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While we never could have imagined the challenges that 2020 would bring to the world, to the DRC, and to our community in Kalebuka, this was the year where we saw just how powerful our whole-of-community approach could be.

That approach, Malaika’s Ecosystem Model, was built on the simple idea that supporting our students meant meeting the needs of the wider community and inviting them into our programs.

As food security and urgent hygiene resource needs surged in Kalebuka as the country went into lockdown, our sustained physical and social safety nets helped families to weather the storm. Our network of wells provided clean water and open areas where we could share hygiene education. Our campus became our emergency food, soap, and staples distribution site. Our school STEM technology was used to 3D-print face shields for local health workers. Our community center’s women’s group, Mama Ya Mapendo (Mothers With Love), mobilized to sew face masks with local cloth. Our incomparable teaching staff created a homework delivery system for our students at their homes.

Yet as full as our hearts are, we are also humbled by the extreme difficulties our organization has faced in the last year as a result of the pandemic. Individual donor contributions were at an all-time low in 2020, as households around the world faced job insecurities and competing personal needs. While we just opened the school year with our largest class of girls to date, our resources are more constrained than ever.

But this won’t stop us. We know that we will weather this storm too, and are keeping our dreams big to remind our girls that we can face adversity with intelligence, grit, and hope.

Thank you to all of our supporters for the words of encouragement, the financial resources, and the inspiration you gave us this year. We hope that you will share this report with your colleagues and friends, and help us to show the world what the impact of a community-based approach to girls empowerment can look like. We are thrilled to look back and celebrate the amazing work of our staff and our Kalebuka community, and look forward to continuing our dreams in 2021 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.
At-A-Glance

There are 130 million girls globally who are completely missing out on school (BBC News).

Today, over 50 million girls in Sub-Saharan Africa are out of school (UNESCO).

Girls of every school-age group are more likely to be excluded from education than boys across sub-Saharan Africa (UNESCO).

The Democratic Republic of the Congo ranks number 152 out of 159 on the Gender Inequality Index, with less than 15% of women completing their secondary school education (UN Data).

Since 1995, the global education enrollment rate for girls has increased from 73% to 89%, with the biggest improvements in sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia (Foreign Policy).
By investing in initiatives that promote the well-being of the community and environment around the girls, we are building a sustainable, replicable, and supportive ecosystem designed to keep our students thriving from girlhood through adolescence.
our path to impact

20 WELS built or refurbished throughout Kalebuka

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, 4 years in a row

314 students
STUDENTS RECEIVED A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION AT THE MALAIKA SCHOOL

70+ WOMEN
SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE NZURI THREADS PROGRAM IN OUR COMMUNITY CENTER

30,000+ PEOPLE
in the community furnished with access to potable drinking water

5,000+ YOUTH & ADULTS
provided with community programs through the Kalebuka Football for Hope Center

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

20

300+

100%

314

70+

30,000+

5,000+

11,000
Ephraim, who was forced to drop out of school due to a lack of funds, joined the Malaika family through our Community Center, where he is keeping up his education in the hopes of returning to school to become a mechanic. Ephraim is also an avid footballer, which he is able to play on the Community Center’s world-class football field and through our football-based youth programs!

Jocelyn is one of the amazing students at the Malaika school, where she attends alongside her younger sister. With a sincere love of football, she is on the youth team for TP Mazembe. Outside of sports, Jocelyn enjoys playing guitar and learning English - both important subjects that are a part of Malaika’s holistic curriculum.
Pauline joined Malaika three years ago through the literacy and sports programs offered at our Community Center. While she had to drop out of school early on in her life due to financial difficulties, she is continuing her studies through the Community Center and hopes to enroll in Malaika’s soon-to-be launched electrician training program!

At the heart of Malaika’s football programs is Maguy, who shares her passion and skills with all of our students. In addition to teaching football at the school and Community Center, Maguy was recently named the first female coach of TP Mazembe, one of the biggest football clubs in Africa.
Sustainability in action! A community member helps us cultivate the produce from Malaika’s school farm, which feeds our students and staff!
It would be impossible to talk about 2020 without discussing the impact of COVID-19 on our community.

National shutdowns were felt severely in Kalebuka. Business closures weakened an already strained local economy, and food insecurity and health emergencies became our main concern. While in-person instruction came to a halt, Malaika continued to serve the Kalebuka community.

The Malaika ecosystem model is a community-wide support system.

We mobilized our resources to shift to emergency food and hygiene product distribution, reaching over 7,500 people during lockdown. 3-D printers were used to create 1,200 face shields, which were distributed to local hospitals, and we commissioned the women of Mama ya Mapendo to sew masks for the community. Together, we worked to minimize COVID-19’s impact on the daily lives of our community members.
In 2019 and 2020, Malaika truly went global!

