



FOCUS

EDUCATIONAL,
SOCIAL & SPIRITUAL

LOCATION

LUBUMBASHI, D R CONGO

LEADER

KIKOMA LUBELEY

**OUR MINIMUM
ANNUAL TARGET**

£2750

This school for the blind in East Katanga was set up in 1990 but had to close in 1998 due to the civil war. An application was made in 2006 for government recognition for a blind school. The vision and aims of the project are to teach blind children to read and write as well as providing psychological and educational orientation to learn how to adjust to the local society which is not sympathetic to their needs and in fact there is a real degree of prejudice against disabilities. The goal is to produce useful members of society. To this end, there is vocational training to assist the students to be self-supporting by training them in sewing and agricultural skills. There are 6 teachers who work under the director. Two of the teachers are blind and part of their role is to teach braille to the students. There are 17 students who span primaries 1-5 and there are four qualified primary teachers.

This is the only school for the blind in the whole Katanga area outside the Catholic church. The school is run in a complex that is annexed to the local primary school.

The project director, Kikoma Lubeley, is fully trained to teach registered blind students. Since the re-opening of the school after all the disruption that the civil war brought, Kikoma has developed an establishment that has brought hope to this disabled group of people and has managed to gather together teachers with the skills required to equip the students to cope in the communities where they live. There are five trustees who work with the director and provide the necessary accountability.

The school is officially accredited by the government but receives no financial support.

