

Health professionals training - the Mafunzo Project

COD-MAF-MED-P11



Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo



Education

Year 11 Budget \$16,800

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

NOV 2016

NOV 2021

Overview

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been an unsafe place to live for many years. Life expectancy is low and trained health professionals are rare, particularly outside the capital city. Training general practitioners (7 years) and nursing staff (4 years) in one of the worst-affected areas will bring about long-term benefits to this African nation. The project co-funds medical/nursing students in their second year onwards, once students have proven their commitment and reliability. Funding covers 80% of the cost of a year's tuition, leaving students to also contribute to the cost of their education.



Impact for Academic Year 2020

12

12 university students completed medical training this year



in various year levels covering theoretical and practical training. This was on-hold for a period during lockdown. There were no medical graduates this year.

12 students completed nursing training

across second - fourth years at the training centre. Like the medical course, classes were on-hold for a period but both courses caught up by extending the year end.

12



4 nursing students graduated this year

4 students graduated in nursing - a significant achievement given the stresses (economic and emotional) of COVID-19. These students will now seek employment in much-needed areas of work .

Since the beginning of Entrust support

28 nurses and 20 doctors have graduated. There has been little drop-out of students as they have committed themselves to studies despite the difficult conditions for them to study. This is Entrust's 11th year of support.

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DRC is fraught with political instability, riots and violence. Rape and sexual abuse has been used as a tool of war, and there are many traumatised communities trying to rebuild their lives. DRC has 0.11 physician per 1,000 people (compared to Australia's 0.25) and 0.5 nurses per 1,000 people (compared to Australia's 10). The need is huge.

Josue's Story

"Hello, my name is Josue. I am in third year of medical training at the Evangelical University of Africa in Bukavu. I am 24 years old. I come from a very modest family with a precarious economic situation. I would not know how to continue my studies without your assistance which is why I want to present my feelings of gratitude and heartfelt thanks. I was born in the local area and I want to work to support my family and to contribute to my community.

This year has been hard with COVID-19. It is a struggle for many families as jobs were lost during lockdown. We could not attend university but we came back and finished the year later than expected."



Thank you for making a difference