Doctors with Africa CUAMM has been the first NGO working in the international health field to be recognized in Italy and is the largest Italian organization for the promotion and protection of health in Africa. It works with a long-term developmental perspective. To this end, in Italy and Africa, it is engaged in training, research, dissemination of scientific knowledge, and ensuring the universal fulfilment of the fundamental human right to health.

Doctors with Africa is for everyone who believes in values like dialogue, cooperation, volunteerism, exchange between cultures, friendship between people, the defense of human rights, respect for life, the choice to help the poor, the spirit of service, and those who support the organization’s action criteria.

VALUES
- «With Africa»: the organization works exclusively with African populations, engaging local human resources at all levels.
- Experience: CUAMM draws on over sixty-six years of work to support developing countries.
- Specific, exclusive expertise in medicine and health.

PRIORITY ISSUES
- Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.
- Nutrition.
- Infectious diseases.
- Non communicable diseases (NCDs) and traumas.
- Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

TODAY
Doctors with Africa CUAMM is currently operating in Angola, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda through:

- 23 Hospitals
- 80 Districts (for public health activities, mother-child care, fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, training)
- 3 Nursing schools
- 1 University (Mozambique)

A 69-YEARS HISTORY
1,911 People have left Italy and other countries to work on projects: of these, 515 returned on one or more occasions
- 232 Hospitals have been served
- 43 Countries of intervention

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2,915 Human resources
- 331 International European professionals
Doctors with Africa CUAMM has been working in Angola since 1997 when it intervened in Uige province to face the emergency caused by a civil war.

Since then, CUAMM’s intervention has expanded to other provinces, Luanda and Cunene, focusing on development projects, strengthening the local health system, as well as providing support to health services and technical assistance. Doctors with Africa CUAMM promotes the relevance of maternal and child health and, in the last few years, it has reinforced the fight against infectious and non-communicable diseases, namely tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, diabetes and hypertension.
In 2000, at the invitation the Diocese of Ondjiva, Doctors with Africa CUAMM started our intervention in the Province of Cunene, supporting the Hospital of the Catholic Mission of Chiulo with the main goal of fostering access to quality health services for the most vulnerable groups (children and pregnant women). We have worked since then to protect the health of mothers, newborns, and children with special attention to nutrition. In addition, in order to solve the problem of the distance between the hospital and health centers (there are 36 peripheral health facilities in the area), which too often causes women to give birth at home without the support of qualified personnel, we created a “Casa de espera”, a home for pregnant women awaiting childbirth.

In 2018, 703 women were hosted in the Casa de espera, with an average of 59 women a month. We have provided:
- Equipment for the operating room and delivery room;
- Food for women in the “Casa de espera”;
- Basic equipment for the hospital and peripheral health centers;
- Food for malnourished children admitted to the Chiulo Hospital;
- Training sessions for local health personnel and for community health agents;
- Supervision visits.

In 2018, 703 women were hosted in the Casa de espera, with an average of 59 women a month.
In the province of Luanda, CUAMM is active on two main fronts: chronic diseases (diabetes) and infectious diseases (tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS).

In 2016, an innovative project was launched in Luanda to diagnose diabetes and hypertension related to positive TB cases. CUAMM has since continued with other projects aimed at ongoing activities for screening, providing information, and preventing diabetes in 6 health centers in the Province of Luanda.

For infectious diseases, CUAMM is at the forefront nationally for the country’s fight against TB. In January 2005, the project was launched in Luanda to support the National Tuberculosis Control Program funded by Global Fund ATM through UNDP. CUAMM continues to support the program with technical assistance for the Ministry of Health. Support for the National Program expanded in 2017 when we launched a pilot project for community-based directly observed treatment (CB-DOTS) in 6 municipalities of 5 provinces in the country involving over 200 community agents trained and equipped to combat the spread of the disease. Moreover, a project to fight tuberculosis was launched supporting two specialized facilities in Luanda to boost diagnostic quality and start digitizing health records.

Our involvement in Luanda has also been strengthened with the start of a support program in the Municipality of Kilamba Kiaxi to support “test and treat” for HIV and ensure ongoing, integrated assistance to HIV-positive patients.
BEHIND THE NUMBERS:
FACES AND STORIES
OF REAL PEOPLE

TYINTIKI’S STORY
Let us meet Tyintiki, a woman approximately between 35 and 40 years old, who is on her 10th pregnancy. She is one of the more than 200 women since January 2019 who have come to the Maternity waiting house, near the Chiulo Hospital in southern Angola. She came from Ekamba, about 60 kilometers from Chiulo because she had heard about this house on the radio and everyone in the village was talking about it. However, her own mother was the first to suggest she go so far to be supported during the last stages of her pregnancy - with clear risk factors because of her number of pregnancies and her age -. She tells us, «Yes, it’s the second time I’ve come here. My mother suggested it and she comes with me. I liked it here and I’m happy because we get water and food and there are small houses to stay in and the hospital is nearby. That is so important for us because we live so far away. That’s why I would definitely suggest other women come here!». And what do you think about Wilca and Germana, the CUAMM staff members working in the Casa di espera? She answers quickly, making it clear how little experience some African women have with others taking care of them: «I am happy with the work that Wilca and German do in our house every day. I am happy that there is someone who is concerned about us every day, asks us how we are and tries to help us with our problems. Sometimes it takes only little acts of care to make the difference.

ADILSON’S STORY
«Adison is 11 months old and severely malnourished for a reason fairly common in Cunene, Angola, he was orphaned when he was a few months old. Breast milk is the only food that a baby under 6 months should have and should be the main source of nutrition up to two years. Here it is very difficult to find formula and it costs too much and you need clean water to prepare it; otherwise, it can cause an infection», says Chiara Maddaloni, JPO in Chiulo. When newborns are orphans in Africa, they usually end up suffering malnutrition. Thanks to the educational efforts of the community workers, Iba, Adilson’s aunt, knew that her nephew’s only hope was to be hospitalized. «Adilson weighed 5.4 kg. He was severely dehydrated from diarrhea, so we immediately admitted him to the malnourishment unit of Chiulo. We gave him therapeutic milk and our nurses taught his aunt how to properly feed her little nephew with practical demonstrations. Today Adilson came back to the clinic for a check-up, and he is growing healthier. His aunt is carefully seeing to his feeding and prepares his food 4 times a day».

Thanks to the education by CUAMM’s staff to help fight malnutrition, not just in the hospitals but also in the villages in the rural areas, Iba has been able to care for her nephew and save his life.
Training activities, credits Matteo de Mayda

Pregnant women at Chiulo hospital, credits Matteo de Mayda

Check of a baby’s nutritional status with MUAC, credits Matteo de Mayda

A mum feeding her child, credits Matteo de Mayda

ANC visit at Chiulo hospital, credits Matteo de Mayda

CUAMM’s staff monitoring data and activities
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Cover
Three mothers with her babies
Photo Matteo de Mayda

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Vaccination Campaign
Photo Matteo de Mayda