MISSION ECHO

UNITED EVANGELICAL MISSION AFRICA REGION

Issue No 48 | July - December 2022





UEM BRINGS TOGETHER YOUTHS "Twen'zetu kwa Yesu"

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers of the Mission Echo, we are grateful to the Almighty God for keeping us serving the Christian community day to day and managed to issue another Mission echo for the period of July 2022 - December 2022. In this **Mission echo**, we have introduced to you few events from churches and joint programs which were implemented by **UEM** Regional office at this particular period, such as Shyogwe Diocese of the Anglican Church on fight against teenage pregnancies, **UEM** brings together Leaders. UEM Volunteer youth program resumes after covid 19 outbreak.

I hope every reader will enjoy reading it.

God Bless you



Zakaria Mnkai

Region Manager: Rev. Dr Ernest Kadiva

Editor: Zakaria Mnkai

Consulting Designer Michée Wabomundu

United Evangelical Mission Africa Region P.O.Box 75240 Fax: 00255 22 2125967

CONTENT













UEM youths share lessons from a recent regional entrepreneurship workshop	4
UEM commits to continue supporting the indigenous people in the Africa Region	5
UEM brings together youths through a capacity building seminar	6-7
UEM declares fight against racism	8
Shyogwe Diocese on the fight against teenage pregnancies	9
UEM launches a new campaign to promote and protect land rights	10
UEM volunteer program resume after Covid-19 outbreak	11
ECD and UEM finalize land donation agreement for the new UEM center building	12
The Sandra Gourdet Center to expand with new technical training courses	13
URCSA Conducts General Assembly and chose executive members of the church	14
Mr. Laurent Kabuyaya inspires Mbandaka Community	15
UEM insists on the significance of lay ministers in the church	16
Bishop Bagonza lay the foundation stone for the private ward at Nyakahanga hospit	al17
CBCA comes to rescue of Rutshuru's war displaced	

UEM youths share lessons from a recent regional entrepreneurship workshop By UEM reporter





outh members of the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) francophone member churches have revealed three key lessons from a recent entrepreneurial workshop.

This includes a change in mindset, having an opportunity to practice entrepreneurship, and periodical evaluation and reviews of youth development to foster growth.

The youths came with these three key lessons mentioned above after participating in a workshop organized by the UEM Africa Regional office.

Renowned entrepreneur Mr Joel Wvira Tembo, owner of the KIVU Entrepreneurs was the key facilitator of the workshop which conducted in Goma Democratic Republic of Congo from 23rd – 27th September 2023. On the last day of the workshop, the youths were able to reflect and participate in a devotion morning at the head office of the Community of Baptiste Church in



Central Africa (CBCA).

The reflections were based on a bible verse from Psalm 24:1....."The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein"

During the workshop, youths were able to visit various entrepreneurship spots, observe and learn.

One of the visited places was that of Mama MAGHALI Restaurant, a food vendor.

Speaking to the youths the owner of the business stated that one can achieve anything if one believes in themselves.

On his part, Mr Joel Wvira Tembo also urged the youths to have confidence and courage to take on personal ventures because—they too have the ability to be big entrepreneurs.

"Therefore, if any person decides to dream it, believe it, and do it....there is a great success to whatever will be done," insisted Mr Tembo.

UEM commits to continue supporting the indigenous people in the Africa Region By UEM reporter





nited Evangelical Mission (UEM) cements its commitment to support the human rights of indigenous people across the

Last year from November 13 to 27, 2022 the church gathers eleven (11) representatives from **UEM** member churches from the regions of Asia, Africa, and Germany to discuss the awareness of—and observance of indigenous people's rights.

Some of the notable predicaments that indigenous people face across the world were mentioned to being marginalized and displaced from their land.

In its statement, the UEM said the church has a pivotal role to promote and protect the rights of every human as per the (Genesis 1:27) bible verse that explains how human beings were created by God out of clay and were entrusted to relate to each other on the basis of justice for the sake of maintaining peace among the God's creation.

The church stated that from this motto, some of the UEM churches across the world had initiated different ways to support indigenous people including that of Asia and Africa which do ministry for indigenous people such as the naming of the churches based on the name of the tribe.

The churches also give a lot of space for indigenous people in the churches to participate in service as pastors, bishops, and evangelists.

The culture of indigenous people was also adapted by the churches through the local language (translation), liturgy, songs, dance, and indigenous people's ceremonies.

