



**RAF**  
Global



---

# ANNUAL REPORT

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

2022



Children living in institutional care of 'Don De Marie', Limete eat nutritious meal from monthly food basket provided by RAF Global

Content Development: Kirti Mishra  
Creative Designing & Layout: Ravi Kumar Yadav  
Information Lead: Sunita Charaniya

We also thank the entire team of D.R.Congo, besides Vijay Sinha, Aksha Rahemani and Shikha Jain for their work that has helped in developing this report.



# CONTENTS

---

<b>Message from the Chairman.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>About RAF Global in D.R.Congo .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Where We Work in D.R.Congo .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Programmes in D.R.Congo.....</b>	<b>9-31</b>
Implementation in the year 2022 .....	9-10
Our Reach .....	10
Beneficiaries.....	12
<b>1. Economic Integration And Livelihood Support For Women And Youth (EILSWY).....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>3. Health And Nutrition Initiatives (HNI).....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>4. Education And Technology Programme (ETP) .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Case Stories .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Events .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Acknowledgment Of Partners And Donors .....</b>	<b>46</b>



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Rizwan Adatia  
Chairman, RAF Global

As Chairman, RAF Global and founder of the organisation, I take pride in presenting to you the Annual Report, 2022 for RAF Global's work in Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.Congo). Situated in Central Africa and nurtured by the world's deepest river, Nzâdi Kôngo, this is the country that laid the foundation of my business career. The initiation of RAF Global's work in the country in the years 2016-2017 and investments in its people since then, has been my spiritual journey to help the local society achieve its human potential, in terms of aspiration as well as, overall well-being.

As you may know, D.R.Congo holds the treasures essential for the global fight against climate change. However, past experience informs us of the human costs and therefore, the need for strongest implementation of ethical standards and regulations in the mining sector, in a manner that is beneficial to, and significantly alters the lives of an average, Congolese person who is either affected by, or is involved in the extraction of critical minerals or dependent on the mining sector. Protecting the sacred grounds of this country is the first step towards protecting the planet earth, and humanity at large.

In the year 2018, 60 million people in D.R.Congo lived on less than USD 1.90 a day. That is the cost of a bottle of mineral water or a cup of brewed coffee, in several high-income countries. If we believe that all lives are equal and must enjoy same level of dignity by virtue of being born as humans, we must work together as well as, support the Government in this endeavour.

All of us, who have stake in this country and who feel connected to the Congolese people, must commit ourselves to bringing prosperity to its society through investments and generating employment, adding social value to our businesses, and investing in establishing life-long education/learning systems and

livelihood-oriented skilling especially of children, youth, women, the specially abled and all other disadvantaged social groups.

In the year 2022, RAF Global in D.R.Congo made significant investments in the areas of Health and Nutrition especially for elderly population and vulnerable children living in institutional care. We also witnessed promising results of our programme on Economic Integration and Livelihood Support for Women and Youth (EILSWY), in terms of high numbers of vocational trade graduates who started small businesses with their self-initiative and RAF Global's support of seed capital. These fragile efforts have to be protected against labour market shocks as well as future global crises. That will guarantee the sustainability of these efforts.

I thank every donor whether institutional or individual, who has made financial or material donation towards our programmes. You are an invaluable part of the RAF Global family. Your legacy of kindness and service to humanity, will live on, for many years.

I am also thankful to RAF Global's D.R.Congo Country office team for working tirelessly and keeping themselves motivated throughout the year, despite implementation level challenges. I thank the institutions who work with D.R.Congo Country Office team under different initiatives, sharing the common vision and committing themselves to high ethical standards.

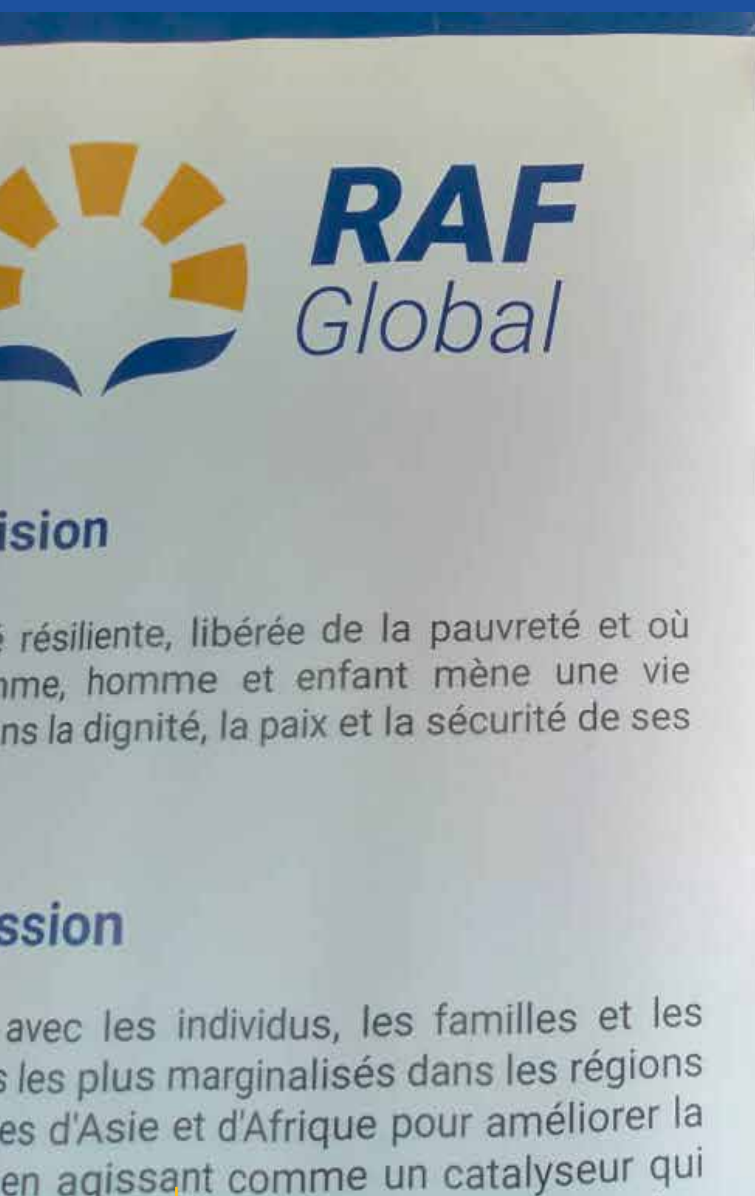
Lastly, I thank the communities that RAF Global works with, for their faith and graciously, keeping us in their hearts.

