

# THE LOBIKO INITIATIVE

## ANNUAL REPORT

2021

A photograph showing four children from behind, running through a lush green field. They are holding hands and appear to be playing or running joyfully. The child on the far left is wearing a striped shirt and dark shorts. The child next to them is in a plain white t-shirt and shorts. The child in the middle is a girl wearing a blue sleeveless dress and carrying a pink and white patterned bag. The child on the far right is wearing a patterned shirt and light-colored pants. The background shows a line of trees and a reddish-brown earth bank.

2021

[WWW.LOBIKO.ORG](http://WWW.LOBIKO.ORG)

# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on the 2021 year, my heart is filled with gratitude for the overwhelming support during our inaugural year. I am also reminded of the power of grace and compassion and their transformative impact on individuals and communities. This year, we directly impacted the lives of over 4,000 people in the Gemena region of Congo. The reality is that our current success results from individual decisions and actions that started nearly two decades ago.

During the Congolese armed conflict, my mother, Sabuli Sanguma, was forced to navigate the horrid realities of war while taking care of her five children. After escaping the war and finding refuge in the United States, she decided to leave my siblings and me where we had a better chance of opportunity and return to the war-torn country to support my father, Mossai Sanguma, with his reconciliation work through the church. Seeing the grace she received from people who provided her children with opportunities, Sabuli understood the power of humanity. First, she decided to take care of an abandoned infant left for dead at a nearby cemetery; then, she began to welcome and build a community with orphaned or abandoned children that would come to her asking for help. Sabuli's actions led to the creation of the Sabuli's Children Center, something that she never envisioned but resulted from her compassionate actions. This work led to the creation of CongoVoice, an organization of compassionate individuals that dedicated their time, energy, and resources to advance the work happening in Congo. Because of the dedication and ongoing support of CongoVoice, as well as communities including Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church and Peninsula Covenant Church, Lobiko has a solid foundation in which to continue this remarkable work and we are honored.

I share this story because the transformative work in Congo did not come from one individual or one single action. The work started because individuals – such as Sabuli and families that decided to take care of Sabuli's children in the States – saw a need and graciously chose to support it. People coming together to use their unique gifts and abilities to help each other is essential for transformation. As we continue the legacy of individuals and communities that came before us, we have so much to celebrate, and at the same time, we know that our collective work is far from over. Whether you are a prayer warrior, an expert in a field (e.g., engineer, medicine, etc.), a community organizer, or an individual who wants to leverage their financial resources, we welcome your partnership and support. I know the power of communities when they come together to lift each other; I hope you will walk alongside us as we continue to create conditions that enable our most vulnerable population the opportunity to live a life of well-being and purpose.

As we enter 2022, we are committed to working side by side with The Sanguma Foundation to promote dignity and hope by serving the most vulnerable children with a safe home and loving care; equip a generation of leaders through high-quality education; provide access to quality, affordable, and comprehensive medical care to community members furthest from equitable opportunity; and cultivate economic development through vocational training to promote social mobility. We are also committed to listening to our partners' needs and challenges, supporting them as they strategically and creatively develop solutions to address those challenges, and serving as a bridge between the transformative work in Congo and the communities of support in the United States and Canada.

As we carry forth our work into the new year, I am grounded by this Congolese proverb, "Lokendo losa lokobandaka la sinyosinyo," or "the journey of 100km begins by one step".

With Gratitude,

Wilita Sanguma  
Executive Director



## OUR VISION

Every person has the opportunity to lead a life of wellbeing and to be part of a thriving community.

## OUR MISSION

To advance the holistic development of children to lead a purpose-driven life of wellbeing, to equip a generation of leaders that empower transformational change, and to promote the necessary infrastructures for economic sustainability.

## OUR APPROACH

We partner and collaborate with community leaders, local experts, and change agents by sharing essential resources and thought leadership in order to cultivate the necessary conditions for transformations change--change that aims to ensure every person has the opportunity to lead a life of wellbeing and be part of a thriving community.

## OUR WORK

We are working with urgency to:

- promote dignity and hope by providing children with a safe home and loving care;
- equip a generation of leaders through high-quality education;
- provide access to quality, affordable, and comprehensive medical care to community members furthest from equitable opportunity; and
- cultivate economic development through vocational training to promote social mobility.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This year, The Lobiko Initiative partnered with The Sanguma Foundation (previously called Fondation Sabuli et Sanguma or FOSASA), a nonprofit organization located in Gemena, the capital city of the Sud-Ubangi province of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In partnership, we develop sustainable solutions in the Gemena area. The following highlights our work through the 2021 year.





