

# 2023 Annual Report



It was a joy in 2023 to partner with Life Edifying Ministries Africa (LEMA) to begin work with a new street children's project in Busia, Uganda, near the border with Kenya.

# Comfort International (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC030369)

Contents of the Annual Report and Financial Statement for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

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### **Headlines**

- War in DR Congo displaces hundreds of thousands and Comfort Congo placed under severe pressure
- New Street Kids Rescue projects at Kanombe, Kigali and Busia, Uganda.
- Support begins for Good News International's Joy Centre vocational training
- Major Funding received in partnership for Child Soldiers Vocational Training
- £478,459 sent to projects in Africa



2023 witnessed desperate need in DRC as fighting spread and intensified. A major effort with partners Comfort Congo has seen four schools being built through the year, one finished and three still in progress at the end of 2023. This is Kambize primary school during construction.

# Preface

2023 was again a year in which we were privileged to work with partners in the transformation of lives and communities. In the midst of challenges such as displacement, drug and crime affected street children, rape and child-soldiering, our partners have continued to show commitment and diligence in their work, and God has empowered and blessed them in that.

With our highest ever amount being sent to Africa we were encouraged through the year with the generosity and volunteer support of so many.

We continue to work closely with Comfort International Brasil whose main work is focussing on recruiting sponsors and project partners. This report also reflects their input and support.

#### Thanks

Our **volunteers** are wonderful. Without them we would not exist but with them we can accomplish so much. It has been good to have them on board and adding so much to our work through their commitment.

We are privileged to have a **staff** team who work with a sense of calling and a passion for the work. They understand the need for their work and apply themselves consistently to the end of empowering our partners to meet those needs and help bring a hope and a future to so many.

**Our partners** in Rwanda, D.R. Congo, Burundi, South Sudan and Uganda have inspired us through the year. We admire them greatly and continue to pledge our support for the amazing work they do.

**Comfort International Brasil** continue to work voluntarily to raise funds for the work and we appreciate their important contribution to what we do.

**Our donors, sponsors, Foundation Makers and funders**. To all of you we are deeply grateful. Sometimes we are totally blown away by what you do and what you give. You fulfil the Kingdom of God's mandate to bring good news to the poor and you are thanked, prayed for, and appreciated by those your support helps.

**Rob James**. Thank you, Rob, again, for your pleasurable approach and execution of voluntary accounts work. Thank you, Iain, for so much you have done to run the finances with skill and goodwill.

**Cowan Print.** Your willingness to support our work and your good heart towards those who are in such great need of resources to help build a better future for themselves and their families and communities, is gladly appreciated.

As a Christian charity we believe in **God's** gracious leading, support, provision and wisdom for ourselves and our partners and register our deep thanks to Him for that.

# **Charity Details & Governance**

Registered office	Main office
23 Lochty Street	14-15 Carron House
Carnoustie	Cumbernauld
DD7 6EE	G67 1ER

**Bank** Co-operative Bank Gordon Street, Glasgow Website: www.comfortinternational.org

# **Independent Auditor**

Nelson Gilmour Smith, Chartered Accountants and statutory auditor Mercantile Chambers, 53 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, G2 6TB

# **Charity Status**

Comfort International was formed in September 1999 and established as a charitable organisation under the name Comfort Rwanda on 28 April 2000. It became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 17 December 2014 and its name was changed to Comfort International on 6 March 2018. The charity is governed by a Constitution.

# Governance

Comfort International is overseen by a trustees' team (Board) comprised in 2023 financial year

Archie Bathgate (Chair) Derek Patterson (Deputy Chair) Iain Cavin (treasurer) Izzy Henderson (Secretary) Billy McClung Callum Henderson

# **Charitable purposes and activities**

The organisation is established for charitable purposes only and the objects are:

The prevention or relief of poverty and the promotion of development amongst needy persons in Rwanda, The Democratic Republic of Congo and such other countries as the trustees decide.

The support of the Christian church in Rwanda, The Democratic Republic of Congo and such other countries as the trustees decide.

The advancement of reconciliation in Rwanda, The Democratic Republic of Congo and such other countries as the trustees decide.

Our values are Redemption, Partnership, Sustainability and Integrity. Our vision is to see wholeness, purpose and unity restored in people and communities across the nations of the world through the powerful love and practical action of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Our mission is to help rebuild lives devastated by poverty, genocide and conflict in the nations the world.

