



**Malaika**  
children's friends

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

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### **MALAIKA CHILDREN'S FRIENDS**

## MALAIKA

### **Malaika Children's Friends NGO**

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## LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER AND THE CHAIRMAN

We are constantly bombarded by countless news channels, inundating us with stark images of suffering, hunger, despair, and extreme poverty. This barrage of distressing visuals has become so commonplace that we have developed a protective shield, allowing us to maintain a sense of peace and distance from such ugliness. However, there are moments when we find ourselves completely immersed in these harsh realities. Suddenly, **the eyes of innocent children filled with uncertainty and fear** cease to be mere images on a screen. They stand before us, their silent cries deafening, impossible to ignore. We cannot simply move on.

Never did we anticipate being drawn into the depths of running a shelter in a place so far removed from our familiar world. It was beyond our imagination, and yet it became our reality.

In the midst of this journey, one of our girls taught us a local proverb: **"If life throws you a lemon, learn to make lemonade, and you will be fine."**

Over 17 years ago, we found ourselves captivated by the gaze of those children, unaware of the proverb that would later resonate within us. Nevertheless, we embraced our purpose without hesitation. Their eyes, filled with suffering akin to the tartness of an unripe lemon, served as a constant reminder that every individual has the **right to have a dignified existence, access to education, a platform to express their talents, and the chance to grow and learn.**

We embarked on our journey by establishing what we fondly refer to as a "family home," where we endeavored to cultivate an authentic familial environment, nurturing the growth of as many children as possible. Along our path, we have encountered an **incredible number of kindred spirits, fellow travelers** who have shared our values, emotions, and dreams. Their unwavering enthusiasm has propelled Malaika forward, making all that we have accomplished thus far possible.

While our modest size may exempt us from its obligatory creation, we firmly believe that it holds immense value for our future endeavors.

This Annual report, the first in our history, is both a milestone and a starting point.

It stands as a milestone, allowing us to succinctly and comprehensively outline the accomplishments achieved through the unwavering support of our dedicated benefactors throughout the years. This act of transparency is not only a token of gratitude, but also a testament to our commitment to accountability.

Simultaneously, this report serves as a starting point—a springboard for sustaining our initiatives. It symbolizes the unwavering dedication and passion exhibited by all members of our team, be they formal or informal, in Arusha and across the globe. Their tireless contributions and commitment fuel the continuation of this project. As an association, we recognize the vital importance of ongoing financial support, and it is incumbent upon us to present ourselves to a broader audience of stakeholders, providing them with the necessary evidence of our transparency and earnestness.

*Founder*



*Chairman*



# THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE OPERATE



## TANZANIA



- Area: **945,087 km<sup>2</sup>**
- Total population: **about 62 million (2022)**
  - **3.12% are over 65 years old**
  - **43.61% are under 15 years old**
- Official languages: **Swahili and English**
- Capital: **Dodoma**
- Currency: **Tanzanian shilling**





Despite Tanzania's recent classification by the World Bank as a lower middle-income country, marking a notable ascent to a higher category than in previous years, it is crucial to recognize that this advancement does not signify the eradication of poverty. The country still grapples with a multitude of pressing challenges across various domains that demand immediate attention and resolution.

The average GDP per capita in 2021 was US\$1,099, still a very low figure when compared with that of a Western country like Italy, US\$35,657 (2021), and 48 percent of the population lives still on less than US\$1.90 a day (2021).

The prevalence of substantial pockets of poverty continues to contribute to the frequent occurrence of child abandonment and widespread malnutrition in Tanzania. Disturbingly, estimates from 2020 revealed that over 3 million children faced varying degrees of moderate to severe malnutrition, significantly hindering their development compared to their age peers. Furthermore, access to basic healthcare services remains a challenge, with only 32 percent of the population able to avail themselves of such services, primarily concentrated in urban centers.

While the Tanzanian government has implemented a series of reforms in recent years, resulting in notable improvements in certain living conditions, there is still much work to be done. Progress has been observed in reducing hunger, extreme poverty, maternal and child mortality rates, as well as advancements in education. However, the education landscape remains a critical concern. Alarming, only 44 percent of schools have access to electricity, and a substantial 21 percent of the population remains illiterate as of 2018.

Situated in the heart of one of the most popular tourist regions in the country, with its proximity to both Mount Kilimanjaro and major national parks in the north, the city of Arusha, where Malaika is located, remains affected by the stark contrast between tourism-generated wealth and pervasive poverty. Regrettably, the benefits derived from tourism only marginally alleviate the hardships faced by a significant portion of the local population in this area.

*Sources: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics  
SDG Indicators Database [www.unstats.un.org](http://www.unstats.un.org)  
World Development Indicators [www.databank.worldbank.org](http://www.databank.worldbank.org)*



## MALAIKA IN FIGURES: 2022 NUMBERS

OVER **17**

YEARS OF ACTIVITY



**50**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH TOOK CARE OF SINCE CONSTITUTION



**22**

CHILDREN PERMANENTLY REUNITED WITH FAMILIES OF ORIGIN OR ADOPTED BY LOCAL FAMILIES



**28**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUPPORTED OVERALL IN 2022



**25%**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUPPORTED DIRECTLY AT FAMILIES OF ORIGIN IN 2022



**98%**

SUCCESS IN SCHOOL EXAMS



MORE THAN **300**

DONORS IN 2022



**14**

COUNTRIES FROM WHICH WE RECEIVED DONATIONS



**450,000 €**

TOTAL INVESTMENTS MADE FOR THE FAMILY HOME SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE ACTIVITY



OVER **4,500**

SELF-MADE CANDLES SOLD IN 2022 TO SELF-FINANCE





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# MALAIKA: WHO WE ARE



# OUR STORY

Malaika is a labor of love that endures through the passage of time, fueled by the unwavering dedication and support from numerous countries across the globe. Within its shelter, Malaika provides refuge to young girls and boys entrusted to their care by Social Services, offering them a safe haven. In cases where it is possible to locate relatives, even distant ones, Malaika extends its support to the families of origin, ensuring the best possible outcome for these vulnerable children.

The inception of the Malaika shelter project traces back to 2005 when two European women, who had already been volunteering in local orphanages for several years, took the decisive step of establishing a dedicated shelter for children in need. Thus, Malaika Children's Home came into existence as a beacon of hope.

**2005**

Malaika is founded

One of the founders, Jutta Kassam, has been a resident of Tanzania for over three decades, wholeheartedly devoting herself to the project throughout the years. Her unwavering commitment and steadfast presence have been instrumental in shaping the path of Malaika, guiding its evolution and ensuring its continued impact.

**2006**

First children arrive in a rented apartment

In collaboration with the other co-founder, Francesca Aimone, Jutta Kassam wasted no time in seeking a suitable foundation for their mission. After an exhaustive search, they eventually secured a rented house that met the functional requirements necessary to commence their work. In 2006, with the assistance of trained staff, Malaika welcomed its first group of children, marking the beginning of their transformative journey.

**2008**

Children are moved to the building constructed on land Malaika own

Recognizing the need for a permanent and dedicated space, the founders made the decision to acquire a plot of land outside the city. Construction commenced, laying the groundwork for the establishment of a house that would become the steadfast center of the entire project. By 2008, the construction reached completion, and the children transitioned into the spacious new building. Over the years, this building has undergone significant renovations to ensure it remains a strong and enduring symbol of Malaika's presence and impact in the community.

**2011**

MFCI is formed to support Malaika

During its initial phase, the initiative received robust support from the non-profit organization **Maisha, based in Padua**. One individual played a pivotal role in championing the cause with unwavering enthusiasm—Matteo Cagnoni. His dedication was such that he even relocated to Arusha for extended periods, closely overseeing the project's development. Tragically, Matteo's untimely passing marked a profound loss for the endeavor and left an indelible void in the hearts of all involved.





**2014**

Malaika enlarges the facility, and the number of children increases

In 2011, the torch was passed to **Malaika Children's Friends, a Milan-based NGO, also known as MCFI**. Francesco Tiso and his wife Giulia Leone embarked on a transformative journey when they encountered Malaika during a trip. Deeply moved by their experience, they enlisted the support of their friends Simona Dossena, Michela Haymar, and Lorenzo De Grandi, who became founding members of this non-profit organization. Together, they dedicated themselves to fundraising efforts and offering ongoing support to the visionary founder, Jutta Kassam, in the day-to-day management of Malaika.

**2015**

As the number and age of children grow, school expenses go up

Since 2011, Malaika has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving into a fully-fledged center that has experienced significant growth year after year. This expansion is evident in the establishment of five purpose-built structures, fortified by a perimeter wall, and equipped with self-generation capabilities for energy.

**2017**

Initiation of self-support initiatives: candles and plants

These developments have had a profound impact, allowing Malaika to triple its capacity to accommodate children in need. Furthermore, the center has made significant strides towards achieving self-sufficiency in terms of food production, ensuring a more sustainable approach to nourishing the children under its care. This remarkable transformation stands as a testament to Malaika's commitment to continuous progress and its unwavering dedication to improving the lives of those it serves.

**2018**

As many as nine children attend high school

Over time, the Tanzanian entity also transformed itself by going legally from a Limited Liability Company to a legally recognized entity as an NGO included in the special register of the Tanzanian government and taking the name, as of 2019, of **Malaika Children's Friends with based in Arusha (hereinafter "MCF")**.

**2020**

Self-support: the field and farm begin to produce well, having more water available

Malaika is also supported by **Malaika Kids e.V. based in Berlin (hereafter "MK")** and by a convinced network of supporters and volunteers worldwide - from the United States to various European countries to Australia - which enable its survival and development.

In 2020 Malaika Children's Friends in Tanzania achieves an important milestone by obtaining the status of "Charitable Organization."

**2022 and beyond**

Having reached the age of majority, some teenagers begin their lives outside Malaika with small jobs while continuing their studies

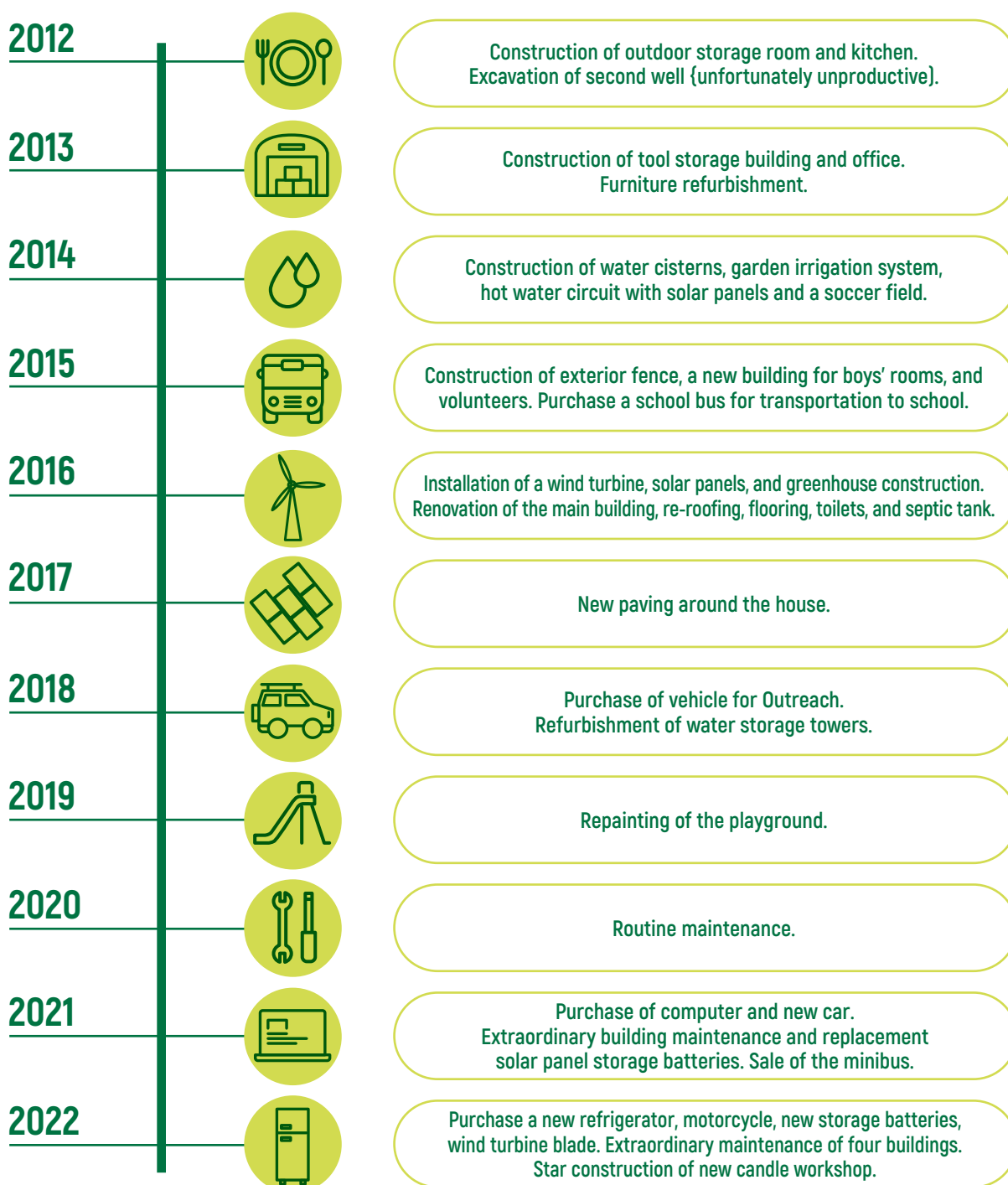
Throughout this period, Jutta Kassam and Francesco Tiso, the former founder, the latter chairman have consistently held the roles of operational directors while continuing in their task of carrying forward the initiative that has become increasingly challenging over time, as a result of the increasing number of children entrusted to Malaika by Social Services.



# 2011-2022: THE YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT

## THE STRUCTURE - EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS

Throughout the years, Malaika has witnessed numerous remarkable construction projects and significant structural enhancements. Particularly noteworthy are the transformative changes that took place between 2014 and 2019, largely made possible through the generous contributions of donors. These interventions have substantially improved the quality of life within the Malaika house, elevating the living conditions for the children and creating an environment that fosters their well-being.





The family house has achieved autonomous water management, drinking, and energy independence by constructing underground cisterns, two new water storage towers, and installing a wind turbine and solar panels. The almost complete renovation of the first building, new constructions such as the outdoor kitchen, the residential building for the male teenagers, and the office and storage area have made the house easier to maintain and more welcoming.

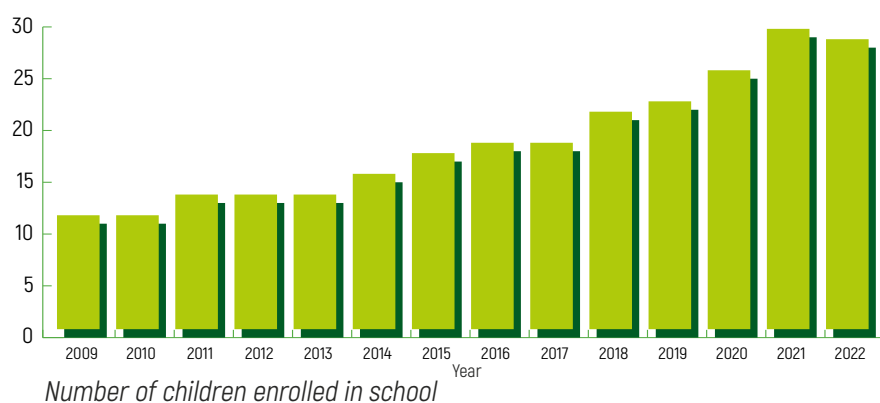
Lastly, constructing the center's perimeter wall has made it possible to develop safely, raise chickens and rabbits, and start vegetable and fruit production for self-consumption. The vehicles purchased in 2015 and 2018 have been indispensable for all activities related to the schools, often far from the center, and the Outreach project, aimed at returning children to their families of origin, saving money compared to renting for each route.

Currently, a new building is under construction, intended to centralize the candle production activity, further expanding the scope and capabilities of the center.

