January 2022 Featured Project

Creating community change through education and job training
Introducing Malaika

Nzuri Skills Project, Kalebuka
DRC

Creating opportunity and financial independence for women through instruction in
• Literacy
• Finance
• Business development
• Family planning
About Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Population 102 million
- Located in Central Africa
- 200+ ethnic groups and languages spoken
- 75% live on less than $1.90/day
- Has been called the “rape capital of the world”
Life Challenges

For women in DRC

• Severe poverty and hardship due to long held gender discrimination beliefs
• Often excluded from education and formal work
• In Kalebuka, only 4% of women are literate, survive on average of $1.25/day
The Project

- 300 hours of instruction in literacy, finance, business development, and family planning to 200 women
- Vocational options in traditionally male-dominated professions: housekeeping, sewing, and catering
- Low barriers to entry meet the women where they are in terms of education, skills, and beliefs
- 90% increase in reproductive health knowledge
- Increased sense of self-worth, self-sufficiency, and self-esteem

200 direct beneficiaries and 2,500 indirect beneficiaries
The Project

- 8 to 12 hours of trade specific training per week
- 4 hours literacy classes per week
- 8 hours of financial literacy and business planning per week
- 24 hours of family planning (one week will be focused on this topic)
- Housekeeping: 6-month program that runs twice per year
- Sewing and catering: 9-month programs that run one-and-a-quarter times during the one-year period
## Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>Lead instructors for catering, housekeeping, and sewing, plus assistant trainer</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant Stipends</td>
<td>$5 per participant per week</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials and equipment</td>
<td>Equipment, materials, and supplies the students will use in class, including cooking equipment, food for practice/classes, fabric, etc.</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Stipend for trainers to assist with transportation to the Community Center due to Kalebuka’s rural location</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$35,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About Malaika

• Founded in 2007 by Noella Coursaris Musunka

• After father’s death, at age 5, mother sent Musunka to live with relatives in Europe, hoping to ensure better future

• Musunka recognized her mother’s sacrifice and the importance of her education, became dedicated to helping other Congolese girls

• Malaika Community Center offers extensive programming and is a hub of the community

• School educates 370 girls each year
Share your thoughts

• How do you think literacy skills, finance skills, business development skills, and ideas of family size are linked?

• What shifts when women's sons and daughters see their mothers gaining these skills and pursuing economic independence?

• How do you think this project promotes gender equality?