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Dear Friends,

We have a desperate situation. Tomorrow we eat our last reserve of food and Monday is the earliest my Social Security will arrive. We have no cash and seem unable to borrow the minimum needed of USD 150 to carry us until Monday. Please can you send us whatever you can. It will feed about 45 children and adults for four days.

God bless you.

Much love

Cecile and Jean

Crisis in Democratic Republic of Congo – Crisis for Butoke

After the March kidnapping and murder and subsequent investigation of two UN experts, the world became aware of the continuing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). More than one million people, mostly women and children, fled their homes because of the continuing armed conflict between the Congolese military and militia groups. On May 10th, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimated \$64.5 million was needed to assist 731,000 extremely vulnerable people.

Friends of Butoke exists to support the work of Butoke – Dr. Cecile and Dr. Jean, and their experience provides a personal dimension to the crisis. The schools and health clinic they operate and the orphans they support as well as the people in the region have been deeply impacted by this humanitarian crisis. They were forced to leave their base in Tshikaji because of widespread violence. They face food shortages and have difficulty traveling. Their school was ordered closed by a militia group but Butoke resisted that! Thirteen final year students were scheduled to take their final state exams but one student was killed, five fled back to their homes for safety and only seven sat for the exam. We share with you this sad fact, 27 extended family members of Butoke's chief nurse were massacred by the Tshiokwe militia.

DRC has a long and troubled history. The current crisis was exasperated by President Kabila's refusal to step down after two terms as required by law. President Kabila did not schedule elections for his replacement in 2016 and elections still have to be scheduled as of this writing.

This adds to the uncertainty and chaos in the Congo. Targeted sanctions against President Kabila and his close supporters may prevent transfer of funds to banks outside of the DRC.

Democratic Republic of Congo's continuing crisis will not be resolved in the near future although various international authorities are meeting to present a common front to help with the crisis.

Friends of Butoke in the past has always made a great difference in the lives of the orphans, school children, and the sick and elderly. With your help and financial assistance, Butoke will be able to operate the Musue Bantu Clinic, feed the orphans, and operate the schools as before.

Please respond to this urgent need so we can help Dr. Cecile and Dr. Jean immediately. We know you want that too.

Thank you for your continued support.

John & Joyce

