

Milord Rogatien:

## Building the future with music – A School for Nord-Kivu



The organisation “1000 Schools for Our World” supports Milord in giving children and young people in his Congolese homeland a future through education.

He is highly committed to values such as freedom, peace and self-determination. He does not ask for donations, but finances his project with the fees from his musical performances. His aim is to build a centre where children affected by war can go to school and young adults can receive an education or lay the foundations for their own business.

Music is his strongest force - it connects people and brings hope to the world. Through performances and contacts, especially in Germany, we want to support him in furthering his mission.

### His mission: **The UJAMAA CULTURAL CENTER**

Last year, District Administrator Stefan Rößle, Chairman of the 1.000 Schools for Our World Association, met Milord Rogatien on a flight to Rwanda when they happened to be seated next to each other. During the entire flight, they got talking and literally spoke ‘about God and the world’. That night, the idea was born to support him in his passionate project as part of the association. We have been in lively dialogue with him ever since.

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## Milord Rogatien

The musician Milord Rogatien grew up in an environment full of insecurity, wars and social instability. Despite all the adversity, his extraordinary mother instilled valuable values in him. Without a father figure, he took on responsibility at an early age, developed a strong sense of duty and recognised his vision: to use music as an inspiration for hope and awareness in society.

After completing his studies, he began his music career. His songs tell of peace, love, forgiveness, hope and responsibility - values that have shaped him. Through his music, he wants to touch and encourage people and inspire future generations.

Milord is a versatile artist with international success. Since 2017, he has performed in Africa - including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa and Uganda - as well as in Europe and Dubai. His Afro-World music style combines sensitive vocals, catchy melodies and multi-faceted rhythms, with which he addresses universal themes such as love, identity and coexistence.

He has received several awards and has worked with well-known African artists such as Manu Dibango, Lokua Kanza, A'salfo and Fally Ipupa. With a degree in Information and Communication Sciences and his bilingualism (French & English), he is committed to supporting young talent in his home country.

Through the cultural centre he founded, UJAMAA - Beni, he initiates educational and creative projects. His unwavering belief in hard work, confidence and determination makes him an inspiring role model. His repertoire ranges from profound to festive and reflects the diversity of musical traditions. With several released singles, EPs and an album, he has established himself as a multi-faceted artist.

Links:

<https://soundcloud.com/rogatien-milord>

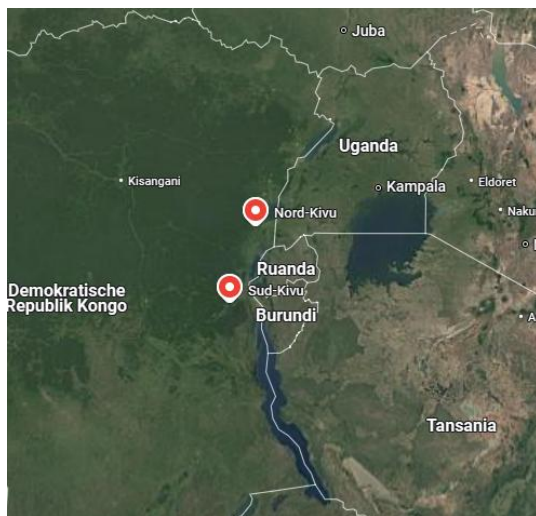
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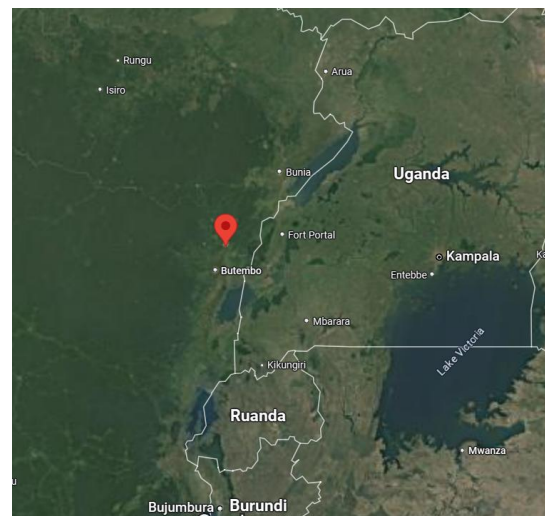
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## Location of Nord-Kivu and the city of Beni



