

Quaker Congo Partnership – Water Project

The Water Project is based in Abeka in the Democratic Republic of Congo, supported by Jesus Lane Local Meeting and Cambridgeshire Area Meeting.

The local community, with few resources, was trying to maintain the local hospital and support those traumatized and orphaned by the civil disorder. Lack of clean water was a major problem. Rainwater collected from its roofs supplied the hospital, and in the village women were carrying water long distances from polluted streams or the lake. Many children were being admitted to the hospital with water-borne diseases. A plan had been drawn up by local water engineers to capture water from springs 7km up in the hills and pipe it to the hospital and village.

We recognized that this should be a partnership, not a case of telling people what to do or how to do it. We were providing money for which they accounted both financially and with regular reports, proving to be both trustworthy and capable. The local community undertook to support the project with helping to dig the trenches in the village and setting up a committee to manage and maintain the system.

In July 2015 work started, and there are now 12 standpipes serving the hospital, the school and all parts of the village.

We still need to equip the hospital with showers, washbasins and more toilets, but we have a tremendous sense of excitement in seeing the pictures of water flowing from taps when previously it had to be carried uphill from polluted sources.