With gratitude, I present to you the Annual Report, 2022

**Rizwan Adatia**  
**Chairman, RAF Global**



# ABOUT RAF GLOBAL IN D.R.CONGO



Musoki Chanel trained at RAF Global supported VTC and runs a shop in Mpasa, with the seed capital support

RAF Global is a private, non-denominational, not-for-profit international organisation committed to improving the quality of life primarily in selected countries across Africa and Asia. RAF Global has branches and affiliates in 6 countries. RAF Global works with the most marginalised individuals, families, communities in the poorest areas of Asia and Africa to improve the Quality of Life by acting as a catalyst that brings together resources, technology, systems, and effective grassroots strategies, giving better choices and control to people for lasting change. In pursuit of its mission, RAF Global endeavours to make long-term, strategic and systemic investment around the key sectors of health, nutrition, education, and sustainable livelihoods along with advancing good governance at the sub-national level.

Operational in the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.Congo) since 2017, RAF Global is registered by the Ministry of Social Affairs in the category of ASBL/NGO/EUP of a social nature, under Law No. 004-2001. With long-term development interventions spread across communes in the Kinshasa province, RAF Global has reached out to over 3,17,088 lives. RAF Global in D.R. Congo implements a wide array of long-term and comprehensive projects across the sectors of livelihood, public health, nutrition, water and sanitation and education in 4 communes of Kinshasa province while, its outreach activities are reaching to several other communes.

RAF Global in D.R.Congo possesses rich and extensive experience of engaging meaningfully with Provincial Government, sectoral departments, CSOs and diverse range of institutional and individual donors. In the past, RAF Global has collaborated with various stakeholders in a plethora of projects aimed at driving social change and sustainable development through better convergence and optimal utilisation of resources, demonstrating an effective and meaningful partnership for development.

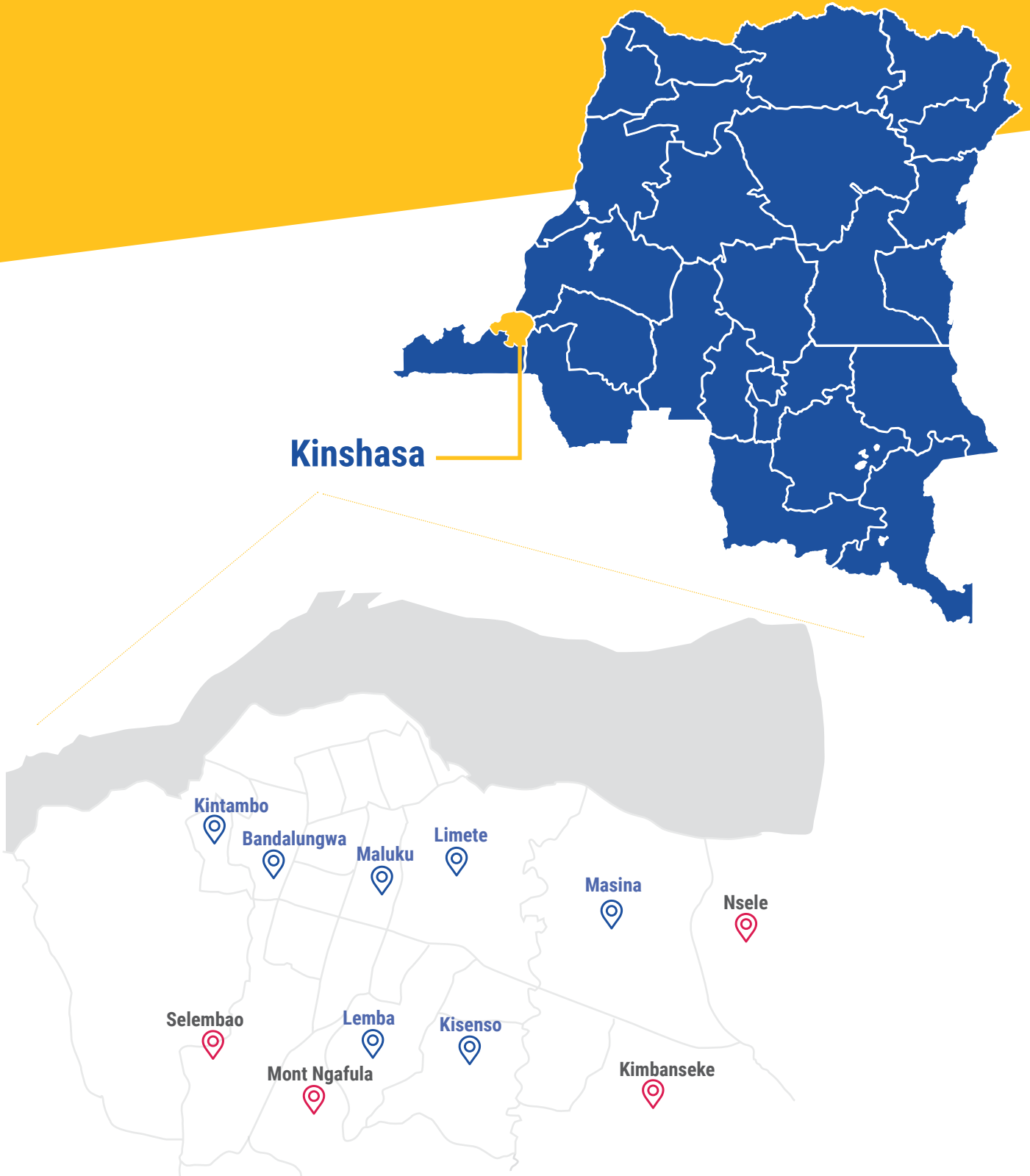
## VISION

A resilient society that is free from poverty and where every woman, man and child leads a fulfilling life with dignity, peace and security of rights.

## MISSION

RAF Global works with the most marginalised individuals, families and communities in the poorest areas of Asia and Africa to improve the quality of life by acting as a catalyst that brings together resources, technology, systems, and effective grassroots strategies, giving better choices and control to people for a lasting change.

# WHERE WE WORK IN D.R.CONGO





## PROGRAMMES IN D.R.CONGO

RAF Global has five programme areas where the foundation works with a holistic, long-term and multi-sectoral approach. These are in the areas of Economic Integration and Livelihood Support for Women and Youth, Climate Smart Agriculture, Health and Nutrition Initiatives, and Education and Technology. Good Governance and Humanitarian Response are cross-cutting themes, covering all programmes.

RAF Global in D.R.Congo, has implemented as well as supported projects in the province of Kinshasa, reaching out to over 3,17,088 beneficiaries until the year, December 2021. It

has been the foundation's endeavour to offer a comprehensive bouquet of services to the poorest and most marginalised families in the communes of Kimbanseke, Nsele, Mont Ngafula and Selembao of Kinshasa province. The health outreach and facilitation for cataract surgeries through specific hospitals, reach a larger population, additionally covering several communes in the province such as Kisenso, Limete, Maluku, Bandalungwa, Makala, Masina and Lemba, besides the main four communes where RAF Global works.

## IMPLEMENTATION IN THE YEAR 2022

RAF Global's programme implementation in the year 2022 has emerged out of the experiences of Covid-19. Having witnessed the scale of people's suffering and hunger, the planning and implementation team was determined to improve the situation on ground, through our programmes. It has been an effort in helping people build themselves, back after a tumultuous period of epidemic and disease outbreak, civil strife and unrest and severe food insecurity in the country.



## PROJECT LOCATIONS

During the year 2022, RAF Global in D.R.Congo had key project interventions in the communes of Kimbanseke, Nsele, Mont Ngafula and Selembao while outreach for cataract awareness and surgeries thereafter, additionally benefitted several communes in the province such as Kisenso, Limete, Maluku, Bandalungwa, Makala, Masina and Lemba.

S.No	Name of Province	Location
1	Kimbanseke	Rural
2	Mont Ngafula	Rural
3	Nsele	Rural
4	Selembao	Rural

## OUR REACH

The table here presents the number of Congolese whom RAF Global reached out to, with at least one service. In most cases however, our beneficiaries are recipients of several services. For example, while a young mother trains at our vocational centre, her young child receives early childhood motor skill development and cognitive development training at the Early Childhood Care and Development centre. Children who are suspected to be malnourished, are regularly monitored and provided at least 2 meals a day for a period of time. Their caregivers who visit the Nutrition centre along with their child can either enrol for a vocational skill building course, or receive training on kitchen garden and organic farming within the Nutrition centre campus. Thereafter, they are provided seeds and land within the campus to grow their vegetables for subsistence as well as, selling in the local market.

Our significant financial resources support the elderly poor, who have cataract condition and require surgery that are provided completely free of cost. Another remarkable initiative is the construction of water tanks that not only improves access to safe water but also, safeguards the highly dependable groundwater source ie springs, from getting contaminated. The construction is a low-cost initiative with magnificent results and large population coverage among women, men, elderly, children and all, in a neighbourhood.

Our programme on economic integration and livelihood support has transformed many lives- of women, men and youth. The case stories in this report are an effort to document the programme's effectiveness. Similarly, we have worked with public schools so that the most vulnerable children do not drop out of the system and, grow up as aware and strong people.





Elderly recipients of food baskets in Nsele commune, during the observance of International Day of Older Persons on October 1



# BENEFICIARIES

1

## ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH (EILSWY)

Vocational Training through centres	1301
Seed Capital & Distribution of production materials, assets	68
Employment of trained youth for fresh bread production at an orphanage	4
Course graduates using centre space, equipment to earn an income	421
Self Help Group	20

2

## CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA)

Promoting organic farming	77
---------------------------	----

3

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES (HNI)

Construction of Water tanks	1,23,600
Health outreach in community & schools on Cataract	2,479
Cataract Surgery Beneficiaries	1444
Health outreach others (Malaria, HIV, Menstrual Hygiene, Handwashing, Oral health)	6,365
Nutrition Support	3,236

4

## EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME (ETP)

Distribution of School Kits	1600
Sponsorship of Students (directly)	28
Donation of Sports Equipment	2820
Building the Library Resources	569
Setting up ECD centre (including meal)	150
Donation of benches	35
Christmas celebration	2000

5

## OTHERS

International Women's Day	500
International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	100
International Children's Day	1200



## TOTAL BENEFICIARIES

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 =

**148,017**





Women trained at RAF Global supported VTC proudly display their craft work, vibrant in colours and scoring high on usefulness







# 1

## ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH (EILSWY)

RAF Global in D.R.Congo promotes economic well-being of women and youth, across the spectrum of decent work opportunities such as, wage employment, self-employment and enterprise development by aiding their income generating skills as well as supporting them with seed capital to start businesses and build productive assets.

Skilling for livelihoods has been a focus area of RAF Global since early years of the institution and were delivered through its vocational training centres in the communes of Mont Ngafula, Nsele, Selembao and Kimbanseke of Kinshasa province. A total of 3,746 trainees have successfully completed their chosen course until the end of year, 2021. In classroom and practical training were delivered in trades such as tailoring, carpentry, beautician, arts & craft and bakery. All trainees who successfully completed the course were felicitated in a graduation ceremony. The initiative opened avenues for wage employment as well as, self-employment for the graduates.

In the year 2022, centre-based trainings were delivered in altogether six trades namely, electrical works, carpentry, bike mechanic, tailoring, beautician and arts & crafts. The expansion into electrical works, carpentry and bike mechanic is helping us evolve into a more balanced programme, addressing the skilling and employment needs of both men and women in the local community.

The courses run for different duration, based on hands-on intensive nature of requirements to gain competency. Total of 1301 trainees have graduated from various centre-based courses, in the year 2022. These courses run at extremely low-costs, through funds and in-kind donation raised from individuals and business entities. Per trainee cost for these courses range between USD 10 to USD 35 and it is remarkable that a person's income earning ability is being transformed for a life time, with such low investment. The course centres exist in the vicinity of/at a manageable travel distance for course aspirants.

## TRADE-WISE GRADUATES IN 2022

Trades	♀ Female	♂ Male	Total
<b>Courses of duration of 3 months</b>			
Tailoring	624	9	633
Beautician	490	-	490
Art	51	-	51
Carpentry	-	10	10
<b>Courses with duration of 6 months</b>			
Electrical works	7	60	67
Bike Mechanic	-	50	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1301</b>

The vocational training programme is implemented in partnership with Association Chretienne pour le developement des Femmes et Enfants (ACEDEFE), Foyer Pere Monti, Soeur de Saint Joseph de Turin, Centre Social Saint Matthieu, Centre Nutritionnel Soeur Veronique Nativel, Orphelinat Mama Koko and Monastere Benediction de Mambre.

RAF Global encourages its graduates towards securing an income, enhancing existing income and even in diversifying their livelihoods portfolio. Through our monitoring we know that in the year 2022, at least 421 training students/ graduates (Females: 415, Males:6) availed the vocational centre space and machines freely, to complete the work orders they received through self-initiative and earned an income.

RAF Global also provided seed capital support to 68 graduates across trades, sometimes by distributing sewing machines to tailoring course graduates and more often, by providing material support to the trained graduates across trades. The strategy to make recipients accountable for part repayment of the support attaches value to the seed capital support provided as it is perceived as hard-earned and not free. There is greater seriousness to establish one's enterprise. The table below provides a snapshot of seed capital support provided in the year 2022.

TRADE	SEED CAPITAL BENEFICIARIES	NATURE OF SUPPORT	DONORS	COMMUNE
Beautician course	6 graduates are running their own business	Material support (cosmetics etc)	Acokin SARL Ste.Shayna	Kimbanseke : 1 Nsele : 5
Tailoring	30 women graduates	Sewing machines (SMs)	Ste.Spanco (Amin Kamani)	Kimbanseke: 12 SMs
				Nsele: 12 SMs
				Mont Ngafula: 6 SMs
	10 women graduates	Sewing machines (SMs)	Mehboob Jindani	Mont Ngafula
Carpentry	5 male students	Material support as well as work order of 35 school benches	RAF Global	Nsele
Bakery	5 male youth	Material support & bakery equipment and space	Ste Fourways	Pediatrics De Mama Koko orphanage, Kimbondo Mont Ngafula
Art	2 women graduates	Material supported	RAF Global	Kimbanseke
Tailoring	10 women graduates	Sewing machines	RAF Global	Mont Ngafula

To be noted also, is RAF Global's initiative at Pediatrics De Mama Koko orphanage, Kimbondo (in Mont Ngafula commune) since 2018 to train and employ resident youth in bakery skills and everyday production of fresh bread to feed children residing at the orphanage for the entire year. In the year 2022, the youth who worked in the orphanage's bakery establishment received seed capital to establish bread production and sale chain, using the bakery space and equipment. In a resource strapped setting, such a strategy of training, employing and assisting youth in weaning from institutional care living has helped targeting care and resources on minor and vulnerable orphaned children.

RAF Global's programme in the area of Economic Inclusion and Livelihood Support for Women and Youth is significantly supported by the following donors namely, Ste Spanco (Mr.Amin Kamani), ACOKIN SARL (Mr.Rafik Dharani), Mr. Mehboob Jindani, Ste Fourways SARL and Ste Shayna.





Trained in horticulture, 3 women farmers (and a girl) standing in the compound of 'Nutrition Centre' in Nsele commune and proudly displaying their first produce.

The women farmers use the produce for their families, and sometime for sale in local market. The Nutrition Centre also sources from them once a week, to prepare meals for undernourished children

# 2

## CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA)

RAF Global in D.R.Congo had made a small beginning in 2021 to promote farming practices and systems that adapt to climate change in order to ensure sustainable income and food security for smallholder farm families. D.R.Congo is gifted with abundant natural resources but is also under severe threat of climate change. Advocates of sustainable development in the country have already initiated projects responding to such a need. RAF Global is taking up this mission, by working towards building trust in CSA technology through information dissemination, trainings and celebrating environment related observance days.

RAF Global's early, on-ground initiatives such as promoting kitchen gardens and backyard farming among women is a relevant initiative in the present situation of rampant food insecurity and malnutrition in the province of its intervention. This is the second year when kitchen gardens are thriving at the Centre Nutritionnel Soeur Veronique Natival (in Nsele commune) because girls and women from impoverished homes congregate now not only for two meals a day, but also to learn skills in organic and backyard farming.

Through trainings complemented with distribution of seeds, saplings and access to fertile land within the nutrition centre campus, 31 beneficiaries are actively involved in vegetable production which they take home for household consumption as well as, for sale in the local market. On a weekly basis, the harvest provides nutritious meal to undernourished children and pregnant and lactating women who visit the centre. In addition, 46 people have also gained enhanced level of farming skills in horticulture that can help them earn an income and take care of nutritional needs of their families.





Elderly cataract patients, after the surgery facilitated by RAF Global through specific hospitals



# 3

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES (HNI)

The correlation between health and poverty is well established through research and results from specific interventions in various geographies. Good health helps individual, families and communities to make the best use of opportunities around them, be it in the area of education for children, availing vocational training for youth or better inputs (labour, capital etc) in their farm based or off farm livelihoods. Good health positively impacts entrepreneurial and risk-taking behaviour.

RAF Global's work on health is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal 3, which is to '*Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*'. All United Nations Member States in 2015 had adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a global initiative built around 17 Sustainable Development Goals for peace and prosperity, for people and the planet, for present time and the future.

RAF Global's Health and Nutrition Initiatives for the year 2022 in D.R.Congo could be broadly presented as focused on Water and Sanitation and Health Outreach (on a range of health issues covering prevention of infections and diseases through behaviour modification, health screening and availing diagnostic services, and appropriate, timely medical treatment including surgeries). The institution has spearheaded eyecare initiative that cover all communes in the Kinshasa province. Besides the above focus areas, Strengthening Social Safety Net has been a significant intervention that directly contributes to survival and improved health of vulnerable population such as orphaned children and the elderly.



## WATER AND SANITATION

In absence of appropriate and adequate water infrastructure development in the country, it is estimated that 90 percent of the rural population is dependent on fresh water springs in their residential neighbourhoods. Protecting these groundwater sources of water is therefore key to sustaining the community's dependence and free access to the resource for present, and in near future. RAF Global through its low-cost intervention of constructing water tanks at the sites of these fresh water springs, is ensuring access to safe water for both drinking and domestic use purposes. In the year 2022, RAF Global constructed 45 water tanks and reached out to a population of 123,600 (Females: 70,200 and Males: 53,400) in the communes of Nsele, Mont Ngafula, Kimbanseke and Selembao. The intervention was possible with the benevolent donation of Dhrolia Family Foundation, Mr.Mehboob Jindani, Mr.Sadik Patel, Mr.Salim Hemani, International Women's Club and Foundation Fomushukla. RAF Global additionally, allocated its own fund for the construction of 12 water tanks.

## HEALTH OUTREACH

RAF Global in D.R.Congo has followed a twin strategy of building awareness on targeted health issues and thereafter, facilitates behaviour modification or access to medical treatment at public hospitals depending on each case.





### Cataract related Interventions

The institution provides outstanding services in the areas of spreading awareness in schools on identifying cataract cases, organising community-level cataract screening camps and facilitating cataract surgeries through specific hospitals in the Kinshasa province. In the year 2022:

Total of 1,399 school children were made aware of the cataract condition and how they could detect that an elderly family member requires eye check-up for possible diseases

Total of 1,080 rural poor from Kimbanseke, Selembao, Mont Ngafula, Nsele and Masina attended the cataract screening camps that were organised by RAF Global

Total of 1,444 cataract patients (Females: 959 Males: 485) mostly the elderly, across 13 communes of Kinshasa province were operated free of cost at CH Roi Baudoin (Masina), BDOM (Lemba) and CH Etonga (Nsele) hospitals that RAF Global has partnered with. Total of 1,503 surgeries were coordinated.

