



**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

**2017-2018**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been another great year in the life of The Congo Tree, with our milestone of 500 young people completing the WYLD Programme just within reach. As you will see from this report, our work continues to gain momentum and become more and more established.

This year we received official registration status with the DRC authorities – another big hurdle crossed. I am immensely grateful for Heidi, our Director, and Medi, who continues to lead the DRC Team, both providing stability and wise leadership. The stories of changed lives continues to inspire us as we work hard to help more young people realise their calling and understand their potential. Together we are helping to write a new chapter for this beautiful country.

*Steve Bavington*

## THE CONGO TREE TEAM

Our 2017-18 Board of Trustees were Steve Bavington, Jane Searle, Dave Holt, Hebdavi Kyeya, Amy Cummings and Heidi Bentley. In July we were excited to welcome Sarah Patel to the Board. In September, we said goodbye to Dave Holt, whose involvement we have been so grateful for.

Our UK Team is: Anna Galloway, Katie Maclachlan, Beki McLoughlin.

In DRC, our team has continued to be led by Medi Muyisa. He has been supported by the DRC Team; Belydia Kisendo (Operations Officer), Sage Dunia (Participation and Mentoring Officer), Christian Muteke (Engagement Intern), Muhindo Malunga and a fabulous team of facilitators.

We are very pleased to announce that this year we officially became a registered as an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) in DRC. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Michee Lwanzo, Muhindo Malunga and Hebdavi Kyeya who worked tirelessly to ensure that we gained this official recognition.

**UK**



A team of UK supporters finishing their Gung-Ho fundraising challenge



Our DRC Team, left to right: Medi, Christian, Lydia, Sage

**DRC**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018**

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>1. THE WYLD PROGRAMME</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. MENTORING</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. PARTNERSHIP: HEAL AFRICA</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. SOCIAL ACTION AND ENTERPRISE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. FACILITATORS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. ALUMNI</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. FINANCE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7. STRATEGIC REPORT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8. #BEPARTOFTHESTORY</b>	<b>10</b>

# THE WYLD PROGRAMME

The WYLD Programme is a year-long course dedicated to inspiring, equipping and supporting young people by providing them with the skills necessary to become leaders, peace-makers and active contributors to their local community.

*In September, we were able to celebrate with the **119 young people** who graduated from their WYLD Programme. This means that **nearly 500 young people** have been trained and supported as leaders since the programme started 5 years ago! These young people have paved the way for the **72 new young people** who have started their journey with us in 2017-18: 58 in our Goma programmes and 14 in Masisi.*

After a few years of insecurity in the region, November was the first time we were able to get back to Masisi with our partners HATD to run the WYLD programme since 2014. This was also the first time we were able to welcome young women onto the programme. Francine, was one of these young women, who describes how her idea of self was transformed by the skills she was taught, which inspired her to become a mentor. Not only that, the impact that she has had in the community has led her to gain paid work in the Social Affairs Division with the State Authorities (read more of her story on page 6).