#### **Partners**

Our African partners, in alphabetical order, at the close of 2023 consist of:

Africa Hope Ministries	Principal contact – Theophile Rugabira		
Comfort Burundi	Overseen by Comfort Rwanda, in-country team leader Hakizimana Claude		
Comfort Congo ASBL	Principal contact – Dieudonné Mugongo		
Comfort International Ministry School	Principal contacts – Wejuli Fred (Uganda) Rukerandanga Gerard (Burundi)		
Comfort Rwanda (registered as Building Better Nation) Principal contact – Gasana David			
Comfort South Sudan	Overseen by Comfort Rwanda, in-country team leaders, Zacharie, Jacqueline & Jennifer Queen		
Good News International	Principal contact – Kayumba Ben		
Life Edifying Ministries Africa	Principal contact – Wejuli Fred		
Solace Ministries	Principal contact – Gakwandi Jean		
The Living Church	Principal contact – Ndahigwa Paul.		

#### Personnel

During 2023 Peter McLean, our church relationship manager left his post. Ailidh Alvim (communications and publicity) and Rebecca Ndombe (operations), who began work in the second half of 2022 settled in well and have been a great asset to the charity. In November Ailidh travelled to Brazil for a year where she continues to carry out her work remotely.

At the end of the year we took on Thomas Nkonjera to support our fundraising and Chris Hoskins who became Creative Manager. We looked forward to having them build our capacity as a charity.

# **Risk Management**

The trustees recognise the need to identify, assess and manage risks to the charity's assets, including its staff, volunteers, finance and reputation.

The trustees have entrusted the day-to-day risk management of the workplace and operations of the charity to the operations manager.

The trustees recognise the requirement to ensure funding provided to partners is appropriately used and accounted for and require overseas partners to suitably provide evidence for this.

The trustees recognise the particular difficulties concerning travel to high-risk areas. They accept that the charity is set up to support those in situations of conflict or unrest and that visiting partners and project members operating under those conditions is an important sign of solidarity and support. They seek to gather and provide all available information pertaining to those risks, including that from partners operating on the ground as well as international and governmental channels and produce regularly updated risk assessments for this.

The trustees also recognise that the urgency of the work they are overseeing requires a certain level of risk through expending charity resources rather than conserving them. They have sought to create a balance between a reasonable level of reserves and a quick turnaround for income to reach projects. The reserves policy is available on request.

As a faith-based organisation the trustees recognise that there is a requirement on them to operate in faith and therefore, in some circumstances, to make decisions of support which require resources beyond those that can be foreseen.

The trustees do not consider investment of the charity's financial resources in trusts, bonds etc. at this time to be commensurate with the risk of life impoverishing resource poverty to potential project members should such funds be squirrelled away at present.

By requiring frequent financial reporting from the treasurer at all trustees' meetings the trustees believe that any decisions which endanger the financial resources of the charity can be quickly identified and remedied.

A new risk in 2023 was identified as the Cumbernauld Town Centre was slated for demolition. This is unlikely to take place until 2028 but we are aware that alternative arrangements for office accommodation may be needed. At this point we continue to be pleased with the arrangements for the Cumbernauld Town Centre office and do not expect to move in the next 24 months.

	Information Charity Name: (		Abbreviated Finance		Charity No		
CHARITY					(if any)	SC030369	
COMMISSION		A	nnual accou	nts for the	1	31 Dec	CC17a
12 diseased and	Period start Jate		1 Jan 23	То	Period end date	23	
Section A		Sta	tement of	financia	al activitie	S	
Recommended	Details of	te		Restricted		Total this	Total loot
categories by activity	Details of own analysis	Note	Unrestricted funds £	income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Incoming resource	es (Note 3)		<b>ہ</b> F01	F02	F03	<b>ہ</b> F04	F05
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Voluntary income		S01	139,440	381,929	-	521,369	410,644
Activities for generating funds		S02	131,828	-	-	131,828	45,146
Investment income		S03	254	-	-	254	22
Incoming resources from charitable activities		S04	3,270	-	_	3,270	4,374
Other incoming		504					
resources		S05	360	-	-	360	1,338
	ng resources	S06	275,152	381,929	-	657,081	461,524
Resources expend 8) Costs of Generating Funds	ded (Notes 4-						
Costs of generating voluntary income		S07	62,128	-	-	62,128	28,188
Fundraising trading costs		S08	50,877	2,400	-	53,277	105,306
Investment management costs		S09	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		S10	191,255	363,645	-	554,900	365,393
Governance costs		S11	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,200
Other resources expended		S12	-	-	-	-	-
Total resource	es expended	S13	305,460	366,045	-	671,505	500,087
	ning/(outgoing) efore transfers	S14	(30,308)	15,884	_	(14,424)	(38,563)
Gross transfers be		S14 S15	-	10,001	-	-	- (00,000)
	ning/(outgoing)						
	es before other gains/(losses)	S16	(30,308)	15,884	-	(14,424)	(38,563)
Other recognised							
gains/(losses)	rovoluction of	I					
Gains and losses on fixed assets for the ch							
use Gains and losses on i	investment	S17	-	-	-	-	-
assets	investment	S18	-	-	-	-	-
Net mover	ment in funds	S19	(30,308)	15,884	-	(14,424)	(38,563)
Total funds broug		S20	35,079	26,070	-	61,149	99,712
Total funds/(d			A 774	44.054		40 705	04 4 40
	forward	S21	4,771	41,954	-	46,725	61,149