To be noted is that, in D.R.Congo, cataract remains a key reason for blindness among the local population. While cataract surgery has a low complication rate and is successful in 97 per cent of cases according to the WHO, high cost of surgery is a dissuading factor in D.R.Congo. RAF Global has not only negotiated with the partnering hospitals to significantly bring down the cost of the surgeries, but is also trying to raise funds for purchase and donation of Ophthalmic microscopes to the partnering hospitals so that everybody could access the facility at lower costs. Presently, RAF Global identifies the poorest and neediest of patients, both women and men and bears all their expenses related to the surgeries.



### **Awareness on Hand hygiene, Menstrual hygiene and prevention of Malaria**

Disseminating information on preventive healthcare is important for RAF Global. Prevention of vector borne diseases, practicing correct hand washing behaviour, maintaining sanitation standards as well as managing menstruation safely are built into our outreach efforts towards vulnerable segments of rural communities especially, the elderly, children, adolescent girls and women. It is medically proven that correct handwashing practices significantly reduce one's vulnerability to a range of infections including diseases such as malnutrition. Similarly, our focus on menstrual hygiene is an effort to normalise a biological process, develop confidence in adolescent school going girls so that they could break the cultural barriers in education and later at work, and secure many a life opportunity.



In the year 2022:

Total of 2,385 children from 3 schools in Kimbanseke, Selembao and Mont Ngafula communes received practical training on the importance of good hygiene practices and the right way of washing hands as part of Global Handwashing celebrations in the month of October.

Total of 1,000 adolescent girl students from 4 schools in Selembao, Kimbanseke, Mont Ngafula and Nsele were sensitised towards managing their menstruation safely, hygienically and without shame, during the Menstrual Hygiene Day celebrations on May 27 and 28. The girl students were trained in making sanitary pads at home with clean, old clothes and also provided with a packet of sanitary pads. The vocational training centres supported by RAF Global conducted weekly sessions on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) to reinforce to the practice of appropriate hygiene measures among the women trainees.

During the celebration of 'World Malaria Day' in the month of April, practical sessions on preventing Malaria were undertaken by RAF Global facilitators, using relevant IEC materials, involving 2,000 children from 4 schools in Kimbanseke, Nsele, Mont Ngafula and Selembao communes. Malaria is preventable and is a treatable disease— was the key message conveyed. Mosquito coils were also distributed on the occasion. It is alarming that D.R.Congo is considered a high transmission zone for malaria and the disease is amongst primary reasons of morbidity and mortality in the country. In the year 2018, 22 percent of all malaria related deaths globally, took place in D.R.Congo.

The vocational training centre, St.Matthieu at Nsele took an initiative to start discussions with girls and women around sexual health and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Total of 800 children in the communes of Nsele, Mont Ngafula, Kimbanseke and Selembao were involved in various activities that focused on promoting good oral hygiene practices and inspiring behaviour change through practical demonstration. Besides, they also received dental kits. Dental caries, periodontal disease, oral cancer, oro dental trauma, noma are some of the oral health issues affecting the communities in Africa, including D.R.Congo.



Children and caregivers eating a nutritious meal at the Center of Nutritionnel Soeur Veronique Natal, Mpsa (Nsele commune)



## ACCESS TO SOCIAL SAFETY NET

RAF Global believes that programmes carried out in poor geographies must incorporate safety nets as an essential component. It considers nutrition aid as one such social safety net that not only prevent deaths in a community but also responds effectively to safeguarding children against malnutrition or stunted growth that can affect their brain development, reduce their IQ and weaken their immune system, for life. It was observed by UNICEF that in the year 2017, one in ten children in D.R.Congo was severely malnourished and in danger of death.

The state has recognised nutrition as a priority area in the national plan for poverty reduction, with multi-sectoral responses being built up to address the crisis. For past 5 years, RAF Global has complemented these efforts, through ensuring free food supplies to orphaned children and the elderly across communes.

In the year 2022:

Total 892 children (Females: 377, Males: 515) living at the Orphelinat Mama Koko in Kimbondo (Mont Ngafula commune) were served fresh bread for all their meals throughout the year, with the high worth material donation of Ste.Fourways SARL. In 2018, RAF Global set up an in-house bakery for sourcing fresh breads to children living in the orphanage. Ste.Fourways SARL has significantly contributed towards running of the bakery unit by providing raw materials for past 5 years. The support has been extremely relevant during the entire Covid 19 phase of two years, as well as in 2022, when the country's economy was trying to recover. Through the bakery establishment, resident children in upper age bracket are also trained in baking skills and several of them find time-bound employment at the bakery.

Through Ste Fourways SARL's support, RAF Global also undertook distribution of fresh bread to another orphanage Foyer Pere Monti, in the vicinity of Orphelinat Mama Koko, catering to 45 children in the month of August.

Through RAF Global's support, Centre for Nutritionnel Soeur Veronique Nativel in Mpasa (Nsele commune) assured 2 meals a day for 2,229 children (including primary caregivers) from extremely impoverished background. The children are enrolled at the centre, regularly monitored on nutrition parametres and receive case specific intervention. Another institution, Don De Marie orphanage (Limete commune) received food basket every month, worth 560 child beneficiaries (throughout the year) or nearly 50 repeat child beneficiaries, through RAF Global's coordinated efforts with Mr.Ashikbhai Adatia.

Total 50 preschool children enrolled at Pere Damien Early Childhood Development centre in Kimbanseke commune have been receiving nutritious food since October, while they are engaged in early cognitive and motor skills development activities.

Through RAF Global's endeavour therefore, food security was guaranteed for atleast 3,171 child beneficiaries (including primary caregivers) throughout the year, while additional numbers of children have also benefited from the outreach in preschool and other orphanages in the province of Kinshasa in the year 2022. Besides, 65 elderly people were supported with food baskets in Nsele community. We also celebrated International Day of Older Persons with the elderly people to acknowledge that they are invaluable in the society.







Esteemed donors inaugurate a water tank in an underserved locality.







# 4

## EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME (ETP)

RAF Global in D.R.Congo has been making concerted efforts towards filling critical gaps in specific public schools of the Kinshasa province. The contribution mainly falls under 'School Infrastructure Improvement' and has involved donation of benches for classrooms, donation of educational books for school libraries and donation of sports equipment to promote physical exercise as well as for building sportsmanship among school students. Physical endurance, resilience and peaceful resolution to conflicts are traits to be inculcated in children and youth in all societies, including D.R.Congo. Sport has demonstrated to be a powerful tool to heal societies affected with aggression, civil strife, societal crises and impoverishment.