# THE SANGUMA FOUNDATION

Lobiko has been instrumental in working with TSF to assess the organization's sustainability. Lobiko partnered with TSF to identify a need for a new leadership structure to ensure optimal operations of each program area and guide the multifaceted organization forward under a shared vision. Ultimately, this led to an extensive global search to hire an executive director. We are excited to share that through our partnership with TSF, a high-quality candidate was selected and on-boarded to lead the work of TSF. While this was a top priority based upon our assessment, we worked with urgency to ensure each program area had the necessary resources and support to sustain optimal operations.

# SABULI'S CHILDREN CENTER

Too many children are orphaned within a vicious cycle of poverty due to a history of imperialism, violence, and oppression; extremely low access to medical care; and limited economic mobility.

Sabuli's Children Center serves children most vulnerable to this reality. Our commitment to each child is: to shelter with a safe home; to provide loving care; to nourish with good food; to equip with education; and to provide additional development that prepares each child for future life opportunities



## IMPACT

- 141 children who are orphaned or abandoned were provided with a safe home, loving care, and education.
  - 93 children are currently supported by SCC: 78 at SCC and 15 outside of SCC.
  - 22 children are under the age of four years old.
  - 48 children aged out of SCC: 5 are university graduates, 6 currently attending a university in Kinshasa (capital of Congo), 16 (6 employed, 10 self-employed/ entrepreneurs), 21 do not have diplomas.
- 11 new children found refuge at the children's center in 2021.
- 21 youth from the children's center were part of the inaugural cohort for the vocational training at the Gemena Community Center.
- 16 children received their high school diploma in 2021.
- In partnership with Here for Kids International, the children at the center are actively engaged in sport extracurricular activities (Soccer and Volleyball).
- 17 community members are employed through the SCC. Forty percent of the employees are women contributing or serving as sole supporters of their families.

## CHALLENGES

- Over 15 children were treated for malaria and typhoid this year.
- Due to COVID and the teacher strike that lasted 2 months, 5 children must retake the state exam (note: no student from the Sud Ubangi region passed the state exam during this cycle).
- Due to the harsh weather conditions, materials at the Sabuli Children Center continue to deteriorate faster than usual, which constantly require repair.

## LOOKING AHEAD

SCC is seeking to improve meal planning with a focus on nutrition and diversity. The construction of a cafeteria is in progress to allow children to eat their meals together in a designated area. This will also provide space for organized activities. Children have begun working with a French tutor after school to improve their educational success. SCC aims to focus on transitional care and preparing students for independent living. This plan includes increasing graduation rates, seeking university scholarships, and assisting with entry into vocational programs. SCC will implement standard protocols for receiving children and maintaining documentation.

Lobiko is committed to supporting The Sanguma Foundation to improve the quality and implementation of their services for the children at the Sabuli's Children Center.







# UBANGI PROTESTANT UNIVERSITY

A nationally accredited university located in Gemena, the capital city of the Sud-Ubangi region of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Ubangi Protestant University (UPU) exists to prepare students to be effective leaders of the region.

UPU is the first university in the region and equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as persons and professionals in an ever-changing world.

## IMPACT

- 320 students were provided with a high-quality education through the Ubangi Protestant University.
- Current programs include Agriculture (56 students), Economics (82 students), Medical Biology (12), Law (40 students), and Theology (130 students).
- Three former SCC children graduated with a Masters degree in Agronomy in October 2021.
- UPU has formalized a partnership with l'Universite Pedagogique National (UPN) to improve the quality of their professors, teaching programs, and material resources.
- UPU continues to partner with Judy Medical Clinic to host medical residents.

## CHALLENGES

- It continues to be a challenge for students to pay school tuition, even with the existing subsidized cost.
- Classrooms and administrative officers are limited, and the university buildings are aging rapidly.
- The financial realities of operating a university continue to be a challenge given limited resources.

## LOOKING AHEAD

UPU and JMC have agreed to use the land adjacent to the clinic temporarily. This will provide greater opportunity for collaboration between visiting doctors and interning students. UPU hopes to establish secure housing to host visiting doctors and other university professors. They have begun to seek satellite locations for some of their programs. The partnership with UPN will provide valuable support in training and programming.

Lobiko is committed to financially supporting UPU's operations and working together to develop a strategic plan that would expand the current resource pool.



