

ASSOCIATION SAINT CAMILLE DE LELLIS

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

2024 ACTIVITY REPORT



“I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me” (Mt 25:35-36).

PRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Saint Camille de Lellis Association is a non-profit African faith-based organization founded in Bouaké, Ivory Coast, in the 1980s.

Its mission is **to welcome**, care **for**, reintegrate, and **support** the most disadvantaged, particularly those suffering from **mental illness**. It has since expanded to Benin and Togo. In Ivory Coast, the Saint Camille de Lellis association has **three main activities** :

WELCOME AND CARE of people with mental illness in our **reception centers**.



SOCIO-RESECONDITIONAL REINTEGRATION

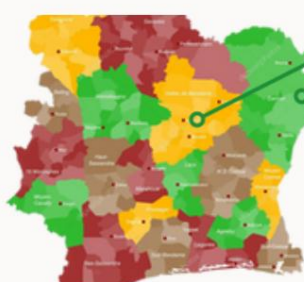
PROFESSIONAL and **SUPPORT** for residents stabilized in our **reintegration centers** and through the activity of our **relay centers**.



HEALTH ACCESSIBLE thanks to its **general hospital** and its



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION



in **BOUAKÉ**

- **2 reception centers** (Nimbo and CHU), **2 reintegration centers** (Belleville and Dar Es Salam), **1 general hospital** and **1 social dispensary**.

in **BONDOUKOU**

- **1 reception center** also with rehabilitation activities for the sick.

The Saint Camille association also works in **15 relay centers**, mainly in the central and eastern regions.

SOME KEY DATES

1983

A Catholic prayer group gathers around Grégoire Ahongbonon to visit the sick in hospitals.

1987

The Saint Camille de Lellis Confessional Association was created and then sent on a mission by the bishop in 1988.

1994

Creation of the first reception center within the Bouaké University Hospital.

1996

Implementation of the first socio-professional reintegration center in Bouaké. 2

2004

Opening of the first center in Benin. The association expands beyond Ivory Coast.

CONTEXT, MISSIONS, VALUES

In Africa, mental illness occurs in a very specific socio-cultural context:

- Very strong beliefs: **Witchcraft, demonic possession** -
An insufficient health system:

- Only **2 public hospitals specializing in mental health 32 psychiatrists**
- **in the territory, i.e. 1 for 340,000 adults***

- Care is often unaffordable

Annual cost of a mentally ill person: 350,000 FCFA** or 30,000 FCFA per month. This corresponds to the average monthly income of the poverty line, which concerns 40% of the population*** **Medication can cost more than 20,000 FCFA per month.**

Distraught families, especially the poorest, are then tempted by spiritual and traditional alternatives. **Serious violations of human dignity** are often committed against the mentally ill: **they are locked** in prayer camps, **mistreated** by healers, **chained in the woods**, or even **abandoned** on the streets. They then find themselves ostracized by society, forgotten by all, left to their own devices.



In this context, the Saint Camille de Lellis association has been offering **social commitment around strong human values** for over 30 years :



Unconditionally welcome the human being

and not the sick person,

Take care before treating,



Take charge and provide treatment adapted to African realities and at a social cost, Giving the patient a role in society again, through reintegration or the establishment of peer support workers,



Supporting patients and families once they return to the community.



End of 2024, at the Belleville socio-professional reintegration center , we had the joy of organizing a

Christmas tree in our nursery school with the children and their parents, invited for the occasion.

Gifts, offered by each parent, were distributed to the children after festivities that will remain in people's minds for a long time.

STAFF REVIEWS

Mr. Yavo Yavo Fabrice,
physiotherapist at
Saint Camille Hospital in Nimbo



"I have been at St. Camille's since September 2019, and every day that passes is a blessing for us, as bringing a little comfort to patients is a real blessing. However, apart from the lack of some useful equipment and a prescriber for the smooth running of our service, we deplore the absence of specialists such as neurologists, pediatricians, and also rheumatologists. However, we can say that Saint Camille is a renowned charitable organization, seeing all the neighboring countries that request it."

