

# Outreach Partnership Program Updates

MARCH 2021 | DR CONGO

**T**hank you.

Thank you for showing up.

Thank you for celebrating the small joys and big wins, finding creative ways to fundraise, advocating for the mission of Outreach, sharing our story, being a mighty voice for this important work and partnering with us to support local leaders and community-led groups who are developing lasting solutions to poverty-related issues.

We envision a world where communities are working together to overcome the challenges of chronic poverty and your partnership makes this vision a reality. Thank you! We are proud to present you with this partnership update so that you can get a glimpse of the good that your generosity makes possible in the country you choose to support.

Enclosed you will find a copy of your 2020 giving report which includes a summary of the contributions made towards your partnership throughout the year.

Finally, we've also enclosed a recognition gift as a token of our appreciation for your continued support! We hope that this gift finds a place where it can be proudly displayed and shared with those that made this possible.

2020 was a challenging year for all of us, but if anything, we've learned that together we can do hard things. Thank you for your continued partnership. Through grace and grit, we will continue to change the world together. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust and support. You make so many good things possible!

*We hope you enjoy this March 2021 edition of the Partnership Program Updates! If you need more resources to share with your group, please visit our website at [outreach-international.org/resources](https://www.outreach-international.org/resources). If you have specific questions about your giving report or just want to say "Hello!", please contact Marsha Penrose at [m.penrose@outreachmail.org](mailto:m.penrose@outreachmail.org).*



## A Development Rite of Passage

At Outreach, we believe in building up local leaders and we envision a world where communities are working together to overcome the challenges of chronic poverty. So, when communities reach a new milestone in their leadership journey, we absolutely need to stop and celebrate this big accomplishment! Here's the latest good news from our friends in DR Congo.

Three communities in DR Congo have reached an important milestone in their development story. Transitioning from truly breaking ground (Groundbreaking) into strengthening their community-based group (Consolidation & Strengthening), these communities are even more organized and formally prepared to address even more of their issues than before, especially the complex ones!

Now, they are focused on establishing important systems for their future. First, they will establish a formal structure for their leadership: roles, responsibilities, and election of future leaders. Then they will formally register with their local government as a community-based organization (CBO). This ensures the legal legitimacy they need as a group to pursue even more resources and improvements for their community. They will also develop their vision and mission statements and outline their plans for the coming year. As a rite of passage, they've named themselves! In Bemba, their group names are:

**Tukoseko**, meaning "Let us strive"

**Tupilibuke**, meaning "Let us change"

**Twime**, meaning "Let us work forward"

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Earlier in 2020, these three groups came together and united to address COVID-related issues. The pandemic impacted them all. With borders closing, food prices rose, and local restrictions made it difficult to find day labor jobs. Faced with fewer income opportunities and increased food prices, the groups united to create and implement food loans that provide important food security and generate income for their group's future projects. They've also implemented numerous low cost-high yield agriculture projects for subsistence farming, as well as farms that generate significant income for families.

Working together to relieve the effects of the pandemic jump started their collaboration and smoothed out the transition in strengthening themselves as CBOs. They are very excited and optimistic about their continued work together. Obviously - look at those group names!