Section B		Ba	ance she	et			
				Restricted			
		Note	Unrestricted funds	income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
<b>-</b>			£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets			F01	F02	F03	F04	F05
Tangible assets	(Note 9)	B01	-	-	-	-	-
• · · ·		B02	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	(Note 10)	B03	-	-	-	-	-
	tal fixed assets	B04	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets							
Stock and work in I		B05	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	(Note 11)	B06	44,386	-	-	44,386	32,527
(Short term) invest		B07	7 202		-	-	-
Cash at bank and in		B08	7,293	41,954	-	49,247	48,384
lotal	current assets	B09	51,679	41,954	-	93,633	80,911
<b>O</b> me all'temps and a surface	fallin a dua						
Creditors: amounts within one year	(Note 12)	B10	46,908	_	_	46,908	9,762
within one year		ыu	+0,000		_	+0,000	5,702
Net current ass	sets/(liabilities)	B11	4,771	41,954	-	46,725	71,149
		2	,	,	1	-, -	, -
Total asse	ets less current						
	liabilities	B12	4,771	41,954	-	46,725	71,149
Creditors: amounts							
after one year	(Note 12)	B13	-	-	-	-	10,000
Provisions for liabi	lities and						
charges		B14	-	-	-	-	-
Not as	sets/(liabilities)	B15	4,771	41,954	-	46,725	61,149
Funds of the Charit	. ,	DIJ	1,771	11,001		10,720	01,110
Unrestricted funds	•	D1C	4,771			4,771	35,079
onnestricted runus		B16	4,771				
Restricted income	funds (Note	B17			]		
13)		B18		41,954		41,954	26,070
Endowment funds	(Note 13)	B19		•	-	-	-
	(	BIO					
Total f	funds/(deficit)	B20	4,771	41,954	-	46,725	61,149
	. ,						
	tatements were						
	the board of				Print N	amo	Date of
trustees and author on 26 September 2			Signature		PIIII	aille	approval
signed on behalf of t							
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		-(), (0), (0)				26-Sen-

Call Hendlon	Callum Henderson	26-Sep- 24
10_	lain Cavin	26-Sep- 24

# Notes to the accounts

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# Note 3 Analysis of incoming resources

Incoming resources may be further analysed if this would help the reader of the accounts.

	Analysis	This year £	Last year £
Voluntary income	Analysis Unrestricted funds	۲.	<b>۲</b>
Voluntary income	All General Donations	95 190	94.005
	Gift Aid	85,189	84,095
	Subtotal unrestricted funds	54,251	59,052
	Subtotal unrestricted funds	139,440	143,147
	Restricted funds		
	Rwanda - GNI Income	30,114	11,581
	Rwanda - Living Church income	9,033	7,179
	Rwanda - Comfort Rwanda	121,076	99,321
	Rwanda - Solace Support	23,779	22,185
	Rwanda - Transformation Centre	13,523	12,856
	Comfort International Ministry School	7,394	3,547
	Congo	156,690	81,875
	South Sudan	10,271	11,519
	Burundi	7,649	15,034
	Salary support	2,400	2,400
	Subtotal Restricted funds	381,929	267,497
	Total	521,369	410,644
		o 4 o o o	
Activities for generating funds	Group visit income	81,939	-
Tunas	Income from activity of Comfort Rwanda shops:	49,514	45,087
	Book sales	375	59
	Total	131,828	45,146
Investment income	Bank interest	254	22
		234	
	Total	254	22
Incoming resources from	Craft Sales	3,270	4,374
charitable activities			
	Total	3,270	4,374
		5,210	T,07 T

# Section C (cont)

# Notes to the accounts

# Note 4 Analysis of resources expended

Resources expended may be further analysed if this would help the reader of the accounts.

. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	inner analysed in this would help the read	This year	Last year
	Analysis	£	£
Costs of generating voluntary income	Wages and Salaries	62,128	28,188
	Total	62,128	28,188
Fundraising trading costs	Property costs	25,684	22,095
	Admin costs	7,289	13,125
	Wages and Salaries	16,998	64,511
	Other	3,306	5,575
	Total	53,277	105,306
Charitable activities	Unrestricted funds		
	Donations to:		
	Rwanda GNI support	5,951	2,625
	Rwanda Living Church support	-	-
	Rwanda Comfort Rwanda support	-	-
	Rwanda Solace support	3,703	-
	Rwanda Transformation Centre	-	-
	Comfort International Ministry School	14,371	26,154
	Congo support	76,147	74,378
	South Sudan support	6,689	8,304
	Burundi support	5,206	387
	Income Generation support	2,747	4,155
	Group visit expenditure	76,441	
	Subtotal Unrestricted funds	191,255	116,003
	Restricted funds		
	Donations to:		
	Rwanda GNI support	30,114	11,581
	Rwanda Living Church support	5,688	7,179
	Rwanda Comfort Rwanda support	111,510	99,321
	Rwanda Solace support	23,779	22,185
	Rwanda Transformation Centre	9,073	-
	Comfort International Ministry School	7,394	3,547
	Congo support	158,167	79,024
	South Sudan support	10,271	11,519
	Burundi support	7,649	15,034
	Subtotal Restricted funds	363,645	249,390
	Total	554,900	365,393
Covernance costs	T	1	

Governance costs

Total -

#### Section C

#### Notes to the accounts

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#### Note 5 Support Costs

Please complete this note if the charity has analysed its expenses using activity categories and has support costs.

	Fundraising activity	Charitable Activity	Governance Activity	Total Cost
Support cost type	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	-	-	1,200	1,200
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	1,200	1,200

#### Note 6 Details of certain items of expenditure

6.1 Trustee expenses

Please provide details of the amount of any payment or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses made to trustees or to third parties for expenses incurred by trustees. If no expenses were paid, please enter 'None' in the appropriate box(es).

	This year	Last year
Number of trustees who were paid expenses	NONE	NONE
Nature of the expenses	NONE	NONE
Total amount paid	NONE	NONE

6.2 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

Please provide details of the amount paid for any statutory external scrutiny of accounts and other services provided by your independent examiner or auditor. If nothing was paid please enter NONE in the appropriate box(es).

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	1,200	1,200
Other fees (for example: advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	NONE	NONE

Note 7	Paid employee	es e	
Please complete this	note il the chanty	y has any employees.	

#### 7.1 Staff Costs

		This year	Last year
		£	£
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind		72,899	72,137
Employer's National Insurance costs		5,278	5,241
Pension costs		4,549	2,893
	Total staff costs	82,726	80,271
7.2 Average number of full-time equiv year	valent employees in the	This year Number	Last year Number
The parts of the charity in which the	Fundraising	4	4
employees work	Charitable Activities Governance	-	-
	Other	-	-
	Total	4	4

7.3 Defined contribution pension scheme

Brief details of the scheme	Comfort International operates under the Smart Pensions Workplace Pension scheme		
		This year	Last year
		£	£
The costs of the scheme to the charing	ty for the year	4,549	2,893
The amount of any contributions out	standing at the year end	-	-

# Note 8GrantmakingPlease complete this note if the charity made any grants or donations which in aggregate form a

Please complete this note if the charity made any grants or donations which in aggregate form a material part of the charitable activities undertaken.

#### 8.1 Total value of grants

		Grants to institutions	Grants to individuals
Purpose for which grants made		Total amount £	Total amount £
Congo support		234,314	
Rwanda Street Kids Rescue		22,111	
Rwanda Transformation Centre		9,073	
Rwanda Comfort Babies		37,766	
Rwanda GNI support		36,065	
Rwanda Solace support		27,482	
Rwanda Living Church support		5,688	
Rwanda Batsinda Street Kids		15,224	
South Sudan support		16,960	
Rwanda Gasanze Street Kids		13,742	
Rwanda Nyabasindu Street Kids Rescue		10,865	
Rwanda Comfort School Leaver Support		3,106	
Comfort International Ministry School		21,765	
Burundi support		12,855	
Gatenga Street Kids		6,618	
Rwanda Kanombe		1,649	
Rwanda crafts		2,747	
Rwanda Other		429	
·	Total	478,459	_

#### 8.2 Grantmaking costs

If the charity's accounts are prepared on the "activity basis" please give details of any support cost associated with grantmaking. Please enter "Nil" if the charity does not identify and/or allocate support costs.

