



Aid to Congo

Muhindo Matata

Democratic Republic of Congo



Dar Es Salaam – the nearest port
It is 1584km to the border at
Burundi, Rwanda.

War in the Congo

- The Congo was a Belgian Colony from 1885 to 1960 when it achieved independence.
- It was known as Zaire from 1971 until 1997 after the 1st Congo War.
- From 1998 to 2003 the country suffered the 2nd Congo War.
- During this war 5.4 million people died.
- 2001 to 2018 Human Rights were very poor.
- There is still conflict in the eastern part of Congo.
- In 2018 an election was held and the country is now mostly peaceful.

Landmines and explosive remnants

- The DRC is contaminated by antipersonnel mines and unexploded ordinance as a result of armed conflict involving neighboring states, militias which has worsened since the late 1990s.
 - Mine contamination limits movement of population and access to water, food, shelter and health services.
 - There is some support provided by the Government but mainly in the major cities. Access to health care is limited.
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- <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/reports/2020/congo,-democratic-republic-of/impact.aspx>

Muhindo Matata

- Muhindo was born in Bukavu the capital city of Southern Kivu then moved to a small rural village, Katogota when he married.
- He migrated to Australia on 2 August 2005 with his wife and 3 daughters.
- They had fled due to the outbreak of war caused by the rebels, who were killing many people. They ran across the river Ruzizi to Burundi and to a refugee camp in Tanzania.
- They settled in Elizabeth Downs, a suburb in the north of Adelaide with a large and diverse multicultural demographic and stayed there until 2014.

South Australia

- In 2012, Muhindo was coaching a local soccer team at the Salisbury Soccer Club. He was then connected to the FFSA.
- In February 2013, Muhindo was employed at the [South Downs Primary School as a Support Worker](#), helping students from a number of African backgrounds.
- He also worked with the African mothers, helping them to learn to speak English.
- He also undertook a number of training and certificate programs to help with his work.



Melton

- In mid 2014, the family decided to move to Victoria and they settled in Melton.
- Muhindo began coaching at the Satellite City Soccer Club.
- He also worked helping African families with language, support and social needs.

Werribee

- In 2020 Muhindo and his family moved to Werribee.
- He started coaching again at Hoppers Crossing Primary School and working with Fatuma (who was of Somali ethnicity) and Daniel.
- He also began working with Helping Hand, Sunshine with people from a number of different ethnic backgrounds.
- He saw the manager throwing away toys and books and asked if he could have them to send back to Congo. He also purchased stationery for students to take.

Donations in Kind

- Muhindo heard about Donations in Kind and arranged to meet with Bob Glindemann and Laurie Fisher who agreed to help.
- Muhindo and his family helped to sort and pack the container.
- They paid for the container and shipping themselves with some help from local community members.



From Footscray to Congo

- There is a desperate need for educational, medical and disability equipment in the Congo. There is little support from the government and the small villages lack the financial resources to provide the health services needed.
- Due to the ongoing wars and landmines, there are many people with ongoing medical needs.
- Containers to DRC go via Dar Es Salaam and then overland to Burundi at the border with Rwanda and Tanzania.
- Shipping is very expensive and so is the land cost.

On the ground

- Muhindo travelled to DRC to oversee distribution of goods.
- This container was filled with wheelchairs, crutches and 4-wheel walkers for children and adults. Additional new clothing, soccer balls, boots, jerseys and books were included.
- Katogota is a small village on the Ruzizi River, about 300km north of Lake Tanganyika.
- Muhindo did not realise the number of people needing help and his supplies were soon exhausted.
- There are so many people with missing limbs due to the landmines.
- There are also children who have suffered from Polio and genetic issues.
- There are many people with disabilities.
- There is little help.

Some of the children



Delphin Mukambilwa is 8 years old.



Ishara Paulo is 5 years-old,
his feet bend backwards.

He was born this way and has not received help until now.



Olive had Polio and cannot walk.

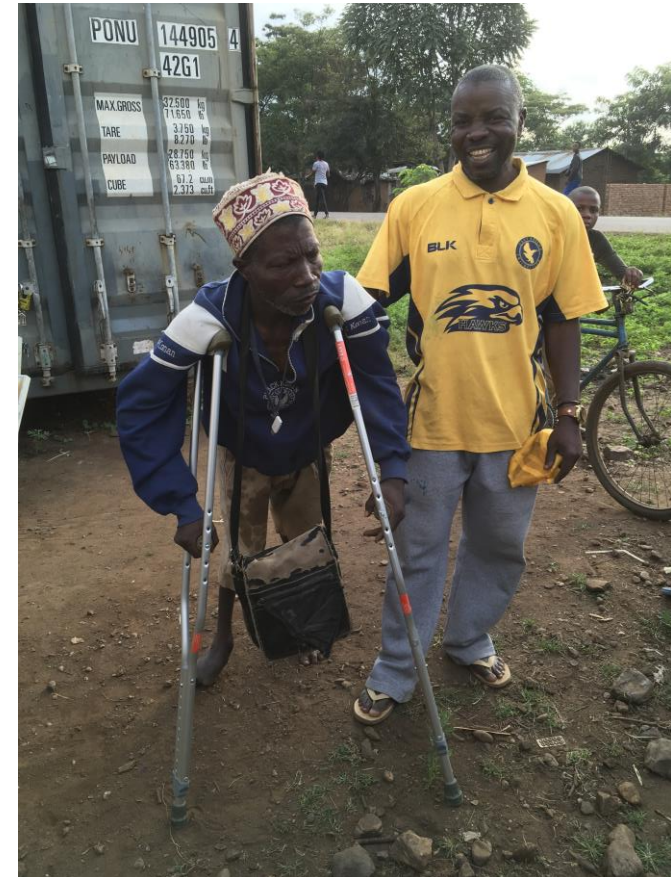
Adults



Amani lost his leg.



