HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN AFRICA AND EUROPE

Doctors with Africa CUAMM’s intervention in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique, Ukraine and Moldova
CUAMM’S AREAS OF INTERVENTION

People flee war, drought, environmental disasters, hunger. It is from these tragedies that migration is born, 85% of which is internal to Africa, between countries or between areas of the same country, causing so-called refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). Because of this, more and more African countries have to deal with multiple crisis, adding on to other already fragile institutional, political, economical, environmental and sanitary circumstances.

In such contexts, Doctors with Africa CUAMM integrates a long-term consolidated development model with emergency response intervention: political and economic instability, conflicts, epidemics, and climate crisis. Ordinary response goes hand in hand with resilience, supporting systems and communities, especially in times of severe shock, in collaboration with local authorities.

With such a development vision, Doctors with Africa CUAMM addresses the critical situations that occur from time to time in the countries where it operates. When entire populations are forced to abandon their homes and seek shelter in other regions of the country or in neighbouring ones due to internal conflicts, CUAMM ensures a coordinated system of interventions, both medical and humanitarian, so that people can receive the necessary assistance.

In this way CUAMM’s efforts focus on strengthening health systems and their resilience, their ability to adapt, overcome and defeat shock, both by providing support to hospitals and health centers, as well as by carrying out emergency interventions in camps for refugees and IDPs where it provides health care and services, particularly to women and children.

To address the instability and the now recurring emergencies on the African continent, CUAMM suggests long-term development projects, investing increasingly in preparedness, the set of actions aimed at anticipating risks, encouraging rapid and effective responses to emergencies, while mitigating their impact.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES
Access to quality routine services is guaranteed: outpatient visits, antenatal visits, maternal and child care and vaccinations. Within some camps, CUAMM has set up semi-permanent tents (Temporary Advanced Medical Posts - TAMPs) and organized mobile clinics.

DRUGS AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLY
CUAMM is committed to providing health facilities with medicines and medical supplies. Within the refugees and IDPs camps, it also distributes emergency kits (soap, fabrics, blankets, masks, basins, etc.).

STAFF TRAINING
Investment is made in training and strengthening the capacity and skills of operators. To enhance the response to emergencies, CUAMM engages in specific training for the management of IDPs and refugees, and for the provision of health services appropriate to the context.

AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES
CUAMM carries out awareness and prevention campaigns, especially regarding illnesses caused by poor sanitary conditions and overcrowding. Community awareness is promoted on adherence to treatment for chronic diseases (HIV, diabetes, etc.) and on good practice to be adopted, for example, the use of mosquito nets.
In Ethiopia, the situation is critical. There are 864,950 refugees from South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. The Gambella region alone, in the west part of the country, hosts 371,280 people in 7 camps. CUAMM particularly provides assistance in three of them: Nguenyyiel, Tierkidi and Kulle. The refugee crisis is also compounded by the crisis of internally displaced people, caused by the civil war that broke out in November 2020 in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia. Thus far, there are 4.5 million internally displaced people in the country. CUAMM has also launched an emergency intervention to give support to IDPs and refugees in Jigjiga, the capital of Somali Region.

Mozambique is also experiencing a particularly delicate situation. Cabo Delgado, a province in the north, rich in natural resources, has become the scene of terrorists attacks and violence since October 2017. After 5 years of attacks, there are nearly 745,000 civilians who have fled, leaving their homes to seek shelter in safer parts of the country. To cope with this emergency, CUAMM is supporting health centers and hospitals in the districts of Ancuabe, Chiure, Mecufi, Metuge, Pemba and Montepuez, and is working within 6 IDPs camps.*

* Data United Nations, June 2022
Since 2013 in South Sudan a dramatic civil war is taking place, which driven more than 4 million of South Sudanese to move to inland areas of the country or to seek refuge especially in Ethiopia and Uganda. To aggravate the situation are the increasingly frequent environmental phenomena like heavy flooding that forces people to abandon their homes. Currently there are 2.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries, while 2 million are internally displaced. CUAMM’s intervention within 103 healthcare facilities and the 5 hospitals of Rumbek, Yirol, Cuibet, Lui, and Maridi reaches both the resident population and the population of internally displaced persons.*

Uganda is the country with the largest number of refugees in Africa, hosting 1,550,000 of them, coming from both South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this area CUAMM operates particularly in the region of West Nile and in the district of Kiryadogo, situated in western Uganda, with a project providing eye surgery services, through mobile clinics (surgical camp), for the benefit of the local, refugee and settled population.*

Data United Nations. June 2022
Following the Russian military invasion of Ukraine, there are **7.7 million internally displaced people** in the country. An estimated 13 million people are stranded in areas affected by the conflict and over **7.6 million refugees** have crossed the borders seeking security in neighbouring countries. Doctors with Africa CUAMM has been active in giving support to the population in various ways. In Ukraine, in the city of Chernivtsi, CUAMM has initiated collaborations with local institutions and with the local NGO Volonterskyi RuH Bukovyny (VRB), which, since the war in Donbass broke out in 2014, has been dealing with the internally displaced people and the population living along the contact lines, distributing medicines, food and clothing.

The intervention consists mainly of:

- creating a supply chain to serve more than 13 regions and related hospitals (oncology, pediatric, maternal, emergency etc.), especially for drugs and consumables for cancer patients, for obstetrics emergencies and for chronic diseases;
- supporting the government’s mobile clinic system, useful for reaching the IDPs population, who is concentrated in the west of the country.

Finally, **3 ambulances** have been delivered to facilitate transportation of patients from smaller hospitals to referral hospitals.

Doctors with Africa CUAMM also operates in Moldova, where it has been credited as Emergency Medical Team (EMT): a type of intervention which provides for the deployment of doctors and health personnel within emergency settings, in particular in **two refugee reception centers in Chișinău**, in agreement with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The first center accommodates 220 people, mostly of Roma ethnicity; the second hosts a hundred refugees. An Italian doctor and an Italian nurse bring help, joined by 2 Moldovan nurses who speak Italian, Russian and Romanian to facilitate communication.

However, the situation remains very precarious and CUAMM’s interventions change according to the Ministry of health requests.
WE ARE WITH THOSE WHO SUFFER, WITH THOSE IN NEED OF CARE AND MEDICINES, WITH THOSE WHO HAVE THE RIGHT TO HEALTH AND LIFE. ALWAYS, EVERYWHERE, IN AFRICA AS IN UKRAINE.