

COUNTRY PROFILE

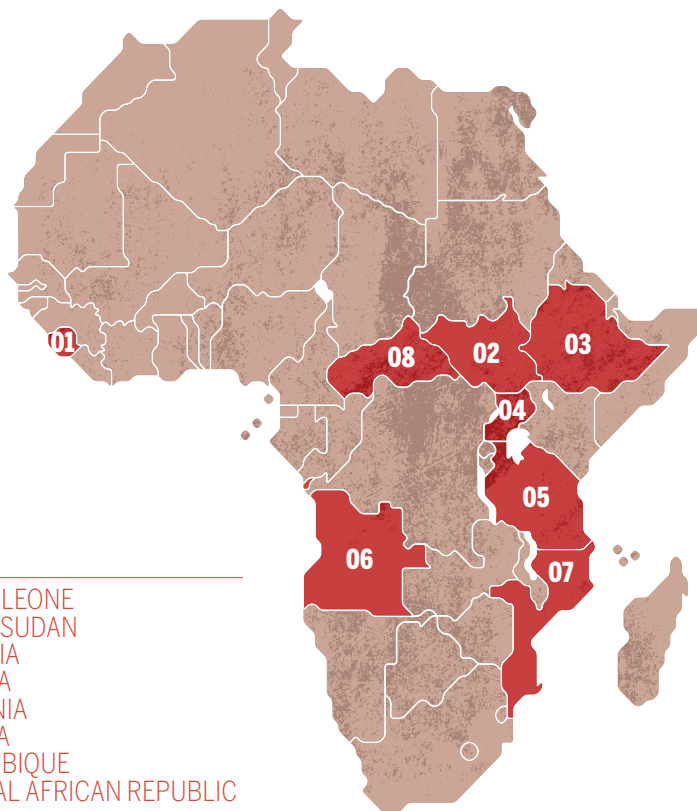
SIERRA LEONE



**DOCTORS
WITH AFRICA**
CUAMM



DOCTORS WITH AFRICA CUAMM



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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)

2,915

Human resources

331

International European 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 have been served

43

Countries of intervention

OUR WORK IN SIERRA LEONE

**Doctors with Africa
CUAMM is present
in Sierra Leone since
2012, when it started
its activities in Pujehun
District.**

The aim of CUAMM is to promote maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health. In Sierra Leone, CUAMM is working to contribute in reducing maternal and pediatric mortality, which is one of the highest in the world.



2012 PUJEHUN DISTRICT

Since 2012 CUAMM has been supporting the Maternity and Pediatric Complex of Pujehun Government Hospital

2015 SAINT JOHN OF GOD CATHOLIC HOSPITAL – LUN SAR

Since January 2015 CUAMM has been supporting the private-not-for-profit Saint John of God Catholic Hospital.

2016 PRINCESS CHRISTIAN MATERNITY HOSPITAL – FREETOWN

Since March 2016, CUAMM has been supporting the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH): the national maternity referral hospital and the only C-EmONC (Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics and Newborn Care) center recognized for the entire Western Area Rural and Urban district.

2017 BO, MAKENI, BONTHE

Since February 2017, CUAMM has expanded its presence to the regional hospitals of Bo and Makeni, and to the Bonthe Governmental Hospital.

2018 ALL COUNTRY – NEMS

Since March 2018, CUAMM has supported at national level the NEMS program for the implementation of the National Emergency Medical Service in Sierra Leone.

2019 – 2020 ONGOING ACTION

Currently CUAMM is working in 6 districts and 7 hospitals, implementing 10 projects.

PUJEHUN DISTRICT



Doctors with Africa CUAMM has operated in Pujehun district to strengthen health services and the referral system for obstetric and paediatric emergencies. In **Pujehun Maternity and Paediatric Complex**, CUAMM ensures the 24/7 presence of expatriate health professionals:

- 1 senior surgeon working in the maternity ward;
- 1 tropical doctor;
- 1 public health specialist working alongside the district health management team (DHMT) supporting data management and community engagement.

Moreover, specific trainings for **strengthening Community Health Workers capacities** have been held.

In 2014, CUAMM started a voucher scheme for paediatric emergencies, free of charge for users, involving motorbike owners “Okada men”. Furthermore, the National Emergency Medical Service (NEMS) - triggered by CUAMM in 2018 to provide an efficient ambulance referral system - has resulted in a significant increase of referrals.

During 2018 pediatric admissions increased by 26.6%, from 2,626 in 2017 to 3,324.

