



IMPACT REPORT 2022



Letter from our Executive Director:

For many of us, life this past year may have started to feel a bit more “normal.” Though the effects from the pandemic still linger, there has been a sense of relief and hopefully with it, a greater sense of connection.

In Congo, relief from the pandemic is overshadowed by the continued prevalence of insecurity and violence that often devastates communities, particularly those in rural areas. While eastern Congo remains under a government instituted state of siege, signs of lasting peace remain allusive. **Yet, this is not the only story and we believe strongly that such instability does not define Congo or its future.**

Despite the headlines and difficult realities faced by faculty, staff, students, and families, they remain resilient and dedicated to the vision of a flourishing and just Congo. As many of you believe, they believe change is possible and that through them change will come.

As you will read, Congo Initiative - Université Chrétienne Bilingue du Congo (CI-UCBC) has become a leader in higher education in eastern Congo. As we work to equip and inspire students who become innovative and selfless leaders, we witness their impact in their communities. Whether launching new businesses or serving the community through one of our community engagement initiatives, alumni carry with them the heartbeat of CI-UCBC - a faithful commitment to being the change they want to see...

They are Congo's changemakers.

We give thanks for God's faithfulness and provision over the past three years as we endured unique challenges. And we are profoundly grateful for you, our supporters, who passionately stand with us and ensure our mission and work continues to transform lives and communities. Your prayers and generosity speak loudly to our brothers and sisters in Congo, reminding them that they are not alone in their hopes, vision, and dreams.

With gratitude,

Justin Hubbard

Executive Director, Congo Initiative



Reflections from our Founders:

Dear Friends,

It seems like just a few years ago that CI-UCBC was just an idea a few of us were working on. Our passion and vision were to develop and empower changemakers to effect real, positive transformation in our country.. Although challenges have been many and daunting, we are happy to say that today, the impacts of Congo Initiative are notable throughout this country - in both education and community engagement.

Last year, the government of the DRC decided that all universities in the country will start the LMD (Licence-Maitrise-Doctorat) system of university education that CI-UCBC began instituting in 2012. We recently celebrated the granting of LMD diplomas for all of our 2013 to 2021 graduates, recently signed by the Secretary of Higher Education. We believed all along that the LMD was the appropriate program that provided the flexibility and innovation to develop changemakers in and for DRC. Today, CI-UCBC is not only a pioneer, but we are helping guide other universities in the use of the new curriculum. Our community engagement programs are equally

involved and model transformation through land reform, pro bono legal services, church renewal, counseling, literacy and skills training, and more.

The accomplishments of CI-UCBC would not be possible without our faithful staff, devoting their time and energy to the cause; our students, alumni, and many other beneficiaries displaying real transformation wherever they go; and you, our valued partners, believing in the vision and mission of CI, investing your resources, and standing with us in good and difficult times. **Whether this is your first year supporting CI-UCBC or you have been with us from the beginning, we want to thank you for celebrating these milestones with us.**

In 2022, the General Assembly approved the 2023-27 Strategic Plan. These five-year organizational intentions are bold and courageous, simply because we believe in and are completely committed to the transformation of this country and its people. So, once again, we're calling you to stand with us. We're confident that together, we will make a lasting impact in the lives of women, children, and men of this country.



Tuko Pamoja!

We are together and together we are...
creating lasting change in Congo.

God bless you!

David & Kaswera Kasali

Co-Founders of Congo Initiative

Through your gift, you helped the rising generation access an education that fosters hope and inspires change.

400
STUDENTS

71
GRADUATES

855
ALUMNI

Your gifts lifted the financial barriers and burdens for students and their families, providing an opportunity to soak in the vision of a brighter future.





KEEP YOUR LIGHT SHINING

"When you serve all people, without discrimination, with love, genuine consideration and professionalism, you demonstrate kingdom values that trigger in those you serve the desire to be more like you and to see more of you around them, in their families, their work places and their communities.

