

SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR RESPOND TO THE NEEDS « Teach them what they need to know for life. »

Educating for Life... Proclaiming God's Goodness



St. Julie Billiart

Summary of Project Development 2002-2012

- External calls: Congregational mission and Millennium goals
- Needs assessment Africa 2002
- Project design elements 2002-2006
 - Provide electricity, potable water, internet access
 - Local participation, maintenance, sustainability
 - Fund raising
 - Education of Nigerians & Congolese
- Project development 2006-2012
 - Nigeria installations 2006 & 2008
 - Congo installations 2008 & 2010
- Current Status 2012+
 - Evaluation of progress & updating future targets
 - Ongoing education for local expansion & control
 - Identification of key personnel & course of studies
 - Continue fund raising

Photovoltaic Project

What is it?

- An environmental project of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur providing electricity, clean water and internet access, using the power of the sun, for their schools, hospitals and clinics in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



The project provides three services.

- The solar panels for electricity.



The batteries store the electricity for up to seven days.



The satellite for communication and internet access



The water purification system



Why?

In order to provide possibilities:

- For new learning opportunities in the Notre Dame Primary and Secondary schools of Nigeria & Congo



- Allowing rural secondary school students a chance to learn skills that may open a new world for them.



- For better health care through the clinics run by the Sisters that provide the only medical attention available to a large population.



For dependable electricity to a hospital with 135 beds and a large maternity unit.



Where does this exist?

Systems were installed in:

- Cuvilly Arts and Earth Center ,Ipswich, MA, USA October, 2005
 - Fugar, Nigeria, October, 2006
 - Ngidinga, Congo, February, 2008
 - Awkunanaw, Nigeria, October, 2008
 - Kitenda, Congo, November 2010
 - Lemfu, Congo, November, 2010
 - Pelende, Congo, November, 2010

Construction of the sites offers many challenges.
Just getting to the site may take a bit longer
than expected!



Materials are shipped in wooden crates and carefully unloaded and unpacked on site.



Trenches are dug for the cables.



The panels are carried to the roof for installation.



The sisters are committed to learning everything about the Photovoltaic System.



The panels are set in place on the roof.



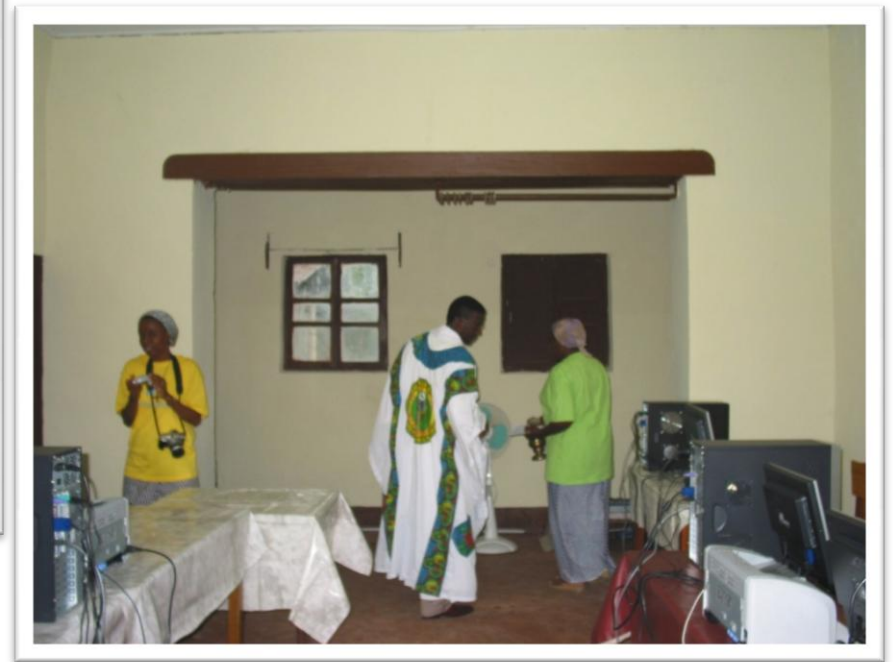
Co-workers are also involved and are learning all about the project.



Sister Dorothee is happy that the project is completed and all is working!



The project would not be complete without a ribbon cutting and a blessing to inaugurate the Project



Many lives have been affected because of the systems installed in November 2010

Lemfu:	Primary students:	200
	Secondary students:	320
	Hospital beds:	75
Pelende:	Primary students:	500
	Secondary students:	300
	Hospital beds:	80
Kitenda:	Primary students:	400
	Secondary students:	220
	Hospital beds:	65

- The X-ray machine, which was not able to be used in Ngidinga due to lack of electricity, has been unpacked, installed and is now being put to good use.



The technician, with purified water available, can work under more sanitary conditions.



One year later the Sisters from Ngidinga wrote:

- “We have been teaching technology skills to the Sisters and other people. We are teaching them to type the text in Microsoft Word, and to use First Class especially the Sisters. Now almost all the Sisters who live in Ngidinga community are able to use the computer and First Class.”



- “We have been opening our cybercafé to the population since we got this gift. Some of the people come usually to read the messages in their mail box and some of them still learning how to use the computer even though we do not have enough computers as many people are coming now every day. The kinds of persons who use the computers are: Sisters, Priests, and Students, teachers, doctor and nurses.”

The Doctor, José Mavuna-Nketo





- “The cybercafé is helping many people to get to the internet (communications through the world); type their text, and prepare reports .”
- “We have already formed 6 persons who are now able to teach other people”

Sister Dorothee Moya



The children carry their chairs to the Internet Café for a science lesson

The teacher points out a picture of a monkey. This could be the first video these children have ever seen.



**What is our dream for the
future?**

We dream of clean water, electricity and a communication system that will allow doctors and nurses to provide better health care in all the clinics and hospitals run by the Sisters.



The Sisters dream of having electricity and eliminating the task of ironing with a charcoal iron!



Next Steps 2012+

- Expand local ability to grow and maintain the systems in Nigeria and Congo
- Identify Sisters and co-workers with the ability and initiative to be educated in areas such as: electrical engineering, business management, construction, oversight etc.
- Identify courses and other educational courses that will assist the strengthening and viability of this project into the future.

Cost per System:

● Panels	\$68,000
● Batteries	12,000
● Water Purifier	5,000
● Uni Rack	7,200
● Charge Controller	6,200
● Outback Inverter	10,750
● Battery Charger	12,000
● Data System	11,000
● Grounding	6,000
● Shipping	50,000
● Customs & Handling	35,000
● Labor	45,000
● Other	<u>30,000</u>
● Total Cost	\$300,000

Un gran MERCI! from the Sisters of Notre Dame in Congo-Kinshasa



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