

COUNTRY PROFILE

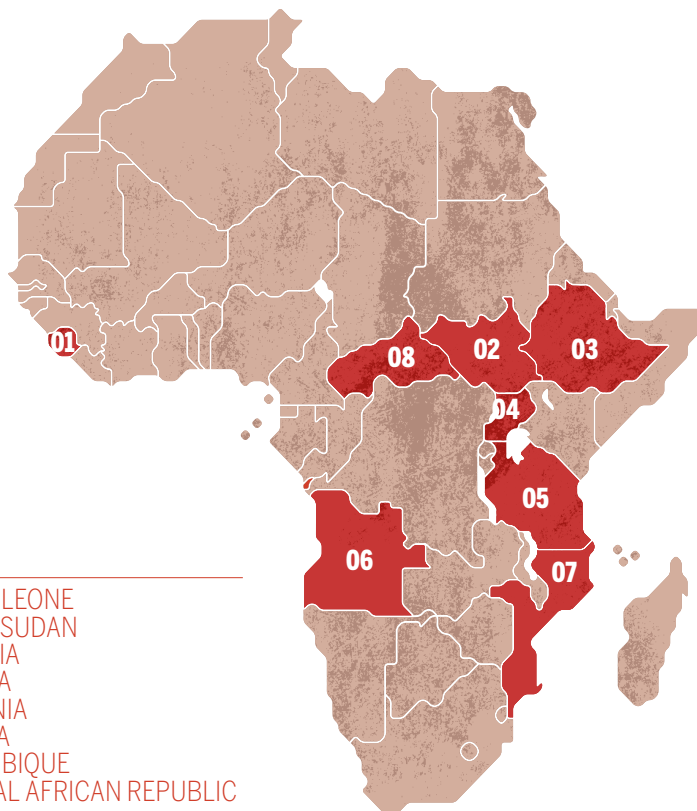
# SIERRA LEONE



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).

## 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

**64**  
Districts (for public health activities, mother-child care, fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, training)

**3**  
Nursing schools

**1**  
University (Mozambique)

**605**  
International Professionals

## A 68-YEARS HISTORY

**1,800**  
People have left Italy and other countries to work on projects: of these, 515 returned on one or more occasions

**227**  
Hospitals have been served

**42**  
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 here 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 Bonthé Governmental Hospital.

## 2018 ALL COUNTRY – NEMS

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

# PUJEHUN DISTRICT



photo Nicola Berti

To strengthen obstetric and pediatric health services in **Pujehun Maternity and Pediatric Complex**, CUAMM has ensured the 24/7 presence of expatriate medical doctors:

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

**SINCE 2014 CUAMM HAS BEEN WORKING TO STRENGTHEN THE REFERRAL SYSTEM FOR OBSTETRIC AND PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY.**

To guarantee an efficient ambulance referral system, CUAMM has strengthened and improved the free of charge government ambulance service for obstetric emergencies. This implied the use of 2 new ambulances to cover the district, as well as taking care of all running costs. CUAMM eventually developed a free-line Call Center to allow each Peripheral Health Unit to contact a skilled midwife at the Maternity Complex, with the aim to refer emergency cases and ask for support. In 2014, CUAMM started a voucher scheme for pediatric emergencies, free of charge for the users, involving motorbike owners traditionally called "Okada men".

**During 2017 pediatric admissions increased by 10%, from 2,385 in 2016 to 2,626.**

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 6<sup>th</sup> month of child's life.



## MATERNITY AND PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL (DATA OF 2017)



### MATERNITY

1,360

Total admissions

940

Total deliveries

400

Cesarean sections



### PAEDIATRICS

2,626

Paediatric admissions

58%

admission for malaria

15%

of admissions for diarrhea

14%

of admissions for anemia



### MORTALITY

8.6%

Total admissions Pediatric Death Rate

1.67%

Hospital maternal mortality due to direct obstetric causes



### REFERRAL

2,144

Number of referrals for under 5 children (+22% from 1,731 in 2016)

837

Obstetric referrals received of which:

792

Total MDOC Assisted



# WESTERN AREA RURAL & URBAN DISTRICTS – PCMH



Photo Nicola Bert

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 million people.

**IT COUNTS 129 BEDS,  
MORE THAN 9.000  
HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS  
AND IT REGISTERED 6.861  
ASSISTED DELIVERIES IN 2017.**

## Activity Summary at PCMH:

- 2 Gynecologists (1 senior 1 junior);
- 1 PH expert supporting data collection and governance;
- inclusion in 2 out of the 4 groups of the PCMH rounds with on-call days;
- creation of an ultrasound service;
- creation of a High Dependency Unit (HDU) for post operative patients;
- organization of workshops/training on: ultrasound, surgical sutures, data collection;
- district mapping;
- major and minor rehabilitation works;
- participation to Hospital Management Team and Hospital Top Management Team.



## PCMH HOSPITAL (DATA OF 2017)



### MATERNITY

9,973

Total admissions

6,861

Total deliveries

2,028

Cesarean sections



### ANC VISITS

13,661

Antenatal

Care visits



### MORTALITY

10.2%

Still birth rate

(-1.1% from 11,3% in 2016)

1.3%

Hospital maternal mortality due to direct obstetric causes



### REFERRAL

1,404

from Urban Area

### HDU

Opening day

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017

79

Admissions

11.4%

Death rate

80%

BOR (bed occupancy 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 the SJOGCH, suffered from severe human losses during the Ebola epidemics, which caused the death of 12 people, among whom the Director of the Hospital, a Spanish missionary surgeon, 7 nurses, 3 cleaners and one guard. Such situation brought to the closure of the Hospital.