Through initiatives like sponsoring school fees and distribution of school kits in every academic year, RAF Global endeavours to encourage the most vulnerable children who are enrolled in a school, to regularly attend school and not to fall off the public education system. This way, at least 1,628 school going children have been supported covering the communes of Selembao (through school, College Deo Lutelamo), Kimbanseke (through school E.P. Mukasa), Mont Ngafula (through school E.P.Mpuitu), Nsele (through school E.P.Pasteur Mayele) and Selembao (through school E.P Mbego), during the month of September.

A stimulating environment in early childhood years is important for brain development of a child as well as, contributes towards personality development of the child. RAF Global believes that in any society, one's ascribed status, economic or social disadvantages should not impede the development of younger generations. Therefore, in D.R.Congo the foundation has made a beginning by setting up Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres that enroll children for few hours of care, guided engagement for fine motor skills, cognitive development and building social skills in a safe environment while, the primary caregiver is relieved to pursue daily wage/farm work, pursue skill development course at a RAF Global supported VTC or participate in a training on organic farming. Total 150 preschool children are enrolled in three ECD centres, covering the communes of Kimbanseke (Pere Damien), Nsele (Centre for Nutritionnel Soeur Veronique Natival, Mpsa) and Mont Ngafula (Orphelinat Mama Koko, Kimbondo). These centres are furnished with 100 chairs and 40 study tables by the kind support of our donor, KINPLAST. The brightly coloured children's furniture creates a vibrant and comfortable classroom environment.



# CASE STORIES





## Stories of graduates of RAF Global supported Vocational Training Centres (VTCs)

### CASE 1:



**Mulumba Kasonga Beruth** is a young woman, living in Quartier Mikonga of the Nsele commune. Mulumba could not complete her secondary education due to financial hardships. Later, when she came to know about the courses provided by RAF Global supported vocational centres in the locality, she decided to enrol herself.

Mulumba had studied electrical works at her school. She aspired to gain greater technical understanding on the subject. After an intensive training, today, she works as an electrician in the commune. Mulumba has also been offered an opportunity at one of the vocational training centres to assist the Professor of Electrical works and provide practical support to all trainees enrolled in the course on electrical work.

Mulumba is proud of her unconventional choice of profession. Handling the circuits, fixing things and thus providing respite to people, comes naturally to her. Mulumba has high regard for RAF Global provided course that has built confidence in her and enabled her to support her parents, financially. Says Mulumba 'My family is proud of me because sometimes, I am the one to take charge of my family because I have a job.'

### CASE 2:

**Mimbolo Sarah** from Nsele commune, in the Kinshasa province of D.R.Congo, is pursuing medical stream after completing her secondary school. This is remarkable in itself, considering the context- a young girl pursuing her dream in a remote, rural area of Democratic Republic of Congo. This is a country that has weathered many a storm in all spheres of existence. But Mimbolo's life story is inspiring also, because of the journey she undertook when end of her formal, school education meant a full stop to her personal development and growth.

In an agrarian society that has high exposure to climate changes and where communities are yet to grasp the enormity of the crisis and make a shift to climate resilient agriculture, Mimbolo's family managed to ensure that the daughter completes her secondary school. However, the possibility of enrolling in the university was bleak. Mimbolo therefore, could not pursue her higher studies.



After one year, Mimbolo came to know about RAF Global's supported vocational training centres in the locality. She enrolled in the beautician course, undergoing both theoretical and practical training in beauty care and wellness. After completion of her training, Mimbolo opened her salon, and she works along with other graduates of the beautician course. Mimbolo is able to earn an income and contributes in the household management.

Mimbolo finally, is able to save small amount of money for her higher education. She had studied biology as a major subject, during her secondary school and the subject interested her. She has now, enrolled herself at the university to pursue a medical course. Her small savings are complemented by some support from her parents and she can bear the educational expenses. Mimbolo thus, can think of better life prospects based on her competencies. The vocational training centre in the far-flung Nsele commune was a steppingstone and launched Mimbolo towards a promising career. Says Mimbolo 'I thank RAF Global because it gives sense (direction/ meaning) to my life'.

---

### CASE 3:

**Muteba Nguny Gedeon** is a 22 years old young man who lives in Quartier Biyele of Kimbanseke commune, along with her mother and younger siblings. Muteba's father passed away when Muteba was a child. Muteba had to leave studies after grade 5, to support his family. However, he always had the desire to carry forward his father's trade of tailoring and dressmaking, and make a name for himself.



Opportunity beacons when Muteba came to know of the tailoring course at RAF Global supported vocational centre, in his neighbourhood. Soon, Muteba gained the basic skills and later, enhanced his skills in cutting and sewing clothes, with self-motivation. After three months of intensive training, Muteba graduated from the course. As he aspired to establish his small business, RAF Global gave him a sewing machine, under its seed capital initiative. With his skill and the sewing machine as his key assets, Muteba is set on a path of self-sustenance. He has an assured income of 20,000 FC per week. Muteba supports his mother financially, and helps raise his younger siblings. Muteba dedicates his success to his father who often told him '.....under the earth, there is no job reserved only for men or women'. Muteba is thankful to RAF Global for helping him pick up skills for livelihood and pursue the profession his father was passionate about.

---



#### CASE 4:

In the year 2021, RAF Global made significant strides in the area of providing seed capital to 25 students who graduated from various courses that are conducted at RAF Global supported VTCs. We followed up with 18 tailoring graduates from 4 communes who also received a sewing machine each in November 2021, to set up small business, after completion of the course. The beneficiaries were monitored during an eight-month period (until July 2022) during which we observed positive outcome.

A sewing machine costs 200,000 FC and while the sewing machine was given to the beneficiary, she was encouraged to consider it as seed capital support and pay off the loan. However, this repayment was not compulsory, or within a given time-frame. Our observation is, the beneficiaries have shown a healthy trend of earning an income and supporting their families. In most cases, they also invested part savings in procuring raw materials as well as, towards repayment of the seed capital.

While the total cost of the sewing machines was 3,600,000 FC under the seed capital arrangement, the total repayment was 6,63,800 FC. This pool of fund contributes towards building a bigger corpus with which RAF Global will buy more sewing machines, to help many more tailoring graduates with seed capital support to set up small businesses. We have observed that the seed capital mechanism has instilled both, financial discipline as well as pride among the beneficiaries that they own the sewing machines. At the same time, there has been no pressure on those few who have not made any repayment.