## THE GROWING NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND SCHOOL COSTS

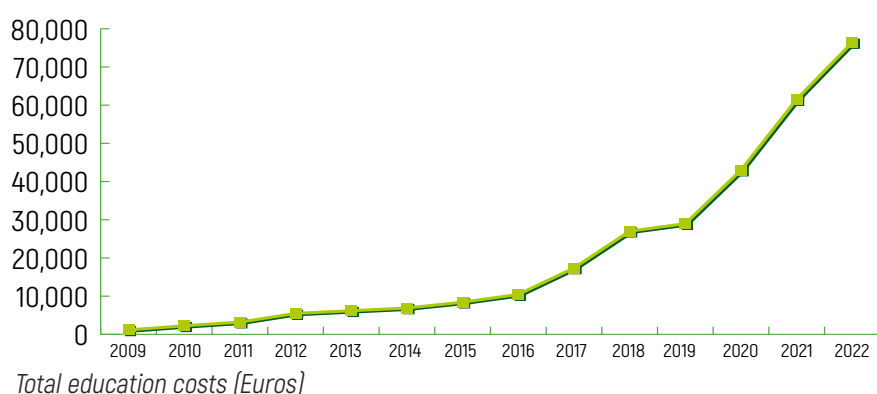
As the facility expanded and evolved, Malaika's capacity to support children referred by Social Services experienced substantial growth. The initial group of six children gradually increased, with 34 children being received between 2017 and 2018, marking the highest intake in recent years. Throughout its existence, Malaika has provided support to a total of 50 children, with 28 of them currently benefiting from daily assistance. It is important to note that 22 children have successfully overcome the challenging circumstances that initially led to their admission to the group home. These children have either been adopted by local families or reunited with their biological families. Among the 28 children currently supported by Malaika, 21 reside within the center, while the remaining 7 (representing a quarter of the total) have been reintegrated into their families but continue to receive financial aid from Malaika. This assistance covers expenses, healthcare, clothing, and most importantly, education, ensuring that these children can complete their schooling despite financial constraints their families may face. The children and youth under Malaika's care have demonstrated remarkable progress in their studies, successfully achieving their educational goals. In some cases, particularly for girls, students may be enrolled in lower grade levels compared to their age peers. This discrepancy arises from factors such as delayed school enrollment, joining the shelter at a later age, and missing out on early years of education.





In a country where access to higher education remains limited for many, Malaika takes immense pride in providing children with the invaluable opportunity for quality education in reputable schools. The organization supports children up to the fourth or sixth grade and enables those who desire and have the capability to pursue university studies.

Remarkably, almost all the children supported by Malaika have embraced this educational opportunity with great enthusiasm and dedication. They have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to their studies, with the majority of them progressing successfully through their academic journey. It is worth noting that there has been only one exception, a boy who chose to discontinue his studies upon returning to his family.



School expenses pose a significant financial strain for Malaika, especially considering that costs have multiplied more than fourteen times since 2012, starting from € 5,000. This dramatic increase is primarily attributed to the growing number of children under Malaika's care and their progression through higher grade levels over the 2012-2022 period.

The journey of the thirteen children who initially joined Malaika at an elementary school level has been remarkable. Today, they are on the verge of completing their high school education. Managing the escalating economic demands has been a challenge. To meet this growth, a network of individuals and companies has generously established scholarships, easing the financial burden and ensuring these children can continue their education. Moreover, Malaika has been fortunate to secure private international sponsors who have extended scholarships to two children, enabling them to attend an international school. Recognizing the significance of expanding educational opportunities, a German foundation has contributed three additional scholarships in recent years, guaranteeing access to education for more students at the same institution.

Despite the daunting financial implications, Malaika remains resolute in its dedication to providing quality education. Through the creation of scholarships and the unwavering support of various benefactors, the organization strives to empower these deserving children, enabling them to thrive academically and pursue promising futures.





## STAFF TRAINING

Over the past decade, Malaika has placed significant emphasis on staff training, which currently comprises a team of eight dedicated individuals. The organization recognizes the critical importance of equipping the staff with the necessary skills to effectively support children who come from neglected backgrounds, and often have experienced trauma and violence, necessitating psychological support.

To ensure the highest level of care, Malaika has prioritized professional development opportunities for its staff. More than 30 training courses have been provided, aimed at enhancing their expertise and specialized knowledge in addressing the unique needs of the children under their care. These courses have served to refine their skills, deepen their understanding, and strengthen their ability to provide comprehensive support and guidance.

Malaika remains committed to investing in its staff, recognizing that their continuous growth and education are vital in delivering the best possible care and nurturing environment for the children. Through ongoing training initiatives, the organization aims to cultivate a team equipped with the necessary competencies and compassion to positively impact the lives of the children they serve.

## THE FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE

Malaika has placed a strong emphasis on healthcare in recent years, particularly for HIV positive children. The primary objective is to achieve consistent test results with minimal viral load, thereby enabling these children to lead lives within a family setting, just like any other child. Special attention has also been given to a disabled child who requires specific care and physical therapy. Moreover, regular scheduled visits and additional visits when necessary are conducted under the supervision of Malaika's nurse, ensuring the overall health and well-being of all the boys and girls under their care. In a significant development, Malaika has introduced health insurance coverage through the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) for all the children. This coverage not only benefits the children but also extends to the families of Malaika's staff. The introduction of health insurance has been greatly appreciated by the dedicated individuals working within Malaika, providing them with an additional level of security and support.

By prioritizing healthcare, including specialized care for HIV-positive children and comprehensive support for all children's health needs, Malaika aims to ensure that each child receives the necessary medical attention and opportunities to lead fulfilling lives, irrespective of their unique circumstances.



## THE PUSH FOR SELF-FINANCING

Malaika has relied on generous donations from supporters as its primary source of funding. However, recognizing the importance of diversifying revenue streams and ensuring greater financial autonomy, the organization has been actively developing self-financing sources since 2017. This strategic approach aims to make the project less vulnerable to fluctuations in liberal donations while creating new employment opportunities.

One of the key self-financing endeavors has been the production and expansion of handmade candles. These unique creations are now being offered to hotels, restaurants, and local stores, providing an additional source of revenue. To accommodate the growing demand, a dedicated production area and storage room for candles awaiting sale were constructed in 2022 using containers generously donated by a supporting company. As the business continues to thrive, the hiring of a production worker became necessary to support the increasing workload.

Additionally, Malaika has ventured into farming activities such as egg production, raising chickens, and rabbits. While currently primarily intended for self-support, there is potential for these activities to contribute to Malaika's financial sustainability in the future.



## PRESS REVIEW

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ABSTRACT OF AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPER DEALING WITH THIS AWARD.

**LN** Alto Milanese

ALTO MILANESE

### Il Premio Bontà 2022 dell'UNCI alla onlus Malaika Children's Friends

La sezione provinciale di Milano dell'UNCI ha assegnato anche il Premio Solidarietà alla onlus Non di solo pane e il premio Donne di valore alla ricercatrice Alessia Lai

Pubblicato il 02 Dicembre 2022 - Autrice: Leda Mocchetti



Il Premio Bontà 2022 della Sezione Provinciale di Milano dell'Unione Nazionale Cavalieri d'Italia è stato assegnato a **"Malaika Children's Friends"**, onlus che gestisce una casa-famiglia che si prende cura di bambini e ragazzi orfani o abbandonati ad Arusha in Tanzania. L'associazione, per la quale ha ritirato il premio la fondatrice Giulia Leone, dal 2006 si prende cura dei più piccoli che versano in condizioni di difficoltà offrendo loro un tetto e soprattutto un ambiente amorevole, cercando, laddove possibile, di riunirli alle famiglie di origine.

*In a moment of great pride, Malaika was honored with the UNCI (Union of National Knights of Italy) award at the end of 2022. This prestigious recognition acknowledges Malaika's remarkable efforts in Tanzania since its inception in 2006, spearheaded by founder Jutta Kassam, to improve the lives of children in need. The award was accepted on her behalf by Giulia Leone, one of the five founders of MCFI in 2011.*





# MISSION AND VALUES

## MISSION

Our mission is to provide orphaned and vulnerable children in Tanzania with a secure and nurturing environment where they receive the care, support, and resources they need. We strive to offer them a loving family-like atmosphere, nutritious meals, access to quality healthcare, and the opportunity to receive a comprehensive education. Through these efforts, we aim to empower the children to build a brighter future for themselves and make positive contributions to their communities.



## VALUES

- **Family-oriented Approach:** We believe in creating a genuine family environment rather than simply being a shelter. We prioritize building strong bonds, providing constant care, and fostering a sense of belonging for each child.
- **Individual Attention and Affection:** We ensure that our caregivers are present and offer warmth and affection to every child, understanding the significance of personal connection and emotional support.
- **Education for Empowerment:** We inspire girls and boys to invest in their own future and that of their community through education, encouraging them to pursue their interests and talents.
- **Staff Training and Development:** We value the skills and capabilities of our staff and promote ongoing training to enhance their expertise in caring for the children effectively.
- **Cultural Respect:** We operate with deep respect for the culture and traditions of Tanzania, recognizing their importance in shaping the identity and well-being of the children we serve.
- **Family Reunification:** We actively search for the families of origin and support reunification whenever possible, recognizing the significance of maintaining connections and preserving cultural heritage.
- **Sustainable Choices:** We prioritize making environmentally sustainable decisions, aiming to minimize our ecological impact and contribute to a healthier planet.
- **Local Economic Support:** We strive to stimulate the local economy by creating job opportunities, supporting local businesses, and empowering the community.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** We adhere to principles of transparency and verifiability in our management, ensuring responsible and accountable practices are maintained at all times.



# THE GOVERNANCE: TANZANIA, ITALY AND GERMANY

In order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the governance system and the economic-financial aspects of the entire Malaika project, it was necessary to create a document known as a "Consolidated Pro Forma." This document encompasses the three distinct legal entities that support the project in various capacities.

The opportunity to review the Consolidated Pro Forma arises from the fact that fundraising activities, sponsorship research for schools, and funding for

special projects are primarily concentrated within the two European entities. On the other hand, the operational management of the center falls under the legal entity operating in accordance with Tanzanian law, which holds the recognized status of a registered NGO by Tanzanian government. The Italian entity also plays a direct role in supporting the management of the group home, ensuring a constant presence at the center.

The term "Pro Forma" is used to describe the Consolidated

document because while the three legal entities -**Malaika Children's Friends ONLUS** (hereafter **MCFI**) in Italy, Malaika Kids e.V. (hereafter **MK**) in Germany, and Malaika Children's Friends (hereafter **MCFT**) in Tanzania- are interconnected, they do not share any ownership or kinship connections.

For the sake of completeness, it is important to note that Maisha ONLUS, mentioned in previous paragraphs, ceased its fundraising activities in 2019 and transferred its remaining assets to MCFI.







MCFI, based in Milan, operates under the governance of the Members' Assembly and a Board of Directors, with board members serving three-year terms (the most recent renewal occurred in 2022). The Board of Directors currently consists of five members:

- **Chairman - FRANCESCO TISO**
- **Vice chairman - SIMONA DOSSENA**
- **Treasurer - MICHELA HAYMAR D'ETTORI**
- **Secretary - GIULIA MARIA LEONE**
- **Director - LORENZO DE GRANDI**

The Chairman of the Board holds the same position on the Board of the Tanzanian legal entity. MCFT is jointly responsible for the operational management of the same in sharing with the Founding Board member.

MK, headquartered in Berlin, is an NGO under German law, governed by a Board of Directors composed of three members, all of whom have the powers to administer the NGO in case the Chairman is unable to function.

- **Chairman - JUTTA RUDSZUCK**

MCFT, based in Moshono - Arusha, is governed by a Board of Directors that serves for five years (first election August 2019) and consists of five members, three of whom are Tanzanian nationals, one German and one Italian:

- **Chairman - FRANCESCO TISO**
- **Secretary - TANISA TOWO**
- **Director - JUTTA ROSEMARIE KASSAM**
- **Director - ASIF NIZARALI KASSAM**
- **Director - BEATE ALLARD**

The operations of Malaika are managed by Founder Jutta Kassam and Chairman Francesco Tiso. Together, they oversee the day-to-day activities and strategic direction of the organization.

The MCFT Board convenes three times a year to provide statutory approvals and review operational management trends. These meetings serve as a platform to discuss important matters, including significant expenditures and investments, ensuring transparency and accountability in decision-making. Additionally, extraordinary meetings are held as needed to address specific issues or approve critical initiatives. Through regular and focused discussions, the MCFT Board plays a crucial role in guiding the organization and ensuring its activities align with its mission and goals.





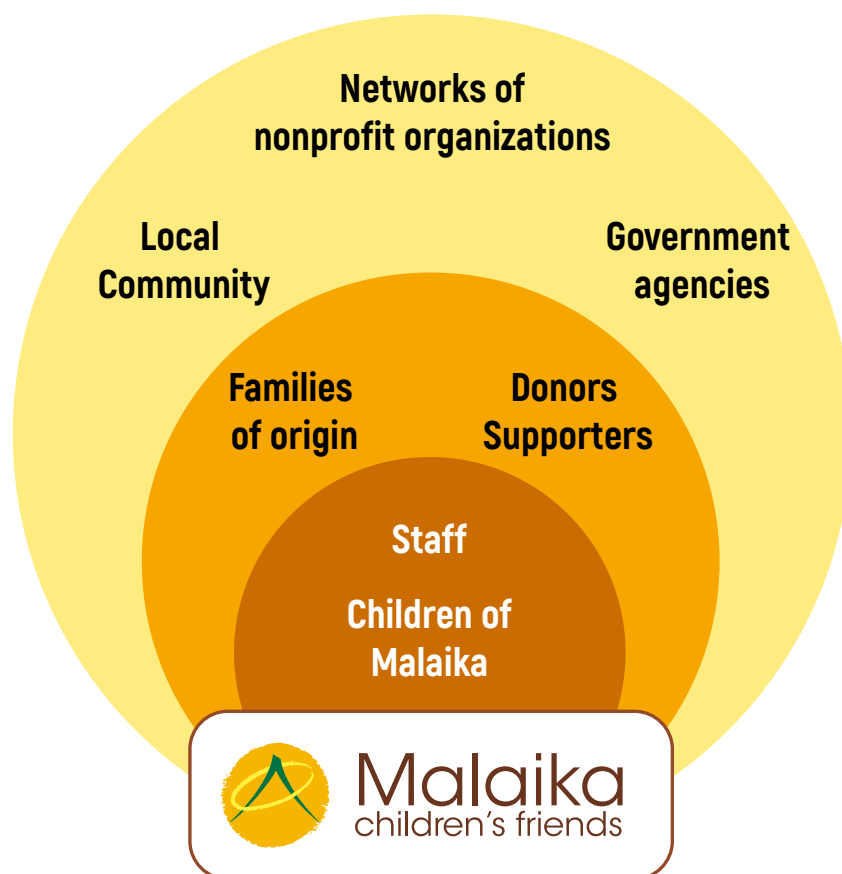
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## THE APPROACH TO THE ANNUAL REPORT



# STAKEHOLDERS

The mapping of **Malaika's stakeholders** categorizes them into three levels based on their proximity and frequency of contact with the organization's daily activities. This classification aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the various stakeholders involved:



- **Level 1 - Direct Stakeholders:** This category includes stakeholders closely connected to Malaika's activities and actively involved in the organization's day-to-day operations. It encompasses the children residing in the group home and the dedicated staff members responsible for their care and support.
- **Level 2 - Periodic Stakeholders:** These stakeholders have a direct relationship with Malaika but engage with the organization on a periodic basis. Examples of stakeholders in this category include the families of origin of the children, donors, and supporters who contribute to the organization's mission and initiatives.
- **Level 3 - External Stakeholders:** This category encompasses stakeholders who are connected to Malaika's activities but are external to the immediate shelter environment. They are individuals or entities with whom Malaika interacts to facilitate the smooth running of daily operations.

A more detailed description of each stakeholder and their level of involvement will be provided in the subsequent paragraphs for a comprehensive understanding of the diverse stakeholders associated with Malaika's work.



