



## **Maria Lubamba**

Hi, my name is Maria de Jesus Alexandre Lubamba. I'm 16 years old, I'm Angolan, and I live in the municipality of Viana in Luanda. I study at the Instituto Medio Politécnico Alda Lara (IMPAL) and I am in the 11th year Designer Course. I decided to study in this area because I find it fascinating that grandiose things can emerge from a drawing. In the case of a sketch, a scribble on paper can eventually become a big house, stadium, or company. Eventually, I hope to finish high school and study architecture at university. My biggest challenge is having to get up very early to travel to school. It is not only a monetary sacrifice, but also a psychological one due to the fatigue. This has become my daily practice and I am used to this reality.

The other challenging situation relates to obtaining educational materials. We are told that some materials will be offered by the education system, but this is typically not the case. This is very frustrating because these supplies are expensive and sometimes unavailable. We often have to go to markets and plazas to buy second-hand materials at affordable prices. Additionally, we rarely have access to a computer and the specific softwares required for school. My colleagues who do have computers and software access usually have to share their computers with us so we can follow along in the class. The school materials that I need the most are textbooks, reams of A3 sheets, and a computer with specific design software. I would like to thank you in advance for the initiative of the A Great Work Foundation and all members of that team. I wish you many successes.

Best regards,  
Maria de Jesus Lubamba