



malaika
empowering me

**Girls Education
Community Engagement
Infrastructure**



If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

African proverb

Context: Conflict and Lack of Access

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Africa's second largest country, has been ravaged by a regional conflict for the past two decades. The war, fought over the DRC's vast natural resources, has had devastating consequences on the social and economic status of its people. An estimated six million have died as a result of violence, disease and displacement related to the conflict. The physical and psychological scars have weighed heavy on a country so abundant with beauty, talent and potential.

The World Bank has posited that educating girls yields a higher rate of return than any other investment. An educated woman is less likely to die in childbirth and has healthier children. She is less vulnerable to diseases like HIV/AIDS. She increases her future earnings by 10-20% for each additional year of schooling and reinvests most of it back into her family and community. Educating girls has positive benefits on all sectors of society. Nevertheless, girls' access to education remains limited in the DRC, as gender inequity pervades Congolese society. For families that can afford it, the preference is to send boys to school, while girls stay home and help with domestic tasks. As a result, UNESCO estimates the literacy rate for women to be approximately 46%.

Malaika operates within this context in the village of Kalebuka in the Southeastern region of the DRC. The majority of households practice brick-making while others engage in subsistence farming, small trade and cattle herding. Kalebuka has only five small schools, all located in the center of the village, and none of which are free. Malaika operates in a completely underserved area - the Munama quarter - which, until we arrived, had neither a school nor community facilities. The literacy rate in the area is one of the lowest within the country - it is 8% for men, 4% for women, and 10% for youth.



Organizational Overview

Founded in 2007 by Congolese/Cypriot model and humanitarian Noella Coursaris Musunka, Malaika is a nonprofit, grassroots organization whose mission is to empower Congolese girls and their communities through education and health programs. It is established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit (EIN 26-0670177) and is a registered charity in both the U.S. (reg. 40-52-76) and the DRC.

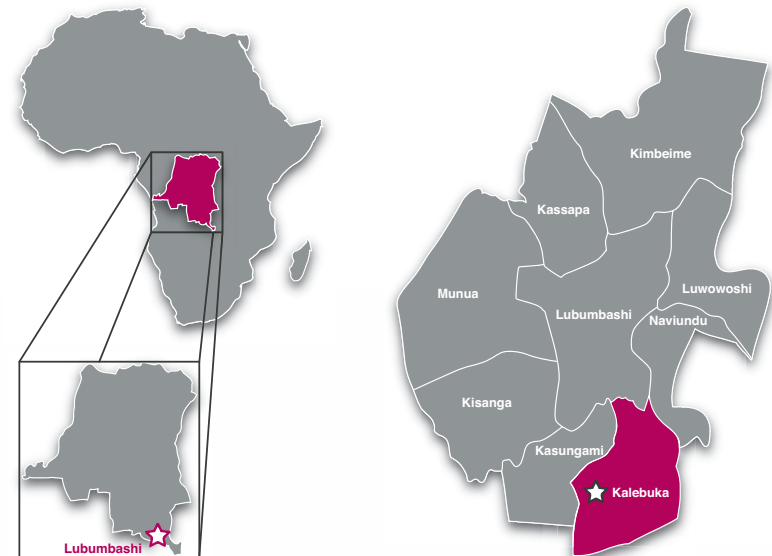


Photo © Richard Foulser



Malaika's success to date has been the result of the hard work of 35 Congolese staff members working on the ground in the DRC and around-the-clock support from a team of 30 volunteers working in the U.S., Europe, the DRC and beyond. Additionally, Malaika has two Goodwill Ambassadors: Grammy Award-winning musician Eve and Khaliah Ali, daughter of renowned boxer Muhammad Ali. Ali's grandson, Jacob Wertheimer, is Malaika's Youth Ambassador.

90% of every dollar donated to Malaika goes directly to our programs – the remaining 10% covers essential administrative costs necessary to keeping our programs running.

Malaika provides the tools and opportunities for individuals to have a lasting impact on the future of the DRC. We offer community-driven health, education and infrastructure programs.



Our volunteer executive team



Our dedicated DRC staff

Our Country Manager, Sarah Kalumba

Our work takes three distinct paths:

1. Malaika School: Providing a Quality Education

The Malaika School is a free, accredited school that provides a comprehensive and high quality education to girls in Kalebuka. In 2011 we welcomed our inaugural kindergarten and first grade students and have added an incoming class every year since. In Fall 2018 we welcomed our newest class, totaling a student body of 314 girls from grades K to 8.

As we proceed, we will add approximately 30 girls each year, whom we will educate until the end of secondary school. We will then strive to place them in internships with local companies and to secure scholarships for them to attend university.

Our curriculum is structured around daily classes in French and English, on subjects including math, science, information technology, health and civic education. Great care is taken to cultivate the leadership potential of the students, from involvement in the Girl Scouts to field trips and community service projects such as planting trees or teaching the community about malaria prevention. Art, music, theater and physical education are also key parts of the robust educational programming.

The Malaika School library was recently inaugurated by our Goodwill Ambassador, Eve. This library is the only one of its kind in Kalebuka. It houses both print books and e-books on tablets, giving the girls access to the broad world surrounding them. As of 2016, the Malaika School is 100% powered by solar energy.



