

PAN AFRICAN COLLECTIVE



DETAILED REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE WEAVER SCHOOL



Country: **Democratic Republic of the Congo**



City: **Goma**



-----JULY 2021-----

Collaboratively Reported & Submitted by:

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and

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To: **Pan African Collective – USA**

Done in Goma, on 29 July 2021

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To: **Dr. Rev. Jonathan Weaver**

Re: **Teachers' Salaries and Rent Fees**

Dear Sir,

I believe you are doing well. I am writing this message to inform you that the school activities are ending within a month. According to the Congolese Education Program, schools are closing in the first week of September 2021.

Therefore, I would like to let you know that I am praying for you that may God open doors for you for teachers to get their salary to encourage them to finish this school year joyfully.

The end-of-year exams are scheduled right in the first week of August 2021. It will be a great pleasure for the teachers to finish this year while having some money to enable to survive during break.

In the same regard, the school landlord verbally told me that he wants to cancel the rent contract, and therefore, he needs his remaining rent fees before cancelling the contract. It seems that he would like to use his plot for other purposes. We are praying for you, may God help you in your efforts and endeavors to continue assisting us.

Yours faithfully

Pastor Seraphin MUTABAZI



INTRODUCTION

The Weaver School is located in North-Kivu Province, eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It operates under the authority of the Pan African Collective – USA. It is made of Primary and Secondary school. In fact, the socio-politico and economic aspects are not favorable in DRC in general and in North Kivu in particular. North-Kivu province has experienced a series of wars for decades. Despite the presence of UN Soldiers for peacemaking processes, insecurity still has peaked at a considerable level. Goma has become a place of refuge for most of the vulnerable people leading to an increase number of orphans, street children, etc. This issue has affected the life of Goma inhabitants because most of them do not access quality education due to a lack of school fees.

Helping others in their times of need is the best gift to humanity.



So, the school hosts orphans and other poor children (living in host families) without any marginalization to ensure they all access quality education being the right of all children.

This 2020-2021 academic year started on October 13, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The normal academic year starts in September of each year and ends in July of the other year. But, since the corona virus has been declared in DRC, the school activities have been affected due to unceasing interruptions of the lockdowns. In the same regard, this school year is ending on September 08 and start a new academic year on October 2021.

So, this report includes the overall activities of the school since October 2020 up to now and the upcoming academic events before it reaches the end.

We rise by lifting others up



PART I. WEAVER SECONDARY SCHOOL

The academic activities started on October 13, 2020 because of the lockdowns imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. But, the normal academic year starts in September of each year.

There are 3 majors from which every student is free to study after the Elementary Level (the 1st and 2nd years after primary school). The majors are: Social Techniques, Nutrition and Pedagogy (Education).

Number of Current Students

Currently, there are *198 students*; there are 153 girls and 45 boys. They come from very poor families and others from host families because their parents are no longer alive.

Number of Dropouts

We started the 2020-2021 academic year with 373 enrolled students (139 boys and 234 girls). *175 of them have dropped out* of the program (94 boys and 81 girls). So, we are remaining with 198 students currently.

The main cause is the irregularity of *teachers* due to lack of financial motivation on a regular basis. Also, some teachers have left before the end of the academic year. So, some students leave the program before graduation because teachers assigned some subjects have left.