In 2017 an operational research on breastfeeding has been carried out involving 200 women in the whole district, advocating for exclusive breastfeeding up to the 6th month of child's life. The research was presented in September 2019 at the 11th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) in Liverpool.

Finally, the hospital's **Blood Bank** has been supported through the provision of tests and blood bags to prevent cases of stock out. Blood donation campaigns have been promoted among the communities.

MATERNITY AND PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL (DATA 2018)



384,864
Population served

1,948
Visits Outpatient

50
beds



MATERNITY

5,010
Total admissions

1,114
Total deliveries

518
Cesarean sections



PAEDIATRICS

3,324
Paediatric admissions



ANC VISITS

3,230
Antenatalcare visits



REFERRAL

893
N. of ambulance referrals for obstetric complication

WESTERN AREA RURAL & URBAN DISTRICTS – PCMH



photo Nicola Berti

In 2016 Doctors with Africa CUAMM, upon local authorities' invitation, accepted to intervene supporting the **Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH)**, the main maternity in the country. The hospital is located in Freetown city center, and has a catchment area of more than 1,5 million people.

It counts 137 beds, more than 9,000 hospitalized patients and it registered 7,637 assisted deliveries in 2018.

CUAMM has mainly implemented the following activities at PCMH:

- support to local staff through the provision of 1 technical advisor and 1 senior gynecologist
- training of operating theatre nurses and midwives
- support to quality improvement
- rehabilitation of the hospital triage
- activation of the ultrasound service
- training on EPC for the prevention of hospital-acquired infections
- startup of the gestational diabetes screening service
- support to the creation of the maternity ward
- support to blood bank services

Furthermore, CUAMM played a key role in supporting the Ministry of Health and WHO to revise and define Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) guidelines and protocols with the aim of providing medical and health personnel with essential skills to manage common childbirth-related complications.

PCMH HOSPITAL (DATA 2018)



1,606,145
Population served
18,869
Visits Outpatient
137
beds



MATERNITY

9,683
Total admissions
7,637
Total deliveries
2,101
Cesarean sections



ANC VISITS

22,542
Antenatal
Care visits



MORTALITY

10.3%
Still birth rate
1.2%
Hospital maternal mortality
due to direct obstetric
causes



REFERRAL

861
N. of ambulance referrals
for obstetric complication

HDU

Opening day
2nd October 2017
525
Admissions
10.5%
Death rate

PORT LOKO DISTRICT



Doctors with Africa CUAMM was invited by the "Fatebenefratelli" Congregation to operate at the **St. John of God Catholic Hospital located in Lunsar**, the second largest city in the district. It is a private not-for-profit health institution that provides staff to manage the facility.

In 2014, due to ebola epidemic, the hospital suffered sever human losses, 12 people among whom the director of the hospital, a spanish missionary surgeon, 7 nurses, 3 cleaners and 1 guard. Such situation brought to the closure of the hospital.

The hospital was re-opened in January 2015, thanks to the presence of medical doctors engaged by CUAMM, guaranteeing access to quality healthcare services, particularly in the maternal and newborn care and surgical areas.

Doctors with Africa CUAMM has started up a free healthcare initiative in the hospital to increase the coverage of services, since the government does not support St. John of God Catholic Hospital. Such a support is still ongoing as well as the guarantee of emergency referrals in the area through the National Emergency Medical Service supported by CUAMM.

SAINT JOHN OF GOD CATHOLIC HOSPITAL (DATA 2018)



140,970
Population served
20,458
Visits Outpatient
100
Beds



MATERNITY
4,888
Total admissions
791
Total deliveries
311
Cesarean sections



ANC VISITS
3,121
Antenatal visits



REFERRAL
260
N. of ambulance referrals for obstetric complication

BO DISTRICT



In 2017 Doctors with Africa CUAMM, started a new intervention in **Bo Governmental Hospital**, the second largest hospital in the country. The aim of the project is to improve access to quality obstetric and newborn care among the population living in the District of Bo. The activities implemented focus on:

- Increasing the availability of quality obstetric and newborn care

- Strengthening the referral system for obstetric emergencies from peripheral health and community networks to the next level of care through NEMS
- Support to blood bank services
- Startup of the HDU and possible rehabilitation of the triage
- Prevention of hospital-acquired infections
- Support hospital management by working closely with the hospital management team
- Support to the hospital local staff through the provision of 1 doctor and 1 midwife
- To increase the demand for a community involvement.
- To improve the capacity of District Health Authorities and Hospital Team in order to plan, coordinate and monitor quality of maternal and newborn health care services.

