



COD-MAF-MED-P10 Bukavu, DR Congo
Reporting Period: 2019 Academic Year

Health Professionals Training – The Mafunzo Project Year 10 Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Budget: \$16,800 per annum. Fully funded. Year 11 began 1/11/19 – fully funded. Year 12 begins 1/11/20.

The Project:

The Mafunzo Project (which means “training” in Swahili) supports 12 nursing students and 12 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 10th 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 and new students being added as replacements.

Progress against Objectives and Impact:

- Continuing the sponsorship program through the turbulent political and social instability of the Congolese elections was a challenge but the program successfully continued without having to make any changes
- To date 20 students (10 male, 10 female) have graduated in Medicine and 24 (16 female, 8 male) in Nursing since the project started 10 years ago – something to celebrate at the 10-year mark!
- This year 4 nurses and 4 doctors graduated – a wonderful result after so many years of hard work
- There are currently 12 medical students and 12 nursing students in Year 11. Previously there were 16 medical students, but after discussion with the partner we have changed it to 12 to make adjustments for the increases to the cost of the course over the past 10 years. We are still maintaining 80% support.
- Graduates from this year are being asked to help support students as a way of “paying it forward” and to give the project a start towards some self-sustainability.



Hi, my name is Samuel (pictured) and I'm a 4th year medical student. I come from a family living in poverty. My father died 7 years ago, making matters even worse. At the start of my second year I had no hope and everything had become dark in front of me. While tears flowed from my eyes, loneliness invaded me and I felt despair. I learned the existence of this project MAFUNZO. I did not even believe it but I applied and my request was accepted and the smile returned on my face! I obtained a scholarship allowing me to finish my course and see my dreams to become doctor one day. I will always be so grateful. Please continue to defend the cause of the poor all over the world.”

Entrust Project Manager Jenny Cramerer visited the program in June 2019. She said, *“Your support makes all the difference to these students. You are helping DRC to build its health professional community; a vital program for every country.”*

Thank you! This project is now 10-years-old – a wonderful achievement, celebrated by students and staff during the Entrust 2019 visit.