Mrs. Traoré Kady Yvonne
Head of the
Bouaké University Hospital Reception Center



"I am one of the pioneers of Saint Camille; I joined the facility in 1992. Every day is a grace from God; the day always begins by making contact with my colleagues. I am responsible for coordinating the center's activities, ensuring the residents' meals, their personal hygiene, clothing, and environmental health, and ensuring that they take their medication. In general, everything goes well except in the case of a relapse of a resident who requires appropriate treatment. Saint Camille allows us to contribute to the care of our sick brothers and sisters, and that is a grace from God."

WELCOME AND CARE

The association has three reception centers in Ivory Coast where more than 300 people with mental illness are hospitalized: - the Nimbo men's center in Bouaké - the women's center in the CHU annex in Bouaké - the mixed center, in Bondoukou, in the east of the country.

More than 458 people were newly hospitalized in 2024 in our reception centers.

458,613,000

613,000 tablets are distributed free of charge each month to residents hospitalized in our reception centers.

385,000

385,000 meals served in 2024 to patients admitted to our centers.

The Saint Camille de Lellis association is open to all, but aims to be present, above all, to **the most disadvantaged**. This is why we are committed to providing highly accessible care in order to be a sustainable alternative to practices that can undermine human dignity. It is also a way for the association to ensure **ongoing awareness** among families about mental illness, **to explain the importance of treatments** that allow them to live with the illness, and to **demonstrate that the patient can return to a normal life**.



A strong social commitment Regardless of the length of time the patient is treated and fed, the financial contribution is limited to 5,500 FCFA.

THEY ARE AT SAINT CAMILUS'S DAY

Testimony from a parent:

"My son was a farmer. One night, he said he had a dream: a spirit showed him a tree that he was supposed to use to wash himself. That's when his illness began. The spirit told him to do things that didn't make sense, and he obeyed. Last December, a parent told us about Saint Camillus's Day and the care given to the mentally ill; that's how we came to Saint Camillus's Day. Since then, everything has been going well by the grace of God."



WELCOME AND CARE



To welcome on Saint Camille's Day is first and foremost to welcome the human being and not the sick person. It is before restore all dignity when it has been harmed. The patient is washed, combed, dressed, fed and then cared for.



Welcoming people to Saint Camille

means going to find the sick person where they are, even when everyone has forgotten them.

36

36 wandering mentally ill people were picked up from the streets of Bouaké by a Saint Camille team in 2024



30

30 patients were brought in by public services (Firefighters, Police, Social Services)

The Saint Camille de Lellis association plays an essential role in society and works in conjunction with public services.

Some families, far from the Gbêké region, need a relative to be cared for, but do not have the means of transportation to get to Bouaké. When possible, we go to find the sick person wherever they are.



“On Saint Camillus’s Day, everyone is welcome, we have an increased social policy towards the most deprived and the voiceless in society.”

The costs of neuroleptic treatments are accessible to everyone.

REINTEGRATE AND SUPPORT

Since its inception, and through the intuition of its founder, Mr. Grégoire Ahongbonon, the Saint Camille association has understood that rehabilitation through work is essential. Because we want patients to become upright women and men again, they must be able to regain their role in society and in the community. Work is also the best treatment for the side effects of psychotropic drugs. For this purpose, we have rehabilitation centers:

- in organic market gardening and poultry farming, in Dar Es Salam3 (Bouaké district), in cooking, pastry making and soap making, in Belleville 2 (also Bouaké district).
- The Bondoukou center also offers reintegration activities including field work and livestock farming.



59 59 stabilized residents were active or in regaining autonomy in our rehabilitation centers

In 2024, we continued training our residents with a view to empowering them.

We trained 111 beneficiaries in community cooking and pastry making, organic chicken farming. 55% were able to , market gardening soap making, and broiler return to their families with an income-generating activity. In addition, the centers benefited from several renovations. The 3-year project, supported by the Italian region of Friuli, will have enabled several hundred people to benefit from vocational training in the Bouaké rehabilitation centers.



Restoring a role in society : Peer helpers, a reality at Saint Camille for almost 30 years.

What more genuine empathy than that of your brother who has experienced the same difficulties as you? From its inception, the association understood that the stabilized patient should have a role to play alongside his suffering brothers. This is why it has entrusted the responsibility, to those who are better, to serve those who are still dependent because of their illness.