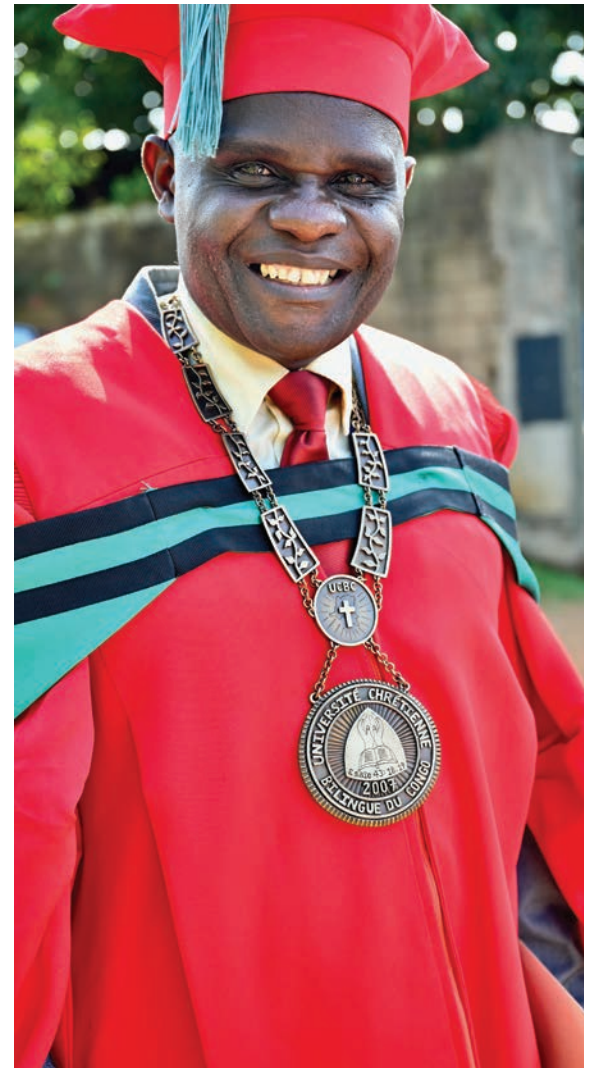


Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

It is never too soon or too late to do good. Let's respond to our calling of being transformed to transform, and go shine through showing love and bringing a smile on the face of the hurting, through showing mercy to the heavily loaded, through sharing the pain with the suffering, and imagining ways of alleviating the pain to change the DR Congo.

IT IS POSSIBLE, AND IT IS HAPPENING. KEEP YOUR LIGHT SHINING!"

- Message to the Graduates, Dr. Honoré Bunduki Kwany, Rector of CI-UCBC



Dr. Honoré Bunduki

ADVANCED STUDIES PROGRAM

17 FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

are participating in our Advanced Studies Program (ASP). Among these ASP beneficiaries, eight are studying in east Africa, two in the US, three in Europe, and four in fully remote programs.

Since the start of ASP, nine faculty have completed advanced degrees, and by spring 2023 this number will increase to 16!



With a desire to focus on faculty development and bring together a cadre of permanent staff highly committed to the vision of UCBC, UCBC launched ASP in 2016. The goal of this program is to financially and institutionally support 25 UCBC faculty and staff members to earn Masters and PhDs by the year 2025. We are filled with joy to report that UCBC is on track to achieve this goal in just three more years!



**PRIMARY
EDUCATION**

300+

Children received an education, a critical first step to breaking the cycle of poverty.

**VOCATIONAL AND
LITERACY TRAINING**

120

Women and at-risk youth completed vocational training in sewing, culinary, and carpentry programs.

**GENDER EQUITY
TRAINING**

370+

People participated in positive masculinity trainings and workshops in partnership with Tearfund.





PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND TRAUMA COUNSELING

GRIEF AND TRAUMA COUNSELING

1146

People benefited from
grief and trauma
counseling, psychosocial
care, and other activities.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR IDPS

2730

Internally displaced
people experienced
healing through
psychosocial support.



As an organization committed to advancing gender equity, we celebrate women students and the hard work of our staff to push the barriers and challenge long-held social norms. Though the work is ongoing, promoting women's rights and equality is an integral part of our identity. Both on campus and out in the community, student-led group Women Voices and faculty group Women of Hope are spearheading discussions and actions that lead to changing perspectives on women's value and roles, prevention of domestic violence, and the eradication of toxic masculinity. On campus, "Gender Champions" create a safe environment for women to feel free to express themselves and their concerns.

JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Students have the unique opportunity to participate in CI's Junior Justice Initiative, where they have hands on experience.



Students, including 10 women, are supported financially by a grant from Jewish World Watch in the UCBC law program.



People benefited from pro-bono services. Cases ranged from defending those wrongfully imprisoned, to prosecuting perpetrators of gender-based sexual violence, to resolving land disputes.



