



January 2022 Featured Project

Creating community change through education and job training



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

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

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

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?





TOGETHER WOMEN RISE