**Otshumba Belote** is one of the 18 beneficiaries whose case is cited here. Today, she works as a trainer of tailoring at the vocational training centre in Mambre, Mont Ngafula that is supported by RAF Global. When she had completed the course in the year 2021, she did not have a machine to start her business. Then, RAF Global gave her a sewing machine as a seed capital with which she earned approximately 10,000 FC every week and about 50,000 FC in a month. For the income, she saved 20,000 FC for loan repayment while invested some amount towards purchase of materials and machine related things. Otshumba has business acumen. When the school academic year starts in Mont Ngafula, she buys materials for stitching uniforms and sells them. Denise Akambi in Mont Ngafula commune, Mungulu Gemime and Kwitul Dentile in Kimbanseke commune have similarly recounted the effectiveness of the seed capital arrangement in helping them earn a dignified income.



## CASE 5:

In the year 2022, with the kind material support of Fourways SARL to 5 enterprising youth of Orphelinat Mama Koko, Kimbondo, RAF Global initiated one group-based income generation activity. The youth were earlier trained in bakery and now, they are provided with one-time seed capital in the form of raw materials for baking bread as well as, make use of the orphanage's bakery unit and equipment, during the hours when the kitchen is not operating.



The youth bake three types of breads with cost ranging from 200 FC to 500 FC. They have engaged 7 poor women who take the freshly baked bread early morning (between 4-5am) and sell them in the neighbourhood. 4 of these women are direct buyers ie. they buy bread from the bakers' group every day and pay in cash. The remaining 3 women buy bread in large quantities for wholesale operations and are the main suppliers of bread, in their area of operation from whom small vendors as well as individuals buy bread for various purposes. Termed as depositors, these women buy bread on credit and repay the next day.

The bakers' group have also incentivised these systems so, an individual bread seller in this chain, gets 25 percent of sales benefit at the end of the month while the depositors get 30 percent of sales benefit, at the end of the month. The women prefer taking the sales benefit at the end of the month so that they could buy other stuff like tea, peanut and butter. After paying off the incentives, the youth make a decent profit part of which goes into procuring raw materials for production.

While this initiative is less than a year old, we present it as a case of group income generation activity, involving two social groups, orphan youth whom we want to see integrated back into society and out of institutional living that is meant for minors, and poor women in the neighbourhood, looking for an income earning opportunity. Lusilawo Georgine (from Quartier Mbenseke) who has to provide for four children alone, is one of the women engaged in selling the bread. What works for Lusilawo is that the bakery is just near her house so, it is walkable distance and also, she does not have to stand in long queue to procure bread which she sells in



her area. Thereafter, she returns to running the errands of her household, having earned an income in the morning from sale of fresh bread.

**Nabuni Merveille** on the other hand, is one of the youths from Mama Koko orphanage who is engaged in bakery production (a group income generation initiative). Nabuni studied science in his secondary school. Thereafter, he received training in bakery for 3 months, through RAF Global's efforts. This year, along with 4 other youth, Nabuni started bread production for sale outside the orphanage campus. He states that the group has a corpus of USD 500 now, with the business running profitably. The bakers' group aspire to set up their own bakery unit, some day. Nabuni lives in a rented accommodation now, outside of the orphanage.



#### CASE 6:



**Mbili Chantal** from Avenue Asoba at Mikonga, Nsele commune, trained in beautician and wellness at one of the RAF Global supported vocational training centres. Soon after, she opened a salon and also started training 20 girls who were interested in learning about beauty care as an income generation avenue. Mbili's transformation is noteworthy. She was jobless earlier. Today, her salon is a hub of activities and motivates young girls to earn a dignified income. Mbili feels proud of what she has been able to achieve. She thanks RAF Global for showing her a path, in the darkness.



## Stories of Beneficiaries under Health and Nutrition programme

### CASE 1: CATARACT SURGERIES

I am **Kakesa Kasongo**. I was losing my vision drastically for the last 2 years. With timely diagnosis due to RAF Global and further support from kind-hearted people associated with RAF Global, my surgery was undertaken. I did not have to pay for anything. The hospital registration, charges of doctors, eyecare medicines were all taken care of through RAF Global. By God's Grace, I am able to see now. (Testimonial of a cataract patient)



I am **Mudiamba Marceline**, living in Nsele commune along with my 4 children. I am 63 years old and a widow. Earlier, I used to sell banana, fish and chicken in my locality. After my eyesight became poor in one eye due to cataract, I stopped my work and have been sitting at home. My children have been taking care of me. I heard from my neighbour that RAF Global helps in getting cataract patients treated and so, I visited the hospital with my son. I was consulted and after checkup and counseling, RAF Global got me operated, free of cost. Now my vision is restored and I will start my work very soon. I thank RAF Global and the doctors for their work. (Testimonial of a patient)



The sense of sight is important to our being for a fulfilling life. It is not only a powerful tool to help us observe the world, absorb and engage with it, sight is also important to help us gain the skills to navigate through life, in a dignified manner. Loss of vision afflicts large number of people across the world, especially developing countries due to a range of factors, including delay/neglect of simple surgical interventions mainly due to poverty conditions. In D.R.Congo, cataract remains a key reason for blindness among the local population.



In the year 2022, through its strategic partnership with local hospitals such as CH Roi Baudoin (Masina), BDOM (Lemba) and CH Etonga (Nsele) and significant benevolent financial contribution of its donors, RAF Global in D.R.Congo has been able to restore the vision of 1,444 cataract patients, mostly senior citizens, covering all communes in the Kinshasa province. A total of 1503 surgeries were coordinated. This has involved an intensive process of community outreach, awareness campaigns, facilitating screening process at the partnering hospitals and providing both, pre surgery consultation as well as, post operative follow up & support to the patients. This is an on-going programme for RAF Global in D.R.Congo running since the year 2017 which is scaling up through the network of partnering institutions, with each passing year.

## CASE 2: MAKING POTABLE WATER ACCESSIBLE



The open borehole before



The newly constructed water tank, covering the borehole

I am **Mboma Joseph** and live in Efobanc quartier, Nsele commune. In our entire area, Avenue Mikonga 1, there used to be one open borehole to meet the needs of an entire community of 3000 residents. There were other challenges too. During rainy season, fetching water from this source was difficult. The water would get contaminated and used polythene, mud and other contaminants would flow into the water. Still, we had to rely on this water source and often, fell sick. The newly constructed water tank is well covered, and now accessing clean water anytime, is possible. The water source is now well protected. Water is also available free of cost. If possible, strong shed for the water table could be made, for protection against heavy rains. I thank RAF Global for constructing this water tank in our area. (Testimonial of a beneficiary in Nsele commune, taken during October-December 2022)





Selembao (Before)



Selembao (After water tank)

The photograph of open water source in Arret Badiadingi, Ref: Jardin Agricole (Selembao commune, Population: 2800) stands in stark contrast to the photograph taken after RAF Global's construction of a water tank at the same spot, in between July-August 2022. The support came from a benevolent, individual donor who has contributed significantly in improving sanitation practices and building a defense against infectious diseases in Selembao and Mont Ngafula communes. A beneficiary from another location, Madelene Mwandu confirms that the drudgery of women has reduced by this community asset. 'Now we can easily fetch water for doing household chores', she says.