#### Support costs of grantmaking

#### 8.3 Grants made to institutions

If the charity has made grants to particular institutions that are material in the context of its grantmaking please give details of the institution supported, purpose of the grant and total paid to each institution listed. Sufficient information should be given to provide a reasonable understanding of the range of institutions supported.

£

Names of institutions	Purpose	Total amount of grants paid £
Comfort Congo	Provision of support for the poor in Democratic Republic of Congo	234,314
Comfort Burundi	Provision of support for the poor in Burundi	12,855
Comfort South Sudan	Provision of support for the poor in South Sudan	16,960
Living Church	Provision of support for poor	5,688
Good News International	Provision of support for poor	36,065
Solace	Support for individuals and groups of genocide survivors	27,482
Life Edifying Ministries Africa and Elim Church Ngozi	Interdenominational Training for Pastors	21,765
Comfort Rwanda	Provision of support for the poor in Rwanda	123,330

# **Financial Notes and Highlights**

- 1 Overall income rose to our highest ever at £657,081
- 2 Voluntary income increased by 27% to £521,369.
- 3 £478,459 sent to projects in Africa, our highest ever amount.
- 4 Movement in 'Costs of generating voluntary income' and 'Fundraising trading costs' reflect a change in the allocation of staff salaries to better reflect work carried out.
- 5 Overall staffing costs were marginally up on the previous year.
- 6 The increase in creditors due on the balance sheet reflects funds held for 2024 trips.
- 7 Funding (Expenditure) for Good News International increased substantially due to new project funding for the Feeding Programme and the Joy Centre TVET.
- 8 Funding for Comfort Rwanda also increased as projects continued to grow.
- 9 A major grant of £45,108 from the Cornerstone Trust for Child Soldiers vocational training facilities contributed to a large increase in Comfort Congo funds, although there was further growth in income beyond that grant.

Funds for development went to:

Comfort Congo	49%	Living Church	1%
Comfort Rwanda	25%	Solace Ministries	6%
CIMS	5%	Good News Int.	8%
South Sudan	3%	Burundi	3%

# **Going Concern**

Although there continues to be strong pressure on available funds because of the scale of need our partners face, the trustees consider the charity to be in good financial health and to be a going concern for the foreseeable future.

The Trustees have set a target of having £25,000 of unrestricted funds (free reserves). Currently the unrestricted funds are £4,771. The Restricted funds of the charity are £41,954

# **Project Highlights and Developments**

#### Rwanda

Our support for Good News International's (GNI) Joy Centre vocational training developed into sponsorship for thirty students from resource poor backgrounds. Outcomes have been good with employment secured by most graduates of the six-month training cycle.

Significant support for health insurance for GNI members and also resource poor people in Mubuga sector in Karongi district was given. Part of this was a response to severe flooding in the area which diverted resources in the area to an emergency flood response. We also responded to the flooding with support given for food and housing repairs.

We continue to sell the crafts made by the GNI survivors' Dufashanye craft group and have developed a web-shop to promote those.



Significant progress was made in the building of the Comfort Transformation Centre for street children (see right). The project is our largest to date and still has a long way to go but building work has been steady. The Kicukiro centre (the 'Baby CTC') has been an excellent hub for activities among Comfort Babies and Street Kids Rescue project members.

In October a new Street Kids Rescue project began at Kanombe, near the airport in Kigali. Local authorities, concerned at the drug taking and crime among the street children had approached Comfort Rwanda asking for help. A team from Brechin High School visited the location with Comfort Rwanda and helped launch the new project with an initial intake of 25 children.

The other Street Kids Rescue/Friends of Jesus projects continue to see life transformation and graduation to independent living. A team of Comfort Babies project sponsors visited Rwanda in April with an excellent programme of activities, relationship building and project development taking place.

Sponsorship and finance reports from Comfort Rwanda could be more promptly completed. A finance sub-group was set up to work with Comfort Rwanda to improve financial reporting.