## THE CHILDREN

The primary stakeholders of Malaika Children's Friends are the children and teenagers who find a safe haven within its care, where they can grow up in a healthy environment, attend school, and receive a quality education that will empower them throughout their lives. These children come to Malaika at a young age due to being orphaned, abandoned, or placed under the care of Social Services following family-related challenges. While some children reside within the group home structure, others are supported by Malaika to live with relatives in their family of origin, if suitable and willing relatives are identified, even if they are located far away.

A group of ten girls and boys, for whom finding accommodation with relatives or adoption was not feasible, have grown up within the foster home and are preparing for independent lives outside of Malaika. All of them have received an education thus far, and for those who desire and are capable of pursuing further studies, Malaika provides opportunities to complete high school and pursue university education.

Malaika's commitment extends beyond academic support, as the organization intends to accompany these young individuals on their journey into real life beyond the shelter. Establishing meaningful connections within the local community plays a crucial role in this transition. Malaika has always strived to nurture a bond with the children that mirrors the affection and connections found within a genuine family environment, moving away from the conventional concept of an orphanage. As such, the organization intends to maintain these bonds over the years without abruptly severing them through bureaucratic means, while still adhering to the prevailing rules and regulations of the country.



## THE STAFF

The dedicated team of eight employees at Malaika plays a pivotal role in the organization as they maintain close contact with the children and young individuals, immersing themselves in their teachings, lifestyles, and behaviors. Malaika recognizes the significance of this role and ensures that staff members possess the appropriate characteristics and skills necessary for the education and care of children. The organization continually invests in professional training to enhance their expertise.

In addition to the core team, an external night watchman is hired to ensure the safety and security of the premises during nighttime hours.

Malaika strives to maintain a stable staff composition whenever possible, recognizing the importance of consistency and continuity in building meaningful relationships with the children and young individuals under their care.

The staff members have diverse responsibilities related to the well-being of the children and youth. They not only make educational choices in collaboration with the children but also participate in adoption processes when applicable. Moreover, they actively engage in activities aimed at supporting families in cases of reunification, recognizing the importance of maintaining and strengthening family connections whenever possible.





## FAMILIES OF ORIGIN

One of the most impactful activities undertaken by Malaika, in close collaboration with management, Social workers, Welfare authorities, staff, and the local community, is the Outreach program. This initiative aims to establish and nurture connections between Malaika and the children and youth's family of origin, including distant relatives, with the ultimate goal of facilitating their return to a suitable environment.

Through Outreach, Malaika takes on the responsibility, in collaboration with Social Services, to assess whether the circumstances that led to abandonment or removal have improved, creating a conducive environment for the child's return to their family. Malaika firmly believes that poverty alone should not be a reason for a child to be separated from their own home and reside in a family home, as stipulated by the Tanzanian Law of the Child Act (2019 revision).

In cases where family reunification is feasible, Malaika not only continues to provide support for the children's education and healthcare expenses but also ensures their overall well-being. This includes monitoring their academic progress and providing opportunities for recreational activities and a fulfilling childhood experience, free from excessive domestic responsibilities or the need to engage in labor. Establishing a continuous relationship with the families of origin is vital, involving regular visits, information exchange, and active involvement. In certain circumstances, Malaika also considers providing financial assistance to families to help initiate self-supporting activities that enhance their quality of life.



## DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Malaika relies on a dedicated network of private donors spread across various countries who wholeheartedly follow the journey of the family home. In addition to general donations that contribute to the overall mission, long-standing relationships have been fostered, resulting in a consistent flow of periodic donations. These contributions are directed towards essential expenses related to the children's well-being (known as Child sponsorship) or towards establishing tangible Scholarships.

Some supporters have had the opportunity to personally visit the family home, strengthening their connection with Malaika through firsthand knowledge of the children and the organization. These dedicated supporters, upon returning to their respective countries, actively engage as volunteers in fundraising

activities, making a meaningful impact. Their efforts extend not only to Italy but also to countries such as Germany, Australia, Spain, and the USA.

Malaika is fortunate to have the support of several Italian companies and associations that provide ongoing or occasional donations. Their contributions form a vital pillar of support for the family home's economic stability.

Last but certainly not least, Malaika greatly values the contributions of local donors in Tanzania, including individuals and companies. Their donations, both monetary and in-kind, create a strong connection between Malaika and the surrounding community, further anchoring the organization in the local reality.



## LOCAL COMMUNITY

Malaika's extensive network of relationships encompasses diverse entities within Tanzania. Alongside the support of local donors, the organization has cultivated strong partnerships with suppliers who have become trusted allies over time. These relationships have led to favorable arrangements such as discounted supplies and valuable training opportunities for our youth through internships during their breaks, preparing them for future employment.

Furthermore, Malaika values its connections with the nearby church, where the children occasionally attend Mass and some have participated in catechism classes. The organization also maintains relationships with other homes and families, engaging in volunteer activities and exchanges of goods. These interactions prove particularly valuable when local donations surpass immediate consumption needs, enabling mutual support within the community.

Community engagement remains a constant priority through the activities of a mandated committee, in compliance with Tanzanian law. The committee convenes periodically and consists of individuals both within and outside the organization. Its members include the local head of Social Services (Social Welfare), the local manager for community development, a male and a female residing near the center, and two representatives from the "National Action Plan for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children" (MTAKUWWA).

The committee's primary role is to oversee the well-being and development of the young individuals under Malaika's care. They closely monitor their progress, facilitate discussions to support their growth, and exercise external oversight over the center's operations. The committee convenes at least four times a year, addressing any pertinent issues that may arise and ensuring the implementation of actions decided upon in previous meetings.



## NETWORKS OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Malaika recognizes the immense value of collaborating with nonprofit organizations that bring a range of benefits to its operations. In Italy, numerous entities have shown their unwavering support for Malaika's initiatives in various capacities:

- Micromondo NGO (Italian ONLUS) has been a steadfast supporter, providing ongoing assistance for the projects that Malaika presents each year.

- YourLifeMyLife NGO (Italian ONLUS) has played a vital role by offering significant support for school expenses since the inception of MCFI's activities.

- Lions Club Legnano Castello has contributed to Malaika's endeavors by granting a scholarship, facilitating the purchase of a minibus, and supporting the initial stages of the candle project.

- Rotary Club Cusago has been instrumental in enabling the installation of solar panels and implementing a drip irrigation system in previous years.

- Rotary Club of Estepona (Spain) has demonstrated their commitment by raising funds for books and stationery for the school, enriching the educational resources available to the children.

Furthermore, Malaika benefits from the invaluable support of Dreams, a local initiative affiliated with the Community of Sant'Egidio in Arusha. Dreams focuses on providing essential assistance to individuals, particularly HIV-positive children, through free examinations, tests, and access to medication.

During the early stages, Malaika received vital support and guidance for a disabled child from the Gabriella Children Rehabilitation Centre in Moshi. Subsequently, the organization benefited from the expertise and assistance of Sibusiso in Arusha, where trained therapists offered massages to the child on a weekly basis. They also provided valuable training to the nurse and housemother, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to administer these therapies. Sibusiso also offered guidance on how to effectively care for the child's specific needs.

The collaborative efforts with these nonprofit organizations and institutions have significantly contributed to Malaika's ability to fulfill its mission and provide comprehensive support to the children and youth in its care.



## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

In addition to collaborating with the Commissioner of Social Welfare and local Social Services in Tanzania, Malaika maintains important interactions with regulatory authorities to ensure compliance and financial transparency. This includes regular engagement with the authority responsible for overseeing the operations of all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and financial reporting, such as the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). Additionally, periodic reports are submitted to the Immigration Services Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the renewal of residence permits for the two directors and non-Tanzanian volunteers.

In Italy, Malaika maintains active relationships with the Consulate of the Republic of Tanzania in Milan and the Embassy in Rome. These connections provide opportunities for meetings and gatherings with other NGOs operating in Tanzania, fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas.

Regarding economic reporting, the designated contact person in Italy is the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies. Malaika interacts with the ministry in light of their establishment of the Single National Register of the Third Sector, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations. On the fiscal side, Malaika maintains communication with the Italian Revenue Agency to fulfill tax-related obligations.

Through these engagements with regulatory bodies and authorities, Malaika upholds transparency, adheres to legal requirements, and sustains positive working relationships, both in Tanzania and Italy.

## MATERIAL THEMES

In accordance with the updated GRI Standards released in 2021, Malaika has undertaken a thorough analysis of the actual and potential impacts it generates, both positive and negative. This analysis aims to identify the material issues that are crucial for the organization and its stakeholders, encompassing economic, environmental, and social impacts, including those on human rights. To establish the significant aspects, Malaika has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the operating context, benchmarked against organizations operating in similar contexts,

and performed an internal analysis of its activities. This process has resulted in the identification of the following key issues that hold utmost importance from Malaika's perspective and for its relevant stakeholders.

The subsequent list presents a detailed breakdown of the identified themes categorized by their respective areas, whether they fall under the social, economic, or transversal domain. Each theme is accompanied by a description to provide a comprehensive understanding of its relevance and implications.





AREA	THEMES	DESCRIPTIONS
<b>SOCIAL ASPECTS</b>	Welfare, care, and protection of children's growth	The theme refers to the actions implemented by Malaika aimed at ensuring a dignified life for the boys it welcomes in a familiar and welcoming climate, guaranteeing everyone access to an adequate number of meals per day as well as to health care adequate and also providing, within the host home opportunities for growth from a skills perspective work skills (e.g., through garden cultivation or the candle making).
	Protecting diversity and ensuring full inclusion for all	The themes refer to the fully inclusive approach adopted in the reception of children, for example, concerning the inclusion, without any distinction, of young HIV-positive children or children with disabilities. This involves the full assurance to access to the care and tools necessary for the conduct of daily life as well as the spread in the home of a fully inclusive climate that makes diversity a value and a condition to be cared for.
	Training, development, and school continuity	The theme refers to the activities carried out by Malaika to ensure that all children receive access to training activities adequate and continuous, starting from the first levels of education to higher education, while also allowing access should the boys show interest in continuing their education, to schools beyond basic education, and international schools.
	Welfare and training of staff	The theme refers to the approach taken toward the management of staff, who are guaranteed paid employment adequately, access to qualifying training activities, and assured medical care when necessary, as well as access to "benefits" provided by the house (e.g., distribution of food products), also to ensure the continuity of the presence of these figures in the lives of the children taken in.
	Dialogue with the local community	The theme refers to the approach of dialogue adopted towards the actors of the community in which Malaika operates (including local providers), other organizations operating in the area, and the authorities. The theme also refers to the collaboration with families of origin that has allowed for family reunification in some cases over the years.
<b>ECONOMIC ASPECTS</b>	Ethics and transparency in management, reporting, and communication of the activities.	The theme refers to the careful and scrupulous approach taken by Malaika in the management of its activities, both from the point of view of tracking and reporting economic data and from the point of view of communicating the activities carried out to the outside world, including through the voluntary drafting of a Balance Sheet Annual Report that complies with the relevant existing regulations.
	Continuity and diversification of sources and donations	The theme refers to managing and seeking donations that support as broadly and continuously as possible the activities carried out by Malaika through contacting and supporting entities and individuals on a global scale. The theme also refers to the actions of self-financing activated to support the children, including the sale of candles produced within the workshop in the family home.
<b>TRANSVERSAL ASPECTS</b>	Sustainability and adequacy of the structure	The theme refers to the approach taken to constructing, maintaining, operating, and expanding the facility that houses the children, aimed at increasing self-supporting possibilities and focusing on aspects of a sustainable environment. In this regard, reference should be made to the solar panels and wind turbine installed in the facility that covers almost all of the energy needs, to the activities of food production (vegetable garden, animals) that provide part of the food consumed in the facility as well as the water collection facilities water functional for irrigation activities.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has outlined a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aim to be accomplished by 2030. These goals are interconnected and address various dimensions of sustainable development, covering social, economic, and environmental aspects. Accompanying the SDGs are 169 targets, each playing a crucial role in achieving the broader goals. The successful attainment of these targets is vital for creating a more sustainable present and future for both our planet and its inhabitants.



The success of Agenda 2030 requires the involvement and commitment of all components of society, from private companies to the public sector, from civil society to information and cultural workers.

Based on this analysis, Malaika has identified the key SDGs that are most relevant to its mission and operations. These SDGs serve as the guiding framework for Malaika's efforts to contribute towards sustainable development. By focusing on these specific goals, Malaika aligns its actions with the broader global agenda, maximizing its impact and contributing to the collective endeavor of achieving a more sustainable and equitable world.

	<b>Goal 2.</b> End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture		<b>Goal 5.</b> Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
	<b>Goal 3.</b> Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages		<b>Goal 7.</b> Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
	<b>Goal 4.</b> Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all		<b>Goal 8.</b> Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
	<b>Goal 10.</b> Reduce inequality within and among countries		





# 3

## THE SHELTER





## A DAY AT MALAIKA

Life at Malaika brims with a multitude of activities and responsibilities that engage both the dedicated housemothers, as the staff members are affectionately called by the children, and the children themselves. To gain deeper insight into the daily commitments that keep the group home running smoothly, we reached out to Jutta, the director, who graciously shared a glimpse into a typical day.

Situated in the vibrant town of Arusha, nestled in northern Tanzania just below the equator, Malaika harmonizes with the natural cadence dictated by the sun. The ebb and flow of life here adhere to the consistent rhythm of twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness throughout the year, irrespective of the season.

This steady balance of sunlight frames the canvas for the activities that unfold within Malaika's nurturing environment. From the early morning hours until dusk, the housemothers and children embark on a dynamic journey of learning, growth, and connection. Each day is carefully designed to accommodate the diverse needs of the children, ensuring they receive the necessary care, education, and support to thrive.





Through this harmonious blend of structure and warmth, Malaika embraces the natural rhythms of life in Arusha, fostering an environment where every child can flourish.

**5:00 a.m.** - The days start early, with the housemothers waking up at 5:00 a.m. to prepare the necessities for the children's cleaning and breakfast. Breakfast is hearty, varies throughout the week, and from time to time is barley (*shayiri*), cassava (*mihogo*), milk (*maziwa*) and eggs (*mayai*), all of which come from our chicken coop.

**5:30 – 7:00 a.m.** - All the children wake up, and the sun rises. The children quickly get ready and eat breakfast. The first ones to leave for school leave at 6:00 a.m. and head for the bus, while the youngest kindergarteners leave around 6:50. On vacations and during weekends the day starts a little later, by 7:00, and breakfast is around 8:00.

**7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** - During school hours, the dedicated housemothers and nurse at Malaika focus on organizing and maintaining the boys' and girls' houses. They diligently tidy up the spaces, including rearranging closets and handwashing clothes. Additionally, they take turns providing constant support to a young girl with a severe disability who does not attend school. When the children are at home, their mornings begin with breakfast, followed by age-appropriate household chores such as cleaning and tending to the garden and animals, which include chickens and rabbits. Engaging in outdoor play activities occupies their time until mid-morning. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the children engage in school-related activities like reading, drawing, memory games, and exercises.

**12:30 to 1:30 p.m.** - Lunch for everyone. In addition to maintaining a clean and organized home, the children at Malaika actively participate in kitchen duties when they are at home. Each child has designated shifts to assist in food preparation and dishwashing, contributing to the smooth functioning of the kitchen. The ingredients used in their culinary endeavors often come from the garden, where a variety of vegetables such as spinach, peppers, tomatoes, and eggplants are grown. Furthermore, some of the fruits consumed, including papayas, mangoes, and bananas, are also harvested from the garden.

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m.** - For the youngest children, up to age eight, this is the time for sleeping. For others, it is rest or study time depending on commitments and activities for school (vacation homework, preparation for exams, etc.).

**3:30 - 5:30 p.m.** - When the children and teenagers are at home, it serves as a combination of leisure time and an opportunity to assist the staff with various tasks. They lend a hand with tending to the garden, taking care of the animals, and, for the older ones, engaging in candle making. During extended vacation periods, typically in December, those over eighteen years old explore temporary job opportunities to gain valuable experiences beyond Malaika. Meanwhile, the housemothers prepare for evening showers and dinner, ensuring a smooth transition into the evening routine.

**5:30 - 6:30 p.m.** - Showers for everyone and preparation of clothes and folders for the next day.

**6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** - The sun begins to set, and it is time for dinner for everyone.

