



Winter – January 2023

PTPL CO-FOUNDER SHARES TESTIMONIES ABOUT ‘GREAT’ CONGO TRIP



Pictured Above: PTPL co-founder (on the right) with PTPL Microcredit recipient (add her name) in her DRC home.

By Matumaini (Mimi) Furaha

On November 12, 2022 I began my recent great journey to Congo. I flew from Greensboro, NC, to Newark, NJ, to Brussels Belgium. After a layover in Belgium, I took a long flight of about 18 hours to the Bujumbura airport in Burundi where my niece and nephew were waiting for me. The morning of November 14th I left Bujumbura to travel to Congo by taxi.

After I arrived in Uvira, greeted family and friends, and took a short rest, I left for Mboko about 40 kilometers away. It takes about four hours of driving (about 25 miles) because roads are still in bad shape: no pavement, covered by mud and dust, broken bridges, and other results of on-going flooding in the region. War and insecurity also make travel difficult because of frequent military security checks.

OUR MISSION

People to People Liaison empowers families in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo by providing funds for primary and secondary tuition, young adult vocational training, and micro-credit loans to women to grow small businesses.

Cell phones are in use, and WhatsApp and other forms of social media communication are used daily. But power shortages are regular. Transportation is another issue, but people use motorcycles and trucks. Getting a bus is not easy, especially to travel from Uvira, south to Mboko.

In spite of all these difficulties, our partners in PTPL Congo are still doing a good job. The women soap makers are doing impressive work. They started by putting their money together and contacting the vocational school to get trained. Even though the microcredit program is not in operation, some of the women who participated reached their goal. They were able to keep their children in school and build their houses after getting their savings back from the microcredit program.



Pictured Above: A teacher and students in classroom where many PTPL sponsored children attend school.

Meeting with some former PTPL students was a great experience. Three students who finished school with the help of our program told me deeply touching stories about their lives. All three are now working, and two of them are married and have children. I returned to the U.S. December 18th. Based on my observations, I am confident that PTPL is making a difference in the lives of
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women and children and that we should renew the microcredit program, help the vocational school, and provide a small monetary support for some of those doing the training in both programs. The PTPL website has many more pictures from my trip and new audio and video testimonials. I hope you will look at and listen to them and be inspired to continue, and if possible, increase your support. Thank you.

PTPL-DRC REPORTS
SUPPORT FOR 344
STUDENTS
Appeals for Vocational Training

In early January, 2023, PTPL-DRC Executive Secretary, Wabucibwa Bwenge Waim, submitted the following semi-annual report which is partially paraphrased, excerpted, and translated below from the original French.

The school year opened on 05/09/2022 (September 5, 2022) without as many difficulties as previous years despite teacher strikes in some public schools that are still going on. Private schools, where we have a large number of children, are functioning normally. In this report, we will talk about: 1) Education, 2) Finance, 3) Activities carried out, and 4) Suggestions.

I. EDUCATION

In the 2022 – 2023 school year, the program is supporting 344 children including:

- **Fizi area 205 children:** 95 girls and 90 boys in secondary school, and 10 girls and 10 boys in primary. Thirty secondary students are high school finalists.
- **Uvira area 123 children:** 47 girls and 46 boys in secondary and 16 girls and 15 boys in primary. There are 25 finalists in secondary and 4 in primary.
- **Goma area 15 children:** 6 boys and 3 girls in secondary and 4 boys and 2 girls in primary. There are 2 finalists in secondary school, a girl and a boy.
In total, we have 57 finalist students in secondary and 4 in primary school.
- **University of Lubumbashi: 1 student**

These children attend at least 39 different schools, all spread out in different areas. Those in Uvira are the most scattered. In the Fizi area the children are in 13 different schools and in Goma in eight. The vocational training works with the available means (without PTPL funding). For the moment we still have three professions: 1) **welding** with six in training; **carpentry** with five; and 15 in the **soap factory**, 13 of whom are women. There are requests for other trades but no way to offer them. The learners are young adults, especially mothers responsible for households. The soap factory uses equipment that has existed for a long time and needs to be replaced. The women in soap factory

raining want to put the soap they manufacture on the markets to sell, but their capital is below (their) aspirations. We wish we had more subjects to teach to fulfill our mission of placing people at the center of their own development.

II. FINANCE

We received (in September 2022) **\$13,987**, instead of the \$ 14,195 requested. This money has been used in the schooling of 341 children despite this difference of \$208 USD. For the second semester, the budget (is) the same because fees and tuition remain the same. It is difficult for us to budget for the finalists because the amount of participation in the state exams is often decided in February or March. In the second semester, beside exam fees, we need **\$13,745**. The release of funds before the end of this month of January 2023 is of paramount importance due to the fact that a two-month payment is required before exams. Our children will be victimized if they do not make payment by 1/18/2023). Among other things, we had to think about operating costs to allow us to go on the ground to carry out our program.

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Opening Cash Balance	..... \$12,657.49
<u>Receipts</u>	
Donations	..... \$17,770.00
Special Events	.....\$26.12
Grants/Churches	..... \$ 12,900.00
Total Receipts	..... \$30,696.12
<u>Disbursements</u>	
Program Support	
Education	..... \$29,555.00
Wire Fees	..... 18.82
Subtotal Program Support	.. \$29,573.82
PTPL-USA Administrative Expense	
Bank Fees/PayPal Fees	..... \$442.36
Post Office Box	... \$193.60
Postage	..... \$130.18
Printing	..... \$196.55
Supplies	..... \$62.34
Website	..... \$60.15
D&O Insurance.	.. \$1,079.00
Subtotal Administrative	\$2,164.18
Total disbursements \$31,738.00
Current Cash Balance \$11,615.61
(As of 12/31/22)	

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