



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020







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RIZWAN ADATIA  
FOUNDATION  
D.R.CONGO

## CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN	4
ABOUT RIZWAN ADATIA FOUNDATION	5
WHERE WE WORK IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	6
INTERVENTIONS IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	7
RAF PROGRAMMES IN THE YEAR 2020	12
STORIES OF CHANGE	20
EVENTS	22
FINANCIALS	24
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONORS AND PARTNERS	25

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



The year 2020 was one which will be deeply etched in our minds for a long time, as it brought us face to face with a pandemic that tested our immunity, our resilience, our health infrastructures and public delivery systems, and economies at large. For a country like D.R.Congo that has been on path of transforming its national economic and social environment but has many obstacles to overcome, the year was particularly challenging, both for lives and livelihoods.

In the past several years, Rizwan Adatia Foundation in D.R.Congo brought about visible changes in under resourced areas spread across several communes in Kinshasa. In the year 2020, we re-prioritised sectoral interventions considering the pandemic situation which on one hand made it challenging to undertake work involving social contact, on the other hand it indicated the urgency to work on emergency preparedness among underserved communities, apart from responding with relevant humanitarian interventions, including strengthening safety nets. Rizwan Adatia Foundation took up these challenges.

I am happy to share with you the Annual Report, 2020 for D.R.Congo and congratulate the team for its resilience and commitment towards RAF's mission for improving the quality of life of marginalised communities. Despite the pandemic, we carried on the work, even with regular programmes such as health camps and cataract surgeries so that people do not suffer due to lack of access to appropriate health services.

It is important to state that impactful work could not have been possible without a strong donor support and programme partners such as health centres, schools, old age homes and orphanages. Such partnerships create synergies and sustenance of interventions.

Lastly, I thank the communities we work with for the trust they have in us and for providing invaluable information, suggestion and feedback which is a key driving force for Rizwan Adatia Foundation.

Best Wishes,  
Rizwan Adatia

# ABOUT RIZWAN ADATIA FOUNDATION

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Established in 2015, Rizwan Adatia Foundation's core philosophy is to encourage self-reliance through sustained access to productive roles and resources and building resilience through prosperous and adaptable communities. Our partnerships and initiatives are grounded on the belief that access to quality education and healthcare, fulfilment of human potential and the assurance of good governance are indispensable to improving the quality of life. We work with local communities, civil societies, private and government agencies to promote innovative and impactful development solutions in Asia and Africa. RAF currently reaches out to more than 1 million lives in Asia and Africa, in the process creating an encouraging environment where all stakeholders contribute towards a shared vision and accomplish results.



## VISION

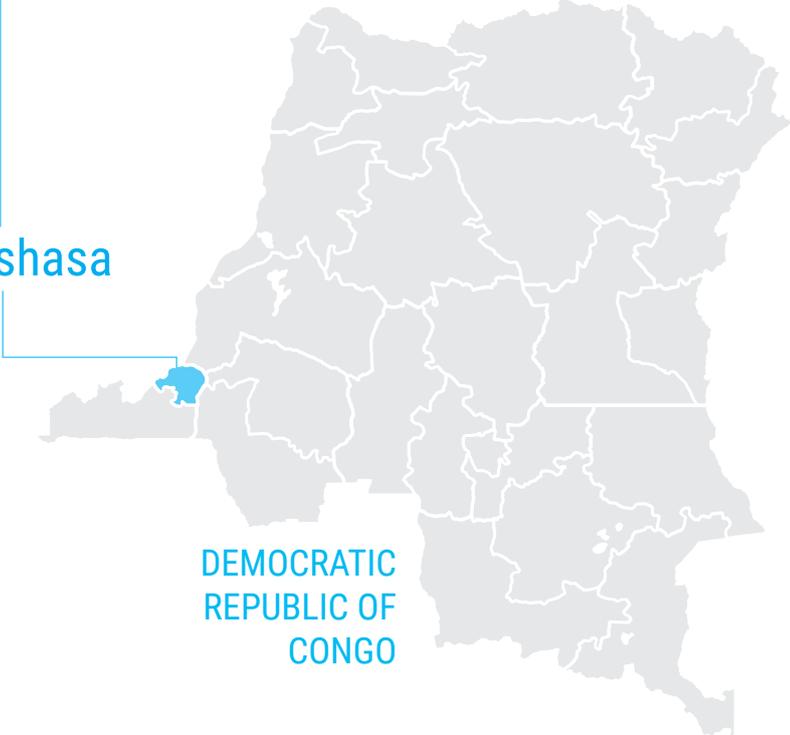
Creation of a resilient and self-reliant society