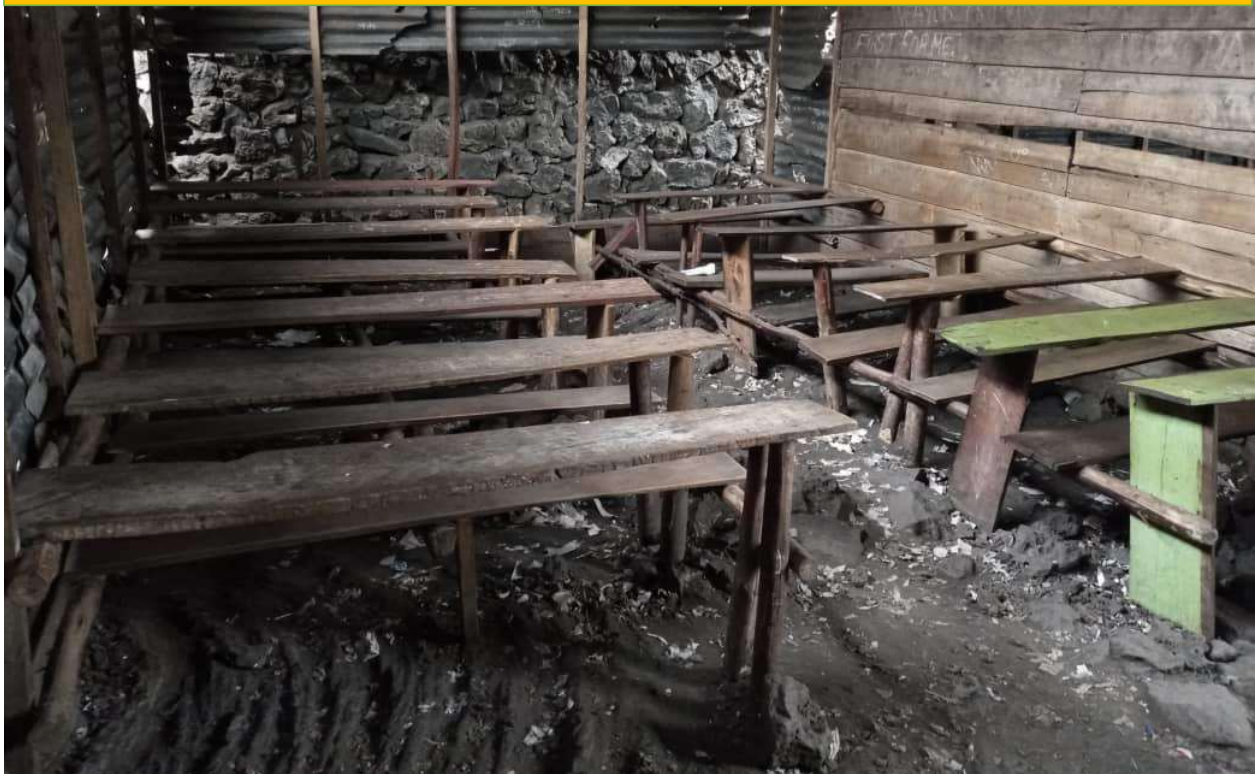
Also, some students have dropped out of the program because:

- Many of the girls got pregnant during the COVID lockdown;
- Many boys lost interest in education and rejoined the street during the lockdown – they have become street children;
- The recent volcano eruption also increased the number of dropouts at Weaver School.

Other causes of Dropouts

- Poor learning conditions: students sit in bad conditions; the benches are old and it is risky for students because one bench cannot support 6 to 10 students who are seated on it.
- Stony floors: the floors of the classrooms are stony. Sometimes students are unwilling compelled to sit on stones all the day long (from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.). It is painful.
- Since Education, at Weaver school, is free of charge, we get crowded classrooms (made of orphans and children from poor families), this makes it difficult for them to cope with the conditions, and decide to quit.

The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.



Inside the classroom (Weaver Secondary School): Stony floor, old benches, and the environment is not safe in the rainy season. When it rains, it oozes out and sometimes lessons are interrupted.

CURRENT TEACHING STAFF AT WEAVER SECONDARY SCHOOL

N°	FULL NAMES	SEX	FUNCTION	MARITAL STATUS
1.	BASALELA CHADRACK	M	Principal	Married
2.	BARAKA NDOOLE	M	Teacher	Single
3.	NDOOLE BATENDE	M	Teacher	Married
4.	ERICK KATEMBO	M	Teacher	Married
5.	KAVIRA KATEMBO	F	Teacher	Single
6.	MUNGUIKO PASCALINE	M	Teacher	Single
7.	KISUBA ELIE	M	Teacher	Single
8.	AMANI MULENDA	M	Teacher	Single
9.	FAIDA KAMBERE	M	Teacher	Single
10.	FATAKI NYANDWI	M	Teacher	Married
11.	MYATSI MWICHO	M	Teacher	Married
12.	KUBUYA HANGI	M	Teacher	Married
13.	PENDO CIHINDAMUKO	M	Teacher	Married
14.	ISSA ILUNGA	M	Teacher	Married
15.	TUMAINI MASIRI	M	Teacher	Single
16.	BARAKA JOSUE	M	Teacher	Single
17.	MUNGUIKO HAMULI	M	Teacher	Single
18.	IRAGI MUKANISA BENJ	M	Teacher	Married
19.	BISIMWA DOMINIQUE	M	Security Guard	Single

COMMENT: All these teachers are still working at Weaver Secondary School. They are all competent and qualify for the job because we recruited them after a serious selection.

