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A Message from our Founder

It’s hard to believe that 12 years have already passed us by. I have vivid memories of the day that it all began—a day marked by the sponsorship of just 10 girls from a local orphanage. I’m proud and humbled to be here today, knowing that through access to education, clean water, and healthcare, we are now impacting thousands of lives each year. To this day, it still feels like a dream. And it’s a dream that I feel has only just begun.

Before Malaika, the village of Kalebuka had no access to electricity, clean water, or educational facilities. But that is changing before our very eyes. This past year, we’ve welcomed even more girls to our school, we’ve created even more classes, and we’ve appointed even more teachers. What’s more, we’ve worked diligently to strengthen all of our programs—from agriculture to clean water and healthcare. Through this holistic approach, we’re able to empower not only the lives of our girls, but also their families and even their entire communities.

I’d like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, our many volunteers and supporters, as well as our incredible on-the-ground team. Without this fierce and dedicated body of individuals, we would not be where we are today. Thank you for coming on this journey with us, for sharing your expertise, insight, and drive, and for helping us grow and touch more lives each year.

I’m excited to see what lies ahead for Malaika and for all those within our family over the next 12 years and beyond.

With gratitude,

Noëlla Coursaris Musunka
Founder and Board President
Malaika’s mission is to empower girls and their communities through education and health programs.
A Global Education Crisis

Education is one of the most powerful tools that societies can offer for social and economic mobility. Yet even today, an entire generation of youth are systematically denied this critical resource. A staggering 263 million young people globally are not currently attending school.

In many places around the world, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, girls and young women face an even steeper uphill battle than their male counterparts in getting a seat in a classroom.

What We Know

- In Sub-Saharan Africa, 97 million youth are out of school
- In the DRC alone, 7 million children are not in school
- Almost 50 million girls in Sub-Saharan Africa are out of school. Girls are 1.5 times more likely to not have access to education, and two-thirds of the global illiterate population are women
Malaika and its facilities found their home in Kalebuka, a village in southeastern DRC. Most households in this community earn their livelihoods through activities such as brick-making, and access to basic amenities such as electricity, healthcare, and clean water have never been a given.

Youth access to education in Kalebuka is also reflective of the larger global crisis, particularly for girls, who are often kept out of school due to societal gender expectations.

**Literacy in Kalebuka**
- 8% of men in Kalebuka are literate
- 4% of women in Kalebuka are literate
- 10% of youth in Kalebuka are literate
Holistic schooling means that Malaika students will have the tools they need to become leaders in their communities.
At the heart of Malaika is our girls’ school, which provides a free, quality education to students in Kalebuka. From their entry at around age 5, until their graduation 12 years later, our students have access to not only a basic education - but a world-class one. Our facilities are solar-powered, and our dedicated teaching and support staff, who themselves serve as role models for Congolese excellence, use their expertise and the latest teaching technology to expose the girls to courses from mathematics and the arts to coding and sports. The school currently supports over 300 girls, whose uniforms, books, and educational expenses are all subsidized through fundraising and sponsorships. Our vision is that the girls who graduate from our school will move on to become the future leaders of the DRC.

Edoxie is an example of the kind of difference that the Malaika school can make in the life of girls in Kalebuka. When she first came to our school, Edoxie was like many of our girls: eager to learn, but limited by her family’s lack of resources. She had long suffered from chronic medical issues, but was unable to access quality, long-term care due to her family’s limited income. When she became a student, we were able to admit her to a hospital where she underwent surgery under Malaika’s full charge. Edoxie was also cared for under the school’s nutritional program, which provided her and her family with food while her health continued to be monitored by our nurse. We were able to have a positive impact in her life, and we are delighted that she is thriving while continuing her studies. At Malaika, we know that health and education go hand in hand in building the best future possible for our students.
Our farm ensures that our students can focus in class without worrying about their next meal, and that our community members learn valuable conservation farming skills.
Organic food is grown locally on Malaika’s farm. Many families in Kalebuka face food insecurity at home, and we knew early on that supporting the whole girl meant making sure that she would be able to study throughout the day free from hunger. The fresh fruits and vegetables we grow go towards providing the girls and our school staff with two nutritious meals every day.

