



# CARITAS CONGO ASBL

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### Press release no 002-CC-2018

Mongala: Caritas provides 2000 households committed to combatting natural disasters with livelihoods and production inputs in Bumba, Lisala and Lolo

Bumba, March 12, 2018 (caritasdev.cd): 600 households vulnerable to natural disasters in the city of Bumba have



Photo 1 Ms Juliette Maquart distributing agricultural kit to a head of recipient's household

just been supported by Caritas Lisala in livelihoods and production inputs for the diversification of their food sources and this activity is in line with Result 3 of the Resilience Support Program for Communities Vulnerable to Catastrophic Risks (PRRC), financed by the Belgian Government / DGD, through Caritas International Belgique. On Saturday, March 10, 2018, the 200 targeted households of Ebonda site (about 9 km from Bumba), in the Mongala Province, received agricultural inputs and fishing at the Brotherhood Convent of Saint Joseph Parish, 150 for farmers and 50 for fishermen.

The ceremony was attended by the Head of the Bopoto / Ebonda Group and Ms. Juliette Maquart (Program Manager of CI.be), on a supervision mission in the province. In fact, this two-year project is being implemented in the Mongala Province, specifically in the territories of Lisala and Bumba.

Speaking at this event, Father Bienvenu Mombenga, Supervisor of the said program at Caritas Lisala, highlighted that this distribution follows the one organized two days earlier in the three other Lisala sites (Lisala-Mokaria, Konga), Umangi). The same distributions took place in the four Lolo sites (Lolo, Lundu, Loloka and Ekama), leading to a total of 2,000 households for the 10 project sites in Mongala province.

Thus, three sites were involved in Bumba: Molua, Nzongo and Ebonda, with 200 beneficiary households each. It is a question of diversifying and protecting the sources of food and income of accompanied households against climatic hazards. And this, thanks to the adaptation of the farming and fishing system. This made Caritas International Belgium's Program Manager, Miss Juliette Maquart, say that "*today's distribution is not to be seen in the context of humanitarian aid. It is rather a development project.*"

This two-year project has spent much of its first year to train key resource persons and program implementation teams through each sites on community-based disaster risk management and response means, called small-scale activities

Some wondered when would intervene its active phase, noted Miss Juliette Maquart. *"Finally, since the end of 2017, we have started to see some works come true with your participation,"* she continued, speaking to more than 200 people present. In particular, it cited a rainwater pipeline of more than 900m at the Nzongo site, another projecting rainwater from the Mongoloto River to the Congo River for more than 4km, as well as backfilling of two heads of water. erosion starting from the river, near the Church CIEM (Evangelical Community of Ubangi-Mongala) and the community deposit of Groupement Bopoto in Ebonda. "This work is for the community interest, not for the DRC Committee, let alone for an individual," she insisted. She urged the audience to make themselves available to participate regularly in community work, also citing nurseries where trees are growing to fight the high winds.

*"Goods we are giving you today follow the same principle,"* added Ms. Maquart. However modest they may be, these assets can also compensate for losses caused by floods or erosions. Beneficiary households should also have at least two stable sources of food / income (food, vegetables, fish, and livestock). "The challenges are enormous; but if we combine our hands and our intelligence, we will overcome this fight against disasters," she concluded.

It should be remembered that essential household items had been given to 594 other households victims of climatic hazards in December 2017. They had received, among other things, kitchen utensils, water storage containers (buckets, cans, basins), shelters (tarpaulins, mats and blankets), women's hygienic hygiene kits, soap bars.

### **Farmers and fishermen commended the substantial support**

Mr Jean-Paul Abudjea, one of the project leaders, presented the kits per recipient household. It includes a hoe, an ax, a spade, a trident, a rake, a hoe, a machete, a file, a watering-can. To this, 8 kilos of corn seeds, 4 kilograms of soybeans and 6 kilos of cowpea, including the seeds of market garden crops in various grams: okra, amaranth, bitter nightshade, are especially added for farm households. headed cabbage, eggplants. The fishermen's households also received fishing nets of different sizes, hook and nylon. They also have market gardening seeds like farmers, to diversify their sources of income...

One of the beneficiaries, Mr Emmanuel Mongite, thanked Caritas for the goods received for the development of our community. *"This is a very encouraging act, as Caritas makes us think of a saying: development comes from oneself. It does not fall from heaven like manna. So we do not have to waste these goods, so as not to discourage our benefactors."* Ms. Dede Mado is committed to cultivating the seeds received to combat poverty.



**Photo 2 Inside Agricultural and fishery kits distributed to target households**

As a reminder, PRRC's main objective is to contribute to disaster mitigation and the resilience of communities that are made vulnerable. Funded by the Belgian Government / DGD, through Caritas International Belgique, it is implemented by Caritas Lisala and Caritas Lolo, under the supervision of Caritas International Belgique, and in partnership with Caritas Congo Asbl.

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