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Newsletter July 2023 - The Friends of Butoke Charity (Registered Charity no. 1140094)

How much did you raise in 2022?

Welcome to The Friends of Butoke Charity's annual newsletter in which we look back on last year and tell you how things are going this year.

In 2022 the Charity's income was £30,005. We sent a total of £34,815 to Butoke to support its work (we held some funds over from the previous year for specific projects). A big 'thank you' to everyone who contributed, whether by donating each month, supporting one-off projects, sponsoring Paul's 3-Peaks adventure or buying Christmas cards. 100% of your donation is sent directly to Butoke. The running costs of the Charity are covered by the trustees.

The cost-of-living crisis has reduced the Charity's income this year. If you'd like to make a one-off donation, just press the button below to be taken to our JustGiving page.

[**Click here for JustGiving**](#)

In numbers...

Since the beginning of 2022 your donations have helped Butoke to:

- Organise schooling for over 1500 children.
- Provide life-saving medical care for over 10,000 people (mainly children).
- Feed 100s of malnourished children.

- Provide seeds and training to over 3000 subsistence farmers.
 - Ensure clean drinking water for over 20,000 people by refurbishing capped springs.
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Some of the children Butoke cares for at its orphanage and feeding centre in Tshikaji.

The Elsa Corp Justice Project

The Elsa Corp Justice Project helped 14 rape survivors in 2021/2022. The Corp family generously renewed their support and a further six girls and women have been helped so far in 2023. The survivors, some as young as 15, are provided with legal and medical assistance, alongside psychological support and basic necessities such as food, clothing and medicines (they are often destitute when they contact Butoke).

Butoke believes that this work is important not only because it helps the individual survivors, but because it helps combat the culture of impunity from which perpetrators of sexual violence often benefit in the DRC. Due to the Elsa Corp Justice Project, a number of offenders have been prosecuted and imprisoned. This is far from normal in

the DRC, and Butoke believes that the communities in which the offenders lived have taken note.



Women's empowerment is at the heart of everything Butoke does. Butoke insists on women being involved in the leadership of its agricultural associations, and sponsors female students to University.

The main activities of Butoke in 2022

Education: Butoke operates two six-classroom school complexes, both including primary and secondary education, along with vocational training in agriculture, tailoring and mechanics. Once again, 100% of students passed the state-run primary education exams.

Butoke also supports several university students who, after graduating, will return to support the community. Two of those in Kinshasa graduated this year, with degrees in

communication and law. Others are studying nursing, paediatrics, nutrition, agriculture and rural development.

Healthcare: Butoke operates the Musue Bantue Health Centre as well as the Maternity Unit in Tshimbundu (which also provides general medical services). It also operates a small health post in Tshikaji. Many in the DRC die of preventable illnesses like malaria, tetanus and numerous waterborne diseases. As such, the clinics focus on training in preventative care and public-health education.

The maternity clinic in Tshimbundu is rudimentary, but offers essential ante-natal and childbirth services that would otherwise be unavailable. 29-year-old Ntumba Kabongo, who gave birth in the clinic, said: *'We have a delivery bed, which is not available anywhere in our area; we are the first and lucky women to have such a bed in the maternity hospital. The payment is much cheaper than in other maternity wards where women give birth on cots or mats. I will come back again to give birth on this bed. Anyway, Butoke, thank you!'*

Orphanage and shelter for the elderly: Butoke continues to operate an orphanage and shelter for the elderly. It generally has about 30 young people who are residents and around another 20 who live with foster families but who are fed by Butoke. There are usually around ten elderly people living in the shelter for the elderly.

Spring development: Butoke has worked to cap springs in the area, providing water for the local community. The provision of clean water has led to an observed decrease in cases of water-borne diseases. Butoke also works to build straight, properly cleared paths to the capped springs, which help prevent snake-bites and sexual violence targeted at those collecting water.

One resident, Mama Meyi said: *'In Tshimbundu, for the first time in the history of our community, we have just watched the construction of a spring cap and with it, the end of water-borne diseases. With the well-weeded path, we are now drawing water day and night without fear of snakes or rapists.'*

Agriculture: Butoke works with 75 farmers' associations, providing seeds and training. Butoke insists that women are involved in the management committees of its association partners. This year Butoke reported a particularly good harvest, including high amounts of soy and beans, which will help reduce rates of malnutrition

amongst children in the community.

Fish farming: Butoke introduced fish farming to a number of its association partners to increase the amount of protein available to villagers. It provided training and technical assistance to over 270 fish farmers last year.



Pictured: An agricultural association and an assembly of Tshimbundu students.

Butoke in 2023 - how you could help

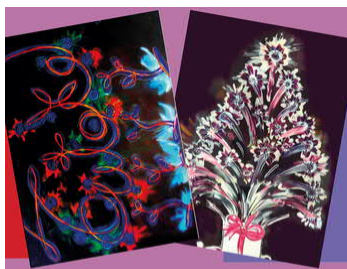
Due to the war in Ukraine, Butoke's running costs have increased significantly. In particular, the cost of fuel and foodstuffs has risen. If you are able to make an additional donation, we have set up a Just Giving page you can use - the button is higher up this newsletter. Alternatively, if you are one of our regular donors, we would be very grateful if you were able to increase your standing order.

If you're not a regular donor, but you'd like to become one, please send Paul an email at paulevans@blueyonder.co.uk and we will send you details of how to set up a standing order.

Easyfundraising is a great way to help the Charity raise funds at no cost to yourself. Many big online retailers (John Lewis and booking.com, for example) will make a small donation when you visit their website through the [easyfundraising.portal](#). Over the last 4 years the Charity has received £1127.73 in this way. Firefox has an [add on](#)

which will tell you when you visit a website that will make donations via easyfundraising.

Christmas Cards. We raised £1500 from the sale of Christmas cards in 2022. Thank you to all who bought some. Some stock remains. If you'd like to stock up, they're going at a discount price of £5 plus postage. Email Paul with orders or questions about which cards are available.



Just remind me again, what does Butoke do?

Butoke is a small NGO working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Its core activities are to run several schools, two big and one small clinics, an orphanage, and a food security programme. The on the ground expertise comes from a medical team lead by Dr Jean Lumbala, who is also a trained agronomist. The Friends of Butoke Charity raises funds to help Butoke continue its activities. We have four trustees: Matthew Pollard, Adriane Pollard, Marleen Tiemens and Paul Evans. Our accounts are independently examined each year and copies of the independent examiner's reports are available on request.

More information about Butoke's activities are available on [our website](#).

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