# JUDY MEDICAL CLINIC

The Judy Medical Clinic exists to provide quality medical services to the kids at the children's center as well as to provide access to much-needed medical services for members of the region.

Quality medical service is hard to find in the region, and travel to Kinshasa (Capitol) is not affordable or accessible by the majority of the community. The medical clinic serves as a highly subsidized quality medical service to ensure greater access to medical care.



## IMPACT

- JMC provided comprehensive medical care to over 4,000 community members through the Judy Medical Center.
- 116 medical operations were conducted in JMC.
- 817 community members were hospitalized for at least one day at JMC.
- Physicians at JMC assisted the delivery of 61 children and safely completed 27 cesarian.
- Physicians at JMC conducted 123 prenatal consultations.

## CHALLENGES

- There is a need to reinforce security to continue the safety of patients as well as minimize burglary.
- Local drug prices continue to be extremely high.
- There is a need for more private rooms at the clinic.

## LOOKING AHEAD

JMC has increased professional standards by adding a certified pharmacist and medical records technician. JMC will benefit from an improved accounting system that tracks revenue and expenditures and pharmacy and laboratory stock. Organization, retrieval, and storage of patient records will enhance efficiency and contribute to better accounting and patient service. Staff development includes training in labor and delivery and nursing protocols.

Lobiko is committed to supporting JMC by subsidizing their drug purchase, developing connections with change agents in the United States and Canada to support the needs of JMC (e.g., additional hospital space).





# GEMENA COMMUNITY CENTER

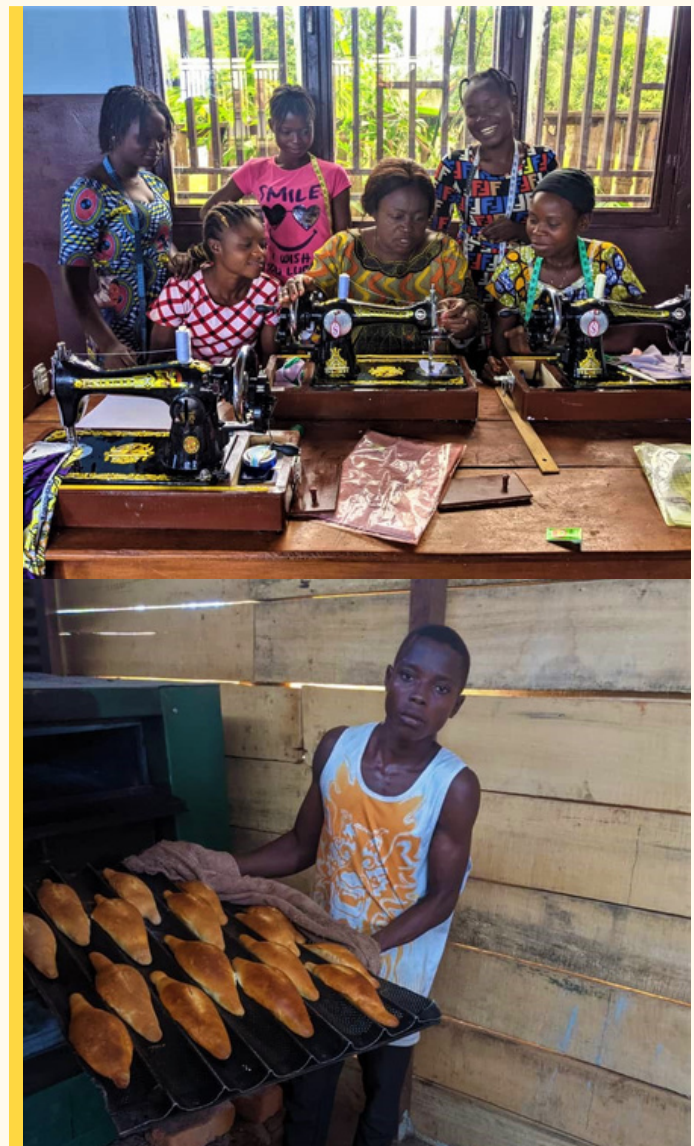
The Gemena Community Center is the first of its kind in the Ubangi region. Located in the heart of the city, the center houses numerous multipurpose rooms for community events, education programs, and vocational training. The center exists to provide economic development for the community.

