

PROJET BWANGA

République du Congo



**Year report
2019**

Introduction

For background information of Project Bwanga please refer to our website, www.bwanga.org or our facebook page.

1. Summary of what has been done in 2019

Supervisions

There have been two major supervision rounds in March and October as well as a supervision round in combination with a training session in July. All mobile clinics have been supervised at least four times. In total 41 supervisions have been done.

Training sessions

There have been two training sessions, one session involving all the mobile clinics (11) in July. For that session two members of the project have come from Europe to Congo (Ingrid Lewis and Simone Koopman). The aim of that session was the training of new healers in Mbandza 2 and Minganga 2 and to retrain our healers in Mobangui. Using a 'training of trainers' approach we involved our experienced healers in the delivery of training of new healers.

A further training session was held in December. For this training round Ingrid Lewis and Nicolas Nijhof flew in from Europe. This visit did not involve all of the mobile clinics but only the most experienced ones who would give the training to two new clinics (Toukoulaka and Djoubé). Another goal of this training session was to alleviate the workload of Indépendant Ghislain. We trained Raymond (from Pokola) and Emmanuel (from Eneyelé). Like Indépendant, they are BaYaka Mbendjélé working for the CIB logging company.

Loss of one of our healers

Sadly, one of our pioneer healers, our dear friend Joseph Mongemba passed away in September this year. It is a big personal loss for us all and also a big loss for his community and our project .



Vaccinations

In November a vaccination campaign was organised in the villages at the banks of the Sangha river.

Gifts and donations

Several activities were organised to raise funds, a fancy fair in a school in Groningen raised about €2,200; lectures given by members of the project raised in total €3,100. In addition, there have been gifts, a pirogue as a birthday present of a member of the team and tents by the members of Renegade Pictures who were on site for a documentary.

Also, in accordance with the agreement signed last year; transport, overnight stays and flight tickets have been covered by the local logging company CIB.



2. Mobile Pharmacies

All the healers of the project have a blue 60L waterproof barrel in which they store their medicines and their money. The barrel is locked so that the healer is the only one with access to it.

The standard content of a pharmacy is as follows:

Medicine	Against	Quantity	Unit
Coartem	Malaria	714	Pills
Co-trimoxazol (bactrim) 480 mg	Dysentery	500	Pills
Metronidazol cp 250 mg	Amoebic diarrhea	1.000	Pills
SRO	Simple diarrhea child	100	Bags
Albendazol (Zentel) 500 mg	Intestinal worms	1.000	Pills
Zinc	Simple diarrhea child	500	Pills
Paracetamol	Pain and fever	800	Pills
Amoxicillin 500 mg	Pneumonia adults	500	Pills
Amoxillin 500 mg	Skin and dental infections	500	Pills
Co-trimoxazol (bactrim) 120 mg	Pneumonia children	1.000	Pills
Tetracyclin eye cream	Eye infections	30	Tubes
Benzoylbenzoate	Scabies	1	1 L Bottle
Miconazol cream	Fungal skin infections	7	Tubes
Iron and folic acid	Anaemia prev pregnancy	30	Bags of 30 pills
Fansidar	Malaria prev pregnancy	90	Pills
Dakin	Wound	1	1.5L Bottle
Compresses	Wound	90	Compresses
Sparadrap	Wound	1	Big roll

Non sterile gloves	Wound	100	Gloves
Azitromycin	STI	30	Pills
Cefuxim/ zinnat	STI	15	Pills
Condoms	Prevention AIDS	20	Packs of 3 condoms

In total a pharmacy offers 468 adult treatments (worm treatments not included). Some treatments need more than one medicine (wound care, STD's, child diarrhoea). The total value of the content of a pharmacy is 150,000 FCFA (€225)

Besides medicines, the pharmacy also contains some basic supplies such as soap, towel, scissors etc.

