



Congo

Slamunity

Listening and speaking, chanting and reciting one's feelings – or slamming to better support vulnerable people. Congolese slammer Marisuca Monkengué trains social work students in the practice of slam.

COUNTRY

Congo

LOCALISATION

Brazzaville

DATES OF THE PROJECT

January 2023 – April 2023

ARTISTS INVOLVED

Maurisuca Monkengué

PARTICIPANTS

25 young students trained in social work professions

FUNDING

Fonds Metis Budget 15,000 €

PARTNERS

Association slamourail, National Institute of social action, National Institute of social work, French Institute of Congo

SECTOR AND SDG'S



YOUNG PEOPLE WITHOUT PROSPECTS IN CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

The socio-economic context in Congo has deteriorated significantly in recent years, increasing the gap between a small elite and the rest of the population, most of whom live below the poverty line. Young people are particularly affected by mass unemployment – more than 30% are jobless – and often have few prospects for the future. Improving training opportunities is a key challenge for promoting the professional integration of young Congolese.

THE FLAME OF SLAM

With Metis, Congolese slammer Marisuca Monkengué works at the national institute of social work, which offers training in social work professions. To add a sensitive dimension to the training programs, she offers students an introduction to the practice of slam. Over the course of 40 workshops, Marisuca teaches them writing techniques, rhyme, diction, recitation, and staging. She guides them in writing personal texts that express their doubts, hopes, and ambitions.

Each participant then recites their text in public spaces – markets, streets, parks, etc. – and performs in slam battles during the slamouv festival, which annually brings together the most popular slammers from francophone Africa. A thousand spectators attend the various performances, including the minister of social affairs. Since then, some continue to perform and have created their own Instagram slam pages. Recognizing its cathartic nature, the management of the national institute of social workers has integrated slam teaching into the institution's continuing education program.

THEY SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

"Using slam to reach out to others. you have to heal yourself first before you can heal others."

MARISUCA MONKENGUÉ

"Slam, as a form of oral expression, leads us to analyze and express our feelings, and seems perfectly suited to social action and supporting vulnerable people."

MAURIZIO CASCLIOLI, DIRECTOR OF AFD CONGO

"In these life journeys, there will be a 'before' and an 'after' slamunity: this project has been a turning point for many participants, some of whom have created their own slam pages and continue to share their texts on social media!"

MARIE DUBUFFET, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE BRAZZAVILLE AGENCY

30%
OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE
UNEMPLOYED IN CONGO

25
STUDENTS WERE INTRODUCED
TO SLAM

1,000
SPECTATORS ATTENDED
THE PERFORMANCES