**WORLD  
YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT**

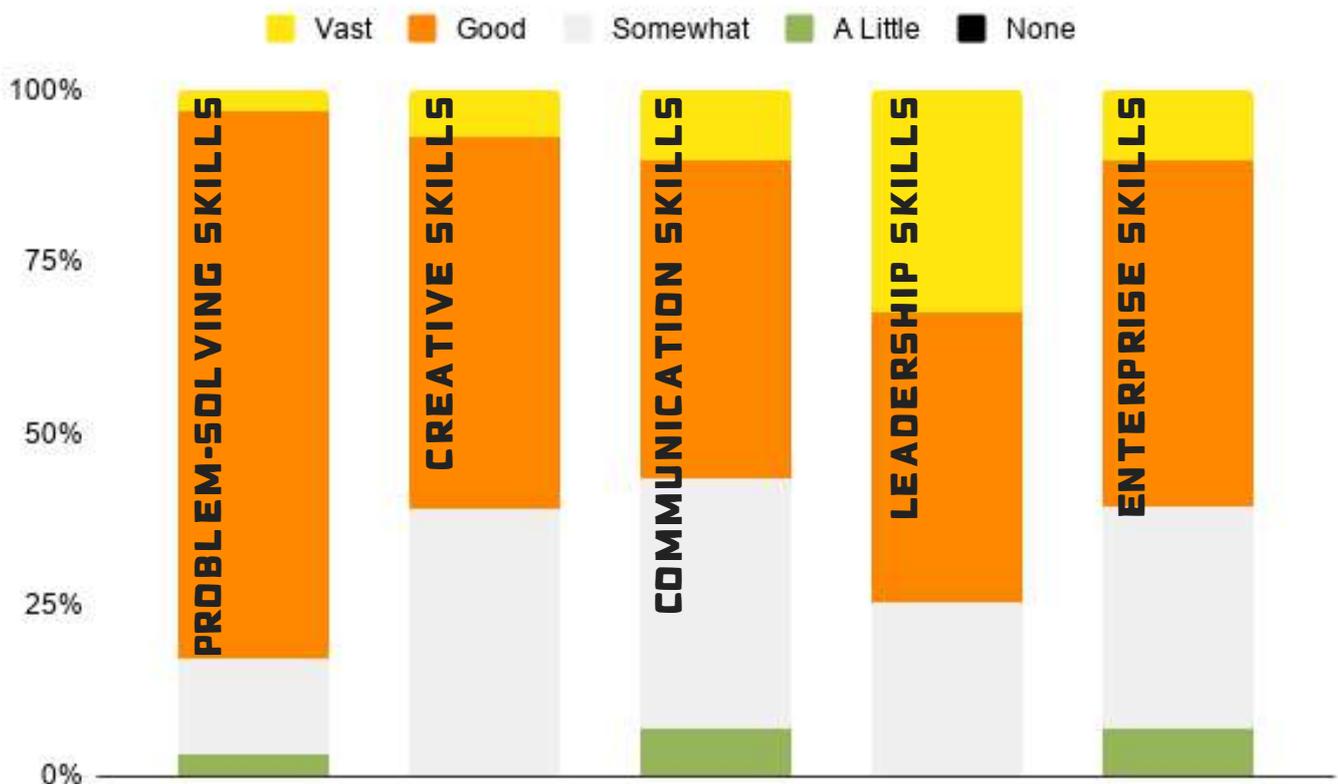
# THE WYLD PROGRAMME

Logistically it can be difficult for our team to get out to Masisi regularly. Therefore we wanted to ensure that the running of the WYLD programme would be self-sustaining. To achieve this, we have set our Facilitators in the region a similar challenge to our young people: to set up a small enterprise that would make enough money to cover the costs of monthly meetings and checking in on the young people regularly in the month, with the remaining profits to be shared between the Facilitation Team. This is proving to be greatly successful, with all costs covered so far.

The WYLD programme helps young people to develop five recognised transferable life and leadership skills: communication, creativity, problem-solving, entrepreneurial capability and leadership with integrity.



Q. How much do you think your transferable skills have improved through your time with The Congo Tree?



# MENTORING

Every participant in our WYLD Programme is put into a mentoring pair, either as a mentor or mentee dependent on their age, experience and capacities. It is required that they meet for at least one hour of mentoring a month, by the end of the year we found that the majority of our young people met together far more than that.