## MISSION

RAF strives to achieve the improvement in the quality of life of marginalised and disadvantaged communities in focused geographical areas across Asia and Africa, by making appropriate and strategic investment in the sectors of health, education, livelihoods, along with harnessing human potential.

# WHERE WE WORK IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



# INTERVENTIONS IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (D.R.CONGO)



Rizwan Adatia Foundation has been operational in the province of Kinshasa (one of the 26 provinces), Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.Congo) since 2017. It has implemented as well as supported a range of programmes in healthcare, nutrition, education, skill development and entrepreneurship (for women and youth) and humanitarian response during emergencies.

## Building Healthy Communities

Responding to the local needs, one of the key sectoral areas of intervention has been in the area of eye healthcare and facilitating cataract surgeries in coordination with local hospitals. While cataract is a curable disease, it has been observed that neglect of the condition and delay in treatment results in loss of vision, compounding the miseries of economically poor and vulnerable people, preventing them to sustain their livelihoods. Until the end of 2019, RAF (D.R.Congo) has supported the surgeries of total 1042 cataract patients (covering 13 communes/municipalities across districts) in partnership with Center Ophthalmologic de Masina

(COM), Centre Hospital Roi Baudouin in Masina, Centre De Sante Et Maternite in Lisanga and Centre Hospitalier Sante D'ABORD in Bandalungwa. Over 8000 community members and school children have been made aware of the disease that can result in irreparable blindness and informed of the process for accessing timely health support for required intervention.

Water and Sanitation has been another critical area of intervention where RAF (D.R.Congo) constructed and repaired two existing sources of water, providing access to safe drinking water facilities to 12,575 people in Kimbanseke and Mont Ngafula communes in Kinshasa. Another sanitation block with 6 toilets and one bathroom were constructed at College Pere Kabongo, Kinkole, Nsele benefitting 263 children and 10 staff. Through health education and sensitisation initiatives on Global Hand washing Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day and specific trainings on reproductive health education and emergency first aid, over 6000 children in schools and orphanages were reached out to, in the communes of Mont Ngafula, Kimbanseke, Makala, Nsele, Limete and Lemba.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY NET

	2017	2018	2019	Beneficiaries	Location of Project Area
Cataract Surgery	163	399	480	1042 	Masina, Bandalungwa, Lemba
Safety Net	726	2,727	2,750	6203 	Mpasa, Kimbondo
Health Education and Sanitisation	747	3,193	9,161	13,101 	Kimbanseke, Nsele, Mont Ngafula, Limete
Health Care Access	130			130 	Kimbanseke
Water and Sanitation	12,848			12,848 	Kimbanseke, Mont Ngafula, Nsele

In Mpasa Maba, Nsele RAF (D.R.Congo) donated beds to a hospital, thus improving access to affordable healthcare facilities for poor patients. In another women focused healthcare intervention, 70 prenatal care kits were provided to expecting mothers and 60 family planning kits to women in Kimbanseke.

### Building Safety Nets

RAF (D.R.Congo) lays emphasis on providing

regular groceries and nutritional support to the most vulnerable groups in the communes of Nsele and Mont Ngafula such as the orphanages for children like Mother Teresa Home, Fondation Pediatrique de Kimbondo and Association Les Cris Des Enfants covering total of 4559 inmates. 822 children at Orphelinat Mama Koko at Kimbondo (Mont Ngafula commune) have also been receiving fresh bread every day for all residents, since 2018 through its in-house bakery that was constructed by RAF (D.R.Congo) and is repaired periodically.