Construction of water tank has been one of the key initiatives of RAF Global in D.R.Congo, in Nsele, Mont Ngafula, Selembao and Kimbanseke communes of Kinshasa province. It is a low-cost solution to making safe water accessible to the Congolese population, besides promoting the practice of water conservation and preventing contamination of fresh water sources. In the year 2022, 45 tanks (of 2000 litres capacity, each) were constructed that benefited the health and overall Quality of Life of 1,23,600 rural inhabitants. The initiative has checked the spread of waterborne diseases and thereby, addressed the larger issue of malnutrition and death among children and vulnerable groups. It has improved the safety of women and children also, so that they do not have to travel far distance, to fetch water especially, at night.









International Women's Day celebration on March 8, at a RAF Global supported Vocational Training Centre



Children engage in fun-filled activity at Maison Famille, Kimbanseke on the occasion of International Day of Sports for Development and Peace on April 6

# EVENTS

RAF Global in D.R.Congo observes days that have global as well as local significance in the country, and the continent. The foundation has involved children, men, women and the elderly in these observances, as per the thematic relevance. The table below provides a glimpse of how did the foundation involve community in the observance days and celebrations.

## **FEBRUARY 4:**

### **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

Events organised at RAF Global supported VTC in Nsele and Kimbanseke opened dialogue with 100 women participants on domestic violence and gender-based discrimination.

Mama Angel (responsible ONG Association chrétienne pour développement femme et enfant) and Aimerance Kilisi (from platform of violence against women, in the Ministry of Gender and Family) took the training sessions on domestic violence.

## **MARCH 8:**

### **International Women's Day**

500 women at VTCs in Mont Ngafula, Nsele and Kimbanseke attended sessions on gender equality, opportunities for women in workforce and their potential to improve life situation for themselves and the community.

## **MARCH 20:**

### **World Oral Health Day**

800 children across 4 communes were involved in activities promoting good oral hygiene practices and inspiring behaviour change, through practical demonstration and distribution of dental kits.

## **APRIL 6:**

### **International Day of Sports for Development and Peace**

150 children (50 children at the orphanage, Maison Famille, Kimbanseke and 100 children at Nutritionnel Soeur Veronique Natival, Mpsa, Nsele) were involved in entertaining physical activities and playing games. They were informed about the importance of sports in our lives. This was followed by distribution of juice and biscuits.

## **APRIL 23:**

### **World Book Day**

RAF Global facilitated the donation of reading books in French, to a school in Selembao commune, with over 500 students.



## **APRIL 25:**

### **World Malaria Day**

2000 school children from 4 communes were involved in activities conveying the message that Malaria is a preventable and a treatable disease. Preventive measures were reinforced and mosquito coils were distributed.

## **MAY 28:**

### **World Menstrual Hygiene Day**

Between May 27-28, about 1000 adolescent girls at 4 schools in the communes of Selembao, Kimbanseke, Mont Ngafula and Nsele were sensitised towards managing their menstruation safely, hygienically and without shame.

The girl students were trained in making sanitary pads at home with clean, old clothes. Additionally, they also received supplies of sanitary pads.

## **OCTOBER 1:**

### **International Day for Older Persons**

Carried out in partnership with NGO APC, the celebration involved distribution of food baskets to 50 senior citizens at Mpsa, Nsele commune

## **OCTOBER:**

### **Global Handwashing Advocacy Month**

Between Oct 28-29, RAF Global facilitated sessions on the importance of good hygiene practices and the right way of washing hands, covering 3 schools in Kimbanseke, Selembao and Mont Ngafula communes, involving 2,385 children.

## **NOVEMBER 20:**

### **World Children's Day**

1200 children from Nsele, Kimbanseke and Selembao communes were involved in a range of activities between Nov 19 – 21, with games, group activities and nutritious biscuits to keep the children energised.

RAF Global donated sports equipment (swings, footballs etc) to the participating schools, as part of its regular School Improvement Programme.

## **DECEMBER 25:**

### **Christmas**

RAF Global gifted toys to over 2000 children covering 32 orphanages



A montage of sessions on handwashing practices undertaken across schools, to observe Global Handwashing month in October

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARTNERS AND DONORS

RAF Global presents this annual report with immense gratitude to individuals, institutions, CSO networks and the communities with whom we work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The following institutions are integral part of RAF Global's work in the country.

Commune	Partnering Institution
Kimbanseke	ACEDEFE: Association Chretienne pour le Developpement des Femmes et Enfants
	St.Joseph de Turin
	College St.Frederic
	E.P Mukasa
	E.P Misani
Lemba	Bureau Diocésain des Oeuvres Médicales (BDOM) hospital
Masina	Roi Baudouin
Mont Ngafula	Monastere Benediction de Mambre
	Foyer Pere Monti
	EP Rv Mputu
	Mama Koko Orphalinat
Nsele	Centre Nutritionnel Soeur Veronique Nativel, Mpsa
	Centre Social St. Matthieu
	C.H.Etonga
	Mere Marie Augustine school (Mpsa)
	E.P.Pasteur Mayele
	Espoir Congo-SABEC (Kikimi)
	APEC
Selembao	C.S La Palmier
	E.P. Lokolo Moko
	E.P Mbengo



RAF Global's work in D.R.Congo in the year 2022 was made possible because of the donation of many individuals and institutions. We are thankful to



**Individuals:** Mehboob Jindani , Nargis Manji, Amin Kamani, Ashikbhai Adatia, Salim Darediya, Mehmoud Shamji, Salim Hemnani, Rafiq Dharani, Nima Shukla, Sadik Patel, Anish Somani and many other donors.













D.R. Congo Country Office team





## RAF GLOBAL

D.R.Congo Country Office  
Avenue tombalbaye, no.1, ex-kin mazier, 1er étage, local no.10,  
Commune de la Gombe, Kinshasa, D.R.Congo  
Contact: +243-830-449-593 (M), +243-890-011-200 (M)  
Email: [info.drc@rafglobal.org](mailto:info.drc@rafglobal.org),  
Website: [www.rafglobal.org](http://www.rafglobal.org)