They are at Saint Camille's.

Ms. Élodie, our social worker: "The goal for 2024 was to involve parents in patient follow-up. We believe we have achieved this goal, given the decrease in relapses and the number of patients returning to their families. We owe this success to the entire team at the Saint Camille association."



REINTEGRATE AND SUPPORT

Reintegration also and above all means returning to the family, returning to the village, returning to one's loved ones. This is not always easy given the patient's history and illness, but also because treatment is financially burdensome, and many families must choose between feeding themselves and seeking treatment. In the case of mental illness, not being able to seek treatment means relapse, with dramatic consequences for the patient.



A strong social commitment: So that the cost of treatment does not hinder living with the disease, we limit monthly monitoring for taking medication to **2,500 FCFA** regardless of the number of molecules.

Accompanying at Saint-Camille means setting up follow-up for the patient and their family, from their arrival to their return home. At Saint-Camille, monitoring is both medical and social.

11000

11,000 psychiatric consultations were carried out during the year 2024, including 8% new cases. The majority were outpatient.

Providing support to Saint Camille also means providing follow-up for stabilized patients who have returned to their families.



352

352 family returns after hospitalization were able to be prepared and followed up, 985 individual interviews carried out by our social

985

worker, 257 patients participated in the

257

discussion groups organized by the social worker.

Accompanying to Saint Camille means moving within the communities

Thirty years ago, the Saint Camille association posed the first not **community mental health** by putting in place of **Relay Centers** based on dispensaries religious closer to the communities. Medicines are made available at the Saint Camille rate and consultations are regularly organized there.



HEALTH FOR ALL

Saint Camille Hospital was created in 1998 because no health facility was willing to take care of the mentally ill, due to fear of illness or lack of resources.

We have therefore opened a general hospital accessible to the entire population with **quality service, a strong social commitment and a technical platform supported by:**

general medicine (consultations and observations), psychiatry, radiology, analysis laboratory, ophthalmology (consultations & surgeries), eyewear, dental practice (dentist & prosthetist), electroencephalogram, physiotherapy (rehabilitation sessions)...

The hospital is also an inclusive structure where we give responsibility back to more than 30 "stabilized" residents: nursing assistants, secretaries, caretakers, etc., in support of qualified healthcare staff.

Work helps you regain self-confidence and is essential for maintaining good stability in your life.



25000

25,000 consultations, treatments or analyses carried out. 10,117 specialist

10117

consultations (excluding psychiatry) and nearly 215 ophthalmology surgeries.

908

examinations and x-rays carried out.

The Association is a member of the Union of Religious in Health and Social Work in Côte d'Ivoire (**URSSCI**), which brings together 140 centers run by religious congregations. It helps defend the interests of private social centers with the various supervisory ministries. It is also a resource organization to help us with our issues (taxation, formalities, etc.)



A strong social

commitment: The cost of care should never be a barrier to seeking treatment

The consultation costs **500 FCFA** for general medicine and maternity and **2,000** or **3,000 FCFA** for specialist medicine (dentist, ophthalmologist, etc.).

they are at Saint Camille's

Doctor Mi Lolo, Chief Physician of Saint Camille Hospital "With the new Management, things are moving forward," monthly we have a meeting report for department heads, which was not done before. We have a new maternity unit which is a plus for the population of Nimbo."



IN THE SERVICE OF HEALTH

In 2024, we continued to consolidate the activities of Saint Camille Hospital and the Belleville Center dispensary. Thanks to the support of our partners, we were able to carry out maintenance and investment work within the hospital.

Several works have been carried out:

- layout of the entrance office,
- exterior painting of a building,
- building maintenance.