**7:00 - 7:30 p.m.** - At bedtime, housemothers accompany the younger children with fairy tales and conversations, while the older ones make their own arrangements. During weekends and vacations, evenings offer more time for games, movies, and cartoons. New Year's Eve is celebrated with a big party, honoring birthdays and school graduations.

**8:00 - 8:30 p.m.** - The day ends for everyone; the housemothers tidy up the last few things and prepare for the next morning.



## "MALAIKA'S CHILDREN'S VOICES"

"We have a proverb that says, 'If life throws a lemon at you, learn to make lemonade, and you will get by,' and that means that not everyone has the opportunity to choose the kind of life they want to live and therefore one must always be able to take the good side and not give up. In my life, I immediately could not choose what I wanted to live, but I was still happy and peaceful. I grew up in Malaika, one of the many homes they call orphanages, but for me, it is my home, my 'world of joy.'"

**19 years old**

"I honestly could not say where I would be today if Malaika had not been there; how could my life be without this wonderful place surrounded by people who have cared for us so much? A place where there are people we can trust and to whom we can tell what we have inside, our worries and our fears-this is something special that Malaika gives us."

**20 years old**

"My life has always been here in Malaika, along with my older sister and many other kids I've known all my life. Malaika is a beautiful place to live because we are surrounded by people who care for us with passion and love, even if sometimes we anger them. Here we are always happy because we can play many games like football and basketball and they always cook good things. Even in Malaika, however, there are problems to deal with. The biggest one is water shortage and too much dust from the road."

**16 years old**

"Malaika is what I call my 'beloved' home. I am 17 years old, and during my life in Malaika, in fact, I have had many different people around me. They have helped me grow, making me who I am today. They have always been by my side in every moment of difficulty, and especially with them, I have shared many moments of joy that today fill my memory. With them close by, I also learned to deal with moments of disappointment by understanding that, however, in life, such moments will always be encountered, and therefore one must be able to let go of the past and look forward. I remember very well that as a child, I did not like my mom and dad to accompany me to school because of the questions that my classmates would then ask me and to I was forced to answer, 'but who are these?' 'Why are your parents white?' and then 'ah well, you are very rich...'. It was all so awkward, and I didn't feel comfortable. As I grew up, however, I realized what they really represented to me and what it would have been if I didn't have these parents who look so different but are like the other parents."

**17 years old**



## "MALAIKA'S CHILDREN'S VOICES"

"I am one of the ten who were there from the beginning. I think Malaika is the best home there is because there is peace, love, and friendship-that is what Malaika is all about. I thank Allah and God because there is Malaika, and I hope it will remain forever for new generations of children."

**19 years old**

"Malaika is the best place I have ever found to be safe. It is a place of love, and they treat all children equally here. We can treat you the same way too, and even if you come from so far away, we can still do it."

**12 years old**





# YOUTH CARE

*Our contribution to the SDGs*



At Malaika, children live like siblings in a big family, older ones help the younger ones. All contribute to the routine household and work on the farm and in the garden with simple tasks, always respecting the time to play and study under the supervision of the staff. In 2022 there were 28 children and youth that

Malaika took care of, either at the facility of the family home or in their families. The ages are very diverse, from ages 4 to 20. Twenty guests are female, while eight are male. In the previous year, there were 29, as a foster family took in one child in early 2022.



	2021	2022
TOTAL NUMBER	29	28
UNDER 6 YEARS	3	3
BETWEEN 6 AND 13 YEARS	12	11
OVER 13 YEARS	14	14

Malaika also watches over the seven children who have returned to their extended families of origin. Malaika's supervision is needed to prevent domestic work in families that will take time

away from study. Some of them, are enrolled in residential schools paid for by Malaika and spend only the vacations scheduled during the school year at home.

### School education

Malaika ensures that children and teenagers have access to education through enrollment in different schools, including both day and residential options. A particular focus has been placed on addressing the gender gap, especially for girls who joined Malaika at a later age (around 7-8 years old) without prior schooling. These girls were given support to catch up with the curriculum, including learning English to integrate into private schools where English is the medium of instruction. Initially, they were placed in residential classes to expedite the acquisition of language skills and the necessary foundations for progressing to higher grades.

### Health and good nutrition

Regarding the children's focus on health, it is important to know that in Tanzania, to be able to access good medical care easily, it is advisable to have medical insurance: that is why all children followed by Malaika have their insurance and about twice a year they have a checkup. Health care is therefore continuous for everyone, resident and nonresident at Malaika, and is ensured by the constant observation by the staff nurse. The nurse accompanies the children and youths to regularly scheduled visits and those that occur for urgent reasons. She visits children who have returned to their families to check for health problems during the periods they spend in school and during vacations. Dental and eye examinations are also conducted at local facilities and by visiting volunteer doctors.

In 2022, the children benefited from about 50 medical checkups, plus the weekly massage and physical therapy treatments for the disabled child, doubling the total number of visits. As anticipated, the staff also benefits from periodic medical visits, which in 2022 totaled to 16, two per year for each person. In addition to regular checkups, four children receive daily antiretroviral therapy for HIV. Every three months, they visit the nearby "Dream" center of the Community of Sant'Egidio with the nurse for free





checkups and periodic blood tests. Malaika also conducts private blood tests every six months for more effective monitoring, surpassing the annual frequency. Through ongoing care, our aim is to achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load for all, ensuring it is no longer transmissible. This progress signifies a significant improvement from the challenging circumstances the children faced upon arriving at Malaika.

The only disabled child at Malaika, who suffered brain damage from birth and was abandoned at the shelter's gate, requires ongoing massages and physical therapy. The housemothers and the nurse provide these treatments under the periodic supervision of a specialized therapist. As she grows older and lacks independent mobility, a wheelchair from Italy and additional support have become increasingly vital for her well-being. The staff and her siblings offer constant attention, care, and stimulation through smiling, interacting, and playing with her.

Moreover, for good health, proper nutrition is essential for everyone, which Malaika provides to the children and youth both from the self-produced food in the garden and the farm, and from food purchased or donated by the network of neighbors. Malaika receives donations every week, like rice, beans, flour, corn, corn oil, sugar, and other staple food in Tanzania.

Upon arrival at Malaika, children undergo medical examinations to assess any additional health issues, which are not uncommon, alongside malnutrition. Thankfully, with a diverse and nutritious diet, the malnourished children at Malaika have shown rapid recovery, and any apparent developmental delays have been effectively addressed. Skin conditions like scurvy, which they frequently arrive with, have quickly resolved. However, recurrent fungal skin infections, such as ringworm, pose a greater challenge despite the consistent use of creams and maintaining shaved heads.





## SPECIFIC PROJECTS

### CHILD SPONSORSHIP

*Our contribution to the SDGs*



Child sponsorship is the direct support of a donor to an individual child to support the costs of caregiving. Most children are supported directly by one or more donors from countries worldwide. This link creates a relationship thanks to periodic updates from the organization on growth and academic achievement and through photos and letters.

Some donors fully cover the annual sponsorship to contribute to expenses related to purchasing food, cleaning supplies, and operational management of the house. Other donors, however, cover only a portion of it, and thus multiple supporters contribute to maintaining a single child. Children and youth not linked to a specific sponsor are supported through general donations.

The donors who make a general donation have entrusted their contribution to the association, leaving Malaika's management to employ it where and when needed. All children in Malaika are carefully looked after from a health perspective. As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the children are almost always undernourished upon arrival, a constant that persists over the years. Still, fortunately, the problem is resolved within a few weeks.

Over the years, however, the percentage of HIV-positive children on arrival has decreased, following the declining incidence of decrease in the child population.



# 32%

Estimated percentage of children 0-5 years old who are puny or too small for their age in 2020, an indicator of chronic malnutrition. The percentage was 50% in 1991-92.

*Data source: UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Group, joint child malnutrition estimates*

# 16,000

estimated number of new HIV infections in Tanzania in children (0-19 years old) in 2021 (steadily decreasing: it was 23,000/year in 2013), as a result of government-led awareness campaigns on pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

*Data source: UNAIDS 2022 estimates*





# SCHOLARSHIPS

*Our contribution to the SDGs*



Malaika greatly believes in the school and its ability to change a child's future. Education is fundamental to the growth of children. They can understand and develop their inclinations to become autonomous and active persons in society supporting their community. As described in the previous pages, children who have returned to their families are guaranteed coverage of their school fees, often in residential schools where they can concentrate more on their studies.

Recognizing the importance of education, Malaika has made significant investments in schools, ensuring that children are enrolled from an early age in institutions that prioritize high-quality learning methods and tools. The selection process

prioritizes schools that offer English language instruction, which is crucial for their continued education in high school.

In response to the strong support from their donors, Malaika granted dedicated scholarships to two exceptionally talented children, enabling their enrollment in a local international school. In 2022, the international school established a connection with the Aumud Foundation from Germany, resulting in the provision of three additional scholarships.

Overall, a total of 20 scholarships were awarded in 2022, thanks to the generous contributions from individuals, companies, and the aforementioned foundation. These scholarships cover the full cost of tuition and school fees. For children who do



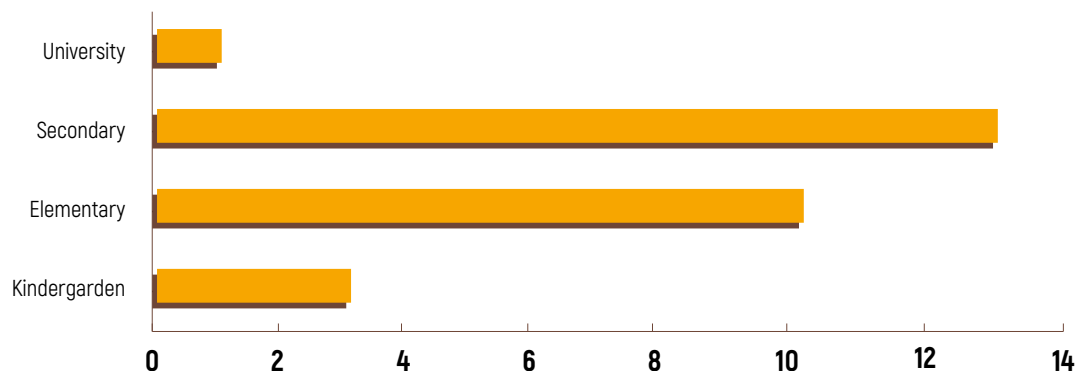


not have dedicated scholarships, their schooling expenses are covered by general donations specifically allocated for educational purposes. These funds also cover transportation costs, stationery materials, uniforms, and other necessary

items (which are not included in the individual scholarships).

Of the 28 children between the ages of 4 and 20 years old supported in 2022 by Malaika, 27 attend school (only the disabled child cannot attend school).

*Enrollments in the various school grades in 2022*



An impressive 98% of the children welcomed at Malaika have successfully completed their education, reaching primary and junior secondary school levels (up to grade IV). This achievement is a source of great pride, particularly when considering the educational landscape in the country.

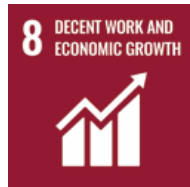
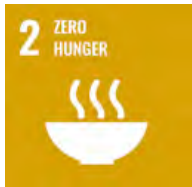
According to UN data, only one-third of children in Tanzania attend junior secondary school (which lasts up to year IV) and only 5.9% of girls and 7.8% of boys make it to secondary school at the second level (grades V and VI), which allows access to university studies (2019 data).

Data source: <http://data.un.org/en/iso/tz.html>



# OUTREACH: FAMILY REUNIFICATION

*Our contribution to the SDGs*



The Outreach project at Malaika is dedicated to facilitating the reunification of children with their families of origin, whenever possible and in coordination with local Social Services. Reunions are made possible when the underlying issues that led to the children's placement in Malaika, such as parental illness, neglect, or poverty, have been resolved.

This process is supported by the traditional concept of the extended family in Tanzania, which encompasses even distant relatives and is characterized by bonds of mutual help and solidarity. While the Outreach project has been in place since Malaika's inception, it has gained momentum in recent years, aligning with the revised Tanzanian Child Act of 2019, which emphasizes reunification with families of origin.

Over the years, Malaika has successfully facilitated 22 definitive reunifications or adoptions, as well as seven partial reunifications, where ongoing support is provided to the children involved. The search for family connections involves reconnaissance activities in the children's places of origin, using documentation provided by Social Welfare or Police offices. Proposals for reunification are extended to the families, promising continued support for school fees and healthcare expenses. This happens when no biological parent has been found, because other relatives are not compelled to take in charge of the children.



Prior to any reintegration, Malaika's staff assesses the living conditions in which the children will be placed. Even after the reunification, regular visits are conducted to ensure the children's well-being, including their access to necessities and continued education.





Currently, Malaika supports seven scholarships for children who no longer reside in the shelter but still require assistance with their studies, medical visits, and essential needs such as clothing and uniforms. These children often attend residential boarding schools located far from Malaika, necessitating long and challenging commutes. To address this, a suitable used vehicle was purchased in 2018 to navigate the difficult road conditions, especially during the rainy season.

In special cases, when local families express a desire to adopt young children, Malaika's management collaborates with the shelter staff and Social Services to initiate the adoption process. Support is provided to the new family during the initial phase of the child's integration into their new family unit. After a few months, the relationship with Malaika ceases entirely.

## **NORMATIVE: GOVERNMENT'S PUSH FOR OUTREACH**

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"It shall be the responsibility of the staff of an approved residential home or institution, the social welfare officer and any other person responsible for maintenance of a child, to assist him to approve to become reunited with his parents, guardians or relatives."

*Data source: 'Law of the Child Act', 2019 - III, 137.3*

## **DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

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Undernourished children under age 5: 32% (2020)

Children sleeping under a mosquito net against malaria: 55% (2016)

Children aged 5-17 working: 24.8% (2014)

Girls aged 15-19 subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence by current or former partner: 30 percent (2016)

Women aged 20-24 who married before the age of 18: 30.54% (2015)

Population in homes where it is possible to wash hands with soap and water: 48.44% (2020)

*Data source: <https://data.unicef.org/sdgs/country/tza/>*



# MALAIKA'S STAFF

*Our contribution to the SDGs*



Malaika's staff consists of eight people, of whom five are women, and three are men, plus a night watchman employed externally. Housemothers are engaged in child and youth care and housekeeping under the responsibility of the coordinator (housemother herself), who oversees the organization of all the workers, organizing the work and shifts on which they all rotate. Several housemothers also have specific qualifications, as shown in the table below.

TOTAL EMPLOYEES		8
Coordinator / Montessori teacher / Housemother		1
Cook / Housemother		1
Nurse / Housemother		1
Montessori teacher / Housemother		1
Housemother		1
Gardener / Maintenance worker		2
Social worker		1
NON-EMPLOYEE WORKERS		1
Night watchman		1





The housemothers at Malaika have a range of responsibilities, ensuring a clean environment, appropriate clothing for the children, access to food, and maintaining their health and personal hygiene. They also occasionally assist with homework. The weekly rotating shifts are covered by four

pairs of housemothers who also stay overnight. Additionally, a fifth housemother, who is a nurse, is present during daytime hours from Monday to Saturday and provides substitutions if needed. The two male staff members are responsible for general security, minor maintenance, the electrical





system, the vegetable garden, animal care, and candle production. Their activities span the entire day, six days a week.

The Social worker, the third male staff member, manages relations with Social Services and oversees Outreach projects.

To ensure full security coverage, a night watchman, who is not directly employed by Malaika, is present from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Between 2021 and 2022, there was a rotation of housemothers, including the hiring of a younger one. In 2022, the second gardener/candle maker, who had been on a trial basis, was permanently hired. Malaika aims to retain staff for as long as possible to minimize turnover, recognizing the importance of stable and lasting relationships for the children. Staff members are provided with opportunities for new training to support their professional growth.

All employees at Malaika are hired on an annual full-time contract. The organization diligently pays social security charges, including contributions to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) for pension accumulation and the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) for health coverage. Malaika covers the entire contribution to the NHIF as a benefit, which would typically be split between the employee and the organization.

