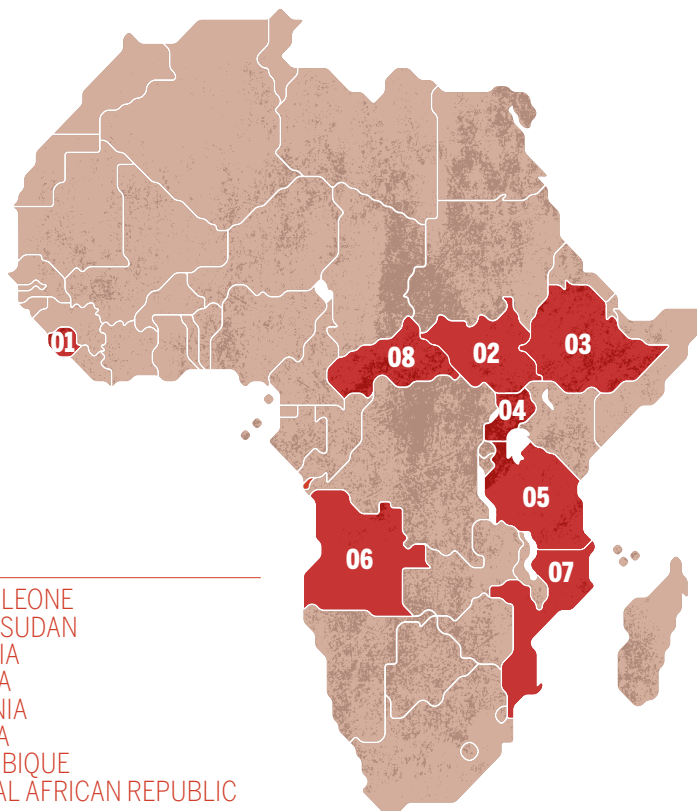


COUNTRY PROFILE
ANGOLA



DOCTORS WITH AFRICA CUAMM



- 01 SIERRA LEONE
- 02 SOUTH SUDAN
- 03 ETHIOPIA
- 04 UGANDA
- 05 TANZANIA
- 06 ANGOLA
- 07 MOZAMBIQUE
- 08 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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)

4,581

Human resources

270

International European professionals

A 71-YEARS HISTORY

2,060

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

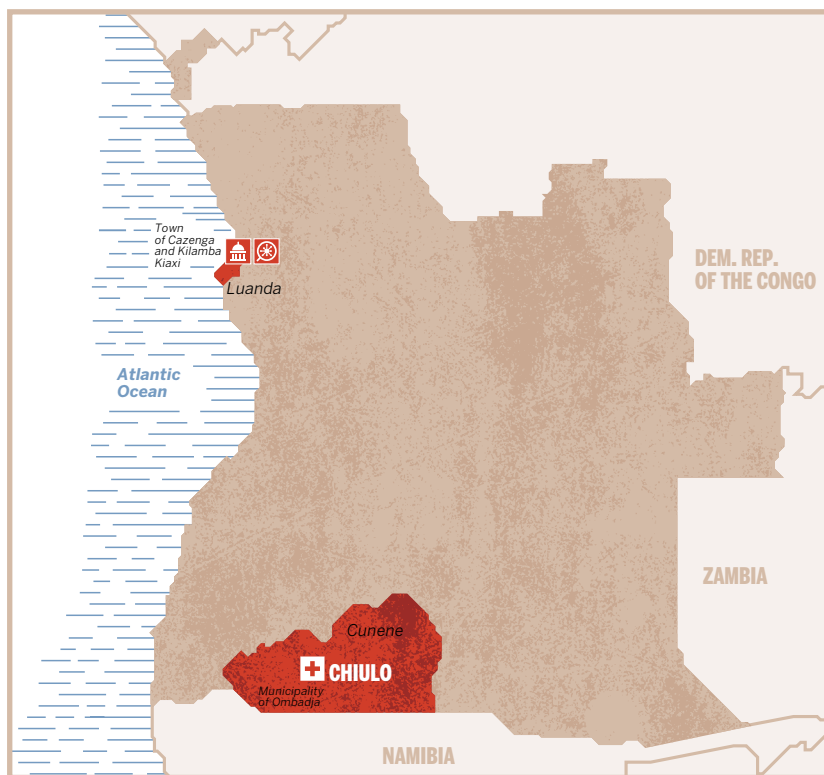
43

Countries of intervention

OUR INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

Doctors with Africa Cuamm has been present in Angola since 1997, intervening in the province of Uige to face the emergency caused by the civil war.