Hôpital Saint Camille

Centre de Santé Social Privé Confessionnel

Bouaké - Quartier Nimbo



- Médecine Générale
- Maternité
- Laboratoire d'Analyses
- Radiologie
- EEG / Echographie (lundi seulement)
- Ophtalmologie
- Cabinet Dentaire
- Rééducation/Kinésithérapie
- Psychiatrie
- Cardiologie / ECG (mardi et jeudi)

- Prise en charge VIH
- Prise en charge tuberculose
- Dépistage cancer du col de l'utérus

Bouaké
Quartier Nimbo
sur la voie d'Abidjan
Entre les 2 stations essence

Ouvert du lundi au vendredi de 8h à 16h

Informations au

07 03 32 71 03

secretariat@stc.saintcamille@gmail.com



"L'accueil au service
d'une santé de qualité
accessible à tous"

L'Hôpital Saint Camille est une activité de l'Association Saint Camille de Lefeo CI
Carte N°0424/MEMD/DGAT/OAG/SDVAC du 02/09/2002
Structure sanitaire conventionnée par l'arrêté N°2192/MSP/HICAB du 31/12/2018

We strive to always seek and improve the quality of reception, care and service at the hospital.

We continue to communicate to better raise awareness of our healthcare offerings in Bouaké.



Renovation of the entrance office at Nimbo



Belleville Dispensary 2

SAINT CAMILLE CENTER OF BONDOUKOU

Mr. Germain, head of the Bondoukou center: We give thanks to God for his Providence and we say thank you to all our benefactors who have enabled us to carry out all these renovations, in particular our Father Bishop Bruno Essoh Yedoh thanks to the "Paapal foundation" project.



View of the renovations



RENNOVATION OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CHAPEL



the new chapel of Bondoukou



Kitchen renovation



Renovation of the sanitary facilities



Activities of the apatam



Visit from Mr. Grégoire

ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Following on from the previous three years, 2024 was a year of strengthening the actions carried out at Saint Camille! Since its creation, it has experienced a turbulent history: significant dynamism in the 90s, the opening of numerous centers, international expansion, but also more tragic events such as the successive Ivorian crises or the sudden disappearance of its Director, Mr. Kaboré in 2018. **Our reflection continues on the consolidation of its structure and governance. We are working so that the association can approach the years to come with ever greater serenity, including valuable collaboration with its various national and international partners.**

Sister Élise Adou, head of the Oasis d'Amour Fraternity in Bouaké, is the **executive director**. She is assisted by a deputy director, Philippe Derez, who replaces Édouard Castellan, to whom we thank him greatly for his services: -sustaining the actions undertaken since 2021 and ensuring continuity for the association, -strengthening the management in its capacity for project management and monitoring in addition to operational monitoring.



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NEEDS AND PROJECTS

Despite the challenges, the Saint Camille de Lellis association has continued its activities in Côte d'Ivoire for 30 years and has expanded considerably. Always concerned with the weakest, it demonstrates our commitment to ensuring the sustainability of our work over time. Every day, we strive towards increasing autonomy and strive to maintain a healthy balance between internal resources and external funding.

However, there is still a long way to go...

In order to support its high-impact social commitment, geared towards the most disadvantaged, the Saint Camille de Lellis association needs external assistance for its operation and development.



The daily cost of a hospitalized patient is **3,000 FCFA** (food, medication, utilities, etc.).

However, our income allows us to finance **500 FCFA** (less than 20% of the needs).

In psychiatry, we consume each year around **4 million neuroleptic tablets and 40,000 injectable ampoules** for a purchase value close to 80 million FCFA.

AID for our DEVELOPMENT We depend heavily on external aid to develop: renovation of our aging reception centers, projects to boost and create income-generating activities in our rehabilitation centers, development of our 2 health centers.



For every mentally ill person treated, an entire family, or even an entire community, is positively impacted!

children with atypical problems (disability, delay)... **The Saint Camille association also takes care, if necessary, of the children of boarders (housing, care, food, schooling) in order to ensure their future.**

51 M FCFA

or equivalent in food per year are necessary to continue our social action.

64 M FCFA

or equivalent in medicines per year are needed to continue our social action each year.

137 M FCFA

investment or equivalent in equipment are seeking funding (see details on projects page).

5 M FCFA of targeted development aid for the care and support of relatives of vulnerable patients (children, women) or abandoned



The association carries out several development projects, linked to the sustainable development objectives recommended by the UN.

We are seeking funding, particularly for five of them which seem to us to be priorities.

(A specific call for funds form per project is available on request).

