



**SOS VILLAGES  
D'ENFANTS**  
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

Ev. Grundschule Holzhausen  
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Germany

Child ID: 0503421309  
03 December 2020

### Your sponsorship for Simoni

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am glad to bring to you news of the child you are sponsoring and village update.

Simoni is fine and he is doing well in school. He works out his homework well at home. When Julien, his elder SOS sibling suggests support, he says, 'Let me work alone first. After, I will show you for correction.' That is what he does before presenting his book to SOS mother for stamp. Simoni is back to school since last October.



Children watering passion fruit seedling

As you can imagine, the daily lives of the children in Democratic Republic of Congo are still affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. At SOS Children's Village Uvira we have continued to follow the official guidance to protect children. The children and families have adapted to these changes.

As I write, travel to the villages continues to be restricted, but in cooperation with my colleagues in the village, we are able to tell you about the daily life of the children and families.



Young people rejoicing for diploma

Children and young people living in the village as well as those of families living in communities are in good health. They are spared the Covid-19 pandemic and the floods that bereaved the city of Uvira in April 2020.

#### Raising awareness about Covid-19

After raising awareness of children on official guidance to be protected, children are aware of the danger of the disease. In fact, schools had just been interrupted. A child named Sam, in awareness class, says, 'Mom, where are we going to find all this material against this ugly disease. It



can decimate us all, if one of us gets sick!' The mother replies, 'Don't be afraid. The village has already planned everything. You will have facemasks, gels and no going outs. If you go out, on the return your temperature is also taken at the entrance!'

Right then, Sam saw lots of masks and gels coming for families. 'Oh mama, here they are already.' He said gladly. The distribution was completed earlier. Every child and Sam included received own facemask. 'Mom, do I put it like this?' 'Yes, like that.' Says the mother. Bottles of hydro-alcoholic gel were given to each SOS parent for the home. Nurses at the SOS Medical Centre had taken time to meet with each SOS family to internalize the wearing of masks and respect of measures to protect children at all costs from Covid-19.

#### English language training

With schooling suspended, it took up to six months; the children got more bored. To follow them up, many children voluntarily took the registration in the English Learning Centre on site. The trainers, tested negative against covid-19, came to teach the children every day in the primary school premises.

Children and young people from SOS families living in community also benefited from training at a Centre close to their homes. The 47 children and young people who have taken this training have upgraded level in English. Moreover, it will serve them more in class. SOS aunts and mothers supervised other children, not concerned with English, at home, so they keep intellectual.

#### Fruit tree

Children imagined many scenarios that allowed them to spend time. James and his sisters over-entertained their SOS comrades and families. 'Do you know what we are going to do? Let us grow a tree. It will reveal to us if too much time is spent staying at home'. His brother added, 'Exactly, if the tree is fruiting, it will mean that we have been hanging out at home!'

Now they have grown a passion fruits tree in front of their home. Every time they wake up, and at every sunset, they take turns watering it. 'I'm the one watering this morning,' said one. 'Yes and you in the evening, and James tomorrow,' said the other. They shared the tasks. Their tree grows well to their satisfaction. However, it has not yet begun flowering. In addition, the children are back to school before their tree gives fruit. However, they continue looking after their tree, knowing the importance of fruit trees and other trees in the village such as learned in classroom and home awareness session about the tree.

#### Diplomas

About 15 young people from SOS families who took part in the state exams organised by the government during the resumption of classes when the situation of the pandemic appeared to improve in the country, qualified.



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They spread in different departments ranging from the literary, pedagogy to technical departments.

The day they got information about their success, they leaped joyfully and feasted all evening. Their SOS siblings jumped on their shoulders, pouring white powder in their faces, on heads and feet as a sign of victory. 'What a long-awaited good news!' Screamed Justine. They were so jubilant that they sang songs loudly and performed dances. In addition, all have chosen to attend in different local academic trainings either in Bukavu.

Different children's achievements are not predictable without your help. The children, young people, SOS families from Uvira and I would like to thank you for your unwavering support to our organization. What a good time, to wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021 including good health and success!

Sincerely yours,

André Shamushundju  
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator

