

Central African Republic, Bouar

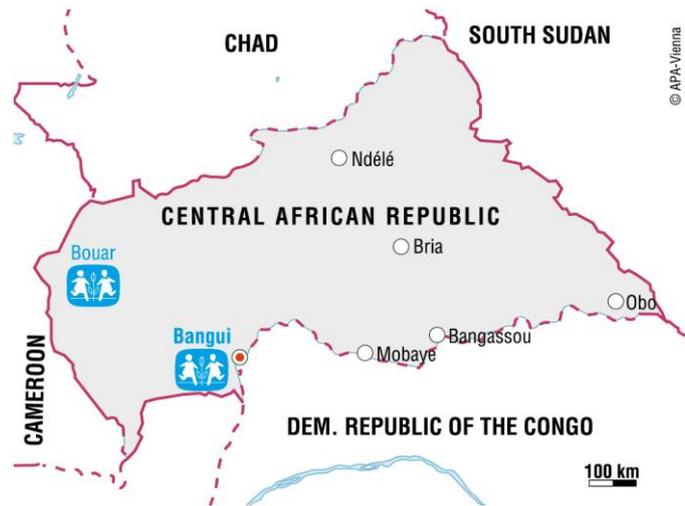
Report 1/2018



Thank you for the support in Bouar

The uncertain situation in the Central African Republic makes life difficult for the people living there, and many families have been forced to run away from their homes. Thanks to strong local anchorage and long-term commitment in the country, SOS Children's Villages can continue the efforts for children and families living in vulnerability.

Connected to the children's village in Bouar, SOS Children's Villages also runs a medical centre, a kindergarten, a primary school with 223 students and a family strengthening program where nearly 400 children and adults receive help and support through education, healthcare and contributions to clothes and school fees.



SOS Children's Villages work in the country would not be possible without you and other donors. Thank you for giving children, youths and families in the Central African Republic a better future!

Activities during the year

In 2017, 1 085 treatments, in an area of approximately 8 726 inhabitants, were carried out by SOS Children's Villages medical centre in Bouar.

The medical centre did several home visits together with a health centre's mobile team. The number treated for HIV through SOS Children's Villages medical centre in Bouar is 22 people, of which four are children. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health Programme for the fight against Malaria, the medical centre offers free medication for patients with malaria.

The SOS Children's Village medical centre will continue to be used as a infirmary in 2018 after evaluations initiated by SOS Children's Villages International. Challenges in 2018 are to improve service levels by increasing the centres presence in society and develop stronger partnerships with other non-governmental organizations.

The team working at the centre cooperates with several international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF, in order to effectively implement national programs to fight HIV and malaria. In addition to receiving and nursing patients, the clinic also put a lot of efforts in increasing impact and vaccine campaigns, family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Overall, the medical centre offers:

- **Preventive care** by raising awareness of subjects such as sexually transmitted diseases, offering family planning and prenatal consultations for women, and work to prevent diseases such as measles and polio.
- **Curative care** through treatment of common diseases like malaria (25%), typhoid and diarrhea (15%), skin infections (14%), lung infections (12%), monitoring and management of people living with HIV/AIDS (7%). The medical centre also performs minor operations. On average, eight patients receive a daily dose.



Photo: SOS archives

Story from the Medical Centre

Six months ago, a 43-year-old woman came to the centre. She was tired, depressed and very thin and she told the nurse that she was a widow with six children. She had lost her husband two years ago after a long-term illness.

After the examination it was found that the woman had HIV. She instantly received counselling and emotional support and was advised to start treatment immediately.

One week after the result, the woman returned to the centre. "I accept my status even if I did not believe it when you told me," she told the nurse. The nurse took the woman's hand and told her that they would take control of the disease, together. The woman began treatment for supplementary diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and persistent cough. When the woman accepted her illness, and began to take care of her health, these supplementary diseases eventually disappeared and she could begin the treatment for HIV.

Today she is proud and very happy to come to the centre at the end of each month to get her treatment. When she comes to the centre, she tries to inspire others in the same situation. She is still working at her farm and is in such a good shape that she can now take care of her children, her biggest motivation in life.

She is so grateful that the centre helped her get over her fear of being discriminated against.

The UN sustainable development goals

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit – officially came into force. Over the next twelve years, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

For SOS Children’s Villages, these goals are a confirmation that we are going in the right direction. Our operation works with all the goals but goal 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 16 and 17 has an extra clear connection to SOS Children’s Villages. As donors, you are supporting the work towards goal 1, and 3.



1. Poverty is the most common reason to why children are abandoned. All our efforts are in order to make it possible for children and families to be self-sufficient and create a better future for themselves in the long term.

3. Ensuring good health and promoting the **well-being** for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. When needed, we enter and support care initiatives for children and families, either through our own medical centres or by providing support and strengthening society's efforts.