



"My name is Claudia Doron, I am the founder and project director of River of Hope, based in Buchs/SG, near the Principality of Liechtenstein.

This annual report will be different this time– different because 2024 was a difficult year, a year where we simply tried to keep the center running. That's why I want to inform you about our values and beliefs, what we have accomplished, success stories, and our vision.

I would also like to thank Christoph Mbedi (photo) who, as Project Manager of Tala Mosika, has put all his energy into our wonderful collaboration since day one in 2010, as well as all our partners and sponsors who trust us and help us grow."

"My dream"

"Empowering and guiding vulnerable communities through education, breaking poverty cycles and building prosperous futures."

"How it all began – my story"

"At the age of 20, during a visit to a Kindergarten school in Kenya, funded by the airline Swissair for which I worked, I was deeply touched. Seeing the parents growing vegetables in the garden for the children's meals, and observing the happiness and laughter of the children, my dream became clear: one day, I would build a school, somewhere in the world, a place where education would offer a better future for children in need. Life took a different path, but that vision remained rooted.

In 2010, twenty years later, with the sole strength of my faith, without a concrete project or money in my pocket, I founded an association. I was convinced that a community sharing my vision would find me, and that with a solid project, we would find the necessary funds. Just six weeks later, a football coach, sharing the desire to take children off the street through football, came forward, and everything began to take shape.

Today, fifteen years later, we educate at the 'Tala Mosika' educational center (look further, in Lingala) with more than 500 children."

« Our Values @ Tala Mosika »

(Tala Mosika” is Lingala, a National Language in RD Congo, and means “look beyond”)

Transformation: We believe in continuous growth and evolution, both personally and collectively.

Authenticity: We value genuine expression, honesty, and being true to ourselves.

Love: Compassion, kindness, and care for all beings are at the heart of our actions.

Appreciation: We acknowledge and value the contributions of others and celebrate our successes.

Motivation: We are driven by a strong inner desire to make a positive impact.

Optimism: We believe in the power of positive thinking and the ability to create a better future.

Solidarity: We stand together in support of others and work towards common goals.

Integrity: We act with honesty, ethical behavior, and a strong moral compass.

Kuriositas: We embrace curiosity, exploration, and a thirst for knowledge and new experiences.

Altruism: We prioritize the well-being of others and strive to make a positive difference in the world.

"Our Priorities (SDGs) Sustainable Development Goals - "Agenda 2030":

No Hunger (SDG 1), Quality Education (SDG 4), Sustainable Communities (SDG 11).

- Provide quality education through renovated and expanded classrooms, as well as vocational training facilities.
- Establish health services, including a natural pharmacy and a dispensary.
- Promote sustainability through agriculture and water distribution projects.
- Develop inclusive sports and cultural programs to unite and empower the community."

1. That's how we started

- Started with the project without any funds.
- We built a center in a very vulnerable area with very high illiteracy and where there is no access to drinking water, no electricity, no school. The people are living from making charcoal.
- Older children had only attended school for 2 to 4 years. The closest school was 6 km away on the N1, making it too dangerous for younger children to walk along the deadly road, where student accidents were frequent.
- The children initially spoke only Lingala. Now, most children attend the school and all express themselves in French, the language of instruction and a national language of the DRC.
- We launched the football school both to engage their passion for football and to offer them a constructive activity."

2. That's what we have achieved

- "We have built 8 buildings, making all the bricks on-site. Our center is powered by solar energy and have planted over 800 trees, Acacias and fruit trees.
- When the first classroom was built, we started first with a literacy program for mothers- to make sure they understand the importance of education.
- Over 500 children attend our primary and technical secondary school (1st to 12th grade), with a professional certificate.
- We offer a football program U12 & U16 and also a boarding school for boys and girls.
- Agriculture, a health center, and workshops play an important role.

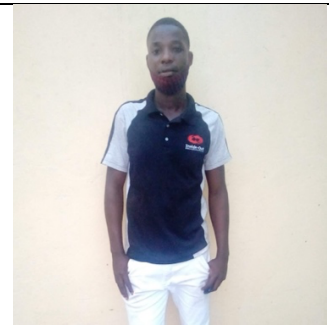
Success Story from 3 of our students: Octave – Rose - Grace



Octave (No. 10) is an orphan and now in his first year in our technical secondary school, section electricity. After his father's death in 2014, Christoph offered to take him and his younger brother Béni under his guardianship. Octave started his primary school at Tala Mosika, and with his natural talent for football, he is one of the best young players in the Tala Mosika football school. Benefiting from all the training offered at Tala Mosika, Octave is also playing at a club player but did not sign the contract with a 2nd division club, because he is first pursuing his electricity studies and taking care of the Tala Mosika's football equipment under the direction of Christoph, his uncle and the manager of the center. But his dream is to become a professional football player. That his dream come true.



