



TARGET: BULAPE HOSPITAL

It is estimated that 37 percent (18.5 million) of Congolese people have no access to health care. Congo Helping Hands, Inc. targets the Bulape hospital, located 380 miles east of the capital city of Kinshasa, in the Kasai Occidental province of central Congo. It is the 131-bed reference hospital in the Bulape Health Zone which serves 28 clinics and a population of approximately 150,000 people.

Medical Buildings

The hospital as well as clinics are in marginal condition and in need of roof and structural repairs. Even simple things like window screens for the operating room are beyond the budget when the hospital is consistently short \$10,000 in funds every year for medicine, vaccines, and various supplies.



Medical Equipment & Supplies



Medical equipment at Bulape Hospital is outdated and in limited supply. It looks more like 1950 than the 21st century and keeping the

aging equipment functioning is always a challenge. From microscopes to glass slides, equipment is needed for an effective laboratory. Operating rooms need sterilizers, overhead lighting, and ceiling fans for circulation as well as an array of forceps, retractors, and other surgical instruments. Larger, highly expensive diagnostic machines like ultra sound and ECG are deeply needed yet almost unattainable.

Transportation

In a country with very limited transportation, having a vehicle at the hospital is a necessity. The Bulape Hospital relies heavily on it's only vehicle. Because Bulape Hospital is the reference hospital for the Congo's Health Zone System, the doctor must visit the 28 health clinics in its zone. The truck also performs a wide range of tasks including picking up supplies and delivering medicine. With a country filled with dirt roads (there are only 19 miles of paved highways in the entire country) which are washed away yearly by flooding, keeping the truck in good repair is a constant struggle.



Medical Education and Training

Medical care providers are desperately needed. For the last eight years, there has been only one doctor at the Bulape Hospital. Bulape is the home of a Nursing School with space for 70 students who are equally divided between the two-year and the four-year programs. Doctors are educated at the University of Kinshasa. Cost for a student to attend nursing or medical school is quite low compared to the U.S. or western Europe, yet out of reach for almost everyone in the poverty-stricken country of the Congo.



You CAN Make a Difference!

Tax-deductible donations can be made in any amount. Make checks payable to Congo Helping Hands, Inc., include *Bulape Hospital* on the memo line, and mail to:

**Congo Helping Hands
9152 Kent Avenue, B-50
Indianapolis, IN 46216**

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SHARING YOUR CONCERN FOR HEALTH:

With so much at stake and so much to gain, will you consider contributing to improve the health care in the Congo? Monetary donations can be made in any amount.

- **\$20** will help provide consumable essentials like latex gloves, bandages, pain medicine ...
- **\$50** will help provide essential medical supplies like stethoscopes, forceps, retractors ...
- **\$150** will help provide a centrifuge with adapter, overhead operating light, operating cart...
- **\$350** will help provide a microscope, diagnostic equipment, a semester of nursing school ...
- **\$1000** will help provide an ultrasound machine, replacement of the 4-wheel drive vehicle, doctor's tuition ...

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Bulape Hospital in the

CONGO



 **Congo**
Helping Hands, Inc.

Congo Helping Hands, Inc. is a non-profit organization working to increase awareness of need and ways to help in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa

www.congohelpinghands.org