

## Dear Partners and Friends of River of Hope

....2021 is already over and as the year before very challenging. However, the number of students has grown to over 500.

Our goal for the center and the region is to ensure sustainability with the support of local organization. In addition, the locals need to understand what is at stake and become an active part of their own development. PEP (Purpose - Energy - Patience).

The local team is already very well organized to implement "PEP" We now need funds to develop the infrastructure and maintain operations, that are still not taken over by the state as promised.

We also would like that local organizations provide educational services to the village population. Some discussions are already underway.

1. hygiene - education and sanitation in the villages
2. education, further training in the villages on topics such as: Agriculture, keeping small animals, planned logging for charcoal production, microcredit, etc.

### "PEP" (Purpose - Energy - Patience).

1. **Purpose** - The local population must understand why we do what we do.
2. **Energy** - Participate in their own development with energy and initiative.
3. **Patience** - Change does not happen overnight. Development takes more time and patience than what the industrial world often imagines. Together with the necessary tools we can take small and sustainable steps. Thus, we enable the locals to have moments of success, which motivates to create a better future for themselves and their family.

**Corona update** - Brief review: On March 19, 2020, the Congolese head of state decided to declare a state of health emergency throughout the national territory and to close all commercial and sporting activities, restaurants, schools, churches and to ban any gathering of more than 20 people. Since, it was not possible for us to buy completely overpriced thermometers, we were given the opportunity to send some by the Swiss diplomatic mail. Under the guidance of my video message, they made masks out of T-shirts and they received a donation to buy water basins and soap which have been placed in front of each classroom to wash their hands. As far as we know, no one had Covid-19 symptoms, this is certainly because our center is remote, and the borders to the capital Kinshasa were closed.

Tala Mosika sent all the children home, only a small team - the family of the coordinator, the security guard, two teachers and the driver stayed on site to monitor the site. On July 21, 2020, the health emergency was lifted. No Corona cases have been recorded at the center. There is little testing and vaccination going on in the country. For this reason, it is difficult to assess the situation. We try to educate as much as possible about Corona and hygienic measures.

WHO: In [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), from [3 January 2020](#) to [4:46pm CET, 18 January 2022](#), there have been [82,984 confirmed cases](#) of COVID-19 with [1,278 deaths](#), reported to WHO. As of [12 January 2022](#), a total of [386,592 vaccine doses](#) have been administered. (+90 Million inhabitants) <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/cd>



## School

Corona had us in its grip and so the Christmas vacations were extended until February 22, 2021. When the students started again on February 22, they worked without a break until the end of school on September 8, 2021. You could see their fatigue in their performance. Instead of two months of vacation, the national school calendar offered them one month only. The current school year 2021/2022 started on October 4, 2021 and is taking its normal course.

### Starting the school year 2021/22

The school is growing! We have now 196 boys and 257 girls in the elementary school and 43 boys and 63 girls in high school. <https://tala-mosika.jimdofree.com>

Due to Corona, the economic situation has continued to deteriorate and smaller schools had to close because they are not state accredited, and rely on financial support from the parents. This reflected in our numbers. We have many more students than before and at the moment we are able to provide education for the children free of charge because our primary teachers have been paid by the state since October 2020. We have also received material and school desks from local partners.

### Upper school - slowly but surely...

In summer 2020, for the first time, our first 5 students graduated from grade 12 and they all passed the state exam. In summer 2021, 8 students took the final exam and unfortunately only 3 passed. One reason is certainly that the Ministry of Education did not schedule vacations and the fatigue was present. There was also the assumption by some students, that if they participate in the exam, they will automatically pass. Well, this was an instructive lesson for our next graduating class.

In general, there are fewer students in the secondary school, and there are several reasons:

- For parents who are illiterate themselves it's difficult to accept, when their own children are more educated than them. In addition, educated children start having a different idea about life and that's difficult for parents to accept. Of course, from the very beginning when the school first opened, we offered an illiterate program to the parents, with a high attendance. This also made them realize how important education is, and they started to send the kids to school.
- For some children the level is simply too high and they don't make it to the end, so they drop out.
- Parents still believe that kids need to be able to write and do simple math and for these 3-4 years of education are enough. The fact that most kids complete now 6 years of primary school is already a huge success.
- Other parents send their children to relatives in the city, they believe that they have more chances there.

