

Supporting Students in Healthcare - The Mafunzo Project

COD-MAF-SSH-P13



Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo



Education

Year 13 Budget \$25,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

DEC 22

DEC 25

Overview

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the most challenging places on the planet. 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 80-90% of the cost of a year's tuition, leaving students to also contribute to the cost of their education.

Impact for Dec 21 - Dec 22

16

16 students are studying Medicine

in various year levels (2-7) at a university in Bukavu. High school graduation rates have been affected by the challenges of the last two years, with increased financial vulnerability of intake students requiring more leniency in fee collection (now allowed as instalments). 6/6 doctors graduated this year - a fantastic result.



12 students are in nursing training

across 2nd-4th years at the Institute for Medical Technology in Bukavu. Theory and practical courses together with exams were completed. 7/7 nurses graduated in Dec 22.

12



51

Since inception, the number of graduates

in the job market stands at 51: 23 nurses, 22 doctors, 4 lab technicians and 2 midwives. Finding gainful employment is challenging in DRC. Graduates often need to leave the city centre to seek jobs.



Students part-fund their studies

10% of nursing fees and 20% of faculty of medicine fees are paid by students' families. This encourages the students to take their studies seriously. With the start of a new 3-year project cycle, funding was increased to help take pressure off the rising costs of living over the past years.

80%



- There are 5 males and 11 females in Medicine and 4 males and 8 females in Nursing. x2 nursing and x1 medical scholarship was added.
- Project Manager Jenny Cramer and CEO Richard Beaumont had a great visit to Panzi Hospital in July 2022 after a 3 year gap due to COVID. They met with many students and faculty. They and we were encouraged!



Francine's Story

My name is Francine. I am 28 years old and an orphan. I am currently enrolled in my 4th year as a medical student. In the early years I had tremendous difficulty paying my academic fees. Sometimes I missed assessments because I could not pay on time. Other times I almost stopped my university studies and yet somehow managed to finish the year. But now, thanks to the scholarship support I have recently received, I can continue my studies, knowing I can pay my university fees. It has filled me with such confidence and peace of mind and given me even more courage and determination to excel in my chosen vocation. I am sincerely thankful to be a beneficiary of this scholarship program.



Thank you for making a difference