



Project code 007

OPHTHALMIC CENTER

CONTEXT

The Central African Republic has an area of 622,984 sq km and a population of 5,166,510 inhabitants. Since the last coup in 2013, it has lived through five years of guerrilla warfare, violence and looting which further aggravated the already precarious political and economic situation in the country. The situation of thousands of refugees is catastrophic.

At the moment the State is still practically absent in both health and education.

The consequences are dramatic: an increase in illiteracy in recent generations, an increase in HIV / AIDS infections and sexually transmitted diseases due to the sexual violence that occurred during the crisis and an increase in other epidemics, such as malaria and tuberculosis.

THE PROJECT

The project started at the end of 2018 with the construction of a connected building with the "Saint Michel" Care Center in Bouar where the ophthalmic clinic was opened.

This project was born from the increasingly frequent demand for this type of service, only previously available at a Hospital in the capital, Bangui.

The access to care under the new project is available to all social classes of the population as the benefits will be provided free of charge or at least a minimum participation fee will be requested.

With the opening of the ophthalmic clinic, both patients of the Center and the population of Bouar and the surrounding villages will benefit from this new service.

One of the objectives is to have fewer people with visual problems so in the future they can be self-sufficient and do not rely on their families.

I. The project is divided into two phases:

Once the design was completed, the first phase of the construction of the building started.

A large part of the building materials (cement, bricks, windows and roofing) were found locally; the rest were sent from Italy (medical equipment and sanitary furnishings) in containers to Bouar.

The final building is divided as follows:

- an independent entrance, connected to the existing building through a porch
- a reception room with a small toilet
- a visitors' room
- a pharmacy where prescriptions, glasses and / or medicines are delivered
- a room for minor operations
- a small storage of goods, equipment and consumables.



- II. The second phase started in March 2019 with the opening of the ophthalmic clinic. As a working method, it was decided to follow the decades of experience of the activities of the "Saint Michel" Care Center: opening the medical record at the reception of the patient; eye examination, delivery of any glasses or drugs for the pathologies found following the visit and, if necessary, little surgical operations and subsequent check-ups.

BENEFICIARIES

First of all, the beneficiaries will be the patients currently in the care of the Care Center; secondly, all the population that requires the service from the city of Bouar and the prefecture of Nana Mambere, of which Bouar is the capital.

Future patients will instead be identified through eye exams or home visits.

The expected benefits are primarily those of avoiding a handicap that could weigh on daily life and the family, thus giving a life improvement.

In this way the beneficiary has the possibility of resuming a normal working life helping him to solve his handicap, being able to move independently, by working, mainly agricultural, and not be a burden to the family.

A further result is that there will be fewer people with visual problems and therefore be self-sufficient.

The construction of the new building and the opening of it, was only possible thanks to the support of AMICI Betharram Onlus and the SIRIRI association (Czech Republic)

The director of the new ophthalmic center is Brother Angelo Sala, assisted by the ophthalmologist, Vokou Raymond, and the local staff previously trained.