Currently Project Bwanga has **thirteen active teams of healers**. The healers are based in:

- **Pokola**, two teams: one couple in the Bayaka neighbour of Sembola, the other one is our local coordinator Indépendant. He often takes his mobile pharmacy along when he goes to the forest for work missions, so that he can give treatments to the sick people he encounters while traveling.
- **Matoto**, one couple, this village is situated at a half an hour drive of Pokola at the shore of the Sangha River.
- **Indongo/Ikélemba**, one healer who replaces our late healer Mongemba, Joseph since December.
- **Minganga**, two couples, this village is situated north of Pokola at two-hours drive from Pokola.
- **Toukoulaka**, one healer, this village is near Minganga.
- **Mobangui**, an old couple, the village is situated half an hour away from Minganga.
- **Bounguinda/Mombélou**, one couple, these villages are the hardest to reach, a three hours' drive followed by three hours motor boating on the Motaba River is needed to reach it. For Bounguinda a three-hour walk has to be added.
- **Djoubé**, this village, the second for Project Bwanga on the Motaba River, has been added in December, one couple. We are grateful that the training of the 2 Djoubé healers was financially supported by the Max Planck Institute, Germany.
- **Gbagbali**, two female healers forming a strong and effective team. The village is situated upstream of the Sangha River. It is a two and a half hour motorboat trip to reach.
- **Mbandza**, two couples of healers. The village is accessible by road since 2017 by a three-hour drive from Pokola.



3. Treatments given

In total the thirteen healer teams of Project Bwanga have given 3,100 treatments last year. These are the curative treatments people should pay for.

These numbers do not count in the free anti-worm treatments, the free hand out of vitamin A during health education sessions (mossambo's). In total 3,389 mossambo treatments have been given, of which 90% is a deworming treatment. Deworming is a very inexpensive and effective way of improving the total health of a population.



Most treatments in 2019 have been given for malaria (co-artem, 31%), pain and fevers (paracetamol, 13%) and diarrhoea with dehydration (SRO, 10%).

Most treatments were given in Minganga (two couples together 26%), Mbandza (two couples together account for 22%), followed by and Moumbelou/Bounguinda (10%).

A table with all the data can be found in the appendix.

4. Accounting of medicines and money in the pharmacies

The treatments that the healers give to their patients are not for free. All treatments have a fixed price of 500 FCFA (€ 0.76). This amount of money is affordable for everybody and in a perfect scenario this price should cover the medicine costs and the fee of 200 FCFA (€ 0.30) per treatment for the healer. Some treatments are expensive and we would lose money on these, others are cheap and these would balance against the loss. Like this, the mobile clinic could run as a revolving drug fund where no financial input expect for new set-up costs of new clinics from the exterior should be needed.



Healers only give medicines to their patients after he/she has seen and examined the patient. Healers never sell medicines. With this policy we avoid a trade in medicines. Every healer has to record the number of treatments given and keep the money earned in a moneybox until a member of the project passes for supervision. If the healer has a shortage of medicines before a supervision takes place, he can go to the pharmacy in Pokola to do a refill. During supervision the medicine pots are

weighed to calculate the correct number of pills used, the money in the moneybox is counted and the number of recorded treatments are checked. Ideally these three should logically correspond to one-another. All the data is fed into an Excel registration system by the supervisor. The spreadsheets immediately show if the recorded data is logical.

The practise unsurprisingly is different. In 2019 some 3,100 treatments have been handed out, it is estimated that about 30% to 50% of these were actually recorded in the registration book and from these about half were paid for. These differences can be explained by errors in accounting of pills for the newly trained healers, registration errors, especially in villages where debts are more common and still epidemics of malaria and diarrhoeas during which the healers give treatments for free. The healers are instructed by us to always treat people who are life-threateningly sick and ask for the money later.

The coverage of the medicine price is in reality a little under 50%. The most expensive medicine, Co-artem, which costs 1,018 CFA a treatment, is the medicine that is used the most. The prevalence of malaria is much higher than foreseen. **The absence of mosquito nets is a big contributor to this as well as the absence of the lawfully required free treatment of children under the age of 15.**

5. Health educations

Besides treatments for infectious diseases we started regular health education sessions through '*mossambos*' for the villages given by the healers in 2018 (introduced in the training of November 2017). During these health education sessions the healers teach basic hygiene, the different infectious diseases and how to prevent and treat them. The healers can explain the transmission of malaria with health education posters and promote the use of mosquito nets. Transmission of HIV and use of condoms, transmission of tuberculosis and not coughing in front of another are only two examples of what they can teach. During 2019 about 32 health education sessions were conducted by the different healers in the different villages. After each health education session all the people present received Albendazol for deworming (3,056 treatments).