Community members, staff, and students alike assist in maintaining and cultivating the farm, which helps us to further ensure the sustainability of our program model, while also allowing us to provide lessons in environmental stewardship.

Malaika’s farm is a bridge to the community, and a way for educators at the school to provide vocational training in sustainable farming. Through our agriculture program, Malaika’s local agronomist connects with community members to teach methods in organic farming. These lessons cover topics from composting and watering to understanding the different behaviors of various types of plants. Among the recipients of this agricultural education are the parents of our students, who practice these methods in our field while helping grow the food that fuels our students and staff!

From solar panels to our school farm, sustainability is integrated into every aspect of the Malaika model.
The Kalebuka Football for Hope Center is the home of our community programming and outreach.
Investing in Our Community

The community center is home to our Nzuri Threads program, which provides training to women in Kalebuka in sewing skills that can be used for income generation. To date, bags and other accessories under the brand name *Mama Ya Mapendo*, or Mothers with Love, have been sold in local supermarkets.

Nzuri Threads is a part of a broader suite of programs available to women through the center, which also includes courses in reading, writing, and entrepreneurship.
We build and repair wells throughout Kalebuka to ensure everyone has access to clean, potable water.
In an effort to alleviate the burden of water-borne illnesses in Kalebuka, Malaika focuses its efforts heavily on repairing old water wells in the community, and building new ones.

To date, Malaika has dug and repaired 17 wells, providing 30,000 people with access to clean water. These well sites, several of which are managed by local volunteers, also provide an additional way for Malaika to connect with and provide services to community members.

Access to clean water has had a tremendous impact in our community. Prior to our well construction and refurbishments, people in Kalebuka walked hours to access water, which often came from open holes in the ground. Our students frequently missed school due to illnesses with symptoms largely attributable to waterborne diseases. The most common reasons that kept the girls out of the classroom were diarrhea, fever, stomachache, and typhoid fever.

As we’ve steadily built and repaired the local water infrastructure, we’ve seen a marked decline in absences due to these illnesses.

Water is life, and Malaika is continuously seeking co-sponsors to help us build and repair wells in the village.
By investing in initiatives that promote the well-being of the community and environment around the girls, we are building a sustainable and replicable, supportive ecosystem designed to keep our students thriving from girlhood through adolescence.
“At school I am passionate about computers and English because it is a universal and borderless language that will allow me to travel the world, which is my dream. I would like to become a computer programmer engineer.”

Nyekoso
12-year-old student
Building Sustainability
Our Impact
A Model with Impact

17 WELLS

built or refurbished throughout Kalebuka

5,000+ YOUTH & ADULTS

provided with community programs through the Kalebuka Football for Hope Center

300+ community members

including youth and adults, accessing literacy, English, and Information Technology classes through our community center

100% PASS RATE

among Malaika School girls for their Grade 6 national exams, 3 years in a row

314 students

STUDENTS CURRENTLY RECEIVING A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION AT THE MALAIKA SCHOOL

30,000 PEOPLE

in the community furnished with access to potable drinking water

11,000 MOSQUITO NETS

DISTRIBUTED TO HOUSEHOLDS IN KALEBUKA IN ORDER TO PREVENT MALARIA, WHICH IS ENDEMIC IN THE REGION

70+ WOMEN

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE NZURI THREADS PROGRAM IN OUR COMMUNITY CENTER
“I can see the change, not only in the children’s lives, but also in the community as well, and with the people that we work with.”
Sarah Kalumba
Country Manager
Driving Force
Team, Supporters, and Financials
Executive Leadership

Board of Directors
Noëlla Coursaris Musunka, Board President
Charlotte Kirby, Board Secretary
Alain Pakabomba, Board Member
Sanjay Rawal, Board Member
Eileen Walmsley, Board Member

