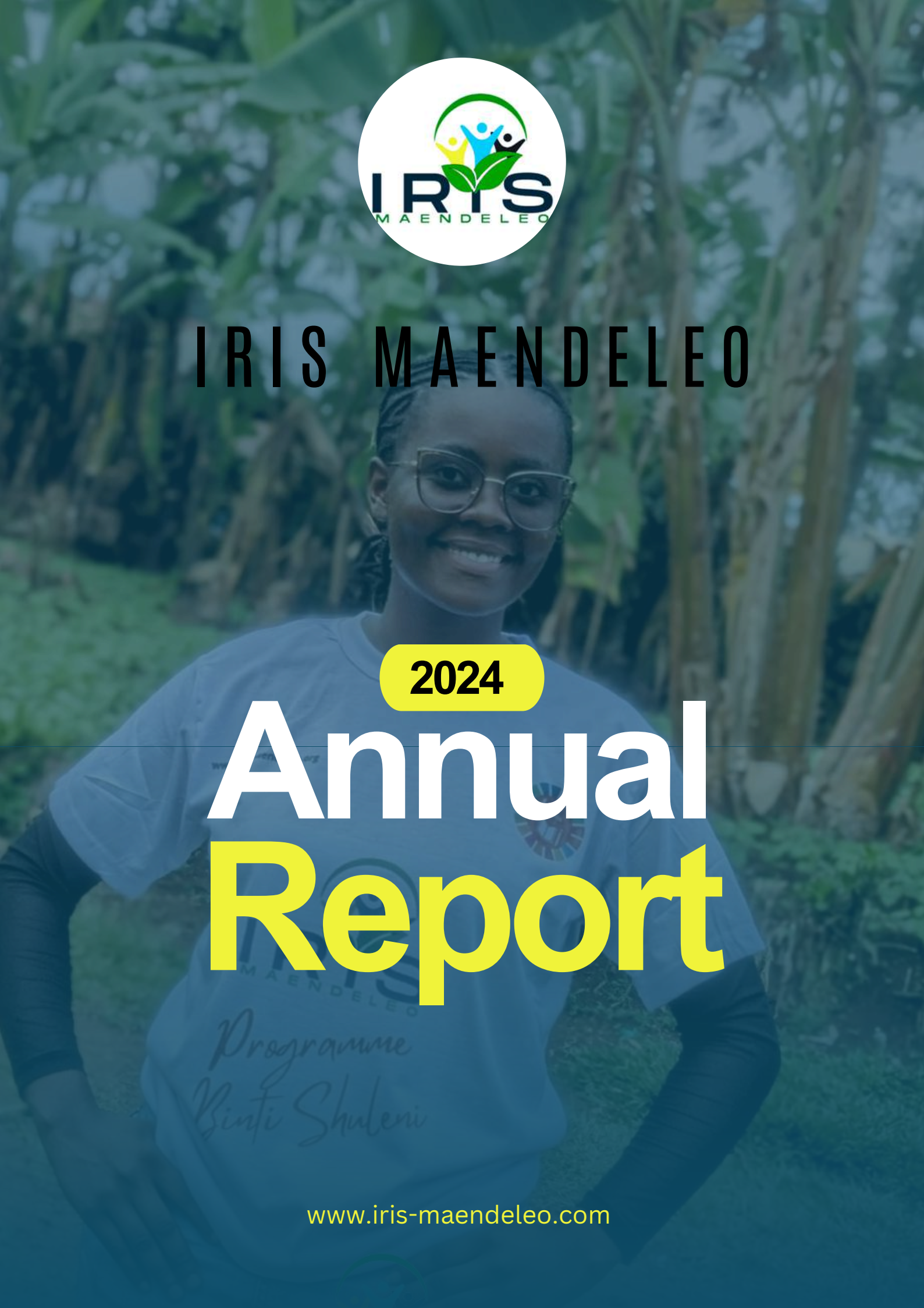


IRIS MAENDELEO

2024

Annual Report

www.iris-maendeleo.com

OUR ORGANIZATION

"Giving forgotten children the colors of a future."