6. Results of the project

In the communities where Project Bwanga is running:

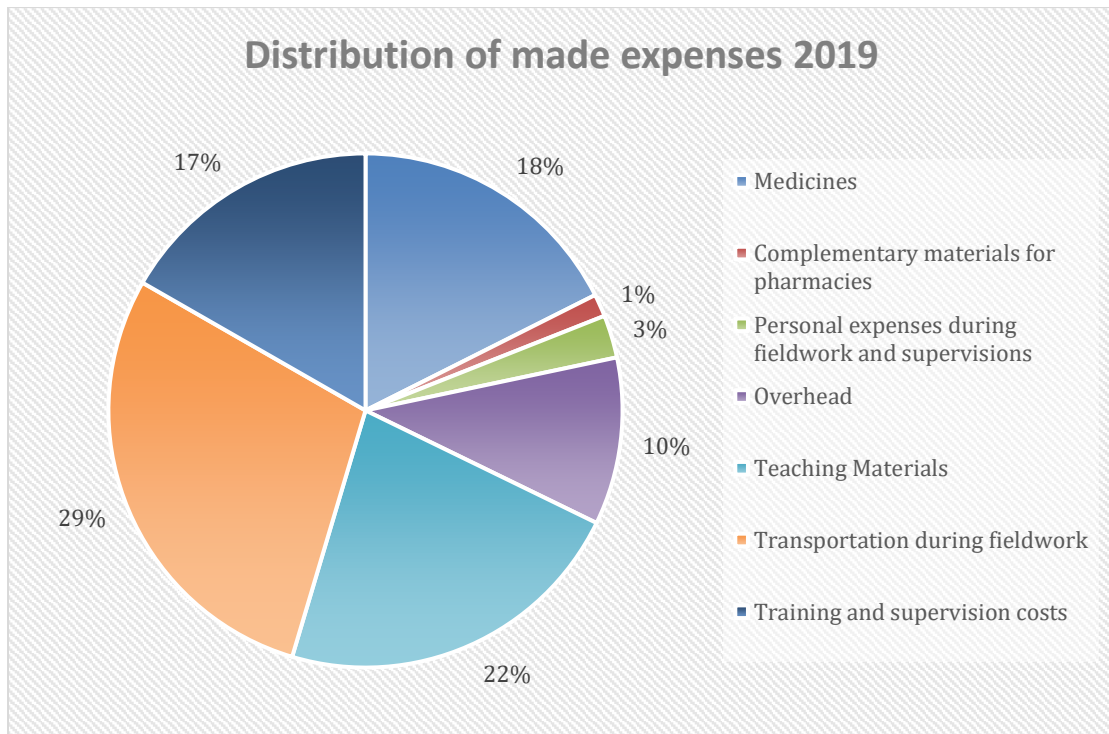
- Mortality and morbidity due to the treatments that can be treated by the project is diminished as reported by the chiefs of the villages.
- There is a noticeable improvement of the social situation of the Bayaka since they are acknowledged as good healers who are able to treat without mistakes both Bayaka and Bantu.
- Local populations have expressed their gratitude for having accessible primary health care via PB's mobile clinics operating near them. Furthermore, we have received requests for training from other communities who wish to have PB mobile clinics near them.



7. Finances 2019

Income through private donations	€ 6,546
Expenses for the project	€ 8,897

In 2019 there has been a little less income through donations than the year before. The donations were composed by many small donations and lacked some more substantial donations. Expenses for transportation have been high this year, due to the travel expenses related to the adding up of new clinics, especially the one in Djoubé which is far away from the base in Pokola.



