

March 3

THE IMPACT OF WAR

The Eastern Congo war has impacted the Nundu Deaconess Hospital financially. World Bank funding, which has had a major impact on the hospital's budget, has not been available since the last quarter of 2024. Now this program has been definitively closed since December 2025 with the explanation that South Kivu is under M23 control, not under the government. We are thankful for a medical team which has been able to provide medical care in this harsh, uncertain reality. We are also thankful that access to Uvira has been reestablished and that the border with Burundi is now open. The hospital is now able to purchase medications and supplies from a pharmacy there.

The Eastern Congo war has brought hardship as an estimated seven million people have been displaced. Thousands have lost their lives, and many others have been wounded. Agriculture has been impacted as those living in the conflict zone are unable to plant and harvest. Fuel is hard to get and at a greatly inflated price. Pray that our people will be able to receive humanitarian assistance and find a way to remain safe. Thank you for remaining faithful in your prayers and financial support.



Displaced people

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

During these uncertain times, we have doctors pursuing their training and preparing for service at Nundu Deaconess Hospital. Dr Baron is now in this fourth year of OB/Gyn training in Bujumbura. He gives his expression of gratitude to the Free Methodist Healthcare Fellowship for providing a scholarship.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support you have provided toward my medical training. Your generosity has been a vital encouragement in my journey as a resident in gynecology and obstetrics at CHU de Kamenge. Since November 13, 2025, I have entered my fourth year of residency, a significant milestone that strengthens both my professional growth and my commitment to improving maternal and neonatal care in Congo.

My goal is to bring back new perspectives and skills that will help improve obstetric and neonatal care for the suffering population of Nundu. I remain deeply thankful for your investment in my training. It is not only a contribution to my personal development but also a gift to the patients and community I serve. I am committed to using the knowledge and skills I gain to improve healthcare delivery and to share these benefits with others. With gratitude, Dr Baron.

Dr. Baron
Anne Marie,
Emilie,
Connie



Others are also in training as we look forward to the day when war will cease and we can build for a bright future. Dr ByaMungu will be completing a Pediatric Surgery Fellowship in Tanzania in December. Dr Morgan completes a Pediatric residency in June. We are praising the Lord for his providence in preparing our doctors for service at Nundu and beyond.

THE WEBSITE UPDATED

With the expert assistance of Sarah Granger and Sarah Burkhart, the Champions for Congo Website (www.congohealthorg.) has been updated.

Our Mission:

We champion equitable, holistic healthcare in rural Eastern Congo by:

- **Delivering** compassionate, trauma-informed treatment and healing.
- **Empowering** communities to take charge of their health and economic futures.
- **Building** a resilient and sustainable healthcare system for generations to come.

Our Vision: Healthy, thriving, and resilient communities in Eastern Congo where every life is cherished and uplifted.

ONBOARDING WITH BF COMPLETED

We have completed the onboarding process with the Butterfield Foundation. Champions for Congo is now a project of Butterfield Foundation! This relationship will allow Champions for Congo to focus on its mission. All contributions to support this work will be received by Butterfield Foundation and used to further our God-given vision of *Healthy, thriving, and resilient communities in Eastern Congo where every life is cherished and uplifted.*

To make a donation, you may use this QR Code



or go to the link at

https://butterfieldfoundation.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1046. You can also access this giving portal from our website, www.congohealth.org.

You can also send your contributions by check made payable to **Butterfield Foundation** with “**Champions for Congo**” in the memo line and mailed to 8308 N. May, Suite 200, OKC OK 73120.

DR. MARX TOURS THE US

Dr. Marx, Executive Director of Jali Afya, will attend the **Social Mission Alliance Conference** in Los Angeles, March 30–31, 2026. An invitation to the **Unite for Sight Global Health & Innovation Conference** in New Haven, Connecticut, is not yet confirmed. These international conferences provide valuable opportunities to build networks and raise awareness of Jali Afya’s work. (go to www.jaliafya.org)

While Dr. Marx is in the LA area, he will be hosted by Patricia and Timohty Porter as he connects with the Free Methodist Churches south of Los Angeles. From there Marx will travel to Tucson to meet with my home church in Sahuarita.



Dr Marx in Tucson, 2025

Then April 24-25 Dr. Marx will be attending the annual CAHO conference in Spring Arbor, Michigan. We invite you to participate in a Champions for Congo awareness event the evening of April 24, hosted by Joel and Janette Miller. On Saturday, April 25, we will hear reports from Kibogora Hospital, Rwanda, and Haiti Health Advocates as well as from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Please email timothykratzer@hotmail.com or call me at (520) 390-3402 if you have any questions and plan to attend.



Drs Marx, Luc, ByaMungu and Kratzer

In our next CONGO CONNECT You will learn more about how the Lord is preparing our doctors in the DRC for the future.

Shalom,

Tim Kratzer, Champions for Congo