Additionally, contributions are made to the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF), a solidarity fund. The current staff members range in age from 23 to 49, with the coordinator, nurse, cook, and gardener having greater seniority, while two housemothers, the Social worker, and the assistant gardener/candle maker are younger.

The organization's activities revolve around a weekly meeting, held every Monday during the shift change between housemother pairs. The coordinator leads the meeting, attended by the Social worker, nurse, housemothers, and maintenance workers. At least once a month, and especially when discussing specific topics such as cost trends, maintenance investments, or issues with the children, one of the directors is present. Additionally, when addressing matters concerning the behavior of older children or conflicts between staff and children, an older child from Malaika is invited to attend the meeting. During these meetings, various topics are discussed, ranging from the daily routine to the boys' education. If necessary, interactions with family members or prospective adoptive parents are also addressed, with the housemothers providing occasional support in parenting tasks.



## BELOW ARE SOME DIRECT TESTIMONIALS FROM STAFF MEMBERS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE AT MALAIKA..

*"In general, I am very happy with the working environment, especially because of the great cooperation among us on the staff, even though we are engaged in very different jobs and roles. In general, then I see that the children and youth in Malaika have grown up well and in line with our Tanzanian values"*

*"I have had so many benefits working in Malaika and a great deal of personal growth: I have been allowed to do a lot of training both inside and outside the center to be prepared to care for children raised in difficult situations, and I have greatly improved my English through contact with so many different people. As a last but very important thing, this work has allowed me to start building my own home."*

*"From the beginning, Malaika helped me by sending me to take a training course to learn how to deal with young children and those who have experienced difficult situations. Personally am very happy with my work, I have grown so much also because of the help and encouragement of the directors who immediately believed in me until they entrusted me in 2021 with the role of coordinator of the entire staff."*







*"When I started working in Malaika, my job was only to wash the children's clothes because I had not studied. In all these years, Malaika has allowed me to attend many training courses to learn how to take care of children who had been abused and helped me to improve myself in English, so today, I have the same role as the other "housemothers." Since I enjoy cooking, I could also attend a recognized cooking course, to get an official certificate."*

*"Our kids are treated like any other kid living in the family, with the staff who treat them with love taking care of them and having seen them grow up almost from birth. As is the case in so many families, we also we face daily various problems related to their growth path that will lead them to be active members of our Tanzanian society."*



# TRAINING

## *Our contribution to the SDGs*



From the very first day, Malaika has prioritized the professional development of its staff. Initially, they offered in-house English courses and later focused on specialized training to support children in overcoming childhood trauma. Notably, child psychologists from Germany and Canada were invited to provide guidance



and work directly with the children and youth, equipping the staff with valuable tools to address the needs of those who have experienced challenging or violent situations.

In recent years, Malaika has taken advantage of courses offered by external organizations and the Tanzanian government, enabling all female staff members to obtain official certifications as practitioners licensed to work with kindergarten-aged children.

Among the 31 courses completed from 2011 to 2022, resulting in certificates of significant professional value, notable examples include:

- The successful completion of the “Global Montessori Institute” course by two housemothers.
- Regular attendance by all housemothers in general government courses on children’s rights and protection.
- Participation in a course by the “Arusha Mental Health” trust, focusing on treating children who have experienced physical and psychological violence.
- Involvement in a course by “Toto Aid,” aimed at developing interpersonal skills and managing stressful situations for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- A specialized course organized by “Dream - Community of Sant’Egidio,” specifically designed for the nurse, emphasizing the treatment of HIV-positive children and educating others in the center on appropriate behavior.
- A course offered by the University of Nadal, reserved for Malaika’s nurse, focusing on health issues and the management of at-risk youth.

Additionally, employees were given the opportunity to obtain a driver’s license through a driving school. Four staff members and two young individuals over the age of 18 successfully obtained their driver’s licenses, which holds significant value within Tanzania.





### TESTIMONY

*"I'm a Social worker from Canada. I have been traveling back and forth throughout East Africa since 2009, living in, volunteering, and working in Arusha, Tanzania over the years. Throughout all my work and travels, I have confirmed that Malaika Children's Friends is one of the most well-run Children's Home I have encountered in East Africa. This center really is a home where everyone is considered family. The children are happy, safe, so loved and resilient despite their personal challenges and circumstance. The staff and the caregivers have fostered these characteristics and qualities.*

*I initially began volunteering at Malaika in 2019, teaching Hip Hop dance classes and running programming for the children and youth. I am also a registered, practicing Social worker, specialize in trauma and child and youth development. I then began offering training to the staff on child development, mental health, child abuse, how to manage challenging behavior, and providing trauma-informed care to the children. I also ran weekly psychosocial groups with the youth, allowing them to process significant life challenges, and teenage woes and focus on healthy personal, social, and relationship development.*

*As I travel to Arusha regularly, I always ensure I spend as much time as I can at Malaika with the kids and support the staff as needed. It is a home filled with love. Malaika is such a special place, and the staff, directors, and children feel like family to me. This organization has faced many challenges, including staff retention, scarce funding, and recruiting local staff whose values and ethics align with the organization's."*

## GOOD DAILY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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The staff is equipped with a cash box for petty expenses, which are recorded daily and accepted only upon presentation of receipts issued by the supplier, except expenses for public transportation where no receipt can be obtained. To withdraw necessities present in the warehouse (food and hygiene, and cleaning products), the staff uses loading and unloading sheets for which the coordinator is responsible.

When staff receives monetary donations or in-kind donations from visitors, they always issue a receipt to the donor containing all donated goods and quantities and record the donation on the loading and unloading.

Staff members play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and protection of children during scheduled visits from external individuals. These visits must be prearranged and approved by management, taking into consideration the availability of staff. To prioritize the well-being of the children, visits are not permitted during times when staff is engaged in activities such as children's showers or lunch. During the visits, it is the responsibility of the staff to accompany the guests throughout their stay within the facility. Children should never be left alone with visitors, and staff members must uphold the rule against photographing children without obtaining prior permission.



## LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Since its inception, Malaika has fostered strong relationships with its neighbours and the local community. Over time, it has become deeply rooted in the surrounding area through collaborations with the community development officer and regular meetings with committee members. Malaika has also formed connections with neighbouring family houses and the nearby church, nurturing a sense of unity.

The micro-community surrounding Malaika has also played an essential role in supporting the organization. For example, local goat and cow farmers receive maize production waste from Malaika and occasionally benefit from using the center's area for livestock grazing. In return, Malaika receives tangible assistance from the community, including donations of goods and services from neighbors and families in Arusha who recognize the organization's positive reputation. Local stores and companies have also provided supplies at advantageous prices, and some have even partnered with Malaika to offer internship opportunities for older children.

Among the notable collaborations is the partnership with **Regency Investment Ltd**, an importer of nonperishables from Europe. Besides providing

Malaika with supplies at favorable prices, they have also offered on-the-job training opportunities to some of the children. Similar support for training has been extended by other organizations, such as **Kwik Investment Ltd**. (printing company), **Day & Night Autogarage Ltd**. (vehicle repair), and **Felix constructors Ltd** (construction company), benefiting the older boys.

Malaika also engages with other local nonprofits, including the **School of Saint Jude**, an international organization that offers free education based on aptitude tests. Additionally, the organization assists and advises younger students through its connection with **Karama Connection**, a similar local organization.

Lastly, Malaika has established relationships with **Schwari Ltd**, a design company that operates outlets in tourist lodges and a renowned restaurant in Arusha. The owner of Schwari serves on the board of directors at Malaika. Another important partnership exists with **Plantation Lodge Ltd**, the owner of a prominent resort near Arusha. These companies have supported Malaika's candle business, providing crucial initial supplies and facilitating its development.

## CHILDREN OF MALAIKA MEET THE CHAIRMAN OF TANZANIA

*In late April 2022, a momentous event took place when the Chairman of Tanzania, H.E. Mrs. Samia Suluhu Hassan, met with children from prominent centers in Arusha. During the meeting, she spent time with the children and generously donated food to the centers. It was a tremendous honor for Malaika to be selected as one of the centers to participate in this special gathering.*





## SUSTAINABLE FACILITY MANAGEMENT



Since 2006, when the land for Malaika was acquired, there has been a strong commitment to utilizing a portion of it for self-sustaining food projects. Today, the Malaika premises spans approximately two hectares and is divided into two sections. The northern half, enclosed by a security perimeter wall, houses the family home buildings, along with solar panels and a wind turbine. This area also includes facilities for raising chickens and rabbits, as well as a vegetable garden and orchard. The southern part of the premises is dedicated to corn cultivation and remains an open field.

In addition to these efforts, Malaika benefits from regular in-kind donations provided by the local community, further contributing to the food sustenance of the center.

## SELF-SUPPORTING FOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT

*Our contribution to the SDGs*



Over time, Malaika has experienced an increase in food requirements due to the growing number of children and staff, as well as their advancing age. In 2022, the total expenditure on food amounted to approximately €8,000. This amount can be broken down as follows: €4,500 (57%) for direct purchases, €1,700 (22%) as estimated savings from self-production efforts, and €1,600 (21%) through generous in-kind donations.

Looking ahead, and assuming consistent water availability, there is an expected significant increase in the self-production component, primarily driven by the maturation of fruit trees that were planted in recent years. This shift in focus towards self-production reflects Malaika's ongoing efforts to enhance sustainability and reduce reliance on external food sources.



## FOOD CONSUMPTION SUMMARY

	2022		2021	
	€	%	€	%
Direct Purchases	4,504	56.9%	7,510	79.5%
Self-production (1) (2)	880	11.1%	370	3.9%
Fruit Production (3)	97	1.2%	20	0.2%
Egg Production (4)	787	9.9%	400	4.2%
Donations in Kind	1,649	20.8%	1,143	12.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,917</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,443</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

(1) The 2021 productions are estimated because the completion of cultivated areas was realized during the year.

(2) Corn could not be grown in 2021.

(3) In 2021 only 1 mango plant was in production; in 2022 1 mango, 1 papaya and 3 bananas.

(4) Production in 2021 is estimated because intensive breeding began mid-year

Multiple factors over the past few years have allowed a breakthrough in realizing Malaika's productions. First, increased access to water: as construction has increased, there has indeed been greatly increased rainwater storage capacity. Among the 11 external reservoirs connected to roof eaves and the three underground water tanks totaling 25,000 lt, Malaika now has a total storage capacity of 68,000 lt. In addition, in 2015, the municipality of Arusha extended the aqueduct up to Malaika's area, ensuring a water supply even in the dry seasons.

With the possibility of having water more consistently, in 2020, a person joined Malaika's staff to take care of the garden and crops. This person subsequently attended a training course on sustainable development and could implement virtuous actions even in a small entity like Malaika, such as the self-production of fertilizer. Today no chemical fertilizers are used, but compost is obtained through the reuse of all food scraps from the kitchen mixed with the excrement of the animals. And after a resting period of 3 months, it can be used as a natural fertilizer. In addition, on the land cultivated for vegetable





gardens, the ash generated in the kitchen is periodically spread. This operation has two purposes: on the one hand, the ash, by mixing, makes the lava soil more workable, otherwise very difficult to use, and it acts as a pesticide natural against certain types of insects.

Corn is produced once a year in the approximately 10,000 square meters of field located outside the area protected by the wall. Production varies greatly depending on the abundance or otherwise of rainfall, and over the years, it has ranged from a minimum of 180 kg to a maximum of over 500 kg.

The area devoted to the vegetable garden is much smaller: the area for the vegetable garden is about 650 square meters, adjacent to the underground tanks, and the area for animal husbandry is about 400 square meters.

Constant water and the absence of harsh winters allow for multiple harvests throughout the year. For tomatoes, the annual harvests are three; for eggplants, zucchini, cucumbers, and peppers, the harvests are two per year. Malaika also produces onions and several local vegetables assimilated to various salads, spinach and beans such as: *Mchicha*, *Matembele*, *Mnafu*, *Okra* and *Sukuma wiki*, which literally means "push the week," is a very energetic vegetable. Once planted, these vegetables grow in about 20-30 days and go on seamlessly throughout the year, lasting up to 3 years before ending their cycle and needing replacement. Excess produce is frozen and then gradually consumed to utilize all the crops during production peaks.

Finally, water availability has also made it possible to plant fruit trees, some of which, mango and papaya, are already in production. More than 40 trees have been planted: 7 papayas, 6 mangoes, 4 avocados, 20 banana trees, and 6 orange trees. Once these plants go into production, Malaika will be able to cover more than 70% of the requirements. Full production is expected within the next two years.

Animal husbandry has also followed the impetus of the water arrival. In the area used as a chicken coop, where the hens have ample space for movement, in 2022, there are 48 hens, roosters, and chicks, with a daily production of about 20 eggs, except for a rest interval of 4 months. This production brings savings for Malaika, estimated at about €700 to €800 per year. In mid-2022, rabbit breeding was also started to use their droppings as a natural fertilizer (as they can be used directly on the soil). The rabbits will be used for food purposes and mainly for possible outside sales.



## IN-KIND DONATIONS

In-kind donations from local producers and businesses in Arusha hold significant value for Malaika, both in terms of providing essential food supplies and fostering a sense of inclusion and support from the local community. These donations primarily consist of staple foods such as rice, beans, sugar, flour, and cooking oil. In 2021, a total of 29 donors contributed food items, and this number decreased slightly to 23 donors in 2022. The estimated value of these donations amounts to €1,649.

Occasionally, families living nearby choose to celebrate their children's birthdays with the youth at Malaika, bringing cakes and various dishes. This act of sharing celebrations creates a beautiful sense of connection and community.

Furthermore, when food donations exceed immediate needs, particularly during end-of-year festivities, Malaika distributes some of the surplus to staff members and other orphanages in the surrounding area.

## ENERGY MANAGEMENT

*Our contribution to the SDGs*



Malaika produces almost all the energy it consumes through two renewable sources: photovoltaic panels and wind turbine blades, which cover the needs by an estimated 96/97%, depending on the outside temperature.

Photovoltaic panels have been installed since the construction of the first building in 2008 and were subsequently added over the roofs of the new buildings as they were built: The outdoor kitchen in 2012, the second and third buildings in 2011 and 2013, respectively, and the last panel stand-alone located on the roof of the parking garage. The fifth building is being completed, and a photovoltaic system has also been installed. In addition to the photovoltaic panels, in 2013, two solar panel systems were installed to produce hot water for showers evenings. Each of the two systems can heat 200 litres of water per day, thus ensuring a more than sufficient number of daily showers for the centre's needs.

As the number of kids and their ages have grown, energy needs have increased: refrigerators have bigger

and more power to power lights and PCs for evening study. For these reasons, in 2016, a wind turbine was installed. Malaika, in fact, is located in a large lowland area that favors the presence of daily winds. The installation of this blade represented a breakthrough in ensuring constant power electricity to serve the center.