- **Administrative Aspect:** Some things went well as far as administrative duties are concerned. There is good and effective collaboration between the school and the government; this is because the government allowed our finalists to sit for the National Exams despite the **debt of \$300 (three hundred US Dollars)** for the last year's participation to the National Exams.

However, we spent the academic year in bad conditions, for example, there is a lack of 4 classrooms needed for senior classes.

TEACHERS WHO LEFT

N°	FULL NAME	SEX	FUNCTION	MARITAL STATUS
01	OMBENI NGUBA	M	PRINCIPAL	Single
02	DIEUDONNE KAMALOLWAKO	M	TEACHER	Married
03	SHAMAMBA CHRISTIAN	M	TEACHER	Single
04	FAIDA MIXIONA	M	TEACHER	Married
05	MIRINDI NZIGIRE	F	TEACHER	Single
06	KATEMBO GRACE	M	TEACHER	Single

Comment: All the above teachers left because there was no financial motivation on a regular basis. Even, the School Principal left because he was not gaining anything.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- Orphans doze in during class because of hunger; many of them eat once a day (at night)
- Lack of enough classrooms: students study in bad conditions.
- There is no good office for administrative activities of the school;
- Lack of money to pay for the first cycle of our two majors (Social Techniques and Pedagogy). There are fees required by the government before students sit for the national exam, but we *haven't paid it yet (\$300)*;
- Lack of enough school books;
- Lack of didactic materials;
- There are no National Programs for some subjects;
- Lack of hand-washing buckets, soap, and thermoflash.



Inside the school office: *Old books (most of them are outdated), no good shelves to store the school materials*



Outside of the school: *No hand-washing buckets. There are few (3) but no longer of good usage. The school is likely be fined if it is visited by the Congolese Ministry of Health for not availing materials to fight against COVID-19.*

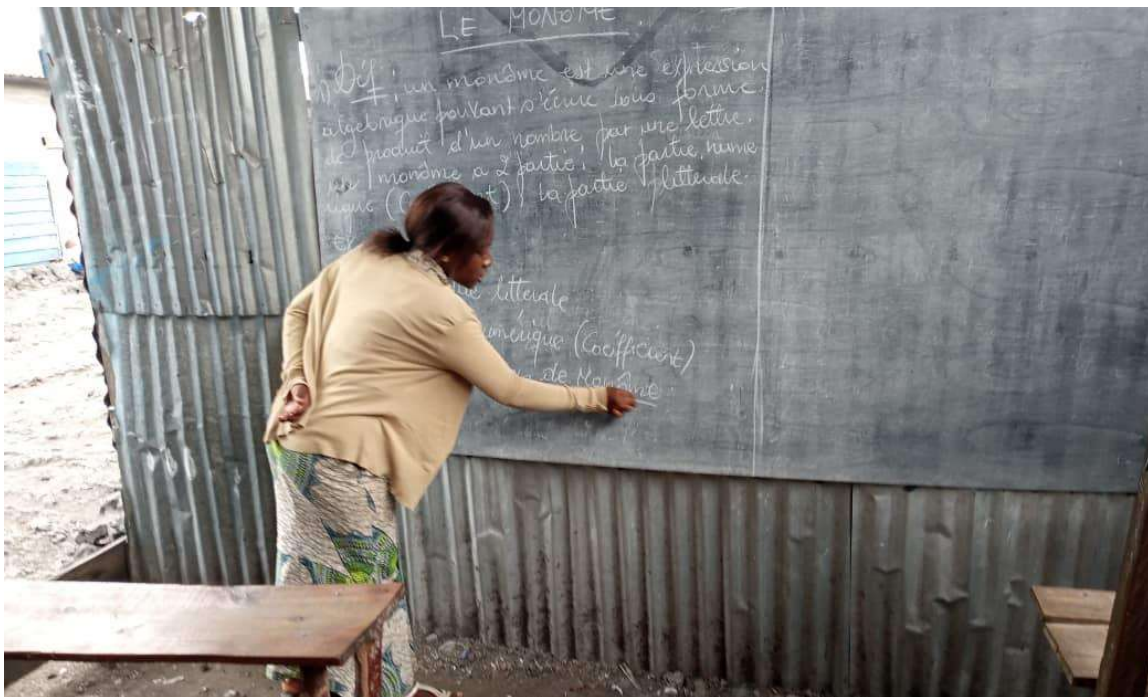
POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- ✚ Buying school books for the school and equip the Office;
- ✚ Having a laptop to facilitate the writing process of the school reports;
- ✚ Building an Office for the school;
- ✚ Paying teachers on a regular basis;

