SUPPORTING FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS ON THE FRONTLINE OF HEALTHCARE SERVICE DELIVERY IN AFRICA
Doctors with Africa CUAMM (CUAMM) is an international NGO working for health system strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa in order to protect and improve the wellbeing and health of vulnerable communities. CUAMM’s mission is to advocate the universal right to health and promote the values of international solidarity, justice and peace. CUAMM operates in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, namely Angola, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Sierra Leone and South Sudan, in close partnership with Ministry of Health and local health authorities. CUAMM’s main focus areas are maternal and child health, adolescent health, nutrition, NCDs, infectious diseases and universal health coverage. The Organization has a strong track record on healthcare projects from demand side (community, referral system) to delivery of services (improving quality in health centers and hospitals). Indeed, founded in 1950, CUAMM has 70 years of experience in planning and implementing health cooperation projects, providing quality health services along the continuum of care, from communities, to health facilities, to hospitals, guaranteeing referral among these levels of care. Furthermore, CUAMM has experiences in providing services both in urban, peri-urban and rural settings; in more stable (e.g. Uganda, Tanzania) and more fragile settings (e.g. South Sudan, Central African Republic); in long-term perspectives as well as in emergencies. The organization has long experience in training local health professionals, from doctors, to nurses, midwives, lab technicians and community health workers, ensuring the creation of local capacity for a stronger and sustainable health system. Next to projects implementation, CUAMM also conducts operational research in partnership with national and international research institutes, with 169 published research articles from 2013 to 2021.

Faith Based organizations (FBOs) play a crucial role in the delivery of quality health services to the most vulnerable populations in Africa. Indeed, a high share of health infrastructure in Africa is currently owned by faith-based organizations. Often located in the last mile, FBOs are frequently on the front lines of service delivery; they are in close contact with local communities and can recognize and address real needs of the poorest, delivering services in remote areas and often exceeding the capacity of local and national governments. They are indeed fundamental partners to work towards universal health coverage and address global health priorities. However, despite being a fundamental part of the healthcare system, FBOs in Africa are often neglected in terms of supplies, human resources, and funding and are not integrated in the overall healthcare system. CUAMM believes that local FBOs must be recognized as essential contributors towards universal access efforts. They need to be supported and included into health system strengthening interventions, through respectful engagement, communication, capacity building programs and collaborative research.

The Project

Doctors with Africa CUAMM is supporting 26 Catholic Congregations in 25 countries, to strengthen capacity and resilience of staff working in faith-based health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa, through three key activities:

1. Development and provision of training packages on:
   a. Health facilities management: planning, data gathering and data management, crisis and emergencies management, human resources management.
   b. Health facilities administration: financing, administration and control, management of public/private partnership.
   c. Project management: the project cycle, reporting, budget.
   d. International fundraising: donors scouting and management, future projects development.

2. Technical Assistance: Provision of experts in hospital management, project management, disasters management, and resources mobilization who will conduct need assessments and assist FBOs staff both online and through ad hoc field missions.

3. Dissemination of best practices: Organization of events to disseminate best practices and lessons learned in health facilities management in low-resources setting among the targeted congregations.
INTERVENTION AREAS

25 COUNTRIES
26 CONGREGATIONS
75 HEALTH FACILITIES
LIST OF CATHOLIC CONGREGATIONS

• THE HOSPITALER SISTERS OF MERCY
• FATEBENEFRATELLI
• DAUGHTERS OF DIVINE ZEAL
• DAUGHTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS
• DAUGHTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY
• SISTERS OF THE RESURRECTION
• MISSIONARY DAUGHTERS OF MARY
• SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS
• THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. CAMILLUS
• FRANCISCAN FRIARS
• COMBONIAN MISSIONARY SISTERS
• LITTLE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF CHARITY (DON ORIONE)
• SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE APOSTLES
• CANOSSIAN SISTERS
• TERESIAN CARMELITE SISTERS
• CLARETIAN MISSIONARY SISTERS
• SISTERS OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE HOLY MARY
• SISTER OF PROVIDENCE
• SISTERS OF THE HOLY CHILD MARY
• SISTERS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
• SISTERS OF ST. ANNE
• FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE POOR
• FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
• FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY SISTERS OF MARY
• DOROTHEAN SISTERS
• SERVANT SISTERS OF MARIE REPARATRICE

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