COUNTRY PROFILE
ETHIOPIA
2020
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).

SNAPSHOT
Doctors with Africa CUAMM is currently operating in Angola, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda through:
- 23 Hospitals
- 127 Districts (for public health activities, mother-child care, fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, training)
- 3 Nursing schools
- 1 University (Mozambique)
- 4,777 Human Resources
- 605 International Professionals

A 70-YEARS HISTORY
2,000 People have left Italy and other countries to work on projects: of these, 515 returned on one or more occasions
- 232 Hospitals served
- 43 Countries of intervention

01 SIERRA LEONE
02 SOUTH SUDAN
03 ETHIOPIA
04 UGANDA
05 TANZANIA
06 ANGOLA
07 MOZAMBIQUE
08 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Doctors with Africa CUAMM operates in Ethiopia since 1980, when it started its intervention at Gambo leper colony in Oromia Region. CUAMM gradually expanded its activity to rural hospitals and other regions of the country.

Today, CUAMM aims to integrate maternal and child healthcare interventions with measures to prevent NCDs, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and hepatitis B. CUAMM operates in South West Shewa Zone, South Omo Zone, along with supporting refugees and host population in Gambella Region, at the border with South Sudan, which is still a very fragile context.
Doctors with Africa CUAMM is engaged in the management of various projects covering both different thematic and geographic areas of operation. Among others, CUAMM is developing a wide program to face the growing challenge of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), in particular diabetes mellitus (DM) and hypertension (HTN) by increasing prevention, access and quality of health care services. The project involves 15 hospitals and 45 health centres in Oromia, Amhara, SNNPR, Tigray and Gambella regions and in Addis Ababa area, reaching a population of nearly 2 million people.

Furthermore, Doctors with Africa CUAMM aims to contribute to the reduction of newborn mortality in the country by improving quality and accessibility of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit services (NICUs) in three hospitals (St. Paul, St. Luke Wolisso, and Tulubollo): strengthening the capacity building of skilled staff for NICUs, and increasing the availability of standards and methodologies for the evaluation of neonatal care services. The project then expands to 15 Kebele in different Woredas, actively involving the communities in awareness raising activities on good practices of newborn care particularly.
Doctors with Africa CUAMM operates in the districts of Goro, Wonchi, Wolisso Urban and Rural to strengthen the peripheral health structures. CUAMM works with the most vulnerable, in particular women and children, providing quality health services to the communities.

The intervention focuses on the supervision of the peripheral health units, the training and support of health extension workers (HEW) as well as the provision of drugs and consumables to guarantee access to safe delivery. Through the community based activities, CUAMM aims to improve newborn, child and maternal care and to promote cervical cancer screening with VIA and treatment with cryotherapy for VIA+.

The public health activities are led by an expatriate public health specialist along with local health professionals, as midwives, nutritionists, environmental experts and public health nurses, working alongside the zonal and district health authorities.

CUAMM is also expanding the intervention to 50 villages in the woredas of Amaya, Goru, Seden Sodo and Wolisso Zuria with an integrated initiative to prevent and treat child malnutrition, along with promoting healthier diet and care habits.
Since 2001 Doctors with Africa CUAMM continues to support St. Luke Catholic Hospital and the Nursing and Midwifery School attached, in partnership with the Ethiopian Catholic Church, owner of the hospital, and Oromia Health Bureau.

CUAMM ensures 24/7 presence of medical staff in order to guarantee high quality obstetric and paediatric services. Wolisso hospital and the health facilities in its referral area are involved in “Mothers and Children First. 1,000 Days” program, which ensures every mother free access to a safe delivery and focuses on nutrition during the mother’s pregnancy and for the first two years of the baby’s life.

Among the most relevant, the hospital provides emergency and outpatients services, along with orthopaedic and physiotherapy ones. Moreover, a Therapeutic Feeding Unit (TFU) is operational in the paediatric ward.

As regards training, CUAMM supports the Nursing and Midwifery School where 30 students on average per year enrols. Since the school started its activities in 2000, 721 students have graduated, in particular 155 midwives and 566 nurses.
SOMALI REGION, HAWARA DISTRICT

Somali Region is the second largest region in the country and among the most disadvantaged in terms of health. Doctors with Africa CUAMM focuses its intervention in Hawara Woreda where there are only two health centres and more than 60% of the population does not have any access to primary healthcare. Therefore, CUAMM aims to: choose a public health expert to coordinate the project and provide technical support to the HCs’ staff and the local authorities; organise mobile clinics to provide services to the communities in the most distant areas, referring the most complicated cases to the HCs. Moreover, the project includes basic infrastructure works in the HCs, the provision of a generator to guarantee electricity supply in case of emergency, along with basic equipment and a stock of essential medicines. Finally, CUAMM promotes trainings for both HCs staff and Health Extension Workers (HEW) aimed at improving knowledge on maternal and child health, with a specific focus on the management of obstetric emergencies. Furthermore, the communities have been involved in mobilization and awareness rising activities, aimed at stimulating the demand for services and their use.