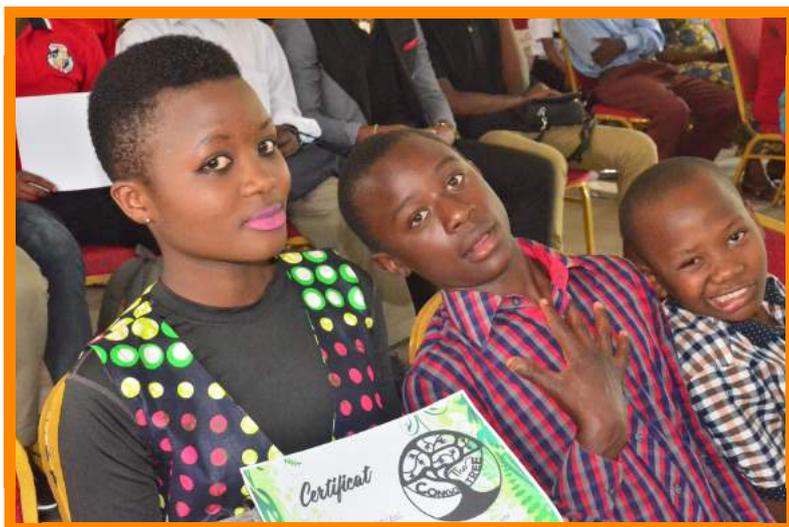


*“Something new that I have learnt is that mentoring makes a positive impact on both of the people involved: it gives a confidence and a practical application for the things that are discussed together.”*



Overall we had a total of 58 mentoring relationships in Goma and 14 in Masisi.

At the end of the programme all the young people expressed the intention to stay in touch with their mentor or young leader because such a solid relationship had been created between them.



**82%**

**Met up for at least an hour every month!**

**100%**

**Intend to stay in contact with their mentor or mentee after graduation.**

# PARTNERSHIP: HEAL AFRICA



Towards the end of March we delivered an adapted version of our WYLD programme to 30 young people who have been impacted by HIV and sexual violence. These young people are part of CAP (Children's Aids Program) run by the inspirational organisation HEAL Africa. Our new partnership with HEAL Africa will allow us to introduce pilots of two new elements to our WYLD programme: a mini programme around dealing with trauma based on the therapeutic approach called the 'Tree of Life', and some more in-depth sessions on creative enterprise and setting up small businesses. As part of this programme we were also able to train up 5 HEAL Africa staff members as WYLD facilitators.

## SOCIAL ACTION AND ENTERPRISE

This year we supported 7 new youth-designed and led social action projects from our #bepartofthestory team challenge.

One of the projects set up was designed to support fathers who were struggling to support their families: **Chukudus for Change**. Chukudus are large wooden skates/bikes used to distribute goods around North Kivu. In having this resource, a person can be a delivery driver, able to earn money and provide for their families. Fathers were selected by a number of chosen criteria, including amount of dependants. A Chukudu was purchased, and a small percentage of profit made by the first chosen father from his work was returned to the team, in order to purchase another Chukudu a few months later, given to the next father. In this way, the fathers were also part of the story, supporting others in their community from their success as well as their families.



# SOCIAL ACTION AND ENTERPRISE

Three of the new projects were to support mothers (mostly widows) to set up or develop businesses that would help them to become self-sufficient, enabling them to provide for their families and pay school fees for their children. Whether their business was selling bread, flour or coal, each mother was given between \$20 and \$30 to develop this business, and spent time with the young leaders working out together how they could use this money and a strategy to ensure the resilience and sustainability of their business going forward. Each of the 13 mothers selected at the beginning of the projects was asked to repay a small percentage of the amount given each month (around 7%). Money repaid to the young leaders within the first six months of the projects was re-distributed to other mothers to do the same, and then any money repaid was given back to The Congo Tree to contribute to the pot for the next WYLD groups' social action project ideas. The Flour Project proved most successful with this, and each mother was able to pay back their \$30 within 3 months.



## **International Day of Kindness:** 19th November

Our young leaders decided on a project and were able to raise enough money to cover one month of school fees for twelve children. The children that benefited were those that the school identified as at risk of dropping out because the families were struggling to pay the fees and were in their final year of primary school. The team were also able to give out food and notebooks to many children at the school.

*"I am very proud to belong to such a big family of young people, despite being 43 years old. These young people are a role model to our community in Masisi because they have found solutions amongst themselves for serious community issues. For me, they responded to my needs to have my own enterprise."*



# FACILITATORS

In 2017-2018, we had 15 volunteer facilitators who each give between 10 and 40 hours voluntarily within our initial WYLD training weekends and monthly meetings.

In January we took our facilitators out for a meal as a token of our gratitude for these many voluntary hours. Without their involvement and enthusiasm, the WYLD programme would not succeed.