North-Kivu



City of Beni

## Demokratische Republik Kongo und speziell die Region Nord-Kivu

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The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a Central African country with almost 96 million inhabitants and a moderate population density of 41 people per square kilometre. In the east of the country lies the province of North Kivu, which is divided into the three capital cities of Goma, Butembo and Beni.

Unfortunately, North Kivu has been the scene of conflicts, wars and massacres for many years, which have had a considerable impact on people's lives. Particularly affected is the town of Beni, which serves as a refuge for thousands of displaced people fleeing the violence in the neighbouring villages. For more than a decade, the population has been suffering from insecurity and humanitarian crises, which have put children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities in particular need.

Nevertheless, Beni has great cultural and economic potential. With over 1 million inhabitants, the city is an important trading centre with connections to the countries of East Africa. Its ethnic and cultural diversity makes it a unique centre for art, music and cultural exchange. Beni used to be a vibrant place with regular music productions, theatre performances, dance competitions, art exhibitions and film screenings. However, this vibrant cultural scene has been severely curtailed by the ongoing violence, and people are increasingly suffering from fear and frustration.

Despite the difficult situation, Beni remains a place full of history, creativity and hope that could regain its potential if peace and security are restored. It is also known for its breathtaking natural beauty. The region borders Uganda and Rwanda and is characterised by lush tropical forests, volcanoes and large lakes.

## Das Leben der Familien in der Region

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Since the escalation of violence in Beni, people have been living in constant fear and can no longer organise their lives freely. More than half of the population lives from agriculture and livestock farming, but the ongoing massacres in the neighbouring villages have created great insecurity. Many farmers no longer dare to go to their fields for fear of falling into the hands of the armed groups.

This situation has drastically weakened agricultural production, causing the supply situation to deteriorate further and further. People's basic needs are increasing day by day, while at the same time the city is struggling with increasing overcrowding.

Despite these difficult circumstances, people are trying to survive. Many families set up small businesses and trading companies, often with the sole aim of securing the bare necessities of life. In the midst of this uncertainty, hope remains for an end to the war and a return to normality.

## Bildungssituation

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The education system in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been suffering from the ongoing conflicts for several years. Families are forced to repeatedly change their place of residence in order to seek protection - with serious consequences for the children's schooling, which is often interrupted or severely hampered as a result.

Children who find refuge in quieter neighbouring towns face new challenges: The schools there are overcrowded, so there are hardly any places left. There are currently 117 schools in the city of Beni, 86 of which are primary schools and 31 secondary schools. However, these can no longer cope with the large number of displaced children from the neighbouring areas.

In order to provide the children with a stable education, there is an urgent need to create new educational infrastructure and relieve the pressure on existing schools. However, due to a lack of funding, many schools are forced to organise lessons in two shifts:

- o In the morning from 7:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- o In the afternoon from 12:45 to 17:15

There is also a lack of basic equipment: many children come to school without a uniform as their families cannot afford one. In some schools there are not enough desks, so the children have to sit on the floor during lessons.

Girls are particularly disadvantaged: Early marriage and pregnancy often lead to dropping out of school.

Nevertheless, progress is being made: NGOs enable children to attend school and support girls in particular. Local communities are setting up schools and vocational training programmes are creating prospects. Although many children attend primary school, only a few make it to secondary school or university. Almost half of the adults, especially women, are illiterate. Many children drop out of school early because they have to work or their families have no money.

## The cultural center UJAMAA

### **Targets**

The atrocities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are appalling, so urgent action is needed. The aim is to restore the region's reputation and offer young people a perspective that will free them from difficult living conditions.

With this in mind, the UJAMAA CULTURAL CENTRE was established in the town of Beni.