8. Actions for next year

- 1) Annual meeting of the Project Bwanga board in June 2020.
- 2) Supervision rounds in January, March, August and December 2020.
- 3) Training and supervision sessions in May and December 2020.
- 4) Developing a Smartphone application to simplify supervisions.
- 5) Finding new steady funders.
- 6) Expanding the project beyond the CIB concessions with IFO as potential partner.
- 7) Strengthen local coordinator teams.



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Appendix

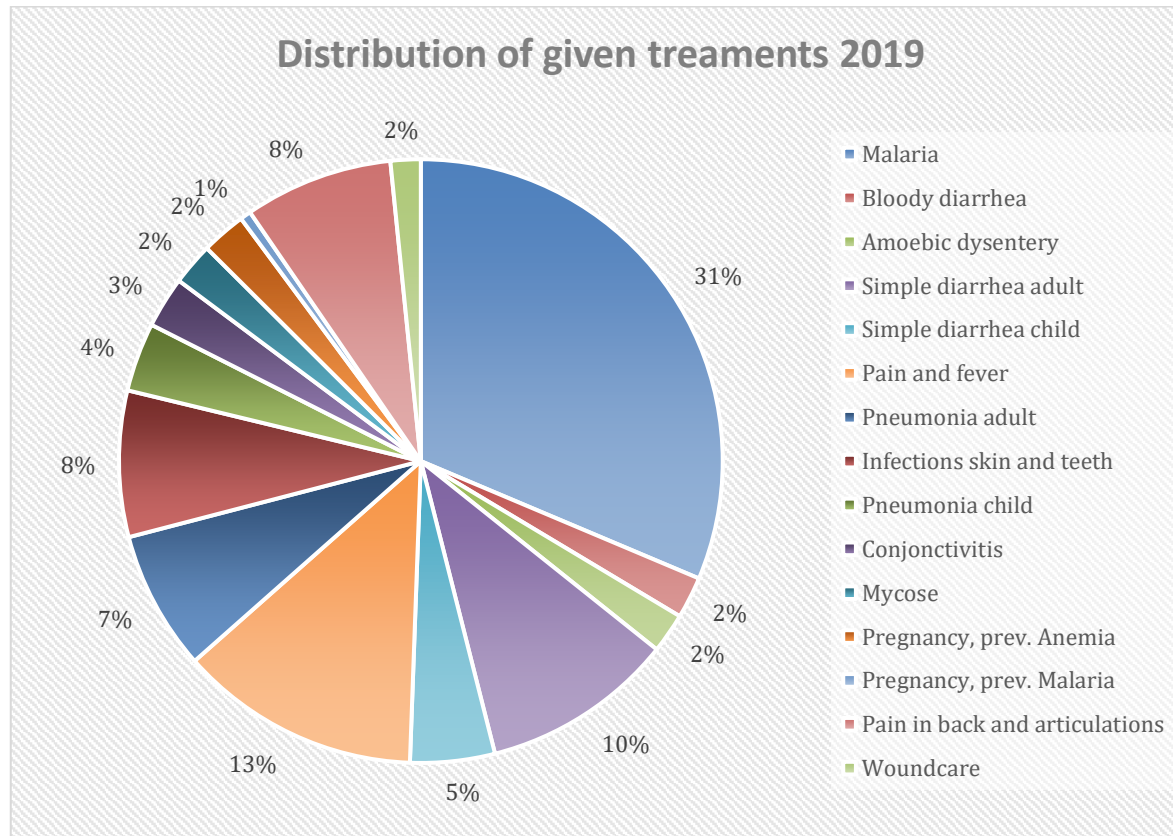
Treatments given in 2019

Medicine	Treatment	Gbagbali	Pokola 1	Pokola 2	Matoto	Indongo	Minganga 1	Minganga 2	Mobangui	Mbandza 1	Mbandza 2	Momb./Boug.	Total 2019
Coartem	Malaria	30	179	90	208	30	79	132	65	38	57	64	972
Co-trimoxazol (bactrim) 480 mg	Bloody diarrhea	2	2	6	10	16	4	4	4	5	6	10	69
Metronidazol cp 250 mg	Amoebic dysentery	2	7	3	8	5	9	8	3	5	1	16	66
SRO	Simple diarrhea adult	13	10	46	41	5	69	72	7	5	6	48	