

Witnessing the Transformative POWER OF EDUCATION



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written by
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photo
Noëlla Coursaris Musunka

Over the past decade, Malaika has impacted thousands of lives in the village of Kalebuka in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while also sparking a lasting transformation in the wider community.

Malaika, which is the Swahili word for "angel," is a grassroots nonprofit organization that is catalyzing change from the ground up. Founded in 2007 by Noëlla Coursaris Musunka, a Congolese/Cypriot international model and humanitarian, Malaika is empowering girls, women, and their community by improving access to education, clean water, and healthcare.

The impact of Malaika's work is far-reaching and all-encompassing, fueled by the alarming statistic of seven million children and adolescents being out of school in the DRC, the ongoing issues of villages lacking access to water and electricity, and the constant threat of malnutrition and disease.

The Malaika School provides 314 girls with an accredited, holistic primary and secondary curriculum. Students take classes in literacy, languages, STEM, health, civics, and the arts. Additionally, they receive two nutritious meals per day - using food grown organically on the agriculture field on our premises - and regular health checkups.

At the Kalebuka Football for Hope Center, built in partnership with FIFA, Malaika provides training in healthcare, literacy, IT, sports, and sustainable agriculture for over 5,000 youth and adults annually. As part of this center, the Nzuri Threads Program focus on teaching women in the community financial literacy, entrepreneurship, sewing and



embroidery skills. In the village and surrounding areas, Malaika has also built and refurbished 17 wells, which provide clean water to 30,000 people each year. Through partnerships with local doctors, Malaika has introduced measures to educate the community about common illness and disease - including malaria, for which over 11,000 malaria nets have been distributed.

Over twelve years since its founding, Malaika continues to grow and is increasingly recognized on the global stage for its transformative impact. Most recently, The OUTNET and ROKSANDA partnered with Malaika to introduce an exclusive collection from ROKSANDA, where 10% of each purchase goes to support Malaika's programs.

Malaika is truly empowering the next generation of female leaders. Each day, it opens its doors to over 300 resilient, passionate, and talented young girls. By providing a space to learn, question, and engage, it encourages young girls to believe in the attainability of their dreams, and to fight against the societal norms that can restrain their potential.

For more information about Malaika, please visit their website at <http://malaika.org/>. You can also find them on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