## Promoting Employment and Entrepreneurship

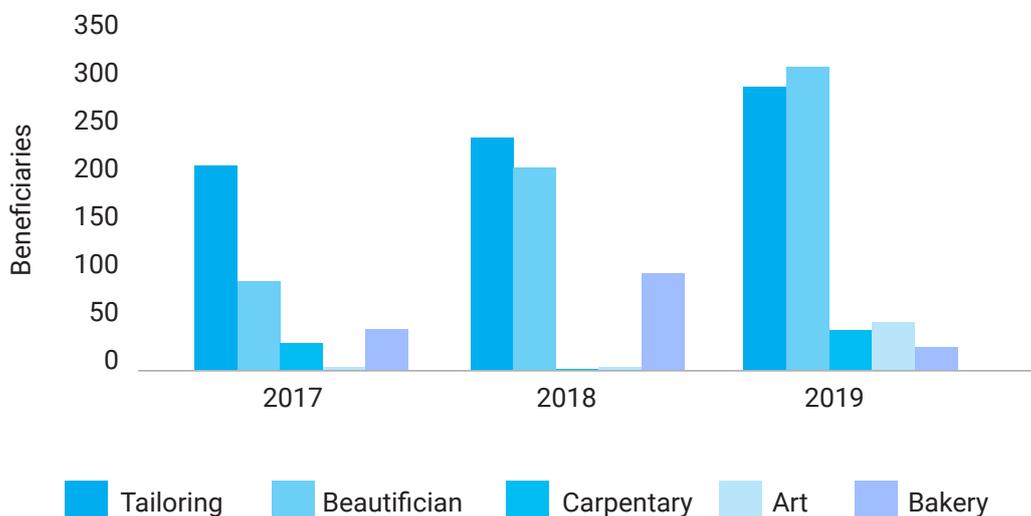
RAF (D.R.Congo) has an active programme on extending livelihoods support to women and youth (both boys and girls) in the areas of skill building in various trades that are relevant locally, as well as in farm based activities. Adequate skill development/up gradation has either broadened the scope of employment or encouraged the trainees to start their own businesses.

RAF (D.R.Congo) started its first vocational training centre in 2017 with Centre Nutritionnel Soeur Véronique Natival, Mpsa and later, partnered with different local organisations in Kimbanseke, Mont Ngafula and Nsele communes to run several vocational training centres covering training in trades such as tailoring, carpentry, beautician and

bakery. RAF (D.R. Congo) partners with MUSADEC and Soeur de Saint Joseph de Turin in Kimbanseke commune, in Mont Ngafula commune it partners with Monastere Benedictin de Mambre at Mambre and Orphelinat Mama Koko in Kimbondo and in Nsele commune it partners with Saint Matthieu (at Nsele) apart from Centre Nutritionnel Soeur Véronique Natival (at Mpsa).

A total of 1655 trainees have graduated so far, with 765 women trained in tailoring alone. A total of 127 sewing machines were distributed as an income generating asset in the communes of Limete and Mont Ngafula and in the neighbouring Kasangulu region. At least 123 youth were trained in carpentry and 109 in bakery. A glimpse at livelihood trainings progressing for consecutive three years is depicted in the chart below.

## LIVELIHOOD TRAINING ACROSS THREE YEARS





In another intervention, 1340 men and women were provided handholding support by the outreach team, to start their own enterprises and improve their income. Additionally, 127 sewing machines have been distributed in Limete, Mont Ngafula and Kimbanseke and Kasangulu. Total of 50 women farmers in Mont Ngafula have been supported with seeds, bio-fertilisers and agricultural tools to help them increase their farm production.

RAF (D.R.Congo) introduced the concept of thrift and credit activities among the women trainees at its vocational centres, covering over 1000 women in Mont Ngafula (Kimbondo), Limete, Kimbanseke, Selembao and Nsele (Mpsa) and training them in basic financial literacy. This intervention is in process of being firmed up in future.

