

IRFF UK May 2024 - Suffering Eastern DR Congo

Edward Hartley
May 31, 2024



History

Since 1997, Eastern DR Congo has repeatedly suffered from wars with the victims often being women and children. Thousands of children have ended up abandoned on the streets of Goma without education, often ending up in armed groups. While women ended up victims of rape.

On 25th April 2010, 11 volunteers gathered in the Jolie Rêves Centre in Butembo to discuss this hopeless situation.

They created a local organization, L2R-Congo, due to the lack of respect for the rights of women and children. They aimed to bring relief to orphaned children victims of war and women victims of violence.



Photo by Arlette Bashizi for [OkayAfrica](#)

The Centre

In 2011, this group rented a centre to accommodate orphaned children, offering them food, clothing, and medicine. Local volunteers and friends supported them, along with other organisations (ACSD, UJF, ASODECUCA, etc).

In 2016, WCA partnered with this group to ensure the children's safety and care. Then, in 2018, IRFF-UK began to support the centre. The centre was able to become independent and was then named the Hope For Children Centre.

Together with WCA, IRFF-UK offered food, clothing, medicines, and school supplies to support their education.



Hope For Children Centre: Children receiving food donations

Rebuilding

On 23rd May 2021, the centre was destroyed by lava from the volcanic eruption. While finding a solution, the children were temporarily placed in host families.

Then the idea of building a centre was born. A plot was purchased by local volunteers, WCA, and IRFF-UK donors. Eventually, this dream became a reality thanks to the support of IRFF-UK, WCA, TAD, ACSD, and many local volunteers.

"UK-IRFF is our most important partner. we are at the point of making the lives of these

Ben (Nzanzu Saasita Bienvenu)

IRFF-UK liaison in DR Congo



Left: [Mount Nyiragongo eruption](#). Right: Hope For Children Centre rebuilt.

The Future

Since 26th May 2024, the Center has been handed over to the care of TAD, with funding from the Save 1000 Children project.

TAD will be taking care of the centre, the children's food and education for the next 5 years.

The local volunteers promise to continue to offer psycho-social support projects for vulnerable women and women victims of sexual violence.

However, Ben will be focussing on personal matters for the time being.



Ben and his family, who have been supporting Hope For Children since the beginning.

"We have provided assistance to 600 children since 2011. Most were in foster families

but 120 of which 60 were in the center and 60 others in foster families were directly under our responsibility."

Ben (Nzanzu Saasita Bienvenu)
IRFF-UK liaison in DR Congo

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Help end period poverty. Donate now for girls' education and empowerment.

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What Areas Does Our Charity Support In Africa?

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Menstruation Should Not Be An Obstacle In Life

As a charity for Africa, IRFF UK holds a strong promise to help underprivileged African girls facing challenges, especially period poverty, which makes it hard for them to go to school. We are dedicated to breaking down these barriers by making sure these girls have what they need for their periods. By doing this, we empower these young minds, giving them the chance to stay in school, learn, and break free from the cycle of poverty.

[What is Period Poverty?](#) | [Ending Period Poverty](#)



A Small Glimpse At The Difference IRFF UK Has Made How IRFF UK has helped in Africa so far?

Destiny Junior School

Jigger Removal

Home For Children

Kampala, Uganda

Destiny Junior School



IRFF UK built Destiny Junior School in 2009. The children in the local area have thrived ever since!

IRFF UK built Destiny Junior School in Kampala, Uganda in 2009, and has gone on to see more than 500 students graduates go into further education which otherwise wouldn't have happened. £115,000 has been invested in total, starting from £330 a month and now at £1,150 with 206 students in total



Why Choose IRFF UK?

What makes our charity for Africa unique?

What sets IRFF UK apart is our commitment to more than just being intermediaries in fund transfers.

We prioritise a comprehensive approach centred on education and empowerment to uplift individuals from poverty.

Our unique focus is on equipping people with the skills necessary for self-sustainability, fostering independence rather than dependence on Western donations.

We believe in creating lasting change by empowering individuals to build a better future for themselves and their communities.

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What Our Donors Are Saying

Your efforts in the areas of education, health and sustainability are vital in certain countries and truly appreciated. My family will continue to sponsor a child at Destiny Junior School in Uganda, and will endeavour to support other causes that IRFF UK informs us about.

Marshall de Souza
Destiny School Sponsor

The Women's Federation for World Peace, South London, has been supporting Destiny Junior School through IRFF-UK for more than 12 years. Our ladies sincerely had been helping to provide a better place for the children of Destiny Junior School in Uganda. We believe Education and health are the most important things for the life of the child.

Dolores Read
Destiny School Sponsor

I have been happy to support projects that IRFF is running in Uganda. In particular, I have donated funds towards the building of a perimeter wall and a library at Destiny School. I really appreciate the good work IRFF has been doing over the years to help people/children in Africa.

Joyce Suda
Destiny School Donor

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Charity Number: 281776

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