## IMPACT

- GCC has employed 26 people from the local community.
- GCC opened two vocational training programs (Sewing and Bakery), engaging over 60 community members through employment or training.
- There are 21 students enrolled in the vocational training program that either received a small stipend or reduced fees.
- The bakery program has created jobs for 28 people and demonstrates a clear capacity to create more.
- National organizations and international nonprofits continue to lease rooms in GCC, generating revenue for the Sanguma Foundation.

## CHALLENGES

- There is a need to reinforce security to minimize burglary.
- Materials often break and need constant repair or replacement.
- There is a demand and need for English language training as part of the vocational training program.



## LOOKING AHEAD

The bakery can benefit from the installation of a second oven and visible marketing. The coupe et couture program currently has 15 students enrolled and eight children from SCC participate in workshops either after school or during vacations. They will be launching a new calendar and program schedule that allows for theory and practical application while serving clientele. Investigating possible partnerships with local schools to create uniforms will allow the students to develop practical skills and increase revenue. With the installation of electric and internet service, GCC is prime for opening new training programs and networking with organizations needing access to research or other technology services. Community and SCC children's feedback shows a strong interest in IT, English language, and motorcycle repair and licensure programs.

Lobiko is committed to supporting GCC's vocational training programs to ensure that every child that leaves the center has the necessary skills and tools to succeed, especially if higher education is not an option.

# SABULI'S GROWING GARDEN

Sabuli's Growing Garden is over 120 acres of land that has been cleared, planted, and harvested. The garden is about six miles away from the children's center and exists to provide a sustainable source of nourishing food for the children.

The garden also offers employment opportunities for many community members. With extremely high unemployment and a lack of stable jobs in the region, Sabuli's Growing Garden is a place of meaningful employment, allowing many to better provide for themselves and their families.





## IMPACT

- SGG provided 22 people with year-round employment and seasonal employment for an additional 44 people.
- SGG continued to provide healthy nourishment for the children at the Sabuli's Children Center.
- A water pump was installed at SGG, providing much-needed water for operation and clean drinking water for the surrounding community.

## CHALLENGES

- There is a need for gardening and farming materials to help provide the efficiency of work production (much of the work is done by human labor with minimal to no machinery).
- There is a lack of a reliable vehicle to transport goods to the market.
- The need to constantly repair or replace equipment.

## LOOKING AHEAD

SGG is undergoing the construction of a medical center and several small classrooms for local children to study. Avenues to pursue include forming partnerships with coffee distributors and learning how to begin our own production from plant to packaged product. Training in orchards and fish farming techniques has led to better organization of the farm and ideas for increasing the possibility of the fish farm. Continued training and action steps in these areas will contribute to the overall growth and success of the farm.

Lobiko is committed to supporting SGG to develop partnership with change agents in the United States and Canada to expand their production and generate revenue. We also understand the difficulty of acquiring reliable equipment to facilitate crop production. We are committed to supporting SGG to acquire new reliable equipment.





# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

We are incredibly grateful to all our donors. Because of your support and through our partnership with the Sanguma Foundation, we directly impacted the lives of over 4,000 people in the Gemena region of the Congo. Our work would not be possible without your generous contribution. The following graphics highlight our financial report for the 2021 year.



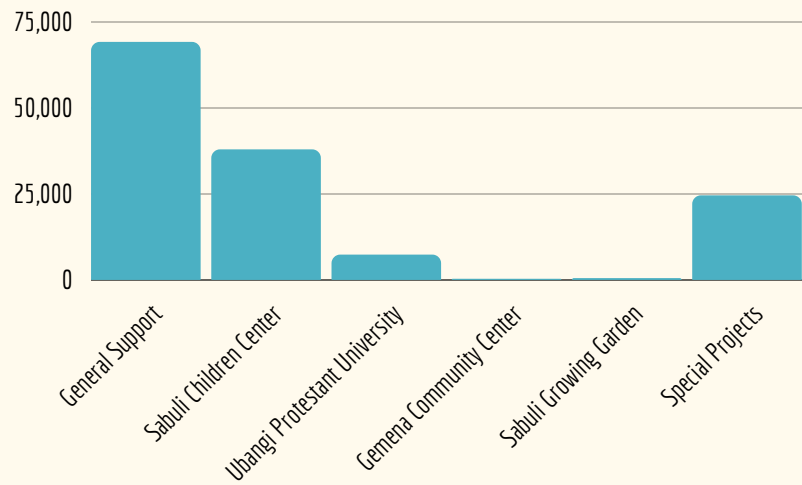
**LOBIKO RAISED A TOTAL OF  
\$138,986 IN 2021.**