Since then, intervention has expanded to other provinces, Luanda and Cunene, focusing on development projects and strengthening of the local health system, offering technical assistance and support services. Doctors with Africa CUAMM promotes maternal and child health and intervenes to combat diabetes, hypertension, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.



1997 EMERGENCY IN UIGE

With the country in civil war the first emergency intervention in the province of UIGE are effected.

2012 MOTHERS AND CHILDREN FIRST

The program "Mothers and children first" is initiated to ensure access to safe childbirth and newborn care in 4 African countries. In 2016, the Program continues with a focus on nutrition, and expands to 3 additional countries.

2018 PILOT PROGRAM ON TB

The community pilot program Directly Observed Treatment (DOT) is initiated to fight tuberculosis in 6 municipalities in 5 provinces of the country. At the hospital of Chiulo a project to provide constant electricity to the hospital thanks to a photovoltaic system gets started.

2022 WHAT'S NEXT

The intervention expands to the municipality of Cahama in the field of nutrition. WASH activities are introduced in the municipalities of Ombadja and Cahama.

2004 CHANGE OF APPROACH

Supporting the health system in the pathway from emergency to development, interventions in Luanda and in the provinces of Uige and Cunene.

2014 INTERVENTION ON NCDs

Innovative intervention in Luanda to improve the diagnosis of diabetes and hypertension in patients with TB.

2020-2021 AN ONGOING COMMITMENT

The Covid-19 pandemic greatly complicates project implementation. In spite of everything, CUAMM continues to deal with maternal-child health and nutrition in the municipality of Ombadja, and health activities for the improvement of services of diagnosis, management and assistance to HIV-positive and Tb-infected patients in Luanda.

PROVINCE OF CUNENE AND CHIULO HOSPITAL



In 2000, at the invitation of the Diocese of Ondjiva, Doctors with Africa Cuamm began its intervention in the Province of Cunene, supporting the **Catholic Mission Hospital of Chiulo**, with the main objective of promoting access to quality health services for the most vulnerable population (pregnant women and children). In these years, the **protection of neonatal and maternal-child health** has been guaranteed, with particular attention to **nutrition**. Near the hospital of Chiulo, a “**Casa de espera**” (“House of hope”) has been set up, a structure that hosts pregnant women waiting to give birth, making it possible to **reduce the distances** that separate the hospital and the health centers – there are 36 peripheral health facilities in the area – and that result in women all too often giving birth at home, not assisted by qualified personnel.

In **2021** the women hosted in **Casa de espera** were **767** with an average of **64 women per month**.

In addition, in these years have been guaranteed:

- the **equipment** of basic equipment for the hospital and peripheral health centers;
- the **supply of food** for the women hosted in the waiting houses, for the malnourished children admitted to the hospital of Chiulo, and for the peripheral health centers;
- **supervision visits**;
- **training sessions** for local health personnel and community agents;
- **community outreach activities**, such as cooking demonstrations;
- **distribution of PPE**, in support of the government, to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Action is taken through **Mobile Brigades**, groups of health workers who move from community to community to provide **basic medical care** by helping families and children overcome barriers to accessing health services. In particular, the mobile brigades deal with vaccinations, prenatal visits, screening for malnutrition, and distribution of food kits to the most vulnerable groups.

PROVINCE OF CUNENE AND CHIULO HOSPITAL

(Data 2021)



234
Beds

OUTPATIENT VISITS

18,388
Total outpatient visits

INPATIENTS

4,510
Total admissions



MATERNITY

1,805
Total deliveries of which
173
Total caesarean sections
767
Prenat women hosted
in Casa de espera



ANC VISITS

4,890
Total prenatal visits



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

182
Malnourished children
hospitalized
11,368
Vaccinated women and
children under 5 years of age



TRAINING

120
Midwives trained
and contracted

PROVINCE OF LUANDA



In 2016, an **innovative project for the diagnosis of chronic non-communicable diseases, diabetes and hypertension, related to positive TB cases**, was launched in the province of Luanda.