NEW PROJECTS

STAFF TRAINING

As part of the ongoing improvement of psychiatry at St-Camille, it is important that new people can benefit from medical training as nurses and nursing assistants.

2.5 M FCFA
Training

RENOVATION OF OUR RECEPTION CENTERS

Our reception centers are aging, and since 2021, we have been committed to renovating them. We still need to renovate the restrooms, invest in more fuel-efficient fireplaces, and expand our reception capacity.

43 M FCFA
Mostly
Infrastructure & Works

CONSTRUCTION OF A SOCIAL CENTER

Our reception centers are operating beyond capacity. In addition to patients temporarily hospitalized, our association houses people who no longer have family (or who have been abandoned despite our efforts). They are then deprived of their own resources due to mental illness, which often leaves them with disabilities. We hope to build a social center in Bouaké so they can live there and thus relieve overcrowding in our reception centers.

40 M FCFA
**Infrastructure &
Works**

HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT

As seen in the financial report, the hospital is the main source of income for the association. Furthermore, we are fortunate to benefit from state support by sending civil servant medical staff (14 doctors, nurses, etc.), but it is waiting for us to have the technical platform of a General Hospital. We are seeking funds for the restart of an operating room, the purchase of equipment (such as an incubator), and the repair of the waste incinerator. Finally, we wish to develop the professional training of our stabilized residents in health professions (nursing assistants, auxiliaries, etc.).

35 M FCFA
15 M
infrastructure and
works 15 M or
equivalent in
medical equipment
5 M training

CONSTRUCTION OF A RECEPTION CENTER IN ABIDJAN

Many people with mental illness are still present on the streets of Ivory Coast's largest city today. Indeed, those who cannot afford treatment are currently not being cared for. Our association's presence in Bouaké and Bondoukou is far too remote for Saint-Camille to be actively present in Abidjan and allow these people to regain their dignity.

400 M FCFA
**Ground &
Works**

LIFE IN THE CENTERS (1/2)



DAR ES SALAAM



BELLEVILLE 2



University Hospital



NIMBO



LOHANN CARTON 1ST COORDINATOR PRESENTATION OF TRAINING CERTIFICATES OF THE PROJECT

LIFE IN THE CENTERS (2/2)

BELLEVILLE REINTEGRATION CENTER



COLLECTIVE COOKING TRAINING SESSION



SOAP MAKING KITS

They are Saint Camille: A SICK PERSON REINSTATED



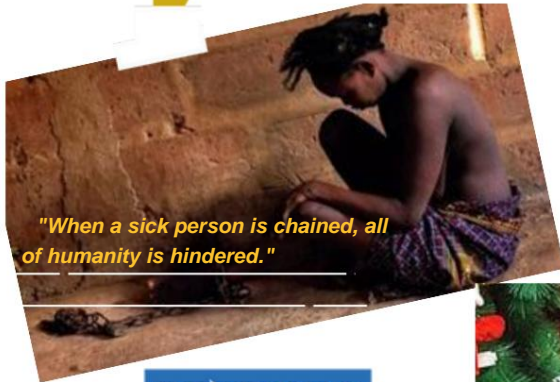
"My life at Saint Camille was a grace from God, I could have ended up in the streets , but I was welcomed at Saint Camille and after my stabilization mentally I was brought to Dar Es Salaam to learn about the cultures market gardeners, today things are better by the grace of God, I say thank you to the Saint Camillus and to my God for his providence in my life."

NEWS & WORD FROM THE FOUNDER



They are Saint Camille - Word from Grégoire Ahongbonon, founder of the Association "Côte d'Ivoire is very important for the

Association because it was in Bouaké that everything began. I am very happy and proud of everyone's work. Charity towards the sick, which is a cardinal value of Saint Camille, remains one of my priorities. I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. We must continue to fight tirelessly for these patients who are forgotten and stigmatized because of mental illness."



"When a sick person is chained, all of humanity is hindered."

LE FIGARO



the deputy director: Mr. Philippe Derez

Another huge thank you to everyone who helped us in 2024!



We hold in our prayers all the individuals, the anonymous ones who have supported us with a visit, a donation, or prayer. May they receive our deepest gratitude.