Leadership
Sarah Kalumba, Country Manager
Sylvain Koj Tshikut, Headmaster
Elvis Nshimba, Programs and Evaluation Manager
Adriana Henriquez, Chief Financial Officer
Megan Faunce, Program Manager

Ambassadors
Charlie Collins, Malaika Ambassador
Eve Cooper, Malaika Ambassador
Marine Tanguy, Malaika Ambassador

Advisory Board
Bethany Asplundh
Tina Buchan
Marjorie Coestier
Majda El Bied
Lauren Gilbert
Francois Latouche
Philippe Loral
James Masters
Jonathan Mboyo Esole
Josuel Musambaghani
Karina Nagin
Purva Panday Cullman
Rosie Rafferty
Corina Savvas
Hervé-Lomami Steimes

My education
The Malaika Staff

School Staff
Adrille Kibombe Kisula, Nurse
Alain Mbayo Kadiata, French Teacher
Bavon Musabila Ngeleka, Year 6 Teacher, Primary
Benjamin Yumba, Art Teacher
Donat Tshisuaka Mukendi, IT Teacher
Eric Kabamba, Year 4 Teacher, Primary
Etienne Muyumba, Year 3 Teacher, Primary
Eugenie Mwape, Year 2 Teacher
Faguy Umba, Tennis Coach
Francoise Kameto, Kindergarten Teacher Assistant
Jacques Kubadilwa, Science, Geography, and History Teacher
Jean de Dieu Musenge, Math Teacher
Joseph Lumbula Kazuku, Music Teacher
Maguy Safi Makanda, Physical Education Teacher
Moise Lumbala, Year 5 Teacher
Odette Tshilemb, Year 1 Teacher
Rebecca Mbayo, English Teacher
Rigobert Kisontwe, Educational Consultant
Therese Mabaka, Kindergarten Teacher

Support Staff
Aimee Kunong, Maintenance and Cleaning
Alphonse Bomبوك, Security Guard
Amani Nimuboma, Security Guard
Aubin Yumba Ilunga, Maintenance
Bernadette Kapeshi, Chef
Corneil Kalaba, Security Guard
Cynthia Umba, Administrative Assistant
Dina Marie-Claire Mukendi, DRC Advisor
Dominique Kalembwe, Agronomist
Henriette Mbutu, Maintenance and Cleaning
Jaime Thomas, Outreach and Communications Manager
Jean Claude Kabeya, Security Guard
Liliane Kasanda, Cook
Louise Pineau, Program Assistant
Marta Reed, Program Assistant
Martin Tshanda, Security Guard
Natacha Mosakwa Bayindo, School Administrator
Patrick Tshovu, Driver
Salima Etoka, Development Assistant
Sandrine Longolongo, DRC Advisor
Sébastien Kikunguru Kembele, DRC Advisor
Tatiana Ramos, Development Assistant
Wilson Kalenga, Security Guard

Community Center Staff
Achille Kabongo, Teacher
Chancelle Ngoy, Volunteer Coach
Deborah Baruani, Volunteer Coach
Divina Kalenga, Teacher and Coach
Ildephonse Kangela, Teacher
Israel Kazembe, Volunteer Coach
Mathilde Tshibola, Sewing Teacher
Paul Banza, Assistant Coach
Penuel Kisimba, Volunteer Coach
Rosette Baruani, Volunteer Coach
Russel Kisimba, Volunteer Coach
Strong Mpiana, Coach
Sonya Shannon, Program Development Manager
Malaika’s Supporters

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Financials 2018-2019

TOTAL EXPENSES

- programs $417,978
- administrative $80,268
- fundraising $5,489

- programs: 83%
- administrative: 16%
- fundraising: 1%
Learn more about how you can get involved!

www.malaika.org

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Route Munama (vers la ferme Nguz) Bloc Trois-Z
Quartier Kalebuka, Lubumbashi,
Province du Haut Katanga
RDC

Malaika Headquarters
244 Fifth Ave. Suite N225
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@MalaikaDRC