Other churches have also done some advocacy programs, for instance, the church in Kalimantan, Sumatera, and Papua which support the indigenous people in protecting their land from the land grabbers.

In addition, some churches initiate mediation in various conflicts among tribes and also between indigenous people and government and/or investors.

Data shows that Indigenous peoples consider 22% of the world's land surface their home. They live in areas where around 80% of the planet's biodiversity is found on not-commercially-exploited land.

However, most indigenous peoples are still nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists and hunter-gatherers.

According to the United Nations (UN) key challenges facing indigenous people include the dispossession of their lands, territories, and resources, forced assimilation into the way of life of the dominant groups, marginalization, poverty, and illiteracy.

Moreover, UEM believes that churches can play a key role in eliminating some of these challenges facing indigenous people across the globe.

UEM brings together youths through a capacity building seminar

By **UEM reporter**



Sixteen (16) youths from ten United Evangelical Mission (UEM) member churches participated in a capacity-building conference.

The youths include five females and eleven males from the community of Baptiste Church in Central Africa, the Anglican Church of Rwanda. Evangelical Lutheran in Tanzania Eastern and Coastal Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran in Tanzania North Eastern Diocese, and the Evangelical Lutheran in Tanzania Karagwe Diocese.

Other church members were from the Evangelical Lutheran in Tanzania's North Western diocese,

the Church of Christ in Congo. the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the of Namibia. Republic Evangelical Lutheran Botswana, and the Uniting Reformed Church Southern.

"Twen'zetu kwa Yesu

The one-week conference from (August 9th to 14th, 2022) was conducted in Dar es Salaam city in Tanzania.

Speaking during the opening session Programme officer Mr. Zakaria Mnkai said, "After a long time in particular during the Covid-19, it was not possible to meet physically, but we thank God that this year it was possible to meet and discuss a number of issues which were pending

for last two years,"

Mr Mnkai also highlighted that the main goal of this youth conference was to equip youth leaders with leadership and networking skills on how to strengthen the AYUM network in order to do better in the EUM churches.

The conference was also coordinated by the African Youth in Mission (AYUM) which is an apex body approved by the church to work on behalf of young adults in the UEM Member churches for the purpose of bringing together young adults in the Region to share various experiences and learn together.

> youths from the conference were also among those more than 25,000 young adults who participated in a big crusade event in East Africa ever happened called "Twen'zetu kwa Yesu" which means

"Let's go to Jesus".

The concert was organized by the UEM member church; the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania East and Coastal Diocese (ELCT-ECD) in collaboration with UPENDO MEDIA and the UEM.

That big event was officiated by bishop Dr. Alex Gehaz Malasusa head of the Eastern and coastal diocese. In his words Rev.











Dr. Malasusa said that "This concert is a concert of God's children, it has no sort of segregation or religious division, and we came here to glorify God. This is an international event, whereby more than nine countries representatives are participating in this event,"

"Therefore, it is a great honor to introduce to you youth leaders from UEM member churches in Africa Region, we are grateful for their presence and we thank the UEM for making it happen," Dr Malasusa said as he officiated the event.

UEM declares fight against racism

The United Evangelical Mission (UEM) strengthens its fight against racism while continuing to support constant awareness and education among its members.

The church has recently gathered delegates of UEM members from Africa, Asia, and Europe to attend an International workshop on Partnership and Racism from October 25th to 31st 2022 at Windhoek, the capital of the Republic of Namibia. During the six-day conference, members learned how racism is destructive to society, and at the end declare a commitment to consistently identify and describe any form of racism and then dismantle it.

Racism is discrimination based on a racial identity that functions on multiple levels across various domains throughout history.

"Discrimination illegal, racism is still very much alive. Much evidence of inter-generational trauma and many ways in which unhealed wounds of the past continue to infect the present based on colonialism and racism, was on display. However, the subtleties of racism, micro-aggressions, and the day-to-day realities of being bothered or tokenized are not addressed by governments and the church," the UEM said in a released statement.

During the workshop, the participants also got a chance to do visits to the various projects and settlements in the city.

As the conference came to an end, delegates concluded that in order for society to end racism, one must not shy away from the subtle racism as well as economic inequalities within our society. They suggest that collective action is needed to address racism challenges in our societies including drawing up a toolkit to inform communities about the history, meaning, and effects of racism, promoting antiracist projects, as well as assisting partners with antiracist policies and agreeing on a timeline as to when such actions are to be implemented.