ABOUT US

IRIS MAENDELEO is a humanitarian association based in the Democratic Republic of Congo, dedicated to vulnerable children and youth; orphans, displaced persons, and victims of conflicts, violence or poverty.
Our mission is to provide them with multisectoral support to ensure their inclusion, protection and development in the DR Congo.

The association stands as a living tribute to the compassionate work of Swiss couple Jürg and Iris Steinlin. For decades, they have been committed to supporting at-risk children, youth and families across Africa and Asia.

OUR OBJECTIVES

01 **PROTECT & SUPPORT**
Children affected by war and crisis

02 **ENSURE**
Equitable access to education and health

03 **PROMOTE**
Women & youth entrepreneurship and community resilience.

Changing lives, building tomorrow. *IRIS MAENDELEO works alongside the most vulnerable in the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS' DESK

As the Co-founder and CEO of IRIS MAENDELEO, I am deeply humbled to reflect on the journey we have undertaken together in our mission to bring hope and dignity to vulnerable children and youth in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Growing up in a conflict-affected region in eastern DRC, I witnessed firsthand the challenges that my community face; poverty, hunger, lack of access to education, and the constant struggle for safety. These experiences shaped my life and gave birth to a strong conviction: that no child or young people should be denied the opportunity to thrive simply because of the circumstances into which they were born.

With a background in agronomy and a heart anchored in volunteering, I began working to empower youth through entrepreneurship and innovation. These efforts laid the groundwork for what would become IRIS MAENDELEO as a vision turned into action. This association was created as a response to the urgent needs in my community, focusing on food security, health, education, and protection.

IRIS MAENDELEO is also a tribute to the remarkable legacy of Jürg and Iris Steinlin, a Swiss couple whose compassion has touched countless lives across Africa and Asia. Their commitment to my family and other people in need inspired the very foundation of our work. In honoring them, we carry forward a spirit of love, inclusion, and shared humanity.

Today, we envision a Congo where every child and young vulnerable grows up with dignity, security and equal access to opportunities. This vision is not only a dream, but also a collective mission we share with our partners, donors, and the communities we serve.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are planting seeds of hope and building a better future for the children and youth of Congo.

With gratitude,

Erick Nunda

Co-founder & CEO
IRIS MAENDELEO



IRIS MAENDELEO



ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

BINTI SHULENI PROGRAM



Career vision (translated from Swahili language)

"Hello! I am **Anita Shabani** 10 old. My career vision is to become a **teacher** to facilitate education access for other orphaned children".

Documentary
https://youtu.be/AlE29JrCW_E?si=pouD-m7zspXdoLYy

Activity sequence
https://youtu.be/52RlcTHXh30?si=CU_MZR5hf8T7Fadc

SUMMARY

"Binti Shuleni" is in Swahili language that means "Girl at school". This program aims to support inclusive, quality education (SDG4) and promote girls' education (SDG5) by assisting vulnerable orphan girls aged 5-11.
The pilot program assisted 50 rural orphan girls in Kashenyi, South Kivu province, by providing school kits and supporting pre-school nutrition.







