – whether regular long-term, or in response to specific needs Georgette has. Because of your support, now over 75 children and youth in Kinshasa have hope for the future.

The Congo's Children committee;

JohnDavid Pankratz, Nel and John Derksen, Colleen Epp, Brian Wiebe

Accountable Development Works: enabling sustainable child protection in poor countries through accountability, genuine partnerships, and projects which are based on local communities and individuals leading the way towards their own goals.