### Enhancing Learning Opportunities for School Children

The education system in D.R.Congo suffers from low coverage as well as challenges of providing quality education. As per a USAID estimate, 3.5 million children of primary school age are out of school, and those who do attend, 44 percent start school late, after the age of six. National data indicates that only 67 percent of children who enter first grade will complete sixth grade. Of those who reach 6th grade, only 75 percent will pass the exit exam.

RAF (D.R.Congo) through its 'Back to School Campaign' makes an effort for retention of vulnerable school going children who may drop out of school due to various reasons and attempts to secure their transition into the next grade. Educational kits have been distributed at the commencement of academic year to 1009 children, covering both, schools and orphanages in Lemba, Kimbanseke, Masina and Nsele. The initiative motivates students to attend the schools regularly and punctually. Similarly, sponsorship of fees of over 300 students from poor families and orphanages in Kinkole/Mpsa and Bibwa in Nsele, Selembao and Kimbanseke complements Government's effort of bringing the poorest and vulnerable children into formal education system through free education.

RAF (D.R.Congo) has also provided school infrastructure support in the form of donation of 90 school benches in Nsele, Kimbanseke and Mont Ngafula and in return, the beneficiary schools provided free education to 380 children for a year. Orphelinat Mama Koko at Kimbondo, Mont Ngafula has received several trainings on leadership development; physiotherapy and entrepreneurship with the objective of helping the residents above the age of 18 years wean off institutional care and learn to become self-reliant.



## Social Resilience

Promoting social resilience and building a sense of community have been important strategies for RAF (D.R.Congo) to catalyse local development. Celebration of Global Observance Days such as International Women's Day, International Children's Day, International Senior Citizens' Day, Sports events for children, Christmas celebrations and the like have over the years, involved the participation of over 4000 community members.

In terms of our reach covering the above programme, since 2017 until end of the year 2019, over 30,000 people from the target communities have received some benefit or the other, through RAF (D.R.Congo) programmes.



# RAF PROGRAMMES IN 2020

The year 2020 was an unprecedented one for D.R.Congo as for rest of the world. During the first quarter of the year, Covid-19 pandemic outbreak was reported in parts of the world, and soon spread across continents. Similar to the experiences around the world, in D.R.Congo too, the contagion resulted in disruptions in daily routine, mobility and employment. One of the poorest countries of the world, D.R.Congo had over 15.5 million people living in acute food insecurity during the period between July and December 2019<sup>1</sup>. The number of people with high acute food insecurity peaked in September 2020, coinciding with Covid-19 situation and the pandemic. The risks of contracting infection and not being able to survive it were higher in specific

underprivileged population. RAF (D.R.Congo) has therefore endeavoured to respond to health, water and sanitation and livelihoods needs, besides community outreach and distribution of protective masks in large numbers at community hubs and institutions.

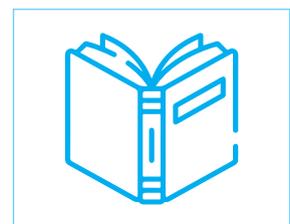
Maintaining Covid-19 protocols and working around the restrictions that were in place, affected RAF (D.R.Congo) programme implementation for few months but were revived soon after. RAF's efforts and commitment towards improving the Quality of Life of target communities despite the emerging challenges, has to be seen in this backdrop.



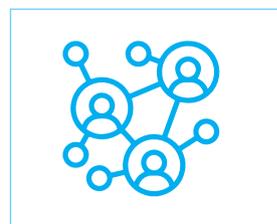
RAF (D.R.Congo) has 4 Key Thematic Programme Areas namely,



1. Health System Strengthening



2. Education System Strengthening



3. Economic Inclusion



4. Building Safety Net

1. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Snapshot, March 2021

During the year 2020, RAF had project interventions across the communes of Kimbanseke, Mont Ngafula, Nsele and Selembao. Interventions pertaining to cataract and Christmas celebrations were spread across 13 communes. The table below provides a snapshot of sectoral interventions in these communes.