The UJAMAA CULTURAL CENTER has set itself the following goals:

- Promoting education and high-quality training
- Support young talents to bring them into the limelight
- Protecting young people from attempts to recruit them into military groups
- Preventing alcohol and drug addiction
- Helping girls who have been abused as sex slaves to rebuild their lives and give them a new social existence.

### **Beneficiary target group**

Over 100.000 young people aged between 6 and 20 currently have access to school education. Of these, around 37.000 pupils attend secondary school (12-20 years) and more than 6.000 children attend primary school (6-12 years).

In addition, there are around 20.000 displaced children who have had to leave their homes due to the ongoing conflicts. This high number leads to overcrowding in schools and emphasises the urgent need to create new educational infrastructure. This is the only way to ensure better and more accessible learning conditions for all children.

### **The program of the center**

#### **1. Education for a better future**

In the education sector, the project is committed to strengthening and improving the school system in the Beni region. The aim is to give children from poor families, street children and those who have been displaced by war access to education. To this end, new schools are to be built according to a standardised model.



In the cultural and artistic field, the focus is on using art and talent as therapy - a way to heal the psychological wounds of war. At the same time, young artists are to be given the opportunity to network and make a long-term living from their art.

This commitment is intended to make the cultural promotion of talented young people more visible.

## **2. Training, mentoring and development programme**

An annual programme is to be set up to promote young talent in the fields of music, dance, drawing and architecture.

## **3. entrepreneurial training and promotion of business start-ups**

The city of Beni has numerous usable resources that can open up new prospects for young people - including agriculture, livestock farming, fishing and creative professions. Targeted entrepreneurial training is needed to ensure that this potential is utilised sustainably. Young people should learn to combine local production with modern market strategies and understand entrepreneurial principles.

## **What already exists**

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The UJAMAA cultural centre currently has a rented room that serves as an administrative office. There is a recording studio, three computers, six guitars and a small reading room with around 27 children's books. For larger events, the centre works with the local authorities, who provide larger event spaces on request where thousands of people can gather.

Since its founding in May 2023, the UJAMAA Cultural Centre has reached out to many young people and inspired them with educational and awareness-raising campaigns for social engagement and national unity.

### These include:

- Workshops and lectures in schools and universities
- Talent development events, including concerts and film screenings
- Visits to schools and orphanages to promote direct dialogue with young people

## **The next steps**

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As there is no sufficiently large plot of land available, the necessary measures will be spread over three different plots. The further development of the centre will take place in several stages - depending on the availability of financial resources. The centre is to cover a total area of 7.500 m<sup>2</sup> and negotiations to acquire land are already underway.

### **1st project phase:**

- The first project phase has already started on an area of 20 x 25 metres.
- The costs: around 48,000 US dollars
- excluding the land, which has already been purchased for 12,000 US dollars.
- Building to be used for weekend cultural activities such as performances, artistic training and live performances to promote local talent who have been victims of atrocities.
- Office
- sanitary facilities are being built.