Our Goodwill Ambassador, Eve





Eve inaugurating the school library



My trip to the DRC to visit Malaika's projects exceeded my expectations. Malaika provides a great environment for the girls. You can feel the excitement when they take their seats in class. I support Malaika because of the positive impact they are having on girls' lives.

Eve, Malaika Goodwill Ambassador

In addition to providing a free education, another unique aspect of our school is that it provides two healthy meals a day. Research shows that children learn better with a balanced diet because they are able to focus in their classes and are more alert. All meals have been strategically planned with the help of a nutritionist to ensure a balanced diet that meets the needs of the girls at this crucial stage in their lives. They eat breakfast and lunch at the school and eagerly look forward to them as these are often the only meals they receive each day.

With seven years of schooling under our belt, we can say with confidence that our students are thriving. Our devoted teachers work closely with those girls who demonstrate a need for additional help. We arrange after-school homework assistance to

make sure they are receiving the most rewarding education possible and also provide one-on-one instruction. During the summer months, we offer activities on campus to keep the girls engaged and active.

They are also encouraged to take home books to read during their free time. An additional reason our students are doing so well is that Malaika offers continued training for our teachers and our management team, as we believe it is vital to keeping our curriculum at the school competitive.





Malaika has changed the way I dream – I used to have small ideas of what my life could be like, but now I want to travel the world and experience everything.

Rose Muswamba,
Student in Grade 7

The construction of the Malaika School has provided much needed employment for the community. In line with our philosophy of gender equality, we have recruited women to join the construction team, providing them with training and an income to help support them and their families. We have also brought together a team of local women to learn how to sew uniforms for our girls, which not only provides them with a new skill, but also helps involve the community with the school. The parents of both current and future students are not only involved in the building of the school, but also take care of its maintenance. Under the guidance of our maintenance supervisor, they help with the upkeep of the school by managing the kitchen and cooking meals, cleaning the school and providing security.



Visualisation of Malaika School when completed

Malaika inspires young girls to question tradition and culture and to build their own futures. To be part of a program where so many women are heard and so many new choices are created is unique. Malaika is changing the lives of thousands of people in the DRC.

Nick Gates, Founder of Coaches Across Continents

2. Kalebuka Football for Hope Center: Transforming Community

In 2013, Malaika partnered with FIFA to build the Kalebuka Football for Hope Center, a community center that offers education, health and sports programs to approximately 5,000 youth and adults in the village.

Offerings include classes and workshops in a range of subjects, such as our Village Health Worker trainings, Mothers First family planning program, and Drop Malaria program, which focuses on decreasing malaria through prevention and protection with awareness-raising activities and distribution of 9,000 bednets. The center also offers literacy, sewing, math and computer classes, giving students access to the internet. In 2016, the center launched the Sustainable Pathways project, our premier vocational training program to teach out-of-school youth about conservation farming, entrepreneurship and enterprise development.



Photo © Kevin O'Donovan,
Coaches Across Continents

3. Infrastructure: Providing Life-Saving Water

The construction of the wells has greatly improved our lives. Before we had to draw water from the river but that would make the skin itch. We had to walk many kilometers to reach it. Now we can feel the difference and our children do not get sick as often.

Kelly Kalala Kabund, Kalebuka resident



In rural Africa, women can spend more than one hour on each trip to fetch water - an exhausting and often dangerous chore that robs them of the chance to work and learn. Dirty water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene habits play a major role in child mortality.

In order to combat these challenges, Malaika partnered with Voss Foundation to build eleven wells, Vinmart Foundation to build a twelfth one, and a private donor to build a thirteenth. Having access to clean water in the village has helped decrease the number of cases of cholera, diarrhea and other illnesses. Our thirteen wells have a direct and beneficial impact on over 26,000 people a year.



The Kalebuka community must have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in order for them to survive and thrive. Statistics show that this enables people to lead healthier and more productive lives. Voss Foundation's work with Malaika to build wells for the school and community, in addition to sinks, toilets, and plumbing for the campus, has had a great impact on the well-being of the students and their families.

Kara Gerson, Executive Director, Voss Foundation

Other Activities:

Since its inception in 2007, Malaika has worked hard to meet needs the community has presented. A few of our initiatives include:

New Beginnings, Malaika's first and longest running project, is a sponsorship program which supports a group of abandoned and orphaned girls in Lubumbashi. Malaika finances the girls' school expenses and contributes to Maison Magone, the orphanage where they live.



Malaika partnered with **One World Play Project** to distribute 10,000 One World Futbols across the Katanga Province. These ultra-durable footballs are being used at every opportunity by the happy youth.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead



For more information and to keep abreast of our work, please visit: www.malaika.org

"Engineer" *"Librarian"* *"Scientist"*
"Politician" *"Teacher"* *"Lawyer"* *"Dentist"*
"Artist" *"Journalist"* *"Businesswoman"*



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Province du Haut Katanga, RDC

KALUBUKA FOOTBALL FOR HOPE CENTER

Numéro PC 10416, Route Munama,
Quartier Kalebuka, Lubumbashi,
Province du Haut Katanga, RDC