

## **Quaker Congo Partnership UK**

Charity No. 1159781

Address: Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

[www.quakercongo.org.uk](http://www.quakercongo.org.uk)

### **Annual Report for the Year 2017**

**Trustees:** Catherine Putz, Margaret Gregory (co-clerks), Andrew Gregory (Treasurer), Tim Brown, Amy Ellis, Hannah Morrow, Lynn Norbury, Nick Tischler, Nigel Watt. A new trustee, Paul Simon was appointed in June 2017

Manchester & Warrington and Cambridgeshire Area Quaker Meetings have the right to appoint trustees. Additional trustees are appointed through adverts through Quaker circles and are Quakers or people in sympathy with Quakerism and supportive of the work we are doing.

Trustees are asked to complete a fit and proper person declaration, and to declare any possible conflicts of interest. In 2017 Trustees met three times and maintained regular contact through phone and email.

#### **Charitable Purposes**

These are to support the community work of CEEACO (Community of Evangelical Churches of Friends in the Congo) in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. This is an unstable area with periodic incursions by militias. There was significant unrest in the area in August and September 2017. Our projects are the community hospital at Abeka; CEPAP (Centre for Peace Education and Psychosocial Assistance), which provides counselling for victims of violence and rape, support and education for vulnerable young people, and peace education in a number of communities; and a microcredit project giving loans to women. In addition from 2015-2017 we have funded locally managed work to supply clean water to the Community Hospital and Village of Abeka.

#### **Reporting**

The trustees receive quarterly reports and accounts including receipts from our partner CEACCO through their local management group. These demonstrate how the money has been spent and what has been achieved. In 2017 three trustees visited for a week, saw the work and had full discussions with the staff and management group. We were greeted with great warmth and it makes our work more effective to have face to face discussions and to see the projects for ourselves.

The trustees report to individual donors, Quaker Meetings and donating trusts through a newsletter published about 3 times a year, and meet with groups when this is possible.

A large Quaker residential gathering was held in August 2017 and QCP UK ran a workshop and a stall which helped increase visibility.

#### **Achievements in 2017**

The new water supply is in use with standpipes within easy reach of all parts of the village. The hospital now has showers, washbasins and a large sink/laundry for clothes washing. Since clean water became available hospital admissions for waterborne diseases have fallen to 8% of the previous level. In addition to the support of orphans and people who have been traumatised by violence, the CEPAP team have started a peace education and community-building project working with some of the more isolated communities on the high plateau and with refugees from Burundi. A literacy and vocational training programme has started. It is

hoped that improved literacy will give the women the confidence to take a greater part in community life and to run businesses

We found that the local Quaker church is working with great commitment, courage and modesty to support the whole community in difficult circumstances. We have agreed to continue to assist them/extend our partnership agreement for another three years at least from January 2019