Rose (left) enrolled at Tala Mosika as a boarding student in 2017 with 7 of her siblings, being the eldest. Tala Mosika was a godsend for her and her younger brothers and sisters, especially since their father, a merchant by trade, spent most of the time traveling. For 5 years, Rose went through all the classes until she took the state exam in Tala Mosika's first graduating class and passed. As their father tragically passed away, the family was unable to support the schooling of all her younger siblings. After passing her state exam, Rose decided to pursue nursing at the National Pedagogical University. As of now, she has completed her five years and has become a qualified nurse. We wish her good luck!



Grace lives in a village 3 km away from Tala Mosika. When he enrolled at Tala Mosika, Grace was already 15 years old, four years behind because the school was 9 km from their village. Tala Mosika was a magical solution, as in their village at that time, there was no electricity, no schoolbooks, no transportation, no health center... life felt like the Middle Ages. Seven years later, Grace and her classmates reached their final year and took the state exam, which marks the end of secondary education in the DRC. It was in 2020, during the height of the Covid period, but because they were dedicated to their studies, this first graduating class achieved a 100% pass rate, earning the first diplomas from Tala Mosika. He works with us at the school, where he handles discipline and logistics. Grace is a role model for the young people in his village and his church. Happy to have you in our team and that you inspire other children that if you study hard, you can have a better future.

3. **Our Vision and Objectives - SMAC** (sport, musique, art, culture)
An Educational Model for Social Innovation and the Development of Congolese Youth.

The Tala Mosika SMAC Project, an Educational Center comprising a Primary School and a Technical Secondary School in Selo/Kasangulu, Central Congo, envisions a future where the community thrives through holistic development. By integrating Sports, Music, Art, and Culture (SMAC) into the educational program, the project aims to address the crucial challenges facing the community, including limited access to quality education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihoods.

Specific Description:

Empower students through comprehensive education that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and socio-emotional learning.
Improve community health by promoting physical activity, healthy lifestyles, and access to basic healthcare services.
Foster sustainable livelihoods through agricultural programs, vocational training, and local business development.
Strengthen community resilience by building social cohesion, promoting cultural identity, and empowering individuals to become active agents of change.
Contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by addressing issues such as poverty reduction, quality education, access to clean water, and environmental sustainability.

4. **Activities & Projects**

- **Education:** Renovate and add classrooms, expand dormitories, and implement vocational training.
- **SMAC** (Sports, Music, Arts, and Culture): To fully implement SMAC, we have to build and equip classrooms dedicated to artistic, musical, and cultural activities, providing students with the necessary spaces and resources.
- **Health:** Build a health center equipped with modern facilities and a natural pharmacy.
- **Agriculture:** Improve food security through agriculture, water projects, and local kiosks.
- **Sports:** Modernize facilities, including a FIFA-standard football field and clay tennis courts, to promote physical and social development.
- **Solar Bakery:** Install a solar bakery 6 km from our center on the N1, which will become a vocational training center and generate a source of income for local mothers and Tala Mosika.

5. **Support our project.** (Contact me for detailed information)

“Tala Mosika”, is a Swiss non-profit organization founded in 2010, has established an educational center in Selo/ Kasangulu, in the province Kongo Central, DRC, for vulnerable communities. For over a decade, we provide quality education to more than 500 students (grades 1 to 12), we wish not only to integrate sports but music, art and culture for a holistic development. Support us so we can offer an education is a basic right and ensuring a better future for the children of Selo village and its surroundings.

6. **Problems we need to solve urgently**

- We need a new well, which was actually promised to us by the government - ca. \$30,000
- Secondary school teachers' salaries – we are a public, Catholic-affiliated school within the Diocese of Kisantu, officially registered but not yet paid. Our staff, like another 80,000 teachers nationwide, are waiting to be included on the payroll list. We have 15 secondary teachers with a total monthly salary cost of \$3,000.
- Our car broke down. We need a car for operational and activity-related errands – ca. \$25,000

7. **Your support makes a difference**

- beneficiaries - more than 5,000 in the village of Selo and its surroundings.
- Improvement in literacy rates, level of education, health outcomes, and food security.
- Creation of jobs in education, agriculture, and sports.
- Reduction of poverty and improvement of gender equality through inclusive activities.

I invite you to watch our documentary: « Look Beyond » <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=wmqtN7zr1Bo>

Thank you for your donation: River of Hope, Raiffeisen Bank Werdenberg, Reference Claudia Doron
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Claudia Doron
Founder and Project Manager of River of Hope

We are members of:

- CFA – Children’s Football Alliance
- LCPA – Local Community Prosperity Alliance
- Circle of Impact / Be Shiro