## PROJECT LOCATIONS

S.No	Name of District	Intervention	Location
1	Kimbanseke	Education, Health & Livelihood	Rural
2	Mont Ngafula	Education, Health & Livelihood	Rural
3	Nsele	Education, Health & Livelihood	Rural
4	Selembao	Education & Health	Rural

## OUR REACH

S.No	Project Name	No.of Beneficiaries
<b>Health</b>		
1	Cataract Surgeries	197
2	Nutrition Aid	197
3	Fresh Bread Project	822 children served every day in 2020
4	Water tanks	6,000
5	Covid-19 awareness & mask distribution	16,000
<b>Education</b>		
6	Infrastructural Support (Distribution of School Benches)	32 benches
7	Back to School Initiative (School Kits)	1230
8	Sponsorship fees	32 children sponsored by an individual donor 96 children got free schooling facility in return of donation of benches
<b>Economic Inclusion</b>		
9	Vocational training programme	742
10	Livelihood through Mask-making	95 women trainees produced 76,000 masks at various training centres & received payments from RAF
11	Employment opportunity to youth in an orphanage's bakery	4
<b>Events</b>		
12	International's Women's Day	810
13	World Dental Health Day	3000
14	Christmas celebration	3000
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>		<b>34,009</b>



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## HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

In the year 2020, RAF (D.R.Congo) continued its key health programmes for the poor and marginalised target groups in the communes of Kinshasa region. Without the continuation of regular programmes and little information to access support, it is likely that certain segments would have fell further deep down into penury, poor health and even in life threatening situations. Additionally, RAF (D.R.Congo) also responded to the Covid-19 situation and spread awareness and distributed masks produced at its training centres, free of cost at community hubs and in schools.

### Cataract Surgery

Cataract is a curable disease which due to delay in treatment and negligence, results in loss of eye sight. RAF facilitated surgeries of 197 individuals who could not afford the economic and time cost of engaging with medical centres that are concentrated in specific areas. Out of the 197 beneficiaries, 134 were women who benefitted and could resume their normal lives and pursue livelihoods. Through a coordinated effort, people

from 13 communes accessed the surgery facility and care services through the medical hospitals at Masina, Bandal and Lemba regions of Kinshasa. The cataract intervention was mainly funded with the support of Ste. Devimco and its partner organisation that have, since 2017 committed financial support for cataract related intervention.

### Construction of Water Tanks

D.R Congo, the 2nd largest country in Africa, is endowed with abundant freshwater. The freshwater springs, in and around rural areas are critical water sources for local communities, serving approximately 90 percent of the rural population. While the need for water infrastructure development is urgent in the country, for improving access to safe water supplies, RAF (D.R.Congo) has in recent past, started investing in water issues, with low-cost solutions that promote the practices of water preservation and conservation, apart from safe access to clean water for domestic purposes. In the year 2020, with the support of Ste. Icon Media, it constructed two water tanks, benefitting 6000 people in Mont Ngafula.



## Covid-19 awareness and Mask Distribution

RAF (D.R.Congo) undertook mass production of 76,000 cloth masks of which 16,000 were distributed at schools, orphanages and at the community hubs in Kimbanseke, Nsele and Mont Ngafula. The outreach also involved sharing of information pertaining to Covid-19 related safeguards, following safe distancing norms and hand washing hygiene practices.



## EDUCATION SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

To support the school administration and students to return to school in the new academic year, after months of lockdown, RAF (D.R.Congo) initiated Back to School event in the month of October and distributed 1230 school kits in the communes of Kimbanseke, Nsele and Mont Ngafula. An individual donor sponsored the fees of 32 children

in the communes of Selembao and Kimbanseke. To support school infrastructure development, 32 school benches were distributed in the commune of Kimbanseke through Sofia/Afriglobe companies. To reciprocate the kind gesture of donation of school benches, the school provided free education to 96 children.