BO GOVERNMENTAL HOSPITAL (DATA 2018)



603,716
Population served
13,221
Visits Outpatient
44
Beds



MATERNITY

7,027
Total admissions
3,257
Total deliveries
1,270
Cesarean sections
801
Major Direct Obstetric Complications (MDOC) treated
24.6%
of MDOC expected reached



ANC VISITS

10,676
Antenatal visits



REFERRAL

260
N. of ambulance referral for obstetric complication



TRAINING

20
training performed for health staff

BOMBALI DISTRICT



In 2017 Doctors with Africa CUAMM, has started a new intervention in **Makeni Governmental Hospital**.

The focus of intervention is the improvement of quality of care service for mothers and children through:

- Provision of specialists to ensure technical assistance and to support the local medical staff (1 gynecologist and 1 midwife)

- Support to the management of the hospital by working closely with the hospital management team
- Support to district referral system
- Support to Makeni hospital's blood bank
- Rehabilitations of Maternity ward and Operating Theatre and provision of equipment
- Support to the Monitoring & Evaluation unit with the aim to improve the quality of data collection.

MAKENI GOVERNMENTAL HOSPITAL (DATA 2018)



636,000
Population served

38

Beds



MATERNITY

2,836

Total admissions

2,127

Total deliveries

518

Cesarean sections

1,146

Major Direct Obstetric Complications (MDOC) treated



ANC VISITS

18,824

Antenatal visits



REFERRAL

252

N. of ambulance referrals for obstetric complication



TRAINING

31

training performed for health staff

BONTHE DISTRICT



Doctors with Africa CUAMM has started working in Bonthe district in 2017 at the **Bonthe Governmental Hospital**. The focus of intervention is the improvement of quality of care service for mothers and children through rehabilitation of maternity ward and operating theatre, the provision of equipment and training of local staff on data collection, transfusions, obstetric care and emergencies management.

Bonthe Hospital is located on an island; this peculiarity makes the referral to the health structure more difficult. Therefore, CUAMM has implemented a referral system by boat connecting the hospital to the rest of its catchment area on land.

CUAMM team is still carrying on the program of capacity building and supervision of the community health workers (CHWs). These activities aim to improve their competences in order to ensure community high quality healthcare, in particular to pregnant women and children under five.

BONTHE GOVERNMENTAL HOSPITAL (DATA 2018)



210,531
Population served
1,600
Visits Outpatient
12
Beds



MATERNITY

240
Total deliveries
57
Cesarean sections
92
Major Direct Obstetric Complications (MDOC) treated



REFERRAL

404
N. of ambulance referral for obstetric complication



TRAINING

14
training performed for health staff in Bonthe Hospital



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWs)

957
CHWs recruited and trained

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE - NEMS



On the 15th of October 2018, Doctors with Africa CUAMM contributed to start **the National Emergency Medical Service (NEMS)**, a national network of ambulances coordinated to provide aid and medical assistance in the pre-hospital setting, involving personnel trained in rescue, stabilization and transport of traumatic and medical emergencies.

The NEMS service, initially operational in Pujehun district, has progressively expanded throughout all the districts becoming **operative at national level on the 27th of May 2019**.

A national operations center has been established in Freetown and 80 ambulances have been dispatched all around the country, resulting in a considerably greater access to hospitals and health services. 1,340 among ambulance drivers, paramedics and OC Operators have been trained since the beginning of the service. Out of this total number, 904 received refresher trainings.

NEMS OPERATIONAL SERVICE

BENEFICIARIES

7,600,000

The entire population of Sierra Leone

MAIN FEATURES

80

Ambulances currently dispatched

449

Paramedics

449

Ambulance Drivers

20

Operators

RELEVANT DATA

24,202

Emergency calls

23,385

Missions

20,496

Referrals

Data collected from the 15th of October 2018 up to the 31st of October 2019.

BEHIND THE NUMBERS: FACES AND STORIES OF REAL PEOPLE



01
CUAMM has developed a referral system by motorbikes especially for maternal and pediatrics emergencies, Pujehun, photo Nicola Berti

02
Women waiting for a visit, photo Paolo Casagrande

03
A CUAMM doctor monitoring hospital data, Pujehun, photo Nicola Berti

04
A mother with her baby at Pujehun hospital, photo Nicola Berti

05
A nurse during a training for the staff on newborn care, Bo hospital, photo Nicola Berti

06
Newborn babies at Bo hospital, photo Nicola Berti

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Cover photo

Doctor Steven Ngoma from CUAMM
visits a newborn in Bonthe hospital
photo Valeria Scrilatti

Back

Daily market in Pujehun
photo Nicola Berti