# 86%

**of our graduates rated our facilitators as good or excellent.**

*"Thank you The Congo Tree for investing in me and in many other young Congolese to allow us to know our potentialities and become actors of positive change."*

## Hours of intensive WYLD training for each young person:

more than

# 50

hours



# Alumni



**OLIVIER**

*"The Congo Tree allowed me to discover what I am capable of, to have confidence in myself, and to work on my dreams. It has helped me reach my full potential . For me The Congo Tree is a school of life because it teaches us young people the privilege and responsibility of making a positive impact in our community."*

*"Thanks to The Congo Tree and the practical training I undertook, I discovered that I had skills and began to know who I was. Through listening to the colleagues that I trained with and by sharing our different experiences, I have realised that I can and must start today and not wait until tomorrow. I now understand that having influence or being a leader is not contingent on gender but on the actions that we can each make in the community - even small actions can have great influence and bring about a big change."*



**FRANCINE**

FACILITATEUR



**ELIE**

*"The Congo Tree showed me important concepts of character and behaviour around other people. Being a part of someone's life, to be a role model for a young person, is incredible."*

*"Despite the troubles that eat away at it [DRC], I remain positive and believe that change is around the corner. Thank you to The Congo Tree for investing in me and in the future of the Congolese youth."*

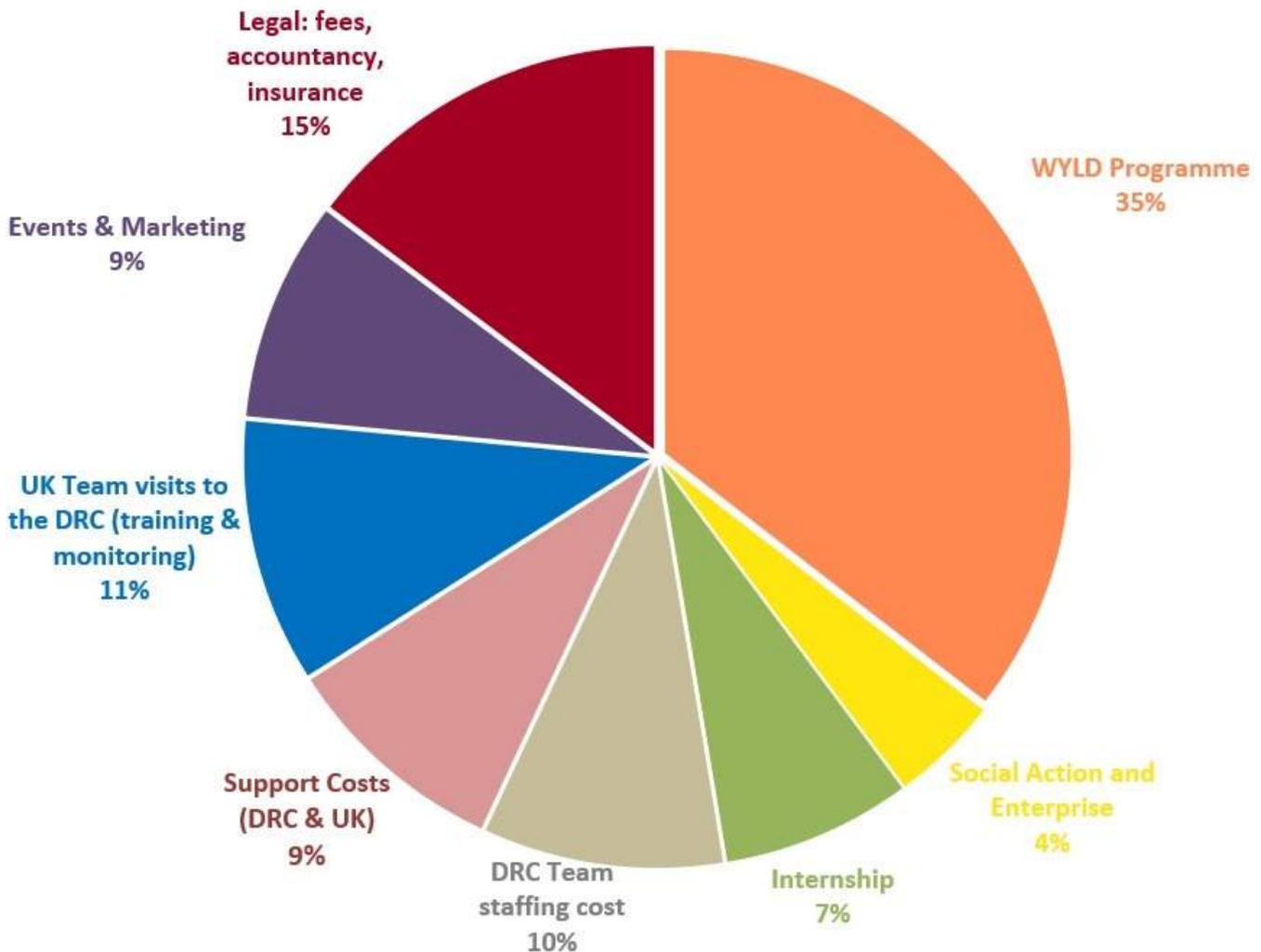
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## INCOME



