



Congo Health Connection

Shipping Container update.

Dear FRIEND,

The shipping container filled with donated supplies for the Vanga hospital was picked up in St. Louis on June 1. A huge "thank you" to the packing team for their great work! The container wound its way to the Norfolk International Terminal where it was randomly chosen for an inspection on June 14, 2021. Basically, the report we received was that the door was opened and the visible contents was compared to the inventory. We passed this inspection but the delay meant we missed our ship and had to wait for the next vessel which cost us an extra \$1480 in fees.

The container traveled across the Atlantic, stopping in Spain and then in Italy and then traveled down the Atlantic coast of Africa arriving at the Congo deep ocean port city of Matadi on August 2. We are now working with IMA to help the shipment clear customs and to get the container transported to Kinshasa where it will be unloaded and repacked into smaller vehicles to be transported overland to Vanga. That last leg has its own particular challenges including going ahead of the vehicles to repair and reinforce the bridges, fill in deep ruts in the road, and digging the vehicle out of the sand and/or mud, as needed.

Please pray that the container will quickly clear customs and make its way to Vanga to bless the hospital with equipment to serve others better.



This is a photo of the ship that carried our container to Congo. It was named Bremen Express and owned by the Hapag-Lloyd company.



IV poles and crutches



Everything was tightly packed and strapped down.

From the banks of the Kwlku River,
Tim and Kathy Rice