**THE END OF YEAR  
CAMPAIGN RAISED \$15,983  
TO SUPPORT THE SABULI'S  
CHILDREN CENTER.**

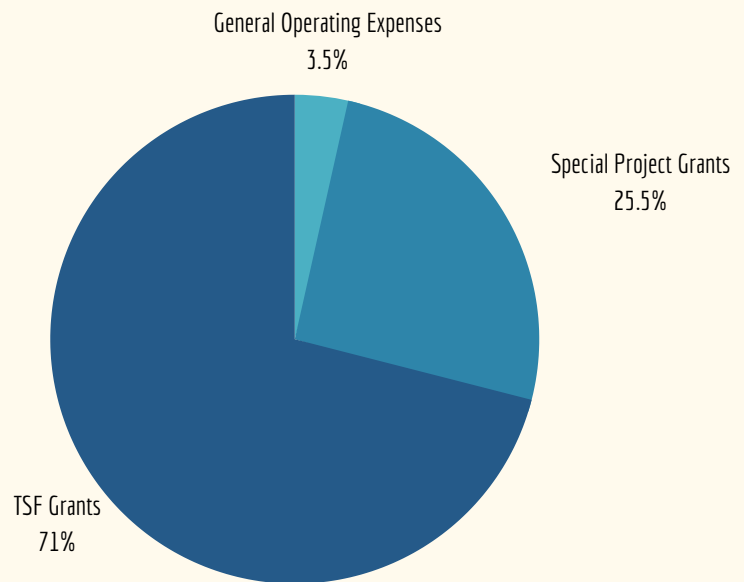
**A TOTAL OF 52  
INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES  
DONATED TO LOBIKO.**

**96% OF DONATIONS  
RECEIVED WENT DIRECTLY  
TO SUPPORT THE  
PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL  
PROJECTS IN THE CONGO.**

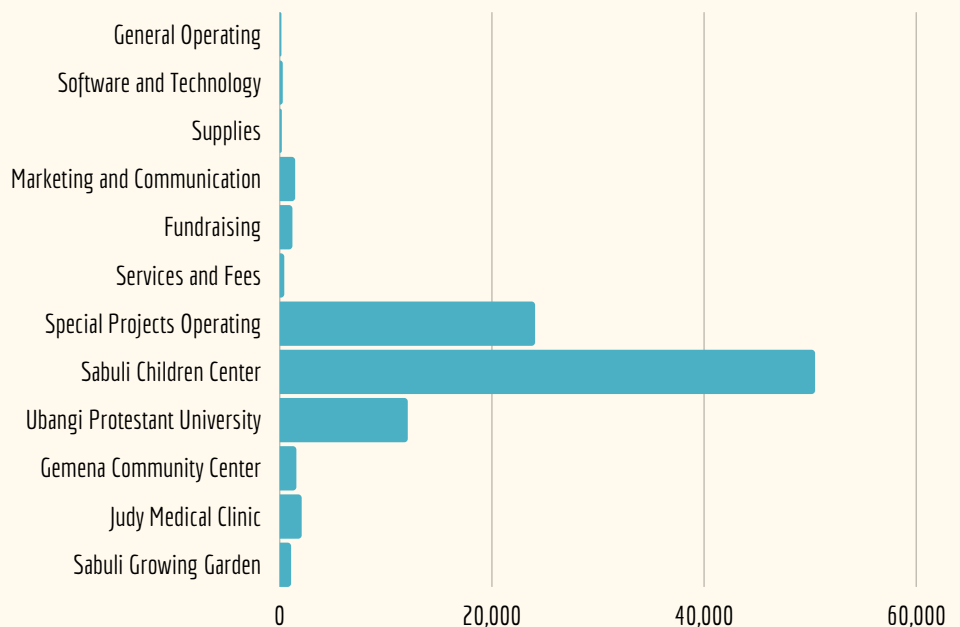
## FY21 CONTRIBUTIONS BY PURPOSE



## FY21 EXPENSE OVERVIEW



## FY21 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN BY TYPE



# LEADERSHIP

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**Wilita Sanguma, Executive Director**



# JOIN THE LOBIKO FAMILY

We know the power of communities when they come together to lift each other, and we hope you'll continue to walk alongside us as we continue on our journey. Here are simple ways to join us:



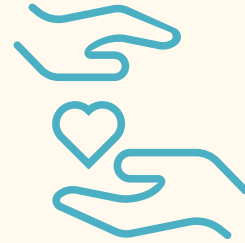
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