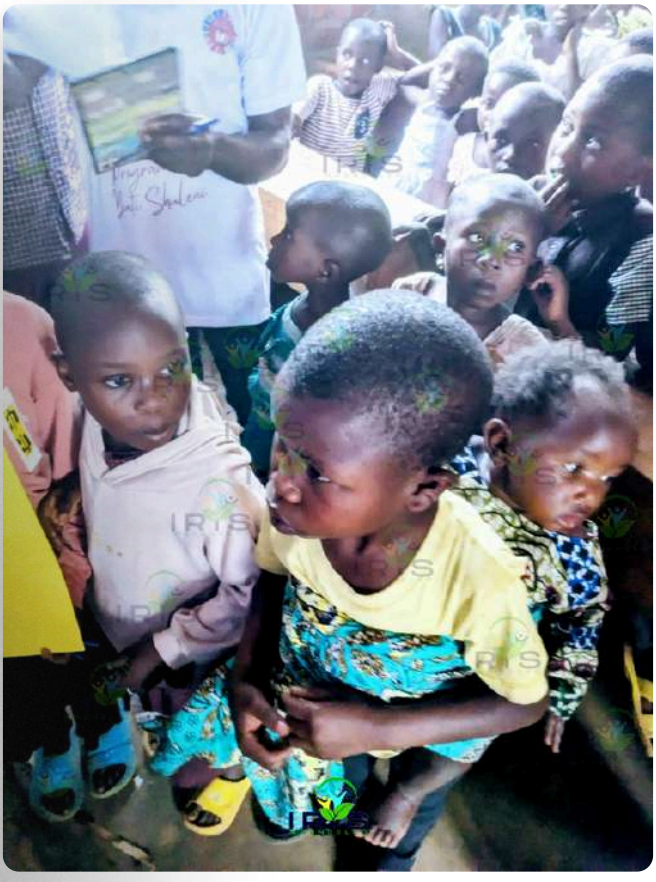
ACTIONS

1. Distribution of school kits to 50 children.
2. Raising awareness of the importance of educating young girls, and the impact of good nutrition on the quality of children's learning.
3. Anthropometric measurements of children selected to assess their nutritional status.
4. Children relax and express their views on their education and future goal.

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

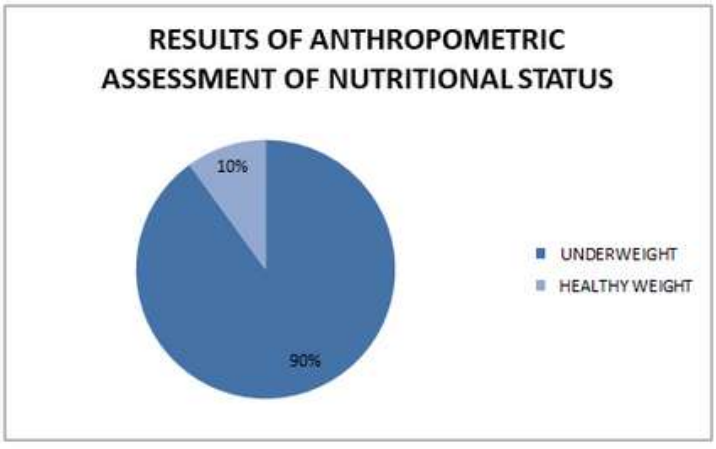


BINTI SHULENI PROGRAM



NUTRITIONAL STATUS

As part of BINTI SHULENI program, a field visit to Kashenyi (Kabare, South Kivu) was conducted to raise awareness among parents about the importance of child nutrition for intellectual development.





The nutritional status of 50 girls aged 5 to 11 was assessed using various indicators (age, weight, height, mid-upper arm circumference, edema). Results showed that 90% had an "insufficient weight" and only 10% had a "healthy weight" according to WHO standards.

ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS



WOMAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP



https://youtu.be/52RlcTHXh30?si=CU_MZR5hf8T7Fadc

OBJECTIVES

- The Women Entrepreneurship Program aims to empower girls and women in the DRC by enhancing their entrepreneurial skills. Focusing on key areas such as food technology, arts, cosmetics, and digital innovation, the initiative addresses the socio-economic challenges faced by women in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Food processing and beading are the program's flagship activities in South Kivu province, involving the packaging of **smoked fish** (Mukeke), **small-scale pastry-making**, **popcorn production** and the **manufacturing of handbags, tissue boxes, containers, trivets**, etc. by ladies.







IRIS MAENDELEO

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Afterwards, IRIS MAENDELEO aim to protect, support and empower vulnerable children and young people throough an integrated ecosystem of community centres and programmes offering:

- Appropriate social and psychosocial care.
- Cultural and artistic support promoting healing and expression.
- Basic medical and nutritional support.
- Training, empowerment, and networking for professional integration.

IRIS MAENDELEO works in collaboration with families, local communities, authorities and national and international partners, using and approach that respect human dignity, children's rights and cultural values.

IRIS
MAENDELEO

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