UCBC graduate Gloria Bungi was sworn in at Beni's High Court. Gloria one of the first graduates from UCBC's law school and now has the opportunity to help reform the local justice system.

NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

For the past 9 years, CI-UCBC has played a key role in improving land administration practices in eastern Congo through the Natural Resource Governance (NRG) program (previously known as Sharing the Land). **The success has led to national collaboration with the government and international organizations.** Over 50 years after independence, and more than seven years after the STL pilot began at IRI-UCBC, a new National Land Policy of the Democratic Republic of Congo was approved by the Council of Ministers last April.

NRG continues to work across Congo to train land administrators and improve land mapping using community-based practices and GIS mapping. Hundreds of people representing different stakeholders in land governance (land administrators, customary chiefs, governmental authorities, civil society and community members) play an active role in improving land rights for communities across 13 provinces in eastern DRC.

600 **FAMILIES**

Had land rights secured by NRG

3500 **PEOPLE**

Were trained in collaborative land management and GIS mapping.





Abigael Muyisa ('22)
Faculty of Economics
and Business
Management

"It is difficult to describe all the benefits I received through UCBC. We learned to be independent women destined to impact. We learned how to innovate with our own authentic ideas to address the challenges of our country...We have also learned to live in society with people different from us.

UCBC helped make me a brave woman – one who is capable of change and ready to achieve my dreams. UCBC is my home. Tuko pamoja – "we are together."



Bakuza Katoma ('22)
Faculty of Applied
Sciences

"I am very happy and grateful for all that CI-UCBC has done for me. During my 4 years at UCBC, I received intellectual, ethical, and even spiritual formation. Nelson Mandela once said 'Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.'

And we have been trained and given this at UCBC. Now, it is our turn to transform our community."



Kahindo Muzaliwa (22')
Faculty of Economics
and Business
Management

"I benefited so much from learning about entrepreneurship. We were encouraged to start small and start now. Don't wait on others. Innovate and create businesses so that we can create jobs for others."

LOOKING FORWARD

Even amidst a season of continued insecurity, you joined students, alumni, staff, and other partners to continue believing that through faith and action, change is possible, so that one of the most challenging and forgotten places in the world could thrive. As a result, a new generation has modeled transformation, creating positive change and inspiring the wider community to believe that a brighter future is possible for Congo. Now, UCBC is in a season of growth. In January, we welcomed 468 students! We believe this is a reflection of the hope poured into this unique university. We believe it is an affirmation of the vision and mission of CI-UCBC and its community of friends.

CI is shaped by the core conviction that solutions to Congo's challenges must come from those who experience them each day. In 2023, we will remain driven by our mission to equip the next generation with access

to critical educational resources and opportunities to write a new story for Congo. Working ambitiously and closely with our team in Congo, we will identify ways to build staff capacity, improve pedagogy and technology, and achieve long-term sustainability.

As partners who believe education is one of the greatest tools to promote peace and flourishing, your role is essential. Your generous support provides a pathway for Congo's rising generation to obtain an education that empowers them to pursue their dreams and ignite change beyond the classroom. In short, our work and impact can't happen without you.

As we look ahead to the new year, we hope you will join us again in creating stories of renewed hope, peace, and flourishing in eastern Congo.



*When I arrived at UCBC, the students and staff opened their arms to me and the other new students. They welcomed us well. The staff were like second parents to us. UCBC is unique for many reasons, but two were so important for me—bilingualism and a framework of faith. At UCBC we speak English, and even those who were hesitant gained a wonderful basic knowledge of the language. Additionally, we were transformed by following “the Word” and the “Word made flesh” together. These things will speak into our professional and personal practice. We will walk with the values and ethics learned at UCBC for the rest of our lives. **Jordy Ndoboy ('22), Faculty of Communications***







FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Private Contributions	\$ 1,092,189.00
Investment Income	\$ 9,922.00
Other Income	\$ 2,929.00
Total Revenue	\$ 1,105,040.00

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 970,493.00
Support Services	
Management and General	\$ 213,469.00
Fundraising	\$ 23,569.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,207,531.00

Note: Financials reflect our last fiscal year 10.01.2021 - 09.30.2022. Expenses exceeded revenue due to available funds carried over from the previous fiscal year. Beginning in 2023, we will move to a calendar fiscal year (January - December). Our 2023 annual report will reflect this change as well as the three-month interim period (10.01.2022 - 12.31.2022).