**Thanks to the presence of expatriate medical doctors engaged by CUAMM, the Hospital was re-opened in January 2015**, providing quality healthcare services and guaranteeing access to them, particularly in the maternal and newborn care area and surgical section.

SJOGCH is not supported by the Government to implement the "free care initiative" and therefore CUAMM, through its intervention, aims at starting up a **"free healthcare care initiative"** in the facility to increase the coverage of services, by guaranteeing access to emergency obstetric health care at Lunsar Hospital. **CUAMM has initiated a referral system with 1 ambulance on duty 24/7 for obstetric emergencies from the PHUs of three chiefdoms:** Masimera, Marampa, Buya Romende. In the same three chiefdoms CUAMM is developing an action against Malaria among marginalized groups.



## SAINT JOHN OF GOD CATHOLIC HOSPITAL (DATA OF 2017)



### MATERNITY

1,043  
Total admissions

721  
Total deliveries

279  
Cesarean sections

1,282  
Antenatal visits



### ANC VISITS

1,282  
Antenatal visits



### MORTALITY

2.1%  
Hospital maternal mortality due to major direct obstetric complication (MDOC)



### REFERRAL

159  
Total referral performed

15%  
of total admissions in Maternity were referred

44%  
of the referrals were performed for prolonged labor

# BO DISTRICT



In 2017 Doctors with Africa CUAMM has started a new intervention in **Bo Governmental Hospital**. 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 project objectives are:

- To improve availability of quality obstetric and newborn care.

- To strengthen the referral system for obstetric emergencies from peripheral health and community networks to next level of care.
- 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 2017)



### MATERNITY

3,950

Total admissions

2,778

Total deliveries

996

Cesarean sections

1,380

Major Direct Obstetric Complications (MDOC) treated

21.4%

of MDOC expected reached



### ANC VISITS

27.017

Antenatal visits



### MORTALITY

1.5%

Direct Obstetric Fatality Rate (-1.1% from 2.6% in 2016)

7.4%

Fresh still birth



### REFERRAL

720

Total referrals



### TRAINING

20

training performed for health staff

# BOMBALI DISTRICT



photo Nicola Berti

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.
- Support to district referral system.

- Support to Makeni Hospital's blood bank by the provision of tests and blood bags in case of stock out and by the promotion of blood donation campaigns among communities.
- 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 2017)



### MATERNITY

2,881

Total admissions

2,219

Total deliveries

486

Cesarean sections

1,062

Major Direct Obstetric Complications (MDOC) treated



### ANC VISITS

18,824

Antenatal visits



### MORTALITY

1.7%

Direct Obstetric Fatality Rate (1.6% from 3.3 % in 2016)

7%

Still birth rate



### REFERRAL

454

Total referrals



### 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: CUAMM implemented a referral system by boat connecting the hospital to the rest of its catchment area on land.

In 2017, CUAMM has started a program of capacity building and supervision of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in the district. The aim of this action is to provide a better quality of health care to pregnant women and under five children at community level.



## BONTHE GOVERNMENTAL HOSPITAL (DATA 2017)



### MATERNITY

337  
Total admissions

258  
Total deliveries

44  
Cesarean sections

83  
Major Direct Obstetric Complications (MDOC) treated



### MORTALITY

2.4%  
Direct Obstetric Fatality Rate (-3.2% from 5.6% in 2016)



### REFERRAL

146  
referral received (+82% from 80 in 2016)



### TRAINING

14  
training performed for health staff in Bonthe Hospital



### COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHWs)

900  
CHWs recruited and trained

90  
Peer supervisors of CHWs recruited and trained

# AT COUNTRY LEVEL

## START UP OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (NEMS)



In January 2018 Doctors with Africa CUAMM has started NEMS program. The goal of the project is to create an emergency referral system in the country setting up a network of ambulances coordinated to provide aid and medical assistance in the prehospital setting involving personnel trained in rescue, stabilization and transportation of traumatic and medical emergencies. NEMS will be therefore a comprehensive medical emergency

system dealing with all the different typology of referrals and not only with obstetrical and paediatric cases. The staff involved is trained throughout the implementation (continuous training and periodic updating). A national operations center is about to be established at Freetown. The intended result is the operation throughout the national territory of the emergency service with ambulance active during the 24 hours.

### BENEFICIARIES

7,600,000

The entire population of Sierra Leone

### MAIN FEATURES

164

Ambulances

449

Paramedics

449

Ambulance Drivers

20

Operators

# BEHIND THE NUMBERS: FACES AND STORIES OF REAL PEOPLE



**01** Women at Bonthe Government Hospital,

**03** Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH), Freetown, photo Nicola Berti

**05** Child waiting for being visited at the Saint John of God Catholic Hospital in Lunsar, Port Loko District

**02** Boat Referral System, Bonthe District, photo Nicola Berti

**04** Women at Pujehun Government Maternal and Child Complex

**06** CUAMM Doctor visiting in Pujehun Government Maternal and Child Complex

## Contacts

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### Bo

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#### Cover photo

Mother with her newborn child  
photo Valeria Scrlatti

#### Back

Daily life in Makeni Market  
photo Nicola Berti