Total Income: **£16,963**

## EXPENDITURE



Total Expenditure: **£16,037**

# STRATEGIC REPORT: ACHIEVEMENTS

**VISION:** *To inspire, equip and support young leaders in the DRC.*

## **OUR AIMS 2017-2018:**

### **Aim #1: Urban WYLD**

→ We started 2 new programmes in Goma with 56 young people, as planned, and established a partnership with HEAL Africa for future programmes. We graduated 119 from the previous year.

### **Aim #2: Rural WYLD - to train a new group in Masisi**

→ We managed to go back to Masisi and carry out training we had planned with 14 young people, including 4 young women.

### **Aim #3: The Tree House**

→ Although we have not had the capital to invest in our own 'Hub' just yet, we have made the most of having an office for the first time, a place for the team to invite guests back, conduct meetings and facilitators training.

### **Aim #4: International NGO registration in DRC**

→ We were successful in completing the first section of our official registration. There are still a few other steps that we now need to take but the major bulk of the work has been done and we are now fully recognised.

### **Aim #5: WYLD programme and mentoring development.**

→ This year, WYLD was established as its own brand. There have been discussions around sharing WYLD through partners in other countries in the future. Anna Galloway joined the UK Team to support, train and help us prepare for the introduction of The Tree of Life art therapy programme as an intrinsic part of WYLD.

### **Aim #6: Social Action Projects.**

→ 7 social action projects were established this year that were designed and led by teams of young people. A total of \$163 given as loans was reimbursed by year end.. We also completed our Projet Ecole (WYLD programme adapted for schools) and maintained contact with teachers. Although we couldn't get in this school year, the schools are very keen to have us back for the next academic year. The Young Leader's Day of Kindness efforts successfully supported 12 children with their school fees. We held our first Be Part of The Story worship event.

### **Aim #7: Creative enterprise.**

→ The fish pond in Masisi was expanded successfully. We began a pilot with the facilitators who have now set up their own small enterprise to sustainably support the continuing WYLD programme monthly meetings and mentoring.

# #BEPARTOFTHESTORY

Be Part of the Story is a family of Christian organisations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, brought together by The Congo Tree in December 2016. We believe that all individuals and groups have a part to play in the story of life, in God's story, and we are excited to play our part! We know that we can go further together, so we are committed to each other to work alongside each other for the best of ourselves, our loved ones and our communities.

In September we hosted our first #bepartofthestory worship event. We brought together over 100 young people from various backgrounds, tribes and church denominations for a time of worship. A few of the young people who graduated from the WYLD programme formed a choir and we also had a dance troupe. We shared inspiring stories of how young people all over the world are living as part of God's big story.

We would like to thank that family for their support over the year.



**TRANSFORMATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE**



**HATD** Hope in Action,  
Together for  
Development