HAWARA DISTRICT 2020

TRAINING

31
HEW received refresher training on HEW package
16
Midwives trained on BEmONC

Awareness-Raising

60
clan and religious leaders, and community representatives participated in community mobilization activities

DHARAWANAJI HC
(Data Oct.2019-Sep.2020)

Outpatients

6,486
OPD visits

Maternity

478
Total deliveries

ANC Visits

486
first antenatal care visits
270
4 antenatal care visits
Doctors with Africa CUAMM has operated in South Omo Zone, in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples’ Region (SNNPR) since 2014. This semi-nomadic rural area has high rates of neonatal and infant mortality, above the national average, and strongly related to high rates of malnutrition. Therefore, CUAMM intervention aims to increase access to quality health services for mothers, newborn and children under five, including nutritional services, focusing on two key facilities of the regional health system: Jinka District Hospital and Turmi health centre, in Hamer woreda. Nutritional services are integrated with Early Childhood Development in order to promote cognitive stimulation and development of children. The intervention includes training, capacity building and supervision of health professionals and community health workers. Furthermore, rehabilitation of health facilities, supply of medicines, consumables and equipment have been ensured, in particular 8 health centres (2 in Male, 3 in Hamer and 3 in Dasanech) supported. The support to the referral system through ambulance is guaranteed as well as community awareness raising activities. Moreover, CUAMM team promotes prevention, screening and treatment of cervical cancer, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis B.

**TURMI HEALTH CENTER 2020**

- **OUTPATIENTS**
  - 13,368 total visits
- **INPATIENTS**
  - 263 total admissions
- **MATERNITY**
  - 593 total deliveries
  - 19 caesarean sections
  - 47 MDOCC
- **ANC VISITS**
  - 1,405 first antenatal care visits

**JINKA HOSPITAL**

- **OUTPATIENTS**
  - 79,846 total visits
- **INPATIENTS**
  - 5,169 total admissions
- **MATERNITY**
  - 2,859 total deliveries
  - 500 caesarean sections
  - 545 MDOCC treated
Gambella is a remote western region of Ethiopia, right up against the border with South Sudan. Thousands of refugees poured over the border escaping from famine and civil war, increasing the burden on an already fragile health system and hosting communities. Moreover, this region hardly attracts and retains qualified staff due to its complexities.

Doctors with Africa CUAMM focuses on maternal and child health and nutrition in three districts of the region – Gambella Town, Gambella Rural and Abobo – in order to mitigate the unequal accessibility to health services. In particular, Gambella regional hospital has been supported with the rehabilitation of the maternity ward and 7 health centers.

Furthermore, since August 2017 Doctors with Africa CUAMM has been operating into Nguenyyiel Refugee Camp, which accommodates 82,826 persons of concern¹. The action is mainly focused on strengthening infrastructures, training health personnel and supporting emergency transport to Gambella regional hospital.

Due to the Covid-19 epidemic outbreak, an emergency intervention has started in addition to that already underway, providing support also to Tierkidi and Jewi Refugee Camps.

COVID-19 EPIDEMIC: WHAT WE HAVE DONE

At the outbreak of the Covid-19 epidemic, Doctors with Africa CUAMM took action to cope with the spread of the virus, prioritizing the safety of the 23 supported hospitals, health workers and communities in the 8 countries of operation. The most urgent need in Ethiopia, as in the other contexts, was to ensure:

- **personal protective equipment** for healthcare personnel and cleaners, as well as the material necessary for the disinfection of rooms;
- **essential equipment** for diagnosis and clinical management of the patients affected by Covid-19;
- **tents** to set up triage areas and isolation units;
- **training** of personnel for the management of suspected cases of Covid-19;
- **awareness-raising activities at the community level** by promoting good practices.

In the Oromia Region and at Wolisso Hospital, CUAMM has contributed to the definition of the emergency response plan by Oromia regional health authorities, rescheduling the activities in progress. The strategy aimed to strengthen the emergency response capacity, trying to ensure the continuity of essential health services. Among several challenges, CUAMM had to deal with the fear of a new disease, along with the negative impact on the population caused by restrictive containment measures, jeopardizing the access and use of basic health services.

In Gambella Region, particularly at Gambella regional hospital, CUAMM guaranteed medical equipment and protective devices’ supply. In July 2020, in collaboration with local authorities, a training for the health personnel was organized on how to prevent and manage suspected cases of Covid-19. Moreover, CUAMM has started an emergency intervention to reduce the risk of Covid-19 spread in the refugee camps of Nguenyyiel, Tierkidi and Jewi where the epidemiological risk is really high due to the large number of refugees who live there. An extraordinary support has been then provided to the isolation centers set up in the same refugee camps and at regional level. The intervention focused on staff training and promotion of good hygiene, sanitation and nutritional practices to prevent the main communicable diseases.

THE UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS

- **PROVISION** of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as surgical masks, FFP2 or N95, visors and goggles, disposable gowns and gloves;
- **SUPPLY** of materials for disinfection of spaces (liquid soap, floor detergents, sodium hypochlorite, etc.);
- **DEFINITION** of a triage path at the entrance, with mandatory hand washing, temperature screening, and clinical evaluation to identify potential infectious patients and possibly send them to predefined areas of isolation;
- **PROCUREMENT** of medical equipment: infrared thermometers, pulse oximeters, oxygen concentrators, etc.;
- **STRENGTHENING** of knowledge of health personnel on on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Covid-19;
- **AWARENESS-RAISING** of the communities on the disease prevention and on the risks associated with the virus;
- **CONTINUITY** in the provision of essential services, also thanks to the supply of medicines’ stocks.
01 A mother and her newborn in Gambella Region, photo Nicola Berti

02 Community health extension workers, photo Nicola Berti

03 Ambulance referral system, photo Nicola Berti

04 A south Sudanese girl at Nukenyiel Refugee Camp in Gambella Region, photo Nicola Berti

05 A village of the Dassanech community, South Omo Zone, photo Nicola Berti

06 A nurse feeding a newborn at Neonatal Ward in Wolisso Hospital, photo Andrea Frazzetta
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Cover photo
A mother with her children in a village in Gambella Region, photo Nicola Berti

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Women and children during a “coffee ceremony” in a HC in Gambella, photo Nicola Berti