Results from monitoring and evaluation of the Good News International Feeding Projects indicated excellent outcomes. Twenty-three children out of seventy-three attending Birara nursery entered the project with malnutrition, eight of those being severe, and by the end of eight months there were no severe cases and only two with any signs of malnutrition (which disappeared later in the year). At Bisesero school, among children entering the school feeding programme, there was a 41.3% increase in attendance, a 13.7% improvement in grades and an 80% improvement in behaviour.

Aaron (not real name) was attending school around 40% of the time, on average two days a week. His parents and teachers reported him as having bad behaviour. His test marks were down at 30% and he described himself as unhappy. Not being able to eat all day at school takes a toll. Sometimes it was easier just to stay at home, and when in school, it was hard to concentrate.

After being supported to receive daily school meals, Aaron's attendance shot up to 88%. His grades followed and in one term he improved his scores by 38%. Not only that, but everyone noticed a difference in his demeanour. His behaviour improved and he and everyone around him reports that he is much happier.

Projects with Solace Ministries continue, with support for Solace members through sponsorship and for communities at Jari and Rukumberi. Solace Ministries also requested a change from sending Solace members to the Living Church ITVET and we agreed that we would support them to access whichever vocational training worked best for them.

We were not able to find funding for further investment in Africa Hope Initiatives (AHI) solidarity groups but continue to be committed to the partnership.

# D.R. Congo

For the first year DR Congo was the country receiving the highest funding from Comfort International, with the high levels of funding driven by extraordinarily

desperate conditions and needs, including the displacement in the North Kivu area of 1.6 million people.

As well as ongoing increases in core costs as projects expand to meet the need, there were considerable infrastructural developments. At Tongo, 45 miles north of Goma, land and buildings and tools were purchased for a vocational centre for rehabilitating child soldiers. A new Kambize Secondary School was built to help provide school



access to displaced children. Land was bought to build a primary school called Miseracorde in Goma. Rubaya school continued its classroom building but M23 rebel group activity in the area stopped building as the second classroom neared activity.

The Village of Hope was extended with new accommodation for rehabilitating child soldiers.

Fifty children who have had both parents killed and have fled the fighting as orphans, plus another 356 children with malnourishment and/or one or both parents killed were supported by Comfort Congo through a feeding programme at Sake, around 15kms west of Goma. The fifty orphans were looked after at a basic orphanage at Sake and the others were either sleeping on the ground inside churches or looked after by church families.

We continue to support the acquiring of new equipment for the Central Hospital of Rusayu (CHR), including a new operating table for surgery and caesareans, and a garage for the ambulance.

# Burundi

The new project with the Batwa community at Ngozi had success and challenge. The purchase of cattle in the early part of the year was well received but, with a major purpose of the cattle being the provision of manure for a farming project, a delay in purchasing land for farming led to some discouragement.

# South Sudan

The Child Support Project has witnessed the first graduations of children now living sustainable lives independent of the project. This has mainly been the result of the hard work of the team in building connections with relatives and being able to show how well the child concerned is progressing if given a supportive and caring context.

The project was once again visited by a small group of Comfort International staff and volunteers. As has been the case in recent years, poverty and hunger are very much the backdrop to the project which continues to create expenditure beyond income from sponsorship.

# Comfort International Ministry School & Uganda

The CIMS programme in Uganda is working well with a mixture of online and in-person training and well attended classes. We are working with LEMA to keep an eye on expenditure as costs have crept up. Phil Arbon continues to spearhead this work and once again visited Uganda as well as himself and Callum participating in online training.

In September a group from Love Wales who were teaching part of the CIMS programme in Busia also met some of the street children of Busia. Lea Shaw felt led to respond and the result is a street kids rescue project in Busia with Lea helping find sponsors and promote the project.

In Burundi the progress is slower but still steady with smaller numbers attending and the first completion of the Foundation Certificate should, God willing, occur in 2024.

# Visiting groups

Over the year five groups (Comfort Babies team, Arbroath Academy, Brechin High School, a joint Bishopbriggs Community Church and Sandyhills Parish trip, and a general group, totalling seventy

people, visited partners and projects. The visits continue to receive positive feedback, are a great blessing to our partners and project members and result in significant support for projects.

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Carle Hendon

Signed – 26/9/24

Callum Henderson (Trustee)



Signed - 26/9/24

lain Cavin (Trustee)

Reg Office: 23 Lochty St. Carnoustie, DD7 6EE 07542 731983 Central Office: 14-15 Carron House, Cumbernauld G67 1ER 01236 598274 enquiry@comfortinternational.org Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC030369