## ECONOMIC INCLUSION

RAF has supported women and youth in the areas of gaining technical skills through vocational training courses so that they become employable or start their own businesses. When most developing countries are struggling with employment and job creation for citizens, self-employment is being considered as another mechanism to strengthen livelihoods and financial independence. In the year 2020, 742 trainees at the RAF managed training centres graduated in various trades such as tailoring, beautician, carpentry and art covering the communes of Mont Ngafula, Nsele and Kimbanseke with the support of kind donors like Unique Pharma, Galaxy/Glacier. KINPLAST and others. RAF (D.R.Congo) also encouraged the graduating students to take retail orders for tailoring and use the centre asset like the sewing machine and centre space to craft the work and earn an income.

Apart from vocational training, RAF has provided employment to 95 tailoring students during the first wave of Covid-19 infection spread, and helped them mass produce cloth masks (76,000 in total) for distribution at community hubs and institutions like schools and orphanages.

RAF (D.R.Congo) has been training and employing the youth at Pediatrics De Mama Koko orphanage, Kimbondo (Mont Ngafula commune) in bakery skills and production and helped establish a bread making factory in the campus. In the year 2020, the assured monthly employment to 4 youth at the orphanage helped not only the workers but also the minor residents, mostly children who were served with nutritious meal throughout the year.





## BUILDING SAFETY NET

### Nutrition Support as Safety Net

RAF (D.R.Congo) has been supporting two Nutrition Aid Projects in Kinshasa. The first one is in Mpasa (Nsele commune), running since 2017, where children have been supported with food groceries and the second one is Bakery Project at Pediatrics De Mama Koko orphanage, Kimbondo (Mont Ngafula commune) running since 2018 and providing fresh bread throughout the year for

resident children. In the year 2020, a total of 1127 children received nutrition aid support in Nsele while the RAF supported bakery provided fresh bread throughout the year for 822 children, assuring healthy food to them despite the disruptions caused by public health crisis and the pandemic. The Fresh Bread initiative has been supported by RAF's benevolent donors, Ste.Fourways Sarl, STAR Group and individual donors since the year 2018.



# STORIES OF CHANGE

## 01

SM is a young mother of three children who was left to fend for herself. She found herself dependent on her relatives in Nsele. Then one day, she came to know of RAF managed vocational training centre at Mpsa. She enrolled in the tailoring course, successfully completed the course and found employment at a tailoring shop. Since then, she's able to bear her and her children's expenses and is hopeful of future.



## 02

EM is a 70 years old widow, living in Nsele commune who earned a living by selling fish. She has five children. After her husband's death, her family rejected her. She was not able to earn anymore due to progressing cataract that caused difficulty in proper vision. She was identified by the outreach worker for support and underwent a successful surgery free of cost, in March 2020. She has regained her vision and resumed selling of fish that fetches her income.



## 03

NM is a young girl living with her child in the Mont Ngafula commune. As a young mother she sought support in her boyfriend who rejected her. Even her family did not support her when she was expecting the child. Life was tough. It changed one step at a time, when she enrolled for the 3 months' tailoring programme at RAF's centre at Mambre. As she was graduating from the course, D.R.Congo was hit by the pandemic situation. During this period when RAF arranged for mass production of masks, NM joined the activity and earned an income. Now NM has a sewing machine at home and takes orders in stitching clothes. With this income, she supports her child and her siblings.



## 04

Route raille Matadinationale is located in the commune of Mont Ngafula. The location has a natural spring source which was used by the local rural community to access water for domestic purposes. However, the land is privately owned. RAF (D.R.Congo) team interacted with the concerned person and got his approval for construction of a water tank for safe storage and safeguarding clean water at the source. The team negotiated for free access and no user fee after the construction. This was agreed upon. Today, the water tank is a supportive community asset that protects the natural spring water at the source, and prevents its contamination, apart from providing free access to all for drinking and domestic use.



# EVENTS

Several celebrations and Global Days were observed at RAF (D.R.Congo) in the year 2020 despite it being a challenging year. The organisation considers these events as important to build social resilience as well as, to generate awareness in the communities on various issues.



RAF (D.R.Congo) celebrated 'International Women's Day' on 8th March, 2020 with the participation of 820 women from the communes of Kimbanseke, Nsele and Mont Ngafula. The occasion was marked by discussion on rights, challenges and opportunities for women, conversations of solidarity and refreshments.