UEM states that it's important for the people of the world to follow the biblical words that promote unity and kindness-- "turn from evil and do well; to seek justice and pursue it".

"We recognize the injustices of our past; honor those who suffered for justice and freedom; respect those who have worked to build and develop our countries; and believe in an antiracist society. We, therefore, confirm our commitment in service of our Lord Jesus Christ to be antiracists by fearlessly standing in the gap for the victims of racism," the UEM says in part.

By **UEM reporter**







Shyogwe Diocese on the fight against teenage pregnancies

By **UEM reporter**





Teenage pregnancies revealed to one of the adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic as nearly 800 young girls from the parishes of Shyogwe Diocese were found pregnant in the last two years.

This was part of the results from the recent assessment by the Anglican Church Shyogwe Diocese which did a research to try to figure out some of the consequences of the pandemic.

Other adverse consequences included the poverty and drug abuse.

According to the diocese after these findings they decided to form different strategies such as awareness campaign in order to prevent escalation of teenage pregnancies, abuse and human trafficking. The organized campaign aimed at reaching out the young boys and girls from Districts of Rwanda (Kamonyi, Muhanga, Ruhango and Nyanza) in order to raise awareness on prevention and fighting of teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and human trafficking issues,"

The church revealed that the one month campaign was organized from July 20 to August 30, 2022.

Several activities such as football competition for both boys and girls was done to attract them to attend campaign and receive important teachings.

The competition was organized from the parish level, Archdeaconry level and finally at diocesan level and more than 5,000 young girls and boys aged between 15 and 30 years old participated and were taught on the prevention of the three aforementioned issues.

Moreover the diocese revealed that there some of challenges that were realized during the implementation of the campaign.

This include, insufficient funds limited number of participants for the targeted youths, hesitation from young girls who were still shy to participate in physical activities such as football as well as poor and undeveloped playgrounds for football match, especially in remote areas.

"Some parents do not understand the importance of getting involved in these activities, therefore they prevent their children to attend," the church stated.

In the last day of the campaign the competitions held at Groupe scolaire Shyogwe, where the church hosted the Bishop of Anglican Church Shyogwe Diocese, the Mayor of Muhanga district, and the Deputy District Police Commander, who is in charge of Rwanda Investigation Bureau in Muhanga).

Over 500 attendee was at the final event, with equal representation from both genders.

UEM launches a new campaign to promote and protect land rights

By **UEM reporter**



nited Evangelical Mission launched a human rights campaign on the protection of land rights to protect the poor communities unable to get justice.

The church believes that Very often the victims

of these conflicts are people who do not have enough means to defend their land. On the other hand, those who steal the land from them are very rich people and very often protected by the political.

Gracing the launch of the campaign was the legal adviser of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eastern, and Coastal Diocese, Rev. Mannford Kijalo who represented Bishop Dr Gehaz Malasusa.

and Kijalo explained presented various matters

about human rights and the relevance of land rights issues in Tanzania and globally at large.

He later cited the bible verse Psalms 31:15, which says... 'My times are in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me

He said, "This word specifies this is the cry of a person or people who are in problems caused by other people submitting that the time or season is not in the hands of a person except in the hands of God,"

He later mentioned a number of causes and

consequences of land conflicts society, such as greed, individualism, power, and other related reasons which motivated people strong to oppress powerless and weak people.

Rev Kijalo said in Tanzania there is a number of the case regarding land caused grab which homeless, death, and suffering to most innocent people.

This new campaign by the church for human rights protection and promotion is not for one person. but it would require collective power. This is why the UEM

recognizes this and shows the importance of joint power in three Regions: Africa, Asia, and Germany, along with other stakeholders who defend human rights in land ownership and so

"Together we can make a change and the victims of human rights can be redeemed," asserted the man of God.

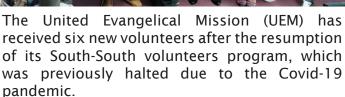


UEM volunteer program resume after Covid-19 outbreak

By **UEM reporter**







Two volunteers from Indonesia were received on November 19, 2022, which were Mayshiela Mega Pramesthi who was placed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church North Western Diocese (ELCT-NWD), and Erik Aliknoe who was placed at ELCT-Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ELCT-ECD) Msasani Parish.

The church also received other four volunteers from African member churches who are Merite Musanga Kanyere from Community Baptiste Church in Central Africa (CBCA) placed at ELCT-ECD Kimara Parish Jerusalem Pre and Primary School.



