

## Situation 1.1.2017

### Short Overview

"When a dream comes true" - I founded together with my husband and father the small non-profit association "River of Hope" registered in Switzerland. We kicked-off the project in Congo in 2010 without a cent and 2 suitcases filled with 46kg of football material.



In December 2012, we purchased in Selo, Kasangulu, Bas Congo, in the outskirts of Kinshasa, 4ha land. In Spring 2013 we could straight away start the construction of the center "Tala Mosika" thanks to all the sponsors and foundations. It is hard to believe that in fall 2015, just after 2 ½ years we inaugurated our 7th building & 2 converted containers. Of course we still have a lot planned but now the infrastructure is such that the program can start holistically. With the aim of stimulating the local economy with a micro-economic approach in order to achieve sustainability are already the first success stories. It clearly requires a lot of patience and time, training, and discussions with the local people. There needs to be a rethink, so that they can free themselves from the cycle of poverty with our assistance.

### Results 2013 – 2017

#### Construction



Our blog: <http://complexe-tala-mosika.blogspot.ch/>

We moved full steam ahead with the construction of our center "Tala Mosika". We inaugurated new classrooms, the sewing studio, agriculture program, kitchen & dining room, infirmary, staff accommodation, shop and snack bar. Our aim is that in the near future more parents will be able to afford school fees and contribute to the Tala Mosika "health insurance" plan. We also aim to attract the villagers and travelers to purchase goods at the store and consume in the restaurant. A whole new world is now open for the villagers of Selo, who's main source of income back in 2013 was producing coal. The road is still long: people have to understand that there are other ways to live, they courageously have to open up to changes in their lives, give us their trust, and together we will make a concrete and positive progress.

#### Container



Between 2013-2015 we have sent 2 containers from Switzerland to Congo and converted them into a shop, snack-bar. They are located directly on the main road N1 (Kinshasa- Matadi)

Our challenge is to make the business run and make it a revenue, since we had to deal with a lot of constructions and had to concentrate on all permits and accreditations for hospital, school etc.

### **Infirmary "Margaretha"**



Our blog:

<http://dispensaire.blogspot.ch/>

Since 2010, we have 2 doctors in our team who supported us with the building regulations, grants and logistics. The infirmary will offer from January 2017 an on-site medical care to over 1000 people, until now the nearest medical facility was located 17 km away. One way to finance medical care is planned by our own health insurance where adults pay a monthly fee of 5\$ and children 2\$. Children who are enrolled at our school will pay 10\$/year. Those who cannot yet afford this insurance scheme pay a contribution at each visit. Our ultimate goal is to build a hospital, this requiring the permanent presence of an ambulance. Our current financial situation does not allow for such a scenario, but we aim to achieve this some day. We focus on providing timely paid medical care which in turn ensures the salaries of the staff.

### **Accommodation for Teachers**



Our blog: . <http://complexe-tala-mosika.blogspot.ch/>

The construction of accommodation for the teachers was co-financed by the Cultural Fund of the Canton of SG and Swisslos and was inaugurated in September 2015. Now, not only the teachers but also the staff of the infirmary can stay on campus during working time. This solution provides and sense of stability to all employees. Currently we can only find qualified staff in the capital and we therefore need to provide them suitable lodging facilities and food to attract them to come and work at our center Tala Mosika

### **Kitchen & Dining room:**



Blog: <http://cuisine-talamosika.blogspot.ch>

In summer 2014, the project leader of Cuisine sans frontières (CSF) visited Tala Mosika for the first time. The outcome was a decision to finance the construction of our kitchen & dining room for 100 people. The construction began in December 2014. In January 2015 we loaded a container in Buchs, filled with kitchen and restaurant material that was collected from several Swiss restaurants. The offloading and set-up was coordinated on site by Sebastian, a member of the CSF team. In February 2016 he returned to Congo to train together with another cook our Tala Mosika team. The training focuses on hygiene, use of the material, food sanitation, and cooking suggestions for a balanced diet. Thanks CSF for this great and uncomplicated cooperation. We now need to make the Snackbar work and also offer food for travelers to create an income for our center.

## Agriculture



Chicken, sheep and goats have found a home in Tala Mosika. In the autumn 2015 we bought about 1-2 hectares of land for each of the four surrounding villages. We founded an agricultural cooperative where part of the involved villagers' profits go to pay the school fees of their children. This approach ensures self-sufficiency: the parents have a source of income that also covers the education of their kids and health insurance. Many thanks to Caritas Linz / Kinshasa for advice and financial support. Our goal is to acquire more land so that the villagers can increase their crops and sell their fruits and vegetables at the market. Our agricultural training program is the ideal solution for them. On "Tree Day", students planted Moringa trees – also called "miracle trees" and in October 2016 we planted 250 Acacia trees. We would like to buy more land in the area near the source to plant fruit trees like "Mango" and dry them with the machine from NTB Buchs.

Blog: <http://agriculture-tala-mosika.blogspot.ch>

## Primary and secondary school with boarding



In 2014, we have opened the school and in the summer of 2015 all our 6 graders successfully passed the national primary school final exams. A great success for students - teachers - parents and for all of us. A sign that we are on the right track and that our decision to hire well-trained teachers from the capital was the right one, despite the huge overhead costs that this requires. Another highlight for our elementary school teachers was that they already were able to complete the first 3-week training in school Emergence in Kinshasa during the summer holidays. This course was offered by the CPA with a Swiss educator, and is supported by Family Gnägi from Zurich.