Ultimately, in 2022, taking advantage of the fact that the



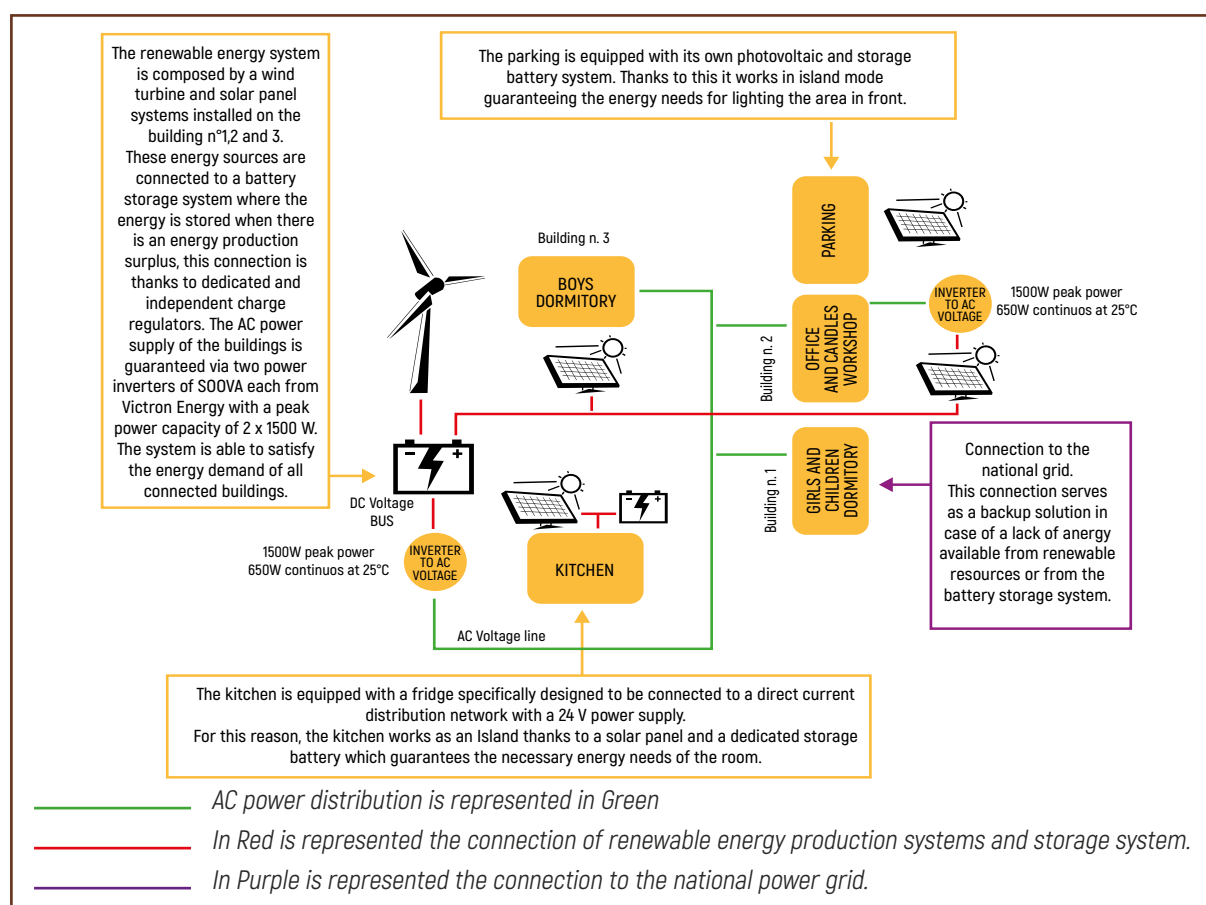


area where Malaika's national power line arrived, the shelter was connected to the grid always to have and still have a backup in cases of extreme emergency to ensure constant coverage at least to the freezer in operation at the center.

To date then, considering all the utilities installed in the various buildings a reasonable estimate of the power total installed power is 6.4 kW. The calculation is based on the summation of the individual powers of the utilities connected to the AC electrical system; 383 W of utilities that work in isolation (kitchen) and are therefore isolated from the main electrical system that is also connected to the national power grid.

The estimate of annual energy consumption was made through successive approximations that consider average equipment use during the day. Coefficients of utilization and contemporaneity were applied to the summation of the annual power calculation.

Consumption may vary depending on the use of the utilities during the day and the number of attendances of the staff and children on site. Considering a constant power output during the month and with an ambient temperature around 25°C, daily production of 31.2 kWh of energy can be estimated produced from renewable sources installed on site. This production would cover the monthly needs of a worst-case scenario by 97.3% (considering the 25kWh of consumption measured in a month). Considering an ambient temperature of around 40°C, the energy coverage from renewable sources would drop to 96.1%. A schematic of the installations in Malaika is depicted below. Considering the current cost per Kw of energy from the national grid of 365 Tanzanian Shillings (€0.15) equates to annual savings for Malaika of approximately €1,700.



Thanks to Eng. Riccardo Fares for his technical contribution in drafting this chapter.



# CANDLE FACTORY

## *Our contribution to the SDGs*



In 2017, Malaika embarked on a candle production project inspired by a board member's recommendation, drawing from his personal experience. Since its inception, the candle production and sales endeavor has proven to be a remarkable success, generating a substantial operating profit that covers nearly two staff salaries.

Initially, a dedicated production space was established by repurposing a former warehouse. The candles produced were initially sold exclusively through a store in Arusha and to a select group of customers.

However, the candle business quickly expanded and gained popularity. Today, Malaika's candles have a wider distribution network and are available in various locations. The growth in sales has not only increased profitability but has also provided additional support for the organization's operational expenses.

As demand for Malaika's candles continued to grow, the customer base expanded to include various establishments such as stores, restaurants, and nature lodges that sought to create an atmospheric ambiance with candlelight. More recently, visitors to Malaika and local residents have also started purchasing candles directly from the homestay or during the annual Christmas Fair held in Arusha.

In 2022, after two challenging years due to the halt in tourism, candle production significantly resumed, prompting the decision to embark on an expansion project. Two containers were installed on the premises, separate from the other buildings, and connected by a shared wall. The construction of a roof over this space is currently underway. These new workshop facilities will serve as dedicated spaces for candle production and storage, addressing the previous limitations in warehouse availability. This expansion will prevent lost orders resulting from insufficient storage capacity for both raw materials and finished products.

The new workshop will not only accommodate increased production but also incorporate solar panels for sustainable energy supply. Additionally, two 5,000-liter tanks will be installed to collect and store rainwater, further enhancing the facility's self-sufficiency and environmental sustainability.





AN ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN AN ITALIAN WEBZINE IN JANUARY 2023 RECOUNTS THE BIRTH AND PROGRESS OF CANDLE PRODUCTION IN MALAIKA.



ECONOMIA ETICA, IN PRIMO PIANO

## Malaika Children's Friends e la produzione di candele

06/01/2023 - 3 min di lettura

di Simona Valesi

Gioia, successi e tante candele colorate arrivano a Malaika, la Casa degli Angeli di Arusha in Tanzania, sostenuta da LU-VE Group e soprattutto dai suoi padrini Giulia Leone e Francesco Tiso che insieme alla fondatrice Jutta Kassam, assicurano un'istruzione di alto livello a tutti i bambini e adolescenti orfani, abbandonati o in bisogno di cure mediche ospiti della struttura.



L'iniziativa si è sempre sostenuta con le donazioni provenienti dall'estero ma negli ultimi anni le liberalità sono diminuite ed è sorta la necessità di trovare soluzioni che potessero mirare a un'indipendenza economica per affrontare le spese di gestione di Malaika, e da queste premesse nasce il nuovo laboratorio artigiano di candele che solo nel 2022 ha portato alla casa famiglia 30 milioni di scellini, pari a circa 13,000 euro.

Nel 2017 la produzione inizia per rifornire il negozio di uno dei consiglieri dell'associazione che ne aveva necessità e aveva proposto a Malaika di cogliere l'occasione per il facile guadagno; il passaparola porta altri clienti e in due anni raggiungono il ragguardevole fatturato di oltre 6.000 euro, arrivando a coprire quasi due stipendi dello staff. La crescita viene bloccata dal Covid ma riprende a pieno regime nel 2021 rifornendo anche alberghi e lodge per turisti, fino a che il locale dedicato alla produzione non è più sufficiente per permettere un incremento produttivo.



## PRESS REVIEW



Due container donati dalla società di navigazione Messina Line di Genova, ottenuti col contatto di Francesco e arrivati via terra con un TIR che ha destato non poca curiosità e apprensione in città, risolvono il problema dello spazio. Uno viene utilizzato per ampliare l'area produttiva e il secondo per la creazione di un magazzino che insieme danno la possibilità di accettare ulteriori ordini e consentire alla produzione nel 2022 di arrivare a 4,500 candele.

La domanda è in crescita, e le vendite aumentano grazie anche alle comunicazioni sul loro canale Instagram @malaikachildrenfriends, e al mercatino di Natale dove Jutta, oltre che a dirigere tutta l'attività, partecipa tutti gli anni con le produzioni più creative. Durante le vacanze i ragazzi, infatti, aiutano e danno libero sfogo alle loro fantasie creando candele molto attraenti.

Così si coprono le spese per le scuole private e il personale della struttura, si responsabilizzano i ragazzi e si punta a diventare indipendenti. Un ragazzo laureato in ingegneria ha chiesto di andare in un'officina per imparare come funzionano i motori e un altro diplomato si appresta a diventare ranger in un parco naturale, forse lo stesso Parco Nazionale di Arusha. Tra gli altri 5 diplomati, un ragazzo vuol fare il medico e una ragazza si iscriverà ad informatica. Tutti crescono responsabilmente nella grande famiglia di Malaika.

Molti vanno a fare volontariato in altri centri perché a Malaika s'insegna che è importante agire per gli altri. La filosofia è che il bene deve sempre girare, e i regali cui si può rinunciare possono essere donati ad altri bambini. "Abbiamo seminato, speriamo di raccogliere", dice Giulia con un sorriso. E la felicità si tocca con mano in questi giorni di festa.

Per continuare lo spirito della festa iniziato col periodo natalizio, auguriamo di rimanere nel flusso di portar gioia e successi, e invitiamo a comprare tante candele. Ogni volta che acquistate una candela Malaika, aiutate un bambino in difficoltà e fate girare il bene.



Fonte: <https://news.olisticmap.it/economia-etica/malaika-childrens-friends-e-la-produzione-di-candele/>





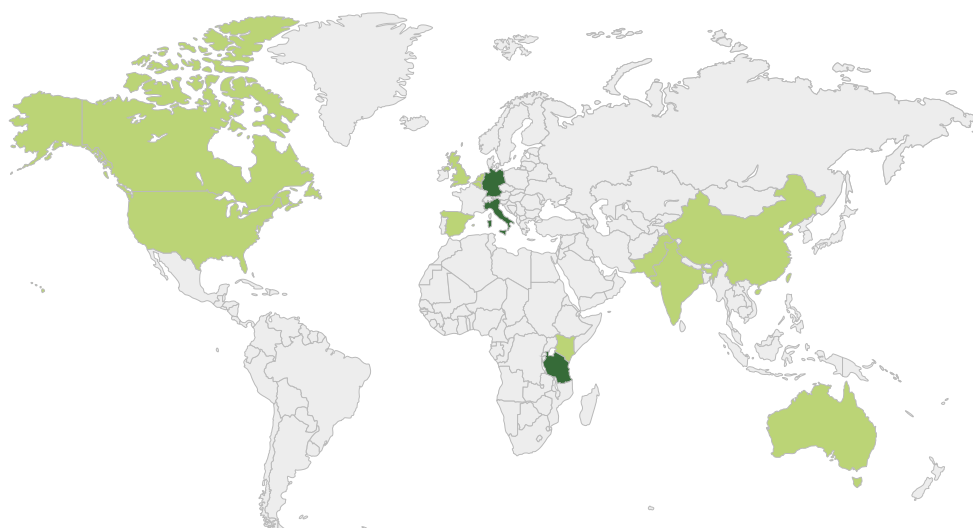
# 4

## FUNDRAISING AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



# DONORS AND DONATIONS

Supporters of Malaika Children's Friends activities donate from Tanzania, Italy, Germany, the United States, Australia, Spain, Canada, Holland, UK, Kenya, China, India, Pakistan and Belgium.

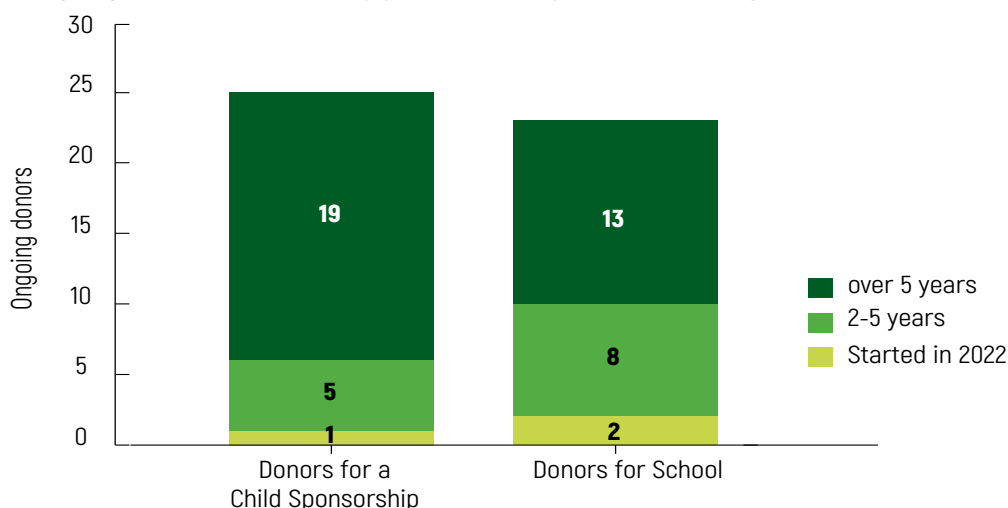


Some of them learned about the initiative from the stories of the founders, while others learned about Malaika through fundraising campaigns; others are travelers who got to know directly the shelter and went on supporting it over time.

For three consecutive years, for example, a group of Dutch families who had visited Malaika organized ongoing support to provide children and youth with problems in school with a teacher for home tutoring during vacations and on Saturdays.

A key factor for Malaika is establishing long term relationships with donors. The chart below shows that ongoing donors worldwide with a Child Sponsorship or a Scholarship are very loyal. Some of them support Malaika from over ten years.

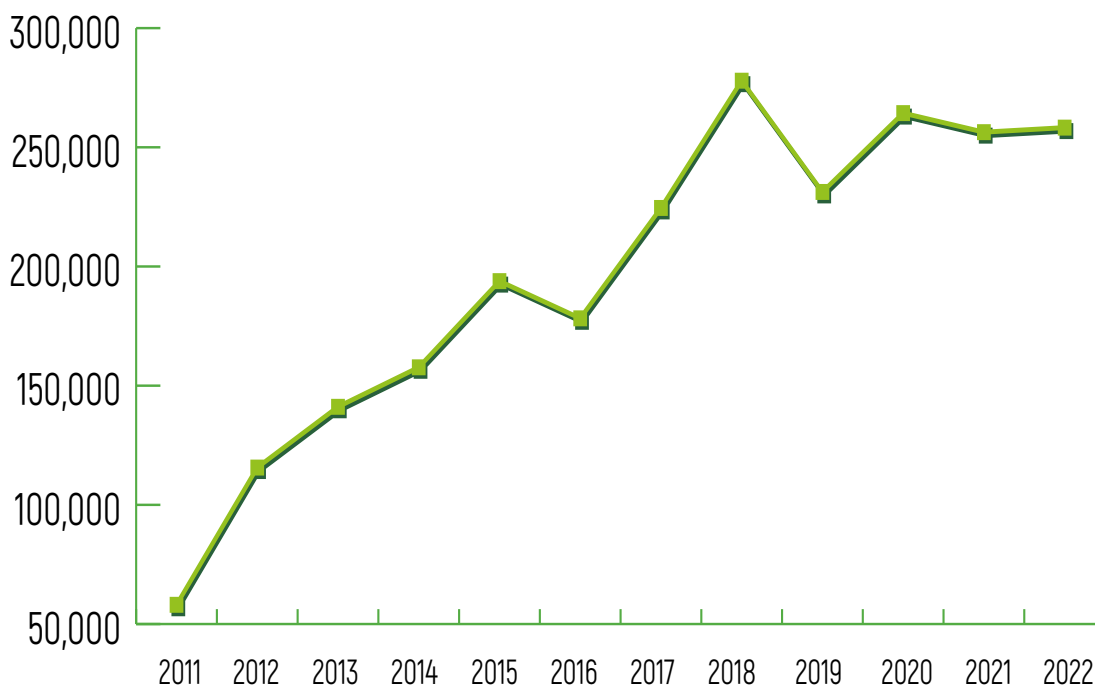
*Ongoing donors: for how many years have they been supporting Malaika?*





The trend of donations to Malaika has shown a consistent upward trajectory since 2011; however, it has experienced a slowdown in the past two years, likely attributed to the global economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

*Total donations collected (Euros)*



In Tanzania, despite the pandemic, the economic situation has not been seriously affected except for the tourism industry, which, before the pandemic, accounted for nearly 30% of the country's revenue.

This industry suffered severe losses due to the inability to travel globally, creating difficulties for all workers in the sector. This abrupt interruption of tourism also affected Malaika negatively due to the almost total halt in the sale of candles, being totally tied to the flow of tourism.

