

Health Professionals Training - The Mafunzo Project

COD-MAF-MED-P12



Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo



Education

Year 12 Budget \$21,100

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

NOV 2016

DEC 2021

Overview

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the most difficult 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% of the cost of a year's tuition, leaving students to also contribute to the cost of their education.

Impact for June - December 21

16



16 students are studying Medicine

in various year levels 2 - 7 at a University in Bukavu, covering theoretical and practical training. COVID-19 has affected studies due to lockdowns and has made it more difficult financially for students/families to access work. Despite this, two students graduated this year.

12 students are in nursing training

across second - fourth years at the Institute for Medical Technology in Bukavu, a town of approx 1m. There is a big demand for students wishing to enrol in programs. Two nurses graduated at the end of 2021.

12



1



The alumni account to encourage grads

to give back to assist other students is yet to get underway due to the loss of jobs from lockdowns etc. Financially, DRC is a real struggle. Due to increased fees over the years, Entrust has increased the budget.

A volcano eruption in May affected many communities including Bukavu

as many fled the Goma area (3 hours north) due to continuing tremors, lava damage, looting and general unrest. Students and families took in family and friends and this caused further hardship for communities.

1



- There are 5 males and 11 females in Medicine and 4 males and 8 females in Nursing.
- It is hoped that 2022 will be a more stable year with no lockdowns!



Merveille's Story

"My name is Mutuga Merveille. I am studying Medicine at Evangelical University in Africa in Bukavu. It sits alongside the Panzi Hospital, one of the good hospitals in DR Congo. I come from a modest family who have always struggled to educate me through school. I never thought I would enter university and I was supporting my family through a sewing/stitching job. My father knew I wanted to be a doctor so he encouraged me to at least start and then see what happens. After third year it looked as though I would have to stop but I am being supported through this project instead - it was a miracle to me! My sincere thanks and recognition. I am so grateful! Without this project, I would never become a doctor!"

100% GETS THERE

Thank you for making a difference