



Health Professionals Training – The Mafunzo Project Year 9 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Budget: \$16,800 per annum, Year 9 fully funded.
Year 10 of the program began 1 November 2018 – \$4,690.55 still needed.

Update:

The Mafunzo Project (which means “training” in Swahili) supports 12 nursing students and 16 medical students with 80% of the cost of tuition each year. The students are selected by staff at Panzi Hospital, the main hospital in Bukavu, after they complete their first year of study. This is based on their financial needs, character and their desire to serve Congo after graduation. They also need to demonstrate the required dedication and skill. Students attend the Evangelic University of Africa (EUA) for Medicine and Technical Medical Institute of Nurses for Nursing. This project has recently completed its 9th year and seeks to build up the healthcare professional body in the politically unstable and war-ravaged DRC. Medicine requires seven years of study and Nursing four years. The project is going from strength to strength with doctors/nurses now graduating every year with new students being added to replace those graduating.

Progress against Objectives:

- Continuing the sponsorship program through the turbulent political and social instability of the Congolese elections, which are taking place as this is being written.
- To date 28 students have graduated in Medicine and 27 in Nursing since inception of the program nine years ago.
- This year 3 nurses and 5 doctors graduated. Wonderful!
- There are 16 medical students and 12 nursing students currently.
- Dr Denis Mukwege from Panzi Hospital, a keen supporter of the Mafunzo project, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2018.

Graduate Dr Kalemaza (left) says, *“I am from a poor family. Today I am a medical director of Shilo clinic in Nyangezi 25km from the city of Bukavu and married. May God bless the MAFUNZO project and Dr Emily for all that it has supported us to become what we are today. We also plan that in the future we can also participate in helping vulnerable people in the continuity of their studies. Mafunzo Project educated me for seven years until I obtained my Diploma of Medicine in University of East Africa. May God bless you!”*

Your support makes all the difference to these students. They would not have any chance of continuing their studies without it. You are helping DRC to build its health professional community, a vital program for every country. We thank you on their behalf!



Nurse Justin above graduated from a poor family and is able to support his siblings now that he has a graduate job in a hospital -a wonderful outcome. He says *“Long live the blessing of the Mafunzo Project.”* We agree!

