



January 2022

Dear Friends,

A very Happy New Year to you all. After two years of some frustration at some substantial inaction as a result of the pandemic, I am pleased to report that we have much to report. Since the beginning of December our International Director, Howard, has been in Africa, firstly working with Signhealth Uganda on their Business Plan and, since the New Year, doing the same in Burundi. He has just completed a similar exercise with the Burundi National Association of the Deaf, and three more such exercises are in the pipeline with one other organisation and, hopefully, with two deaf schools; Ephphatha in Bujumbura, the former capital, and CESDA in Gitega, the current capital. This final plan will be considering the feasibility of a residential deafblind project, which the retiring headmistress, Spes, is keen to establish. The final piece of work in Burundi will be a national survey on the identification of deafblind children and adults and the services available to them. Howard will provide articles on this four-month odyssey in due course.

We are sad to announce that one of our founding trustees, Isobel Blakeley, who has been our Lead Trustee for Rwanda, has decided that it is time to step down. She has worked brilliantly with us over the past six years and all of the amazing achievements we have been able to realise there would have been impossible without her input. Thanks so much, Isobel, and all the very best for the future.

The main thrust of this Newsletter is to report on our Christmas Appeal. This was for food aid to deaf families in the four countries in which we work; Burundi, Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. Also included was an appeal for money to repair the roof of the new dormitory at Umutara which had been badly damaged by a heavy storm. We raised a fantastic £3,805; £1,200 for the roof and the rest for food aid. We sent out £1,042 to Congo, which had suffered the double whammy of the volcanic eruption and the pandemic, and £521 each to partners in the other 3 countries.

We have received two reports so far which follow. The rest we will send out in the next Newsletter. It just remains to thank all those who donated for your wonderful support.

Rwanda Report

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FHR report presenting the distribution of food among the poor families of the Deaf during Christmas and the new year of 2022



01.introduction

As usual, during the end of the year here in Rwanda people tend to prepare for the great days of Christmas and the New Year people prepare special food and drink that they with their close families and friends. So what they prepare are something which is special different from what they eat and drink in their daily life.

This is different for the people with hearing impairment located in rural areas where you find that they have no information of what is being done in the community because of communication barriers between them.

For the deaf people from poor families what other people so-called boring foods, for them they don't like to get it, when they find it they thank God because most of the people with hearing impairment are in the rural areas are put in the first category by government which is called "UBUDEHE" means that they are the ones who can find food once per day.

Moreover, people with deafness in rural area like to meet with a lot of problems because they are not given an opportunity to get the jobs like others due to their disability. what they tend to get are energetic work such as farming, brick making, cleaning clothes on the low wages or things that cannot satisfying for them, In fact, there are those who are be given one plate of food per day , other are get paid 500 of Rwandan francs per day , which is often seen as a form of human exploitation because ,often in our society people still see deaf people as ignorant people.

At the end of this year 2021 and the beginning of 2022 during the Christmas and New Year holidays some deaf people from poor families were surprised to find food assistance which was provided by FHR staff on the support from DeafReach/UK. This were made them to be very happy for that food assistance with their families, this food assistance also help them to enjoy merry Christmas and new year of 2022



02.The table showed the offered food

No	Food taken	Quantity	families	Quantity taken of each family
01	Peanuts flour	30 kg	15	2kg
02	Rice	150 kg	15	10kg
03	Corns flour	300kg	15	20kg
04	Oil	45 litters	15	3 litters
05	Saladin	75cups	15	5 cups
06	Salt	15kg	15	1kg

03.The Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this food assistance are 15 families included 56 Deaf people with their families member who is located in the Area where the Umutara Deaf school operating.

04.Actions done.

- To Visit each family and find out what problems you have
- To take a look at the positive impacts this support will bring in the family.

- To prepare a day to come to grab food and explain to them the purpose of the grant.
- To teach them different ways one can get out of extreme poverty.

05. testimony of

NIYONTEZE Janviere.



She has had deafness since she was born. After 8 years she was born, her father passed away in a bus accident and in the next four years, her mother was married to another man. After that, a girl was brought to her grandfather who has 72 years old and grandmother who has 68 years old in order to be raised with them.

This family she is included, live in miserable life because they have no one to take care of them except this girl who is still 18 years old with her child of 3 years who gave birth at home and is unable to fully explain the father of a child because she was raped.

This girl is the only one who can feed her grandparents because she is the one who has the power to support the family. Given her strength and ability she has, finding a job that would help her to support her family is difficult because of her communication problem with others in her local area that requires her to go through people's homes every day in search of a job of farming, to clean clothes with a child in her back search at least 500 francs that can support her family once time.