SCHEDULE OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Currently, we are remaining with 23 days to finish the 2020-2021 academic year. Below is the timeline for the remaining main activities:

- From 30 July to 16 August 2021: General exams for all the students;
- From 30 August to 02 September 2021: National Exams for finalists (Senior 6 students)
- Wednesday 08 September 2021: End-of-Year activities (proclamation of students' results) and Beginning of breaks.
- Monday, 04 October 2021: New academic year (academic activities resume).



I cannot do all the good that the world needs, but the world needs all the good that I can do.

NEEDS FOR THE NEXT 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

In order to improve the quality of education at Weaver Secondary school in the next 2021-2022 academic year, the below needs should be met. We thank you in advance for your willingness to make it a reality.

ITEMS	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
Dictionary (La Rousse)	1	\$50	\$50
National Program (secondary school)	5	\$10	\$50
Laptop	1	\$400	\$400
Calculator	2	\$6	\$12
Office Table	2	\$50	\$100
Table (For Practice)	1	\$30	\$30
Electric Oven	1	\$130	\$130
Complete kit for Nutrition major	1	\$300	\$300
Student Attendance Books	13	\$3	\$39
Stapler	2	\$5	\$10
Printer	1	\$500	\$500
Hole Puncher	3	\$7.25	\$21.75
Filing	7	\$4	\$28
Appointment books	5	\$5	\$25
TOTAL			\$1,695.75

The above items are needed for the Weaver secondary school for the next 2021-2022 academic year.

PART II. WEAVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

The academic activities started on October 13, 2020 because of the lockdowns imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic yet the usual school year begins in September of each year.

SYNOPTIC CHART OF STUDENTS AT WEAVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRADE	ENROLLED STUDENTS			DROPOUTS			CURRENT STUDENTS	
	NUMBER OF GRADES	M	F	T	M	F		T
1 st	01	69	64	133	38	43	81	52
2 nd	01	67	68	135	46	40	86	49
3 th	02	72	76	148	51	56	107	41
4 th	01	66	79	145	36	41	77	68
5 th	02	49	59	108	25	23	48	60
6 th	01	39	40	79	10	18	28	51
TOTAL	08	362	386	748	206	221	427	321

Comment: The above table presents the number of students since the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year. We enrolled 748 students at the beginning; so far 427 of them have dropped out (221 girls and 206 boys). Therefore, 321 students are still pursuing the program currently.

The main cause that pushes this big number of students to leave the program is that many of them leave far away from the school; others cannot make it to school every day because of hunger (sometimes they spend the whole night without eating). Most importantly, after investigation, we found out that the majority of the students have dropped out of school due to a lack of shoes. Goma being a stony place, it is hard for them to walk a long distance barefoot.

CURRENT TEACHING STAFF AT WEAVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

N°	FULL NAMES	SEX	FUNCTION
01	BUINGO BUKA	M	PRINCIPAL
02	SIFA HATEGEKA	F	TEACHER
03	ASIFIWE KINYUNYI	F	TEACHER
04	BONANE KINYUNYI	M	TEACHER
05	MAPENZI MAMBOLEO	M	TEACHER
06	MURONGANYI KUBUYA	F	TEACHER
07	NEEMA SITAMANI	F	TEACHER
08	NSII SAFARI	F	TEACHER
09	NIYOKWIZERWA MAHIGE	M	TEACHER
10	KAHINDO SHELAMYA	F	TEACHER
11	RHUBANE BISIMWA	M	TEACHER
12	TUMSIFU CHANTAL	F	TEACHER
13	KIBANJA MAMBOLEO	F	TEACHER

Comment: There are 13 teaching staff including the Principal who are working at Weaver Primary school currently. They are the ones who endured the challenges encountered throughout this year.