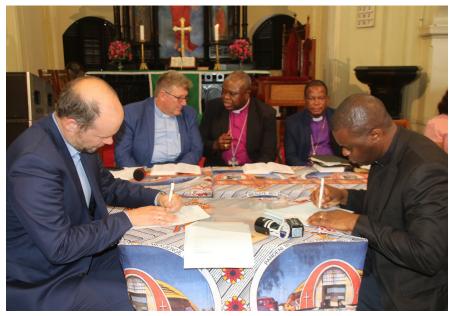
Church statement asserted that the orientation seminar was done from November 21st to 22nd, 2022 with the aim of allowing volunteers to share experiences and networking.

They were later sent to their placements on November 23rd, 2022.

"We pray and wish them all the best in their volunteer commitment. In this implementing year, we have sent 6 volunteers who are already in placements, namely one from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Eastern and coastal Anjela Clement Kangero from ECD placed in Gereja Kalimantan Evangelis (GKE), Indonesia, and Jackline Neema Massawe from NED place in Gereja Kristen Protestan di Mentawai (GKP), Indonesia and Adalbert UWAYESU from EAR Rwanda place in NED Lutindi Mental Hospital," the church stated in part.

ECD and UEM finalize land donation agreement for the new UEM center building By UEM reporter





he Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania's Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ELCT - ECD) had finished handling the land plot donation at Kigamboni to the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) for the construction of the office and center building.

The handing over event was done on August 26, 2022, where signatories were Bishop Dr Alex Malasusa and Dean Chediel Lwiza on behalf of ECD and Rev Volker Martin Dally-UEM General Secretary, and Mr. Timo Pauler-UEM Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration on behalf of UEM.

This event was also attended by the Chairman of UEM ARB, Bishop Mothusi Letlhage of ELCB, Rev. Dr John Wesley Kabango, UEM Executive Secretary for Africa, and other members of ARB, Rev Rev. Daphne Tauros and Mr. Anania Ndondole, UEM Africa Regional Staff, ECD District pastors, ECD Executive Council Members, ECD Pastors, ECD Institutional leaders, ECD Head Office Staff, Keko Youth Choir and others.

During the event, one of the UEM Leader representatives said, "The offer was so much appreciated by the Management team and the whole UEM family at large, I pray that I see the Regional office is

structured and constructed in Kigamboni, it will be our Mission home for UEM''.

Currently, the UEM Africa Regional Office is situated at Luther house, a building owned by ELCT-ECD, the space is not enough to accommodate many activities of UEM and Mission work such as conducting conferences or meetings and space for the resources center etc. It is projected that the construction of the new office will start soon this year (2023) under the supervision of the regional office in Dar es Salaam.

The Sandra Gourdet Center to expand with new technical training courses By UEM reporter

The Sandra Gourdet Young Mother Training Center in Bolenge plans expansion by launching new subsidiaries including carpentry, aesthetics, and masonry.

Many of the young people who train at the center come from different parts of Bolenge and Mbandaka up to far areas like Ikela (1,000 km from Mbandaka).

As the expansion is planned the center has also developed an idea to establish housing for trainees during their training period.

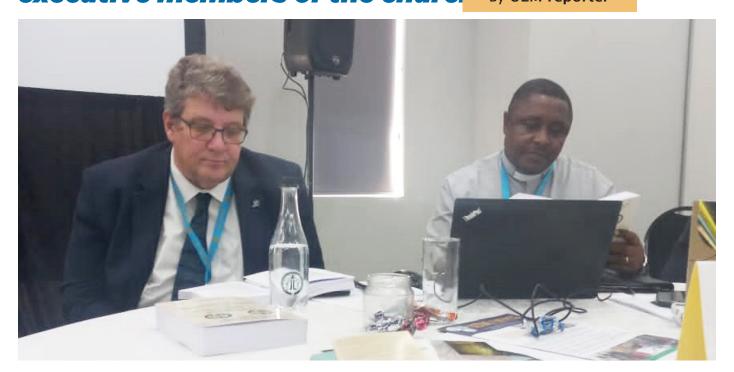
The center stated that the idea would be to build a boarding school with a catering service

for trainees. In this way, trainees will focus entirely on their training instead of burdening themselves with concerns about catering and/or accommodation.

Under Reverend Ikete's supervision, young people who come to follow the training are expected to render good service to their communities.