Due to his inability to communicate with people because she is using local sign language, she didn't access education. In many places she apply for a job and they start laughing at her the younger children like to surround him and thus make him feel unhappy, which make her to say she don't like the people who speaks. As soon as he received the food donation she was given as Christmas and New Year gifts she was very happy which made him express her emotions as things amazing her and that he could add nothing but tears and laughter when there is a good action done for her.

NYIRARUKUNDO Jaqueline:



The 24-year-old girl is deaf also is an orphan without both parents because they were all killed by AIDS at different times. The medical tests have also shown that she was born with HIV. Now she lives with the second wife his father left who is also infected with the aids virus and the other three children of that woman.

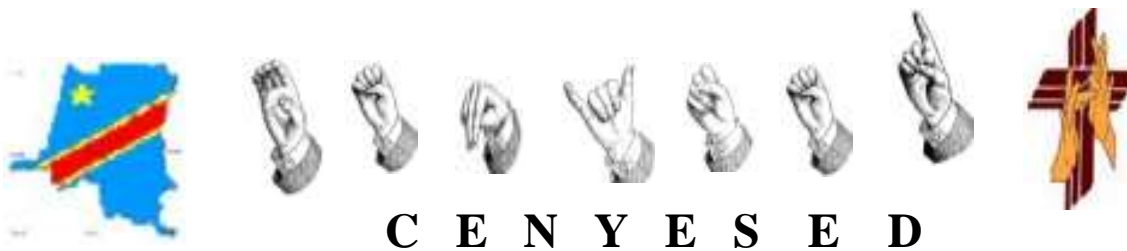
Jacqueline tried to study at the UDS in the tailoring department but failed to continue her studies due to the physical ability she had and also her father who was living with her has already died which requested her to back home to take care of her siblings. Because of the AIDS virus appears to have greatly affected their family, they live in a terrible situation where their neighbours took decision of feeding them during the day.

In the family of 5 people Jacqueline is the one who seems to be the one who has the power to try to find another way to support the family when she gets a job that doesn't require much effort and she works hard to get soap, oil, water and electricity for home use. Their neighbours try to stay close to them but when they forget sometimes they like to miss dinner during evening.

06.Conclusion :

The Families of children with hearing and speech disabilities thanked all those involved in this care for the poor families for the people with deafness at this time of end year especially at Christmas and a new year of 2022 and wished that this program would be an action that can be at end of every year. They get time for wishing FHR and DR members the best of luck in their work and advocacy activities.

Congo Report



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DISTRIBUTION RAPPORT

CENYESSED being as a non-profit organization which is located in the DRC in the Province of North Kivu more precisely in the city of Goma. Received support for its members and deaf and deaf blind children from an international organization called Deaf Reach as part of the end of year festivities.

Activity flow

The activities took place in an atmosphere of tranquility with staff and CENYESSED members.

After receiving the support from Deaf Reach, CENYESSED proceeded with the distribution to the beneficiaries as follows

Beneficiaries: The distribution involved all CENYESSED members affected by volcano and covid and deaf children located in Goma Masisi and Rutshuru for Marry christmas.

1. In Goma

In Goma the distribution took place on December from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each member was entitled to a 10 kg of beans, rice, mais and powder soaps. A total of 20 families including five people per family which gives us a large number of beneficiaries 100.





After the distribution, the deaf thanked CENYSED's partners, including DEAF REACH, who supported this activity during the period of the festivities.

2. In Masisi affected by covid

During this activity, CENYSED MASISI organizes a party together means that the supervisors share with the students and some family members including the parents of the deaf. In total there were 150 people: 60 deaf, 74 parents, 6 teachers, three deaf-blind and their parents and four local guests.



In this celebration, the deaf people of Masisi affected by COVID took the opportunity to say thank you to the Deaf Reach organization for their humanitarian aid.

3. Rutshuru

In Rutshuru also as usual the deaf people celebrate together during the end of the year period so they got together a total of 130 people including 60 deaf children who study there, 30 deaf adults, 25 parents of the deaf, 7 teachers and 8 guests.



All the deaf people were moved with joy after the distribution and thanked DeafReach very much for supporting the deaf people of CENYESED.

List expend

La désignation	Quantité	PU \$	PT \$
Sac Riz	20	20	320
Sac maais	20	20	320
Haricot 160 kg	1	160	160
Powder soaps	5	10	50
Transport		50	50
Party for merry Christmas Rutshuru and Masisi:		240	240
LE TOTAL			1300

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January 2022

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