- Administrative Aspect: There is a good collaboration between the school and the government. Also, the School Administration and the teachers work collaboratively to achieve the goals. Strong teamwork is observed despite the challenges we may face. However, there is a debt of **\$78 (seventy-eight USD)** for 2 dictionaries we borrowed from the Provincial Sub-Division of Education.

TEACHERS WHO LEFT

N°	FULL NAMES	SEX	FUNCTION
01	CHIRIMWENGOMA TEGANYI	M	TEACHER
02	LIKOO BUKA	F	TEACHER
03	OMBENI MALIRA	F	TEACHER
04	BIZIMUNGU MWISHUKO	M	TEACHER
05	MUHINDO JUSTIN	M	TEACHER

Comment: Five (5) teachers have left so far. The main cause is that they are not regularly paid. Since the school hosts the most vulnerable children of the area, and it is not paid by the government, it has been so hard for the above teachers to endure.

Note: In general, there have been more than 11 teachers (from both Primary and Secondary school) who have left since the Weaver school started.

NEEDS FOR THE NEXT 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Weaver Primary school may improve the quality of education in the next 2021-2022 academic year better and better if the below needs are met.

ITEMS	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
Students Attendance Books	17	\$3	\$51
Teachers' Attendance Book	1	\$5.5	\$5.5
Preparation cards	3 boxes	\$35	\$105
Pedagogical documents	3	\$20	\$60
Reams of paper	2	\$6	\$12
Stappler	2	\$5	\$10
Guide 1 C	1	\$25	\$25
Hole puncher	2	\$7.3	\$14.6
Calculator	2	\$6	\$12
School Management	1 Book	\$25	\$25
Laptop	1	\$400	\$400
Chalk	4 boxes	\$65	\$260
Flag	1	\$60	\$60

Others (Didactic Materials)			
Teaching dresses	18	\$10	\$180
Geometric Kit	6	\$32	\$192
Maps and science cards	8	\$2	\$16
School Books			
National Program (Primary school)	12	\$15	\$180
Le Citoyen : Grade 1	1	\$5	\$5
Recitation : Grade 1	1	\$5	\$5
Kiswahili : Grade 1	1	\$5	\$5
A nous le Francais	4	\$5	\$20
Kiswahili : Grade 2	1	\$5	\$5
Grammaire Apprivoisée	1	\$5	\$5
Luga : Grade 4	1	\$5	\$5
Le francais l'art de conjuguer	1	\$5	\$5
Apprendre l'orthographe	1	\$5	\$5
Le citoyen : Grade 4	1	\$5	\$5
Histoire : Grade 3 & 4	1	\$5	\$5
Civisme	1	\$5	\$5
Le Français a Nous l'Ecole	1	\$5	\$5
Le monde merveilleux	1	\$5	\$5
Geographie de la RDC	1	\$5	\$5
Histoire de notre pays : Grade 5	1	\$5	\$5
Le monde 6 ^e et Physique	2	\$10	\$20
Geographie 6 ^e et Histoire	2	\$10	\$20
Infrared Thermometer	5	\$95	\$475
Hand-sanitizers & Liquid-soap	1 box	\$130	\$130
Hand-washing buckets	7	\$20	\$140
TOTAL			\$2,488.1

*We need **\$2,488.1** (two thousand, four hundred and eighty-eight point one US Dollars) to effectively start the new academic year 2021-2022 at Weaver primary school.*

ENCOUNTERED CHALLENGES

The Weaver primary school hosts the most vulnerable students in Goma, most of them are orphans and or from internally displaced families. It has been challenging for both the students and the teachers. The teachers are unwillingly required to review lessons for the students who miss class due to some of the below reasons:

- Some students come to school being hungry. Most of them eat once a day, by chance. They then come to school without having eaten anything. They spend the entire day slumbering in the classroom or even lose consciousness during the lesson.
- Some of them do not afford school uniform, school items, etc.
- Most of them come to school barefoot despite the long distance they walk to the school. This led to a majority of them to leave the program.
- The bad conditions of the classrooms are unbearable. The classrooms are stony and the benches are too old for more than 8 students to sit on. By the way, throughout this year, we witnessed a series of accidents because the students sit in bad conditions.
- The landlord is putting pressure on us that he wants to cancel the rent contract because he'd like to use his land for other purposes.
- I cannot do all the good that the world needs But the world needs all the good that I can do.
- I cannot do all the good that the world needs But the world needs all the good that I can do.