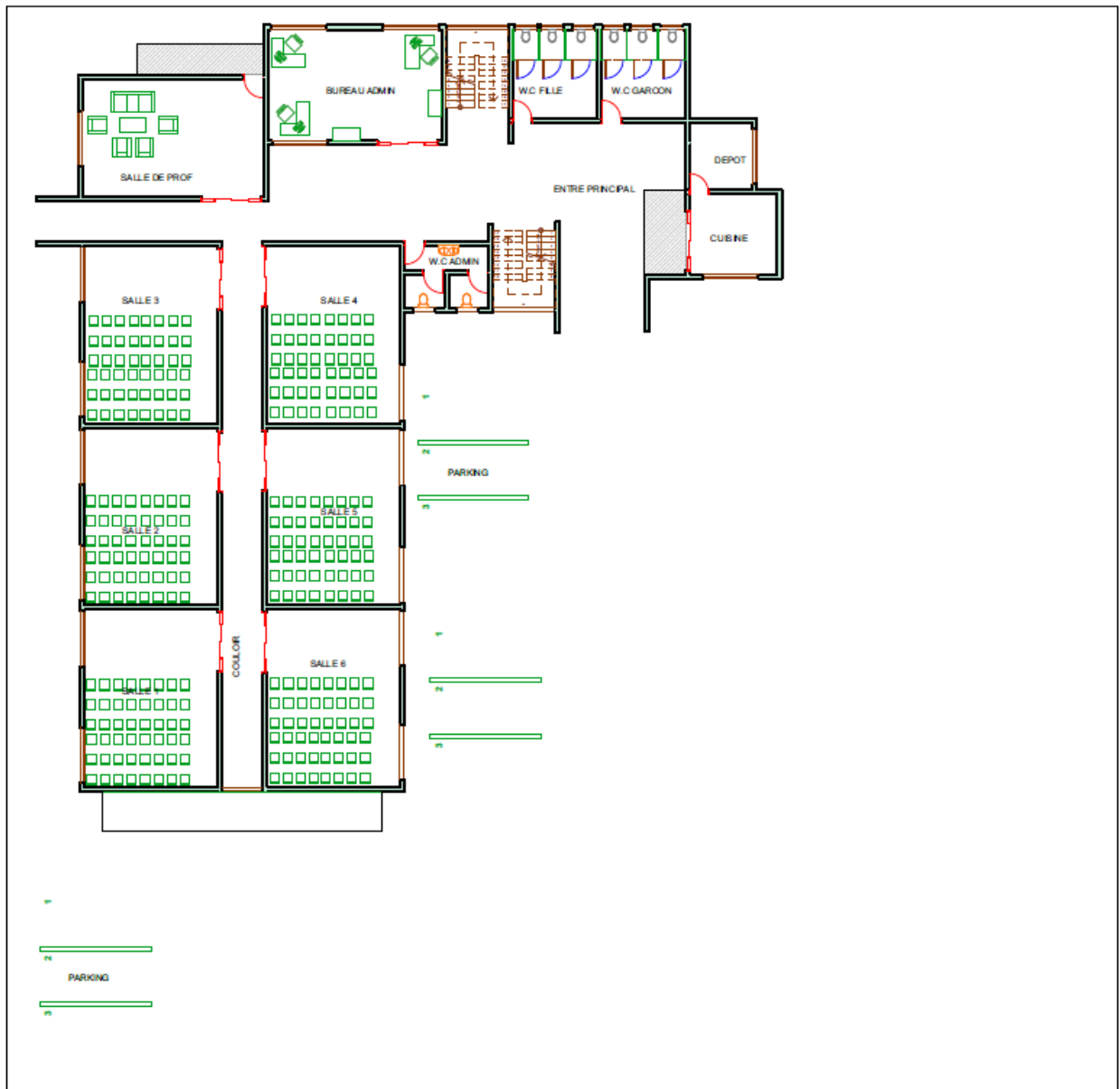
### **2nd project phase:**

- Construction of a school for disadvantaged and war-displaced children in the Beni region.
- Building measuring 50 x 50 metres,
- Costs: 51,000 US dollars (construction and equipment)
- If no further land is available, the school will be built as a multi-storey building. Otherwise, the primary and secondary levels will be built on separate plots.

### **The planned school model includes:**

- 6 modern classrooms
- An administration building with three offices
- A staff room
- Sanitary facilities

## Rez-de-chaussée



### **3rd project phase:**

- Construction of a multi-sectoral training centre for art, IT and entrepreneurship, a music studio (audio/video), exhibition spaces,
- Planned area of up to 65 x 70 metres
- a volleyball court
- a car park.
- **Costs: around 290.000 US dollars**

This includes the construction of a complex to promote young talent in the fields of music, dance, drawing and architecture and to offer entrepreneurial training and support for business start-ups:

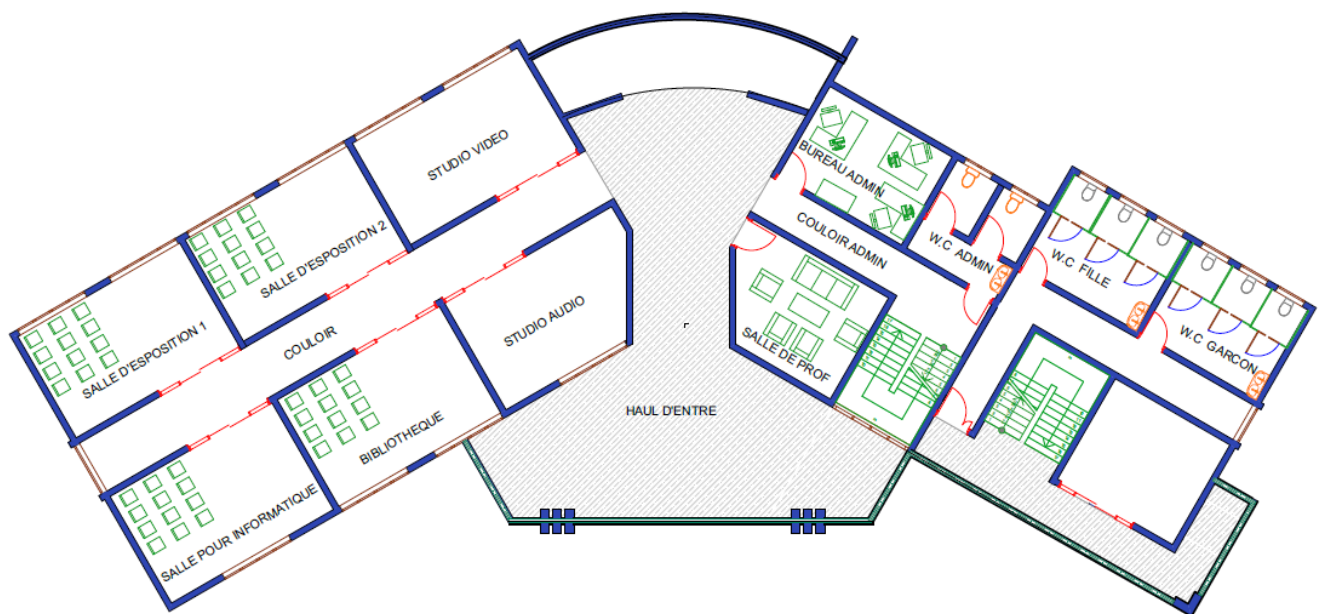
- 2 large rooms (one for exhibitions and one for training),
- 1 library,
- 1 computer room,
- 1 medium-sized room for a recording studio

- 1 medium-sized room for a video studio,
- an administration building with 3 workstations/offices
- Sanitary facilities

### Equipment required

The following materials, among others, are required for the successful implementation of the programme:

- Tables and benches for the classroom
- Blackboards and teaching materials
- Books for the library
- Computers for the computer room
- Sound systems for cultural events
- Sports equipment for sporting activities that make an important contribution to the personal development and sense of community of young people





## Kosten

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Milord Rogatien currently has no sponsors who are committed to the further development of his initiative. The financial resources that have fuelled the project so far come from his music productions, his copyrights and his participation in cultural events in Africa and abroad.

He is under no obligation to anyone in this respect. Only a few friends accompany him on this journey - he occasionally discusses the project with them and they provide support according to their means.

He was recently able to consult with his architect and together they developed an initial requirements plan for the project. They are currently working on a detailed architectural design and an overall cost estimate.

The three project phases will be organised according to the available financial resources. Milord's aim is to raise the necessary funds independently from his musical commitments.

That is why we, the 1.000 Schools for Our World Association, would like to support him in finding suitable engagements in Europe and especially in Germany that will enable him to generate income that he can use for his lifelong dream.

We promote performance in order to achieve great things.

## Pictures

### The city of Beni



### The school situation









## Impressions about live situation





**Cultural, musical activities**