Since then, CUAMM has ensured continuity of screening, awareness and diabetes prevention activities in 6 health centers in Luanda Province. It has also contributed to the development of the National Diabetes Manual for health workers, and has supported the Luanda Province Health Department in drafting guidelines on the diagnosis and management of type 2 diabetes.

CUAMM is an important partner at national level **for the fight against TB**. In January 2005, the **National Tuberculosis Control Program** support project funded by Global Fund ATM through UNDP begins in Luanda, and CUAMM provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health.

In 2017, a pilot **community-based directly observed treatment (CB-DOTS)** project is launched in 6 municipalities in 5 provinces nationwide, involving over 200 community agents trained to combat the spread of the disease. In 2018, support is strengthened for two specialized facilities in Luanda to improve the diagnostic quality and management of patients with TB and TB-related HIV, and to start digitizing health records. Finally, the presence in Luanda was extended with a **project to support** the Municipality of Kilamba Kiaxi to promote **HIV “test and treat”** and thus ensure continuous and integrated care for HIV patients.

Currently, CUAMM is active in the Province, particularly in the municipalities of Maianga and Kilamba Kiaxi, with an intervention focused on **infectious diseases**: tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS, with particular attention to Covid-19.

PROVINCE OF LUANDA

(Data 2021)



17

Health centres supported



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

38,325

Tested for HIV/AIDS

2,141

Tested HIV+



TRAINING

272

Nurses trained

40

Community activists trained

46

Physicians trained

179

Laboratory technicians trained



RAISING-AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

52

Campaigns conducted

18,172

People sensitised

BEHIND THE NUMBERS: FACES AND STORIES



BEING A MIDWIFE IN ANGOLA

Florentina Maria and Fernanda Felicia are two traditional *parteiras*, two midwives aged 66 and 62. They live in the rural area of Humbe, Cunene province, and every month they walk among the communities to hold **awareness meetings** on safe childbirth, but also on different public health issues such as hygiene and malaria prevention. During the activities they meet up to 60 people. Of those, many are pregnant women and men are often present as well. «**Talking to the men** is important because they are often the ones who decide whether women can go to the hospital to give birth, or for medical checkups, or to the casa de espera of hospitals. The biggest difficulties occur when pregnant women do not want to go to medical appointments so as not to be far from home, many do not have the money to do so. Sometimes they come to call us because women have not gone to the hospital or health centers to give birth and complications occur. In these cases we cannot help because only in hospitals can they receive the necessary care. We talk about **the possibility of going to the case de espera**, where there is support, there is food, and if they do not have money for passage, we advise them to approach little by little, because distance is another great difficulty». Both of them participate in the **training meetings** that Cuamm organizes: «They are important moments in which we learn new things, for example about **malnutrition and hygiene care**, which are fundamental to prevent various diseases».

Florentina and Fernanda, traditional midwives of the Cunene Province, Angola



KNOWLEDGE: THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS HEALTH

“Joana, an 18 year old pregnant girl with her boyfriend Alexander, 23, arrived to be tested for HIV in one of the health centers where prevention and **care services for people living with HIV** are active”, recounts one of the health workers. After testing the couple, Joana tested positive while Alexander tested negative; a case defined as “discordant couple”. Joana was in shock, she began to ask herself a thousand questions about what would become of her, what people would think; Alexander tried to calm her down by reminding her that she also had to think about their child. “We explained to Joana and Alexander the advantages **of the therapy** that if followed properly makes the viral load undetectable, so the HIV infection cannot be transmitted to either the child or the partner.” They accepted the situation and since that day Alexander accompanies her to check-ups, helping her to follow the therapy properly. Today they are well, and Alexander and the baby are negative. Improving the **health of a community** starts from a greater **awareness** of health issues, especially those strongly linked to taboos and prejudices, such as HIV. This is precisely the key role of **community activists** who work to inform and raise awareness in communities about the importance of **prevention**, and **testing for early detection** of the disease. They do this through **awareness campaigns** and **regular home visits**.

Testing activities for HIV/AIDS



01
Pregnant women hosted in the *Casa de espera*, Chiulo

03
Paediatric visit at Chiulo Hospital, photo Matteo De Mayda

05
Screening of children's nutritional status, Chiulo

02
Activities at community level for mother and child health, Cunene Province

04
Training activities, Luanda

06
Antenatal care visit, Chiulo

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Cover

Knowledge is the "armour"
of the mind

Back cover

Photo Matteo De Mayda