When you help other people, you help yourself. It's impossible not to feel great when you do good for other people.

These students are required to walk more than 2 kilometers a day (more than 1.243 miles) to reach the school. Goma is a stony place. They have no shoes. Their shoes are torn and can no longer support the stony roads.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- Getting shoes, uniforms, bags and school objects for the children.
- Having a school canteen for the school where children may get some food to eat at any time.
- Making good benches to help the students sit in good conditions;

We are praying for people like you who have always thought about these vulnerable children. May God bless you so as to continually reach out to the needy people. Please help them get quality education.

PERSPECTIVE

Buying a piece of land and school construction

In order to help as many orphans as possible, a piece of land is needed because the school is still renting. After buying the school land, a school building with good classrooms will be of a paramount importance. Our dream is to have a good school that respects the international standards. May God bless anyone who would help make this dream become a reality. Buying a piece of land and having good classrooms/Information Technology will help most of the problems the school is facing today. It will generate income and solve the problem of teachers' salaries and school materials. Furthermore, the school will be financially self-reliant.

We thank all the Pan African Collective members who have always contributed to teachers' salaries. Our prayer is that God bless you and open doors for you to provide salaries on a monthly basis for teacher retention and get rid of the risks the school is facing currently. The students are unable to pay school fees given the level of their vulnerability. So, teachers depend on the salary you sent them whenever possible. In addition, the poor condition of the school cannot attract students who can finance their education to pay teachers; its building is in a very bad condition and students learn in a very poor condition.

We pray that God bless donors so that the teachers get their salary on regular basis pending the sustainable solution which to buy our own piece of land and build modern classrooms to enroll students who can afford school fees for teachers' payment which is a sustainable solution.

Integration of ICT at Weaver School

There should be a Computer Laboratory where students will be practicing computer skills, so we would like to integrate ICT at Weaver School and make it the pilot technology school in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

School Buses and Clinic

Given the fact that most of the students come from afar, in the future, it will be a good idea to get school buses that will facilitate them to reach the school on time.

Appendices



Mr. BUINGO BUKA Lavie (Weaver Primary School Principal)



Mr. BASALELA KAMUTERA Chadrack (Weaver Secondary School Principal)



Front side of the school toilet. There is only one two-door toilet for both girls and boys. Unfortunately it is not well built. It is risky; it is possible to spread diseases.

Note: There is no toilet for teachers.



Backside of the school toilet.



Due to Covid-19 preventive measures, students are required to maintain at least some distance while sitting on the benches. They do not respect the 1 meter required for physical distancing however. This is because of lack financial resources to make more benches for them.





Every morning, students are asked to line up for a morning prayer and sing the National Anthem, a strategy that teach them the love for God and their Country.





Inside the classroom. The benches are too old that it is risky for the students to sit on them. At any time a student falls off a bench, they are immediately injured because of the stony ground.



During break time (10 minutes), teachers have no other option rather sitting on stones because there is no staff room.

We strongly believe in a brighter future!

We believe that God is above everything. We hope that the above pictures will be memories one day for our school. Memories of where the Weaver School will have come from. Students may be learning in unbearable conditions today, but there is a day; a day every Weaver school student and teacher will forget about all of this. We hope that the Weaver School will be one of the most famous schools in DRC in particular and in the world in general. We believe so!

We are praying blessing over every Pan African Collective member who has contributed to the current status of the Weaver School as for now. It is no longer the same as it was when it started. May God bless you all!

Better things are yet to come! The future is brighter, again thank you for contributing to the education of the most vulnerable people here in Goma. You are contributing to DRC future development, peace restoration, social inclusion and economy.

Be blessed!

Our Dream!

From Zero



To Hero





Our Dream!





Our Dream!





Our Dream!