Rev Ikete is no novice in the field of housing and catering. While running the Women, Family, and Children's Department, she manages a guest house and a restaurant.

URCSA Conducts General Assembly and chose executive members of the churc By UEM reporter —





The Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) has conducted its annual general Synod which started from October 3rd to 9th, 2022 at the Protea Hotel Stellenbosch in the Western Cape.

The 2022 General Synod was held under the theme: "Fragility of the Social Order and Stability of the Christian Faith today: Jesus is Lord".

According to the church apart from receiving and discussing reports of Officials, Core, and Support Ministries; and Specialized Ministries, the General Synod made resolutions and recommendations on various matters.

The General Synod also made the election of

the Members of the Executives of the church as follows: Rev Prof Modise L -Moderator, Rev Vinqi E- Assessor, and Rev Dr Monhla E M -Scribe, Rev Betha MG -Actuary, Rev Fokase -Member, Rev Majola J-Member and Elder Janson J - Member. Other senior members of the church who participated include Rev. Dr Ernest Kadiva the deputy executive Secretary and Rev. Volker martin Dally the General Secretary of the United Evangelical Mission (UEM).

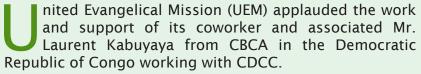
Rev. Ernest Kadiva gave greetings for Africa Region while Rev. Volker Martin Dally gave UEM Greetings.

Mr. Laurent Kabuyaya inspires Mbandaka

Community

By **UEM reporter**





Mr. Kabuyaya is in charge of helping the church with various activities such as budgeting, financial planning, and reporting different activities he implemented.

According to the church, Mr Kabuyaya presence in CDCC helps small credit groups towards the creation of a sustainable SACCOS, reinforce farming projects and animal husbandry for individual empowerment of the church, organizes seminars on funds mobilization and management, budgeting and pledge in congregations, and promotes local resource mobilization and ownership. He has recently also accompanied the president of the church and head of department to various projects and institutions, a few to mention are Bolenge, Dianga, Ingende, and Lotumbe districts.

"The aim of the trip was to have a direct look at the situation of parishes and districts accountancy system and how Resources Mobilization and its Management is done," the church statement read in part.

Mr Kabuyaya is also recognized for his work in the launch of the Bolenge ecological field six months ago where he introduced the production of Corn culture, beans, sorghum, banana, and cassava that the crops which were the curiosity of the community.

One of the community members mentioned that "Mr. Laurent is an agriculturist who knows a lot, he helped us to produce various crops in a very short period, we appreciate and am sure the Mighty God will bless him"





UEM insists on the significance of lay ministers in the church

By **UEM reporter**



The United Evangelical Church (UEM) Africa Region conducted a workshop for lay ministers from July 14th to 19th July 2023 to its member churches as a way to recognize their role in evangelical missions.

The concept of the lay minister is basically constructed from Mathew 28:16-20, a great commission when Jesus commands his disciples to preach and teach. Bible recognizes the role, duties, and responsibilities of lay ministers.

However, in some churches clergies consider lay Ministers as 'help priests' it is the further claim that they are helpers but the Ministers.

In its statement, the church states that lay ministry is crucial and fundamental for the success, and well-being of the church, the expansion of the wider mission of God, and the building of the kingdom of God.

"We have to appreciate the many lay ministers who are participating in ministries in the Church today. However, most of them are doing so while they have not been trained formally and systematically. So there is a great need to invite, train, and empower them," the church stated in part.

After four days of sharing and discussing Lay ministry in the church, the participants came up with a few challenges that they observed as such.

This includes the fact that Lay ministry is considered as a spare tire and that they feel inferior that they don't preach well than pastors as well as feeling ignored by church leaders.

Participants also recognized that there is a number of misunderstandings between lay ministers and pastors, as pastors think that they are the one who is anointed by God to serve and not lay ministers.

Another challenge is the fact that the church has prioritized the gift of pastoral care over the gifts of Lay Ministry and that the lay minister is the one who clears the bush to plant a church and thereafter a pastor is sent to serve.

Furthermore, participants of the workshop recommended a few solutions to the challenges, and that is implementation of orientation seminars for lay ministers so that they can know how to live together with pastors.

"Pastors should consider and respect lay ministry in the church, we need cooperation in the ministry to serve God because Lay ministry is also biblical, therefore we have responsibilities and we have to accomplish them, no matter what," they say.