As our school and community programs ramped up, so did our presence on the global education advocacy stage. From invitations to present our community-centered approach at major conferences to fundraising collaborations with big names in fashion and cosmetics, our founder Noëlla Coursaris Musunka ensured that the hard work of our students, staff, and community members was shared across the world.
executive leadership

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

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

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

Advisory Board
Bethany Asplundh
Christopher Lawrence
Corina Savvas
Hervé-Lomami Steimes
Marjorie Coestier
Majda El Bied
Lauren Gilbert
Francois Latouche
Philippe Loral
James Masters
Jonathan Mboyo Esole
Josuel Musambaghani
Karina Nagin
Purva Panday Cullman
Richa Sahay
Rosie Rafferty
the malaika staff

School Staff
Achille Kabongo, English Teacher
Adrille Kibombe Kisula, Nurse
Alain Mbayo Kadiata, French Teacher
Bavon Musabila Ngeleka, Year 6 Teacher, Primary
Benjamin Yumba, Art Teacher
Césarine Mbungu Bode, History Teacher
Charlaine Mamba Faila, Teacher & IT Assistant
Donat Tshisuaka Mukendi, IT Teacher
Eric Kabamba, Year 4 Teacher, Primary
Etienne Musyumba, Year 3 Teacher, Primary
Eugénie Mwape, Year 2 Teacher
Gaudé Binsoko Kabunda, Tennis Teacher
Jacques Kubadiilwa, Science, Geography, & History Teacher
Jean de Dieu Musenge, Math Teacher
Joseph Lumbula Kazaku, Music Teacher
Joyce Mwandwe Kiseba, Kindergarten Assistant
Judith Ntensya Kilonga, Math Teacher
Maguy Safi Makanda, Physical Education Teacher
Moise Lumbala, Year 5 Teacher
Odette Tshilemb-A-Mwez, Year 1 Teacher
Pierre Momat Wa Yumba, French Teacher
Rebecca Mbayo, English Teacher & Special Project Advisor
Rigobert Kisontwe, Pedagogy & Psychology Teacher
Sébastien Samudinda Ngwej, Science Teacher
Thérèse Mabaka, Kindergarten Teacher

Community Center Staff
Chancelle Ngoy, Volunteer Coach
Deborah Baruani, Volunteer Coach
Divina Kalenga, Teacher and Coach
Dominique Kalembwe, Agronomist
Ildephonse Kangela, Teacher
Israel Kazembe, Volunteer Coach
Kamwabu Kayembe Smith, Teacher
Kindele Kalenga Genevieve, Teacher
Maguy Safi Makanda, Coach
Muswamba Ilunga Violaine, Sewing Teacher
Penuel Kisimba, Volunteer Coach
Rosette Baruani, Volunteer Coach
Russell Kisimba, Volunteer Coach
Strong Mpiana, Volunteer Coach
Umba Wa Umba Gerard, Sports Coach

Support Staff
Aimee Kunong, Assistant Cook
Alphonse Bomboxo, Security Guard
Amani Nimuboma, Security Guard
Aubin Yumba Ilunga, Maintenance
Bernadette Kapeshi, Chef
Corneille Kalaba, Security Guard
Cynthia Umba, Administrative Assistant
Dina Marie-Claire Mukendi, DRC Advisor
Henriette Mbutu, Cleaner
Jean-Claude Kabeya, Security Guard
Liliane Kasanda, Cook
Lunda Ngandu, Virronique, Cleaner
Martin Tshanda, Security Guard
Natacha Mosakwa Bayindo, School Administrator
Patrick Tshovu, Driver
Sandrine Longolongo, DRC Advisor
Sébastien Kikunguru Kimbele, DRC Advisor
Wilson Kalenga, Security Guard

International Support Staff
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Jaime Thomas, Outreach & Communications Manager
Louise Pineau, Program Assistant
Marta Reed, Program Assistant
Salima Etoka, Development Assistant
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King Baudouin Foundation/Common Goal
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Seidman Family Foundation
Vinmart Foundation
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ALBA
Roksanda
Boucleme
Estee Lauder
Vodafone
Nova Incorporated
Mimi et Mina
Trust Merchants Bank
Trade Services
Little Noella
A natural leader and generous volunteer, with an energy that could rival the sun

Dorine
Musical powerhouse and a forever supporter of Malaika’s students

Leya
A wonderful student and friend, who was warm and respectful to everyone around her

Faguy
Who always brought humor, a smile, and happiness everywhere he went

Paul
Wonderful and talented youth soccer coach, who was known to his students as Brother Paul

Shaida
Longtime, dedicated, and cherished supporter of Malaika

Esther Annie
Beloved little sister, whose joy was matched only by her amazing football skills

in loving memory

you are always in our hearts
Learn more about how you can get involved!

www.malaika.org