RAF (D.R.Congo) celebrated World Dental Day on 20th March, 2020 with 3000 school students covering the communes of Kimbanseke, Nsele and Mont Ngafula. Children were sensitised about oral hygiene and care and were also gifted with dental kit including, a brush and toothpaste.

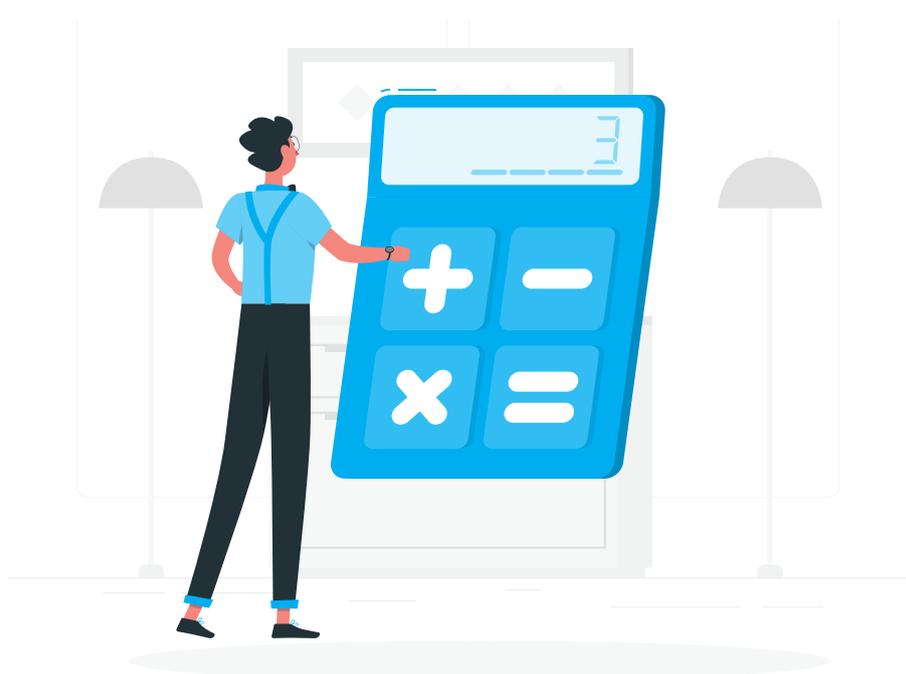


RAF (D.R.Congo) celebrated Christmas Day across 53 orphanages in Kinshasa (covering communes of Limete, Masina, Kimbanseke, Mont Ngafula, Nsele, Selembao, Lemba and Bandal) and also distributed gift bags to children.