This productive and uncomplicated cooperation is great and important for all of us. The Emergence school board with its teachers came to stay at the center Tala Mosika for a 3-day working retreat. This school year counts about 150 students.

Blog: <http://talamosika-programmescolaire.blogspot.ch>





Unfortunately, some parents do not send their children to school regularly, and avoidance of school fees payments are a regular issue. Parents are often unable to pay school fees so we are constantly looking for solutions and ways to help them secure a job. Their lack of education and professional skills limits their options, but several are able to work on campus in our kitchen, the sewing studio and especially in agriculture. In October 2016 our primary and secondary school received the recognition of the Congolese ministry of education.

### Sewing studio



Blog: <http://atelier-couture-talamosika.blogspot.ch/>

Since the summer of 2014 women who can already read and write, or the students from the illiterate program are entitled to receive a professional education the sewing studio. The prerequisite was that together they would cover the costs of the teacher. We are proud to say the since February 2015 the 30 participants in the program have been able to pay 100% of the salary, travel expenses and food of their teacher. Thanks to the impressive progress made by the women of the sewing studio we will try to launch our own "Tala Monika collection". We aim to create a cooperation and sell their products both locally and maybe one day elsewhere. We could accept large orders, and profits are distributed in part between the ladies and to a community fund that covers operational and overhead costs.

### Soccer



We opened our second CIPERFOOT football center in October 2013. This offer is aimed at disadvantaged children and youth living in poverty or on the streets. The training takes place 3 times a week. Most families cannot afford to pay for the training, so again this year we are very happy to have covered the costs of the trainers, meals, medical care through financial support. Our football school CIPERFOOT from Sanga Mamba was registered as a first of its kind in the year of 2010. In 2013, we started with the football training at "Tala Mosika" in Selo.

- Our U-18 team has qualified for the 2nd time in a row for the final round of the African tournament organized by Manchester United and Airtel Congo.
- We organized a tournament on the "peace day".

<http://ciperfoot-talamosika.blogspot.ch>



- We participated in several tournaments in Kinshasa. <http://ciperfoot.blogspot.ch>
- "One World Futbol" developed a unique ball that does not require air and is virtually indestructible. We are very proud to be part of this story, and that our project could benefit from the sponsored balls.  
<http://www.oneworldplayproject.com/our-impact/blog/river-hope-brings-power-play-congo/>  
Interview with the singer, Sting:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYV86ogAuQY>
- We are pleased to be a part of the "National Children Football Alliance" in England, a football organization that promotes peace projects.  
<http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/a-peace-field-in-the-congo/>  
Impressions: <http://www.ariverofhope.org/peace-field-project/>

## Challenges / Opportunities

With huge efforts, constant repetition, and a large dose of patience, we work with the local population, establish partnerships, and plan to create jobs through a micro-economical approach. We help them to kick-start a new life, get them out of the cycle of poverty, malnutrition, and poor sanitation. They start to understand that with a change of mind-set they can influence their own future. A vital part of this development is the education of their children. And although we recently received state recognition, at present the government does not take measures to financially support teachers' salaries or the parents with school fees. Families struggle to survive on a daily basis, so gathering the necessary funds to afford an education and future perspectives for their children is a daunting task. Our goal is to ensure that all their children can attend school, while maintaining the parents' responsibility for paying tuition fees with different programs.

### **Our biggest challenge is the poverty in the region.**

Families in our region struggle to survive on a daily basis. In order to stimulate the economy, there has to be a change to mind set. To achieve we hope to of the support of the local institution COAPACO in Kinshasa. They would work with the families and kick them off with a chicken, rabbit or agriculture. With the income they can send the kids to school, have medical coverage and more.

### **In the meantime,...**

... we need to have financial support to pay the salaries for our teachers, basic medical care and meals for undernourished children. At this stage, parents can't afford education for all their kids – and education is the key for success.

## Support

We are very happy and proud that so many international foundations have visited us. We welcomed visitors from several organizations including Medicor Foundation Liechtenstein, Caritas Linz/Austria, Cuisine sans frontières from Zürich, the Swiss representative of the school "Emergence" in Kinshasa and various ministries from Kinshasa and Bas Congo. Most of them stayed in our guest rooms that have bathrooms and running water. Our guests enjoyed their time with us and we were grateful for their constructive and positive feedback.

Transparency and a good collaboration with all our partners, private people, organizations and institutions are very important and essential to us. Please find below all our links. My next trip to Kinshasa will be on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

## Further information & links

**Tala Mosika:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZEadIP8ZEE>

**Award:** Yves Rocher – „Trophée des femmes“ 2016 <https://www.ariverofhope.org>

**Press:** <https://www.ariverofhope.org/media/>

**Movies:** <https://www.ariverofhope.org/media/movies/>

**Interviews:** <https://www.ariverofhope.org/media/interviews/>

**All our "Tala Mosika" blogs:** <https://www.ariverofhope.org/alle-projekt-tala-mosika/>

## Thank you very much for all your support and trust since 2010!



I will hold speeches/presentations about our project "Tala Mosika" to inform and encourage people to help, engage, support and get inspired - anything is possible!

Please ask for further details. I am more than happy to support you in activities and events you like to organize to raise money for our project.



Claudia Doron, Founder and Projekt Manager