### Elementary school - Great news!

In 2020 only 11 finalists of the 6th elementary school took part in the final exam and in 2021 there were already 27 students (3 did not take part) and again all of them passed, like the year before.

## Our teachers

Our primary school teachers are getting their salary from the government since October 2020. Unfortunately, due to a corruption case in the ministry, the secondary school teachers are still not paid, even though all our teachers are on the list of SECOP "Service de contrôle et de paie des enseignants".

This, of course, puts us in financial distress. We really hope that we will not be put off any longer and that they will finally get their wages as promised.

## Solar Energy

### Financed:

In December 2020, we have installed on all buildings a PV installation. We are enormously happy, because the nearest power outlet is 17km away. Through this expansion, we have internet, and our center has light after 6pm. We no longer depend on the gasoline-powered generators, which, in addition to the enormous noise, also pollute the environment. In addition, during Corona, our graduating classes were able to watch the state preparation program online at the center.

### These buildings are equipped with PV installation.

1. Medical center "Margaretha
2. Accommodation for teachers and nurses
3. CSF kitchen and dining room
4. Boys dormitory and classrooms
5. Office and building 8 - 10 with the two visitors' rooms
6. Accommodation for the coordinator and the whole building 11 - 13 with the dormitory for girls

### What is not yet financed: Exterior lighting

1. The street lamps for the two courtyards
2. Street lights for the FIFA soccer field and the sports field.
3. Container which is storage for our soccer material.

### What has been already funded but not yet completed:

Drilling for a new well should have been completed by the state in the summer of 2021. The solar water pump has already been financed. For more details about the well, read in the next paragraph "Water". Impressions: <https://solar-und-bildung-talamosika.jimdofree.com>

## Water

In 2020 we informed you about the polluted water and its consequences. We alerted the health authorities of the Sonabata Health Zone and the doctors of the Red Cross, from the Health Research Center. The situation is slowly calming down and under control also thanks to a great partner who immediately financed a water filter, as well as the solar pump for our new well.

Impressions: <https://drinking-water-talamosika.jimdofree.com>

## Challenges

**Source:** The new source has been found and the drilling in 140 meters depth has been promised by the Ministry of Gender & Family but like everything else with a delay. We hope that the implementation will be soon.

**Polluted river:** Also this year we deal with heavy rain that causes not only erosions at our center but in the villages it washes everything away and that's with the lack of sanitary facilities a big problem and has an impact on the bacteriological quality of the drinking water. In our center, the children saw a toilet for the first time and had no idea how to use it or why they had to wash their hands.

We educate the school children but we are not able to control the situation in the whole area by ourselves. We are in discussion with organizations that are specialized in Hygiene and Sanitation and hope to get their support soon.

**Rainwater in the cisterns:** We have 2 wells with 35 cubic meters and 5 more cisterns with 5 cubic meters. Our water filter G-7 now guarantees 105 liters/hour of clean drinking water.



The 2030 Agenda wants universal access to clean water for all - will we make it?  
<https://drinking-water-talamosika.jimdofree.com>

## Football

Our center has a good reputation not only for our educational program, but also in football. When we go to tournaments, people observe and talk about us, we could make many contacts. There are some reasons for this. First of all, due to the foundation that supports our football project, we were able to set up the following:

- We have a big FIFA soccer field, goals and other training material.
- The Football kids all get a check-up upon entry. We observed that some kids have health problems, which are mainly related to the lack of hygiene.
- We offer regular workshops on the following topics: Hygiene, health, fair play, football theory. These we repeat again and again.
- After each training session we offer a "bouille", which is a kind of soup with soy, corn, powdered milk, etc.
- Our footballers get shoes and a dress for the game, which they give back to us after each training or game. Our U18 has the honor to play in the Liechtenstein national dress.
- Our U18 was also invited to a test match in Kinshasa where two of our players were recruited and are now allowed to play with FC AKO in a championship.