Mugishu cannot walk.

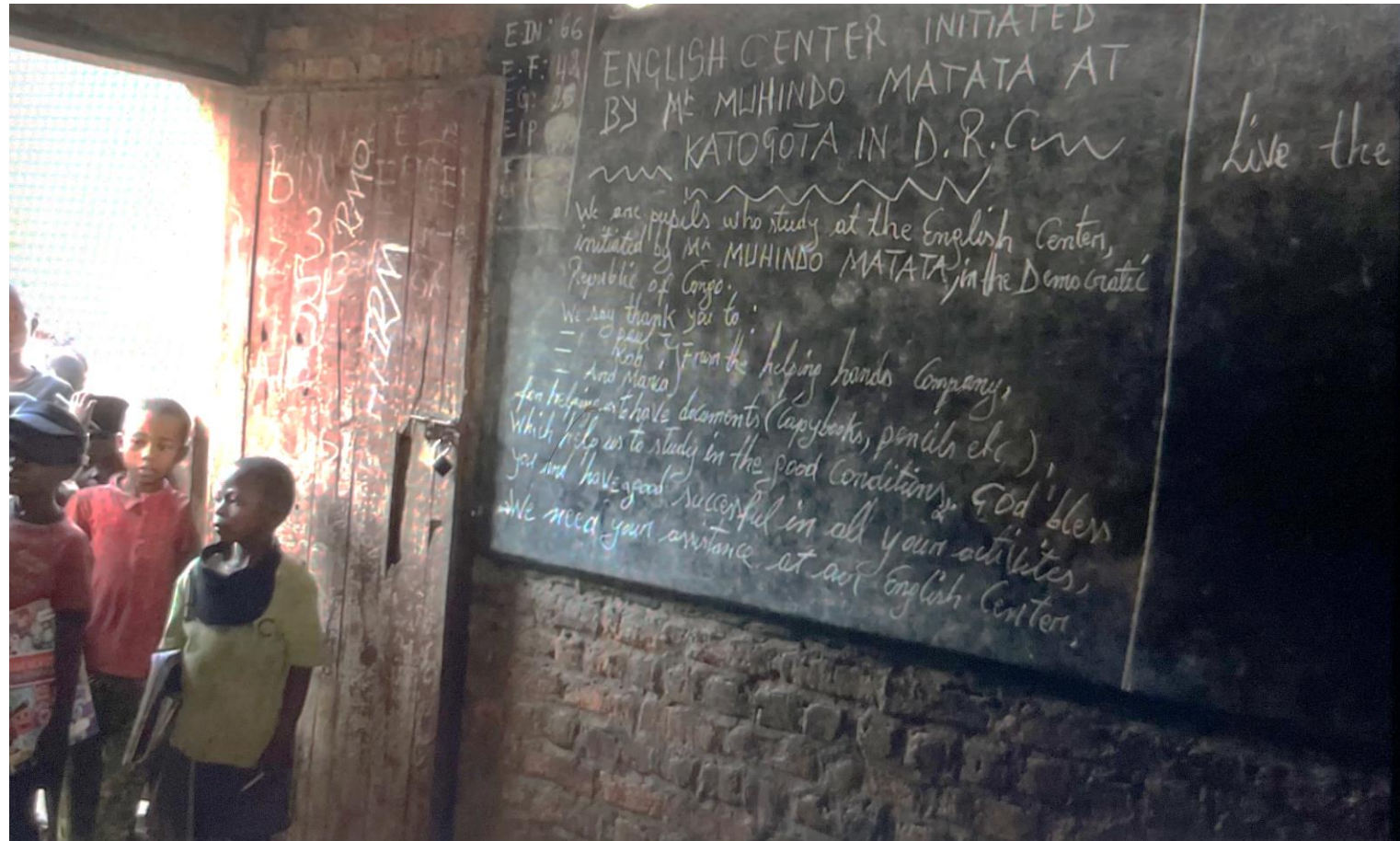


English school

- Muhindo also helped at the school. The national language is French but English is becoming necessary.
- Muhindo taught some of the teachers and children.
- There were some teachers who spoke English and he had them as helpers: Malembo, Theophile and Prosper.
- The Catholic school allowed him to use 6 classrooms for English classes in the afternoons.
- He gave out writing books and pencils.



Thank you Bob and Laurie



Books and soccer balls & jerseys



The next container ...

The wishlist is for:

- wheelchairs, crutches, 3 & 4 wheel walkers, toilet overseats.
- Tables and chairs for the school
- Writing books, pencils and pens, rubbers and rulers
- Fiction storybooks to learn to read
- Soccer balls and jerseys
- New clothing and caps
- computers

Costings

- At this time:
 - Shipping to Dar Es Salaam \$17,000+
 - Port fees \$US5,000+
 - On land transport to the border tbc
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- Bob will apply to Rotary Balwyn for a donation from the community fund.
 - We are asking clubs to contribute to this as a multi-club project.
 - Can your club afford \$1000-\$2000?

A valuable multi-club project

- We are currently planning for early 2023.
- All clubs are encouraged to participate.
- Any amount is welcomed.
- All clubs will be acknowledged.
- DiK has a plethora of equipment and supplies to fill this 40' container now.
- Contact Bob Glindemann at Donations in Kind or Lesley McCarthy, Rotary Flemington Kensington.