Bishop Bagonza lay the foundation stone for the private ward at Nyakahanga hospital





Bishop Rev.Dr. Benson K. Bagonza lay the foundation stone to mark the start of the construction project for a big medical facility that will cater to the growing demand and reduce overcrowding at Nyakahanga hospital.

The new building will be able to accommodate ten patients at a time, which is double the capacity that was met by the existing five private rooms.

Speaking during the event Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr. Furaha Kahindo said that the building will cost about 250,000,000/= (two hundred and fifty million), which will be paid by the hospital and various stakeholders.

Dr Kahindo also applauded the stakeholders who have already raised Sh40 million during a

fundraising event held in May 2022.

"However the remaining amount is still substantial, thus we urged all stakeholders to continue the contribution efforts so that we can succeed in meeting our target," Dr Kahindo said.

On his part, Bishop Benson K. Bagonza commended the hospital administration for planning the construction while cautioning construction technicians from SHUBTEC GROUP LIMITED to ensure that the building is completed in a timely manner.

The Bishop did not hesitate to express his gratitude to those who contributed to the construction as well as encourage those who continue to contribute as the need for funds to complete the construction is still immense.

CBCA comes to rescue of Rutshuru's war displaced

By Ev Daniel Muyisa B./CBCA



In June 2022, the bloody war between the loyalist army and the so-called M23 rebel group started. This single rebellion started in the vicinity of Tchengerero, one of the villages in the territory of Rutshuru, in the Binza groupement not far from Bunagana on the Rwandan-Ugandan border with the DR. Congo. This war, with its enormous effects and consequences, led to massive displacements of the populations overhanging the hills and ravines of the said grouping until they came to stay at the site of Kanyaruchinya located to the north-east of the town of Goma in the territory of Nyiragongo, less than 10km from Kibumba, which was also under the control of the M23 before it was handed over to the regional forces of the EAC.

However, although precariously sheltered, and given that the city of Goma could be attacked at any moment, these families, deprived of everything, are experiencing unparalleled hunger and serious cases of disease due to the unsanitary conditions.

Faced with this state of affairs, various organisations mobilised one after the other to first of all take stock of the situation with a view

to knowing how to direct any assistance to be provided to the more than 17,000 households estimated to be in the Kanyaruchinya site.

Thus, within the framework of the project entitled: "Support to the families of internally displaced persons in Kanyaruchinya Camp", the CBCA, through its departments of Diakonia and Development, Women and Family, Youth and Children and finally its Justice, Peace and Safeguarding of Creation Commission, has lined up to provide its assistance. This was made possible by the financial support of the United Evangelical Mission, which provided £52,000. This assistance provided some relief to approximately 500 vulnerable households identified under the following criteria Household with a head of 3ème age, or a pregnant or breastfeeding woman or a household where one of the heads is a person living with a disability. In this sense, 500 kits composed of food and non-food items were successively distributed to them on 8 November and 30 December 2022 for logistical reasons. Each kit was essentially made up of a blanket, 10kg of beans, 12.5kg of maize flour, 3kg of soya flour, 2kg of sugar and 2kg





of rice.

Enhanced by his presence, this activity was launched by the Reverend President and Legal Representative of CBCA, Dr Jonathan KAVUSA KIVATSI. He exhorted all the beneficiaries to remain confident in God who is the Master of times and circumstances and who Himself, through His son Jesus Christ, was also once moved. He ended by reminding us that Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, which means that He is with us in all circumstances.

Going back to the context of this project, Mrs. Christine Musongya, Director of the Department of Diakonia and Development of the CBCA,



informed the beneficiaries about the MEU, a partner of the CBCA that made this assistance possible. She ended by recalling the criteria that led to the selection of the families present at the activity.

With this aid, several beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for this initiative of the CBCA which, beyond the aid received from the MEU, also continues to collect other aid from Christians everywhere in order to find something to share with these displaced families in need: a recommendation of the Holy Scriptures to which many are increasingly rallying.



For Donation please contact

UNITED EVANGELICAL MISSION CRDB BANK PLC

USD ACC: 0250299692300 EURO ACC: 1950299692300 SWIFT CODE: CORUTZTZ HOLLAND HOUSE BRANCH

UNITED EVANGELICAL MISSION MAENDELEO BANK PLC TZS ACC: 013818026021 LUTHER HOUSE BRANCH

UEM AFRICA PAGE

