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Banro raises \$80K for Congolesse hospital



BANRO FOUNDATION

The Panzi Hospital near Bukavu, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Banro Foundation, a charity created by Canadian gold miner **Banro** (BAA-T, BAA-N) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has raised \$80,000 for the Panzi Hospital in the eastern part of the country.

Located in a suburb of Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu province, the general referral hospital has become internationally recognized for providing free, comprehensive care for women, including survivors of sexual violence.

Founded by gynaecologist Denis Mukwege in 1999, the 400-bed hospital treats an average of 3,500 women each year.

Mukwege and his team have cared for more than 30,000 survivors of sexual violence through specialized treatments,

integrating psychological and physical therapy with social support.

Mukwege was awarded the 2010/2011 King Baudouin International Development Prize in May.

Upon receiving the award, Mukwege stated, "I am grateful for the opportunity to reiterate the critical need for all of us to take action for women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We cannot risk being silent on this grave injustice. Destroying women means destroying life."

"Through his work as a doctor and advocate, Dr. Mukwege is shining a spotlight on one of the most pervasive and pernicious human rights abuses in the world: violence against women," said

Peter Piot, chairman of the King Baudouin Foundation.

Mukwege also received the UN Human Rights Award in 2008, and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, among other awards.

The donation from the Banro Foundation will go towards building a multi-purpose women's health centre at the Panzi Hospital to support prenatal consultation, family planning and HIV sensitization, and other activities promoting women's health.

Banro raised the funds through a golf tournament held near Toronto in June. The main sponsors of the event were Macleod Dixon LLP and Kilo Goldmines, along with co-sponsors Banlaw Africa,

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Banro registered the Bukavu-based

charity in 2005, with a mandate to better the lives of people living in South Kivu and Maniema provinces by investing in education, health and infrastructure development, and by providing opportunities for women.

Since 2008, the Banro Foundation has

built a regional health care centre, a women's resource centre, two new high schools, two primary schools, a portable water delivery system, and more than 100 km of roads and bridges.

For more information on the Banro Foundation, visit www.banro.com.