

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program:

**Young Ambassadors for Health and Good Nutrition
in Congo**

Year: 2017

Name of the Program: Young Ambassadors for Health and Good Nutrition in Congo
/ The Matanel Nutrition Center in Congo

Year of activity: 2017

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Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

At present we have a fully operational CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION, which includes spirulina pools and other small agricultural plots (maize, sorghum, vegetables and others). School pupils have received training by the local JustSpirulina team and will continue to be trained and train others, according to the JustSpirulina peer teaching model.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

Following receipt of the grant, we constructed a CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION. The center includes spirulina pools and several other small agricultural plots (maize, sorghum, vegetables and others). The spirulina in the pools has reached full maturity and is being harvested twice a week by the local team and pupils. In September we conducted the first training activity: 37 pupils from the ANGA-POPOF agro-forestry school were trained in spirulina production by the same people who were trained by the Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium students exactly two years ago in Kigali, Rwanda. On October 16-17, 40 additional pupils from five schools from the region will also be trained. This time they will be trained by the graduates (pupils) of the first training. Thus we have completed the first link in the "global human chain of nutrition". In the coming months, these students will continue to learn about additional crops and general principals of nutrition. In addition, they

will train additional pupils who will come to the center from neighboring villages, and deliver this knowledge to their communities.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

The program has been continuously monitored by the local partners: the Pole Pole Foundation and the Centre de Recherche en Sciences Naturelles de Lwiro. Professional evaluation has been conducted by the JustSpirulina team at the Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium, in Israel. The program has met all its goals in terms of project development, center construction, professional training and educational activities.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

In 2018, we would like to scale up the program in two ways:

- a) Continue and expand the activity at the “Matanel Nutritional Center” in Miti village, DRC. We would like to: i) continue growing the spirulina and other crops and distribute them to malnourished children and families in the community; and ii) continue to train many more pupils from neighboring schools and communities so that they can spread this knowledge further.
- b) Establish a second “Matanel Nutrition Center” at the pediatric hospital at the Centre de Recherche en Sciences Naturelles de Lwiro (CRSN-Lwiro). This center will be established and directed by Mr. Rodrigue Ciribagula, the Head of the Nutrition Department at the Center. Mr. Ciribagula is an experienced nutritionist who has led many different nutritional projects in the region and has treated hundreds of severely malnourished children. He participated in the JustSpirulina training in Kigali and has been growing spirulina on a small scale at the center following the training he received. The new center will be significantly larger, will include a variety of crops, and will serve the communities adjacent to CRSN-Lwiro. At the new center these community members will participate in agriculture and nutrition workshops as well as trainings to help them improve their general health and nutrition. In addition, malnourished children from the communities will receive spirulina and other crops grown at the center.

Thus, we will have two Matanel Nutrition Centers serving a fairly large geographical region and constituency in South Kivu province, DRC. This province stretches over 65,000 square kilometers with a population of approximately 5.5 million that is at the heart of the 2-decade long Congo wars. One center - Miti - is in the heart of the community, and the other - the one we intend to establish at CRSN-Lwiro - is based in an advanced scientific institute, adjacent to local villages. The new center will enable us to scale up our activity, while also benefiting from the support of leading scientists and nutritionists at CRSN-Lwiro.

A summary table – as PDF document – specifying the progress in the program since the beginning of the encouragement by the Matanel Foundation according to the main parameters and objectives such as:

Objective	Result/number
Number of events	5
Number of participants	80
Number of beneficiaries	2,000