**Second football school:** We were asked if we could offer training in Mvululu (8000 inhabitants), only 6km away from our center. More than 60% of the inhabitants are under 18 years old. To be in a center gives us visibility which are essential for us. We decided to give it a try and have moved two of our containers, which serve as storage, office and are also used for our workshops. We have officially been there since August 2021, and over 100 kids have already been recruited, 42 for U12 and 66 for U18. Girls have also approached and wish to form a team, which was not possible in Tala Mosika. Girls playing football in rural and vulnerable areas is hardly accepted.

**Soccer school Tala Mosika:** Children who go to our school are invited to join our football school. We have 64 boys in U12. We offer to all kids no matter what age to play football. If they are ready to train regularly, they will train with our team.

**Tournaments:** Despite all the restrictions by Corona we could plan 6 games, we organized 4 of them.

**Situation - Tala Mosika football school:** The fact is that the economic situation of the families has deteriorated significantly since Corona and most of the kids have to work at home so that the families can cover their basic needs. In the rural and poor areas where Tala Mosika is located, people often believe that we are making money with their kids when we take them to a match and that they are not getting anything. This is often a reason why parents forbid their children to play football. Of course, we have tried to explain the concept several times but so far with very little success.  
<https://tala-mosika.jimdofree.com/ecole-de-foot/>

## Kids of army - employees

We are planning to offer a section of our center to children whose parents work in the army.

1. An inspector has visited Tala Mosika to see if we meet all the conditions. As soon as the drinking water is secured, we will continue our talks.
2. The General in charge is working on the approval the finances of our School program including boarding school.
3. They like the campus and the fact that we teach up to 12th grade. Our well-organized and equipped soccer program, impressed them very much.

## Planting Trees

We have applied for a partnership with the National Forest Fund, to plant 1000 fruit trees in addition to the 750 acacia and 100 mango trees we already have. We wish to be part of the 1 Billion Trees Project by 2030. We are implementing this project with our students and teachers.  
<https://tala-mosika.jimdofree.com/agriculture/>

## About Tala Mosika

### Radio Okapi (UN)- Interview mit Christoph Mbedi

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/9/16/emissions/okapi-service>

### Radio Okapi (UN) - Interview mit Claudia Doron

<https://www.radiookapi.net/2020/10/01/emissions/okapi-service/kongo-central-difficulte-de-fonctionnement-de-lecole-tala-mosika>

Wir bedanken uns bei all den Organisationen und Menschen die an uns glauben und uns schon seit Jahren unterstützen.

Claudia, Christoph & Team

**Helfen Sie uns, damit wir Tala Mosika weiter voranbringen können.**

- Every cent counts! <https://www.ariverofhope.org/help-us/>
- Finance a specific project «Overview»: <https://www.ariverofhope.org/help-us/>
- Presentation at your house with friends or for your company: <https://www.ariverofhope.org/presentation-1/>
- You wish to do a school projects or organize a fundraiser? Let me know how I can help.
- Contact me for further information: [ariverofhope@gmail.com](mailto:ariverofhope@gmail.com)

**Raiffeisenbank Werdenberg - River of Hope (RoH),  
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Tala Mosika will celebrate this year the 10th anniversary  
«On 12 September 2012, when we bought the land, there was not a single tree»

## This is the Story of 10 years "River of Hope" "The Center Tala Mosika" (look beyond) in DRC.

### Content:

- How it all began
- "...nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come",
- What have we achieved in the last 10 years?
- Four containers sent between 2013 - 2019
- My first trip was the most exiting trip
- My sixth trip in 2015 - with my family in tow! What an adventure!
- My 11th visit - the scariest one.
- In every Challenge lies an Opportunity
- UN – Agenda 2030 and the 17 sustainable goals

Kind regards and have a wonderful year!

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