# FINANCIALS

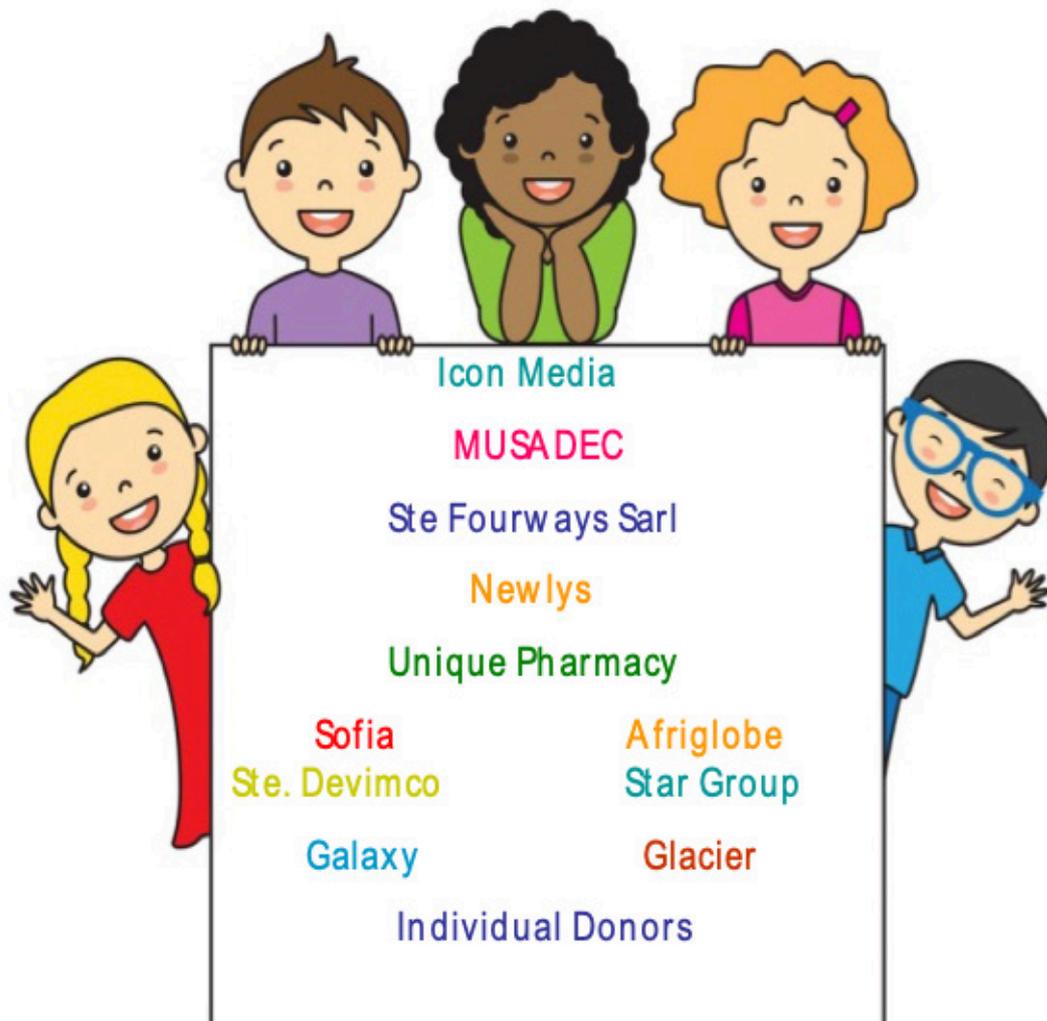
During the year 2020, the total programme expenditure was USD 49,801. It is important to note that during this period, RAF's major investment has been in livelihoods support as well as community health through various interventions. The sector-wise break-up of expenditure is provided below.

S.No	Sector wise Intervention Area	Expenditure (in USD)
1	Health (covers cataract surgeries, construction of water tanks and distribution of masks as outreach during Covid-19)	15,950
2	Education (covers School Kits, Sponsorships, infrastructure support to schools)	7378
3	Livelihood (Trainings, Employment of 95 tailoring associates for Mask preparation)	12,232
4	Building Safety Net (Nutrition Aid, Bakery project)	4560
5	Celebrations	9681
	<b>Total</b>	<b>49,801</b>



# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARTNERS AND DONORS

RAF thanks its individual and corporate donors who committed funds during the extraordinary pandemic situation in D.R.Congo. It is with their support that RAF could undertake additional humanitarian work to help communities and Government institutions fight the pandemic. The programme partners of RAF (D.R.Congo) are its pillars of strength who believe in its vision and mission and work with the organisation for sustained lasting change in the quality of lives of people in the communes of Kinshasa. We express our gratitude in particular, to the following programme partners for livelihoods: Association Chretienne Pour Le Development of Women & Children, Mama Koko Orphalinat, Association Pour Encardrement des Enfants Delaisse & Filles Meres, Centre Nutritionnel Souer Veronique Natival, Saint Matthieu and Monastere Le and following hospitals for cataract surgeries: Centre Hospital, Roi Bauboin (Masina), Centre Hospital, Libikisi and BDOM Hospital, (Lemba). We are also thankful to the following benevolent donors for 2020:



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*Foundation*



**RIZWAN ADATIA FOUNDATION  
(D.R.Congo)Annual Report 2020**

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