In response to the expected drop in donations, less noticeable in 2020 but more pronounced in following years, MCFI has implemented new communication and fundraising actions by organizing online events, using new fundraising platforms, a new database and newsletter system, and increasing communication on social media.



The following table shows details of total fundraising in the past three years. The figure, broken down into the three legal entities related to Malaika (MCFI, MK and MCFT) represents the actual consolidation of fundraising from sources outside the organization, presenting the fundraising figures in MCFT budget adjusted by disbursements received from Germany and Italy.

FUNDRAISING (IN EUROS)	2022	2021	2020
<b>Fundraising Malaika Children's Friends ITALY</b>			
DONATIONS	152,171	157,411	188,860
FUNDRAISING 5XMILLE*	55,313	71,913	48,315
<b>Fundraising Malaika Kids GERMANY</b>			
DONATIONS	-	5,797	8,257
FROM FOUNDATIONS	27,063	13,621	-
<b>Fundraising Malaika Children's Friends TANZANIA</b>			
DONATIONS, DONATIONS IN KIND, REVENUES	23,708	7,598	18,910
REVENUES FROM CANDLE PRODUCTION	13,250	4,198	661
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271,505</b>	<b>260,538</b>	<b>265,002</b>

\* '5xmille': The Italian Tax Authority allows a portion (five per thousand) of your personal income taxes (IRPEF) to support a non-profit organization of your choice.

**Italy** - Donations flowing into Italy also include donations from the US and UK, made through the Global Giving (GG) platform on which Malaika has been accredited since 2017 (it should be noted that accreditation is done through a due diligence activity carried out by GG staff and repeated every two years). Using such a platform has a twofold advantage: on the one hand, it exposes Malaika to a larger audience of possible donors through GG's various initiatives. On the other, it provides donors in the US and UK with tax-deductible receipts. This platform also includes donations from Canada, Australia, and other countries.

MCFI organizes most of the fundraising initiatives to support MCFT's projects. Fundraising in Italy, which totaled €207,485 in 2022, is composed as follows:

DONORS	2022
INDIVIDUAL DONORS	56,593 €
COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATIONS	57,200 €
FUNDRAISING 5XMILLE	55,313 €
CHRISTMAS AND EASTER CAMPAIGNS	38,379 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>207,485 €</b>

Individual donors, who are very much involved also in Christmas and Easter campaigns, represent the most significant numerical component of MCFI's donors and span somewhat all types of donations: Child Sponsorship, Scholarships, General donations to the project. Often, these donors are the same ones who support MCFI through the '5xmille' contribution, which has always been relevant to fundraising.





MCFI has also always been able to rely on significant support from companies it has come in contact with. They support the project through cash donations and the provision of goods and services. Lastly, collaboration with various associations has also allowed to count on a considerable flow of resources over the years.

Some of the closest companies have also helped in the supply at cost price, or sometimes for free, of the goods proposed in the Christmas and Easter fundraising campaigns: Chiostro di Saronno for traditional cakes, La Delizia for wines, Mutti and Caseificio Zucchelli for food specialities. The communication agency Blue Reflex has also been contributing to MCFI in various forms since 2012, mainly providing free design of brochures and promotional materials for fundraising.

**Germany** - Part of the fundraising is also carried out in a structured way in Germany by MK, with donors confirming their Child Sponsorship to a specific child year after year and with proceeds from the Christmas Market. Donations collected in 2022 will be disbursed in early 2023. In the last two years three Scholarships have also transited through MK arriving directly from the Aumund Foundation, a foundation focused on supporting schooling in countries with disadvantaged situations.

**Tanzania** - In Tanzania, donations are collected at the shelter or from local donors, individuals and companies who know MCFT and routinely support it. Malaika also collect the proceeds from the sale of candles produced at MCFT. Finally, a few donations arrive from the families of origin of some children, especially those who still have a parent who cannot take care of their son or daughter. These are small cash donations, but also donations in kind of food goods, when the family of origin is active in agriculture. MCFT also collects donations directly from other countries, particularly from the United States, Canada, India, Australia, and Pakistan, through direct contacts and visit of travelers who become fond of the initiative.



# VOLUNTEERS

Malaika has made a conscious decision not to rely heavily on volunteers in order to protect the emotional well-being of the children. The organization believes that repeated abandonment resulting from short-term volunteer engagements can be detrimental to the children's attachment and stability.

However, over time, a small number of compassionate donors have become volunteers, driven by their desire to establish a lasting connection with the shelter. These dedicated individuals visit Malaika repeatedly for extended periods each year, demonstrating exceptional sensitivity and commitment to the project.

To optimize their impact, Malaika schedules these intermittent volunteer periods primarily during school vacations such as December-January, June, or early September. During these times, when the house is filled with children, the invaluable assistance provided by volunteers greatly supports the management of the shelter.

Malaika deeply appreciates the devotion and ongoing support of these committed volunteers, as they contribute significantly to the well-being and development of the children in their care. The organization strives to create a balance that allows for meaningful interactions while prioritizing the children's stability and emotional needs.

## Testimony 1

*I live in Australia and I have been a volunteer at Malaika Children's Friends Shelter in Arusha since 2007. Each year I stay between 7 weeks and 6 months and returned from my 15th visit in July 2022. Malaika has provided shelter and support to many of the vulnerable children of Arusha and surrounding districts. The love, care and support given to these children is amazing. The Director, Jutta, and the staff at Malaika ensure that each child's needs are attended to as they arise, so that they have the best opportunity in later life. Friends of Malaika work hard to attain sponsorship for each child so that they have the best possible education. All children attend private schools, and this is a great achievement. We feel education is the key to fighting poverty giving the children the best chance of employment.*

*All staff are trained in different areas, such as, supporting abused children, managing the house and farming etc. Having diverse skills to call upon is important in providing the best possible outcomes.*

## Testimony 2

*I am 30 years old, Italian, pedagogist, and have volunteered with Malaika Children's Friends for seven years. The first time I left, I was a 24-year-old girl who just graduated and was determined to contribute to Africa. The second time in Africa, I lived three months with them eating, sleeping, playing, teaching reading, writing and counting, offering experiences to children. I gave them all my love, but I received much more, and they were the best months of my life. Then the Covid arrived and kept us apart for three years, worried about each other, so distant in different continents.*



*That certainly didn't stop me, and last year I went back to Tanzania to spend Christmas holidays with all the kids. Then I got married and Malaika was, of course, present at the wedding through the solidarity favors, candles, and the wonderful video greeting we received from the children. I am connected to a little girl who is very special to me, whom I have been sponsoring since the first year, giving her the emotional but also economical help she needs to grow. For me, however, all children are important, even those who are no longer in Malaika because they have returned to their families or have been adopted.*

Since a long time ago, moreover, an established group of donors from the United States, accompanying travelers on bicycle touring routes, has been passing through Malaika staying there for a few days doing volunteer work such as painting walls and arranging the rabbit hutches or palisades.

Other donors work as volunteers in their countries by organizing fundraisers for Christmas and Easter campaigns, at craft markets and at occasional events such as concerts or countryside festivals.



### **Testimony 3**

*I am a volunteer from Milan, Italy. I got to know Malaika in 2011, and in 2014, with my sister and our families, we visited the shelter in Arusha, where we met the child we are still supporting with a sponsorship. He was then about ten years old and has grown into a handsome young man completing high school.*

*From Italy, I support Malaika by helping out along with other volunteers during Christmas and Easter campaigns to sell traditional Italian cakes and Tanzanian handicrafts.*

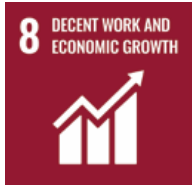
*The campaigns begin with collecting orders from our supporters, who have become over the years more and more numerous and loyal. The arrival of the van that delivers the many pallets loaded with products is always a thrill. In the intense days of delivery of the products, I also spend very nice moments because our friends always have words of support for the initiative. And when we finally deliver the last 'panettone' or the last 'colomba' cake, we are tired but happy knowing that "what we do is just a drop in the ocean, but if we didn't do it the ocean would have one less drop," as Mother Teresa of Calcutta states.*





# FUNDRAISING AND DONORS COMMUNICATIONS

## *Our contribution to the SDGs*



To stay connected with donors, Malaika utilizes effective communication channels including emails, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings. Donors who participate in programs like Child Sponsorship or Scholarships, residing primarily in Italy but also in Germany, the United States, Kenya, and Australia, receive annual email updates. These updates provide comprehensive information about the children's educational journey and showcase their growth through photographs.

During the festive season, Malaika seizes the opportunity to express gratitude by sending personalized greetings to all supporters. Whether it's a heartfelt drawing or a thoughtful greeting card, these tokens of appreciation are shared with donors via email or traditional mail.

The daily life in Malaika is meticulously documented through various social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, alongside regular updates on the organization's website and through a quarterly newsletter. To ensure inclusivity, the newsletter is crafted in three languages: Italian, English, and Spanish, reaching a total of 1,242 subscribers. Malaika also utilizes platforms like Global Giving, which provide reporting tools to send frequent updates to donors across the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries worldwide.

During the Christmas and Easter holidays in Italy, Malaika orchestrates fundraising campaigns that involve the creation of a catalog in October and February. This catalog showcases seasonal products, including delectable cakes and baskets filled with diverse food items, as well as handcrafted goods made from African fabrics and candles produced by MCFT. The catalog is available for a limited time, enabling supporters to make meaningful purchases that contribute to Malaika's cause.

In 2020, amidst the height of the pandemic, when traditional markets and home deliveries were not feasible, an innovative Easter fundraiser was organized. Supporters purchased the traditional 'colomba' cakes, which were then delivered to the medical staff at the Milan Polyclinic Hospital and young patients in the pediatric ward. The proceeds from the cake donations were directed to Malaika, effectively benefiting both Malaika and the Polyclinic. This inspiring initiative allowed generous donors to contribute to two worthy causes.

Given the challenges of organizing physical events or banquets due to pandemic restrictions and uncertainties, Malaika adapted by arranging online meetings in 2020 and 2021. These virtual guided tours in art and nature, led by a volunteer art expert, were enthusiastically attended by supporters, fostering new connections and creating engaging experiences.

Malaika holds a strong bond with longtime supporters during significant life events, such as anniversaries, weddings, and birthdays. Through the creation of exquisite wedding favors using Tanzanian fabrics or personalized scrolls, Malaika ensures that supporters feel connected and valued. After a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic, ceremony-related activities resumed in 2022, bringing joy and celebration back to these special occasions.

Furthermore, Malaika witnesses the passion and commitment of its supporters extending beyond Italy. In Germany and Australia, independent markets and fundraising gatherings are organized by supporters to engage and inform local donors, spreading awareness about Malaika's mission and garnering support from diverse communities.



## PRESS REVIEW

IN THE ARTICLES PUBLISHED ON THE MAIN ITALIAN NEWSPAPER CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND IN THE WEBZINE IGIORNALEDEINAVIGLI.IT, YOU CAN READ ABOUT THE OPERATION THAT LED TO THE DONATION OF 'COLOMBA' CAKES TO POLYCLINIC HOSPITAL, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Venerdì 10 Aprile 2020 Corriere della Sera

### Onlus Malaika

#### Colombe solidali per il personale e i piccoli degenti del Policlinico

Acquisto una colomba ma non la mangio: la regalo. L'idea è di Malaika, piccola onlus milanese che si occupa di un'omonima casa famiglia in Tanzania, circa 30 tra bebè, bambini e ragazzi orfani o abbandonati ([www.malaika-childrenfriends.org](http://www.malaika-childrenfriends.org)). Per l'emergenza coronavirus non si possono distribuire le colombe

«Chiostro di Saronno» con cui di solito Malaika si autofinanzia, già a magazzino. Che fare? D'accordo con gli acquirenti-donatori, più di 200 dolci sono stati donati al Policlinico, per il personale e soprattutto per i piccoli degenti del reparto Pediatria. (c.v.)

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ATTUALITÀ Cesano Boscone - 13 Aprile 2020

### Duecento colombe in dono al Policlinico da un orfanotrofio in Tanzania

Un bel gesto per medici, infermieri e operatori e per i piccoli che devono trascorrere questi giorni di emergenza in ospedale.



#### Duecento colombe in dono al Policlinico da un orfanotrofio in Tanzania

CUSAGO – Un regalo speciale da un orfanotrofio in Tanzania, quello gestito dalla onlus Malaika di Cusago che ogni anno dona colombe pasquali ai bambini, 30 piccoli e ragazzi orfani in difficoltà.

Giulia Leone

"Quest'anno non abbiamo potuto recapitare il dono – spiega Giulia Leone dell'associazione – ma abbiamo chiesto comunque ai nostri sostenitori di contribuire per acquistare i dolci, da donare al Policlinico di Milano e al reparto di Pediatria. Un dono per medici, infermieri e operatori e per i piccoli che devono trascorrere questi giorni di emergenza in ospedale. "In tanti hanno aderito – ancora Leone –.

#### I ringraziamenti

Il nostro ringraziamento va a Blue Reflex Advertising, agenzia con sede a Cusago, che fin dall'inizio appoggia per la comunicazione tutte le iniziative di Malaika, alla famiglia Lazzaroni che ha donato cento colombe del Chiostro di Saronno, e a tutti i sostenitori che hanno consentito di mettere a punto questa importante iniziativa". Duecento i dolci consegnati all'ospedale, con uno speciale messaggio di sostegno da parte dell'orfanotrofio di Malaika in Tanzania.

#### La situazione in Tanzania

"Lì il contagio è arrivato da un paio di settimane ed è ancora di dimensioni piuttosto limitate: una ventina di persone – spiegano dalla onlus –. Ma il Paese si è chiuso al mondo. Del resto il turismo era già cessato in quanto i voli intercontinentali si erano praticamente interrotti. Speriamo che queste misure riescano a tutelare la Tanzania e l'Africa in generale contro il diffondersi del coronavirus, vista la debolezza del sistema sanitario del Paese".



## HOW FUNDS ARE USED

The fundraising effort is to match donors' expectations with the needs of the children in Malaika. Some donors, through Child sponsorships or Scholarships, allocate precisely the goal for their donation, but most, instead, entrust their contributions generically to Malaika, which uses them entirely to cover current expenses and all investments necessary for the maintenance of the family home and the development of new projects.

The table below shows the financial inflows and outflows for the past three years. To present pro forma consolidated values, including values recorded through Tanzanian financial statements, the figures have been converted to euros using the average annual TZS/€ exchange rate obtained from Bankitalia data.

GENERATION AND USE OF CASH FLOWS				
(Figures in €)				
		2022	2021	2020
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	INDIVIDUALS	70,513	96,077	94,295
	COMPANIES, ASSOCIATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS	84,263	47,694	39,641
	CHRISTMAS AND EASTER CAMPAIGNS	41,923	40,667	32,205
	5XMILLE*	55,313	71,913	98,200
<b>SELF-FINANCING</b>		13,250	4,188	661
<b>OTHER REVENUES</b>		6,243	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES GENERATED</b>		<b>271,505</b>	<b>260,539</b>	<b>265,002</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	PROJECT	215,739	185,386	245,170
	FUNDRAISING	26,432	26,255	20,010
	OVERHEAD OF THE FACILITY	13,421	8,369	4,177
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>255,592</b>	<b>220,010</b>	<b>269,357</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>		<b>15,914</b>	<b>40,529</b>	<b>(4,355)</b>

\* In 2020, the contribution received from the Italian government through taxpayers' '5xmille' program was notably substantial, as two installments were disbursed instead of the usual single payment.





The primary objective is to allocate a significant portion of the funds raised to cover current expenses essential for the functioning of the center and to invest in infrastructure. These investments are crucial for maintaining the existing buildings, which are prone to deterioration due to the nature of the soil on which the center is constructed, as well as for implementing new initiatives.

The "Other Revenues" category in 2022 includes the proceeds from the sale of a means of transportation, generating a modest cash influx. The following table provides a breakdown of the expenses incurred by the center, which amounted to 217,000 € in 2022. The absolute increase compared to 2021 incorporates a notable component attributable to the exchange rate effect, resulting from the appreciation of the Tanzanian Shilling against the Euro.

DETAILS MANAGEMENT COSTS				
[Figures in €]				
		2022	2021	2020
COSTS	STAFF	58,735	28,942	37,544
	HOUSEKEEPING	34,294	28,120	26,506
	FOOD AND TOILETTRIES	7,716	8,948	11,639
	SCHOOL (1)	76,149	60,764	42,258
	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	7,223	11,526	12,691
INVESTMENTS		33,391	33,492	2,152
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES		217,508	171,792	134,810

*(1) Includes expenses paid directly by foundations for the school*

In 2022, regarding only the expenses in the center, the largest portion, approximately 35 percent of the total, was allocated to education costs, with a significant portion covered by dedicated Scholarships. Staff expenses accounted for 27 percent of the budget, while housekeeping expenses, including minor maintenance, utilities, and farm-related expenses, comprised around 16 percent. The expenses related to food purchases decreased due to the increased productivity of cultivated areas.

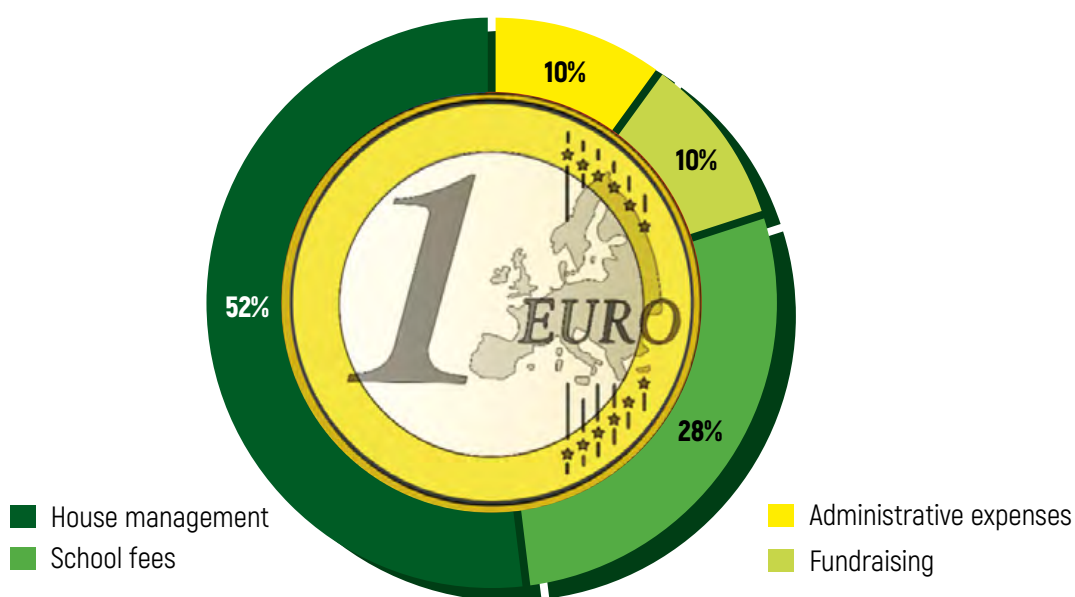
Administrative expenses, which constituted 3 percent of the center's total expenses, encompassed bookkeeping in compliance with Tanzanian regulations, licence fees and insurance coverage for the health and property of the center. During 2022, for example, thanks to the existing insurance coverage, it was possible to recover the large expenses generated by damage suffered by the wind turbine. Additionally, the MCFT board proactively decided to subject the annual budget to an independent external audit.



Capital expenditures accounted for 15 percent of the overall project expenditures and were primarily directed towards significant building maintenance and the commencement of construction for the candle factory.

Taking into account not only the direct expenses incurred by the center but also those related to overall administration and fundraising activities in Italy, the breakdown of expenses for 2022 is as follows:

*DETAILS MANAGEMENT COSTS 2022 (in %)*



Approximately 80 percent of the total expenses are dedicated to the direct maintenance of the center, ensuring the well-being and sustenance of the children. The remaining 20 percent is evenly divided between fundraising efforts and overhead expenses.

Fundraising expenses primarily involve the purchase of goods used in campaigns, including popular items like panettone, colomba cakes, and sparkling wine. Additionally, handcrafted products sourced from local African artisans and nonprofits are featured. A small portion of the funds is allocated to marketing activities, such as brochures for fundraising campaigns, including the 5xmille campaign.

The remaining overhead expenses, all incurred in Italy, encompass various aspects. These include the management and constant updating of the donor database, engaging in donor contact activities, and the cost of maintaining an active presence on social media platforms. Lastly, expenses related to the drafting of this Annual report are also accounted for in the overhead category.



## THE CONTROL SYSTEM

The control system implemented by Malaika has been primarily developed within its Tanzanian legal entity. With the exception of expenses related to fundraising and external contributions for International School Scholarships, all operational expenses are incurred directly in Tanzania. Over the years, the organization has recognized the importance of establishing an effective management control system and implementing procedures to ensure thorough oversight of financial flows. This includes documenting loading and warehouse unloading, maintaining tax receipts for every expenditure, and recording receipts for all donated goods received from external sources.

The system has undergone continuous improvement and has proven to be both user-friendly and effective in monitoring expenses. Daily expenses are meticulously recorded in an Excel program, allowing for easy categorization based on the nature of the costs. This enables immediate control and tracking of various expenditures such as salaries, social security charges, school-related expenses, groceries, household products, utilities, transportation, administration, and more. Simultaneously, expenses are uploaded to the actual accounting system, Quickbook, which is supervised by an external auditor.

Efforts have been made to minimize expenditures without receipts to less than 1 percent by gradually eliminating suppliers unable to provide proper documentation. The exceptions to this rule are limited to "public" transportation options such as "piki piki" (motorcycles) and "dala dala" (small private vehicles) which serve as the main modes of public transportation available.

Monthly comparisons are conducted between the Work File, reconciled with the Quickbook accounting system, and the Budget that is prepared and approved annually by the MCFT Board in December. This allows for timely actions to be taken as necessary to ensure financial stability and adherence to the budget.

Malaika's Financial Statements, prepared in accordance with the "International Public Sector Accounting Standards" (IPSAS), including the ones for 2021 and 2022, have been diligently compiled by the Operating Directors under the supervision of the Head of Accounting, in compliance with the regulations set forth by the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA). Auditors and Accountants Act no. 33 of 1972, later amended by Act number 2 of 1995. Additionally, all financial statements undergo voluntary audits conducted by independent auditing firms.

MCFT also, in compliance with applicable Tanzanian laws, prepares a series of reports that are sent to the Tanzanian authorities responsible for monitoring the centers housing children:

- Monthly reports are sent to Social Welfare regarding the children housed, their status health and their activities, and, annually, a management report is sent along with the Audited Financial Statements;
- the Authority that governs the operating NGOs in Tanzania is sent quarterly a report summarizing the summary of economic magnitudes pertaining to the center and, annually, a report summarizing of financial activities together with the Audited Financial Statements.





The Italian legal entity uses an accounting system that is periodically updated. An outside firm of independent certified public accountants and auditors manages this system. The movements are very simple and reduced in number: in fact, they are, on the one hand, income for donations and, on the other, direct remittances to MCFT to cover project costs. To these are added limited costs for maintaining the facility and for fundraising.

MCFI's financial statements as of 12/31/2021 and 12/31/2022 were prepared by the new provisions of the schedules (the "forms" referred to in Article 13 of the Third Sector Code) provided by the **Ministerial Decree March 5, 2020**, and also by the national accounting standard "**Oic 35 - Ets accounting standard,**" **published by the Italian Accounting Organization (OIC), is the standard setter of the Italian accounting standards, on February 4, 2022**".

With no significant activity, MK does not need to prepare proper financial statements but is limited to preparing a very simplified economic situation.

## THE METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

### REPORTING BOUNDARY

The reporting perimeter of this Annual report (hereinafter also referred to as "Report") includes the activities of the three legal entities that contribute, in different forms, to the construction of the overall. Specifically:

- "Malaika Children's Friends ONLUS," hereinafter also "MCFI" (Italy);
- "Malaika Kids e.V.," hereinafter also "MK" (Germany);
- "Malaika Children's Friends," hereinafter "MCFT" (Tanzania).

It is specified that the above entities have no shareholding relationship. However, the activities of the three organizations appear to be interconnected. The two European entities, particularly, are focused on fundraising activities, seeking school sponsorships and funding for special projects. In addition, the Italian entity is also directly involved in the shelter's management, ensuring a constant presence at the center. On the other hand, the operational activities of running the center are the responsibility of the legal entity under Tanzanian law that operates with the recognized status of a Humanitarian Operator registered in the Tanzanian government's NGO registry.

Within the document, we therefore refer to "Malaika Children's Friends," "Malaika," or "the organization" as an aggregate of the three legal entities listed above, although independent of each other.



## REPORTING GUIDELINES AND REFERENCE STANDARDS

For the first year, Malaika Children's friends decided to prepare the Annual Report, a tool of fundamental transparency for communicating and reporting on the commitments made by the organization to its stakeholders. In particular, the contents of the Annual Report provide a presentation of the activities, distinctive features and main changes that the organization has triggered through the projects and initiatives undertaken over the years.

The preparation of the Annual Report was set up by aligning itself voluntarily with the indications of the Guidelines of the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (approved by Ministerial Decree 04/07/2019), from which derive the principles applied to ensure the quality of information: relevance, completeness, transparency, neutrality, period accrual, comparability, clarity, truthfulness, and verifiability, reliability.

For the reporting of its social, economic and environmental performance, Malaika has chosen to adopt the Sustainability Reporting Standards published in 2021 by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

Malaika has therefore reported the information in the 2022 Annual Report for the period between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022 in the manner "concerning the GRI Standards." The GRI Standards suggest, in fact, the use of indicators designed, particularly from the perspective of for-profit organizations of medium to large size organizations. Therefore, Malaika has chosen to use them as a reference of the reporting according to the "with reference to" mode, which, by allowing the selection of a part of the disclosures, appears to be the most consistent for the type of reality that Malaika represents.

In this regard, the GRI Content Index at the end of the document lists the GRI Standards selected and the connection with the contents of the sections of the Annual Report.

## REPORTING PERIOD

As already described, this Annual report deals with information and data on financial and non-financial relating to the reporting period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. Where possible, 2021 data and information are provided, with the aim to carry out a comparison and analysis of Malaika's performance, also in order to respect the principle of comparability provided by the GRI Standards.

Being the first Annual Report of the organization, in order to represent at best the development and evolution of Malaika over time for some particularly significant data it offers a representation of the information over 12 years, from 2011 to 2022, from the creation of MCFI. The organization plans to disclose non-financial performance annually.

## APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION

The Annual Report was shared and approved by the Chairman of the organization and is available on the website at [www.malaika-childrenfriends.org/annual-reports](http://www.malaika-childrenfriends.org/annual-reports). For further requests please contact: [info@malaika-childrenfriends.org](mailto:info@malaika-childrenfriends.org). The approved budget of Malaika Children's Friends Italia for the year 2022 is available on the Malaika website in the section Charter and Financial Statements.



# GRI CONTENT INDEX

STATEMENT OF USE	Malaika Children's Friends Onlus has reported the information in the Annual report 2022 for the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 in the manner "with reference to the GRI Standards."			
GRI 1	GRI 1: Core Principles 2021			
GRI STANDARD DISCLOSURES	DISCLOSURE	LOCATION		NOTES / OMISSIONS
		SECTION	PAGE NUMBER	
General Disclosures				
GRI 2: GENERAL DISCLOSURES 2021	2-1 Organizational details	1. Malaika: who we are	9	-
	2-2 Entities included in the organization's sustainability reporting	The Governance: Tanzania, Italy and Germany; Methodological note	18, 72	-
	2-3 Reporting period, frequency and point of contact	Methodological note	72	-
	2-6 Activities, value chain and other business relationships	3. The shelter	29	-
	2-7 Employees	Malaika staff; Methodological note	43, 77	The employees all work in Tanzania.
	2-22 Development strategy statement	Letter from the founder and the chairman	5	-
	2-29 Approach to stakeholder engagement	Stakeholders	22	-
MATERIAL THEMES				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-1 Process for determining material themes	Material themes	26	Although there is no timely reporting of impacts, this was considered when identifying material themes, considering the impacts generated as a starting point
	3-2 List of material themes	Material themes	26	Item b. not applicable as 2022 is the first year of reporting. Material theme: well-being, care and protection of children's growth





GRI STANDARD DISCLOSURES	DISCLOSURE	LOCATION		NOTES / OMISSIONS
		SECTION	PAGE NUMBER	
Material theme: well-being, care and protection of children’s growth				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-3 Management of material themes	Youth care; Specific projects	34, 37	-
Material theme: Protecting diversity and ensuring full inclusion for all				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-3 Management of material themes	Youth care; Specific projects	34, 37	-
Material theme: Training, development and school continuity				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-3 Management of material themes	Youth care; Specific projects	34, 37	-
Material theme: staff welfare and training				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-3 Management of material themes	Malaika’s staff	43	-
GRI 405: DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY 2016	405-1 Diversity in governance bodies and among employees	The Governance: Tanzania, Italy and Germany; Malaika’s staff; Methodological note	18, 43, 77	Indicator reported in absolute values as, given the small numbers, % would be insignificant. The breakdown by age group has been adapted to the specifics of the area (junior/ senior) and is between 23 and 49 years old. No other relevant diversity indicators are reported
Material theme: Dialogue with the local community				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-3 Management of material themes	Outreach: family reunification; Local community support; Self-supporting food and water management	41, 50, 51	-



GRI STANDARD DISCLOSURES	DISCLOSURE	LOCATION		NOTES / OMISSIONS
		SECTION	PAGE NUMBER	
Material theme: Ethics and transparency in the management, reporting and communication of activities				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-3 Management of material themes	Good daily management practices; Fundraising and donors communication; How funds are used; The control system	49, 66, 68, 71	-
Material theme: Continuity and diversification of sources and donations				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-3 Management of material themes	Scholarships; Candle factory; Donors and donations	39, 56, 60	-
Material theme: Sustainability and adequacy of the structure				
GRI 3: MATERIAL THEMES 2021	3-3 Management of material themes	Sustainable facility management;	51	-
GRI 302: ENERGY 2016		Energy management; Methodological note	54, 77	Reported point c.i. The conversion factor used is 0.0036 GJ/kWh [source: DEFRA - UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting].



GRI 2-7	DATA AS OF 12/31/2022 (NUMBER OF PEOPLE)			DATA AS OF 12/31/2021 (NUMBER OF PEOPLE)		
	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
PERMANENT EMPLOYEES	0	0	0	0	0	0
FIXED-TERM EMPLOYEES	3	5	8	3	5	8
NON-GUARANTEED HOURLY EMPLOYEES	0	0	0	0	0	0
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	3	5	8	3	5	8
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

GRI 405-1	DATA AS OF 12/31/2022 (NUMBER OF PEOPLE)			DATA AS OF 12/31/2021 (NUMBER OF PEOPLE)		
	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
JUNIOR	2	2	4	2	2	4
SENIOR	1	3	4	1	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>

GRI 302-1	2022	
	UoM	CONSUMPTION
ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION	kWh	12,196.6
	GJ	43.9





# THANKS

A heartfelt thanks to all Malaika's supporters: individuals, associations and companies that support Malaika with their donations and in many other forms.



Legnano Castello Le Robinie



Piccoli progetti per alleviare le sofferenze dei bambini



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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generous companies that have supported us  
by providing products for our Christmas and Easter campaigns



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A special thanks to BLUREFLEX  
who follows Malaika's communication



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The document was prepared with  
the methodological support of PwC professionals

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## HOW TO SUPPORT MALAIKA

### **Make a bank transfer**

Malaika Children's Friends

IBAN: IT 57 C 030 6909 6061 0000 0063 382

Codice BIC / SWIFT: BCITITMM

Banca Intesa San Paolo

### **Donate directly to our webpage**

<https://dona.malaika-childrenfriends.org>

### **For US donors**

[bit.ly/malaikacf](https://bit.ly/malaikacf)

**The keyword cloud on the back cover was created from the interviews conducted to create this Annual Report.**





**Malaika**  
children's friends



[malaika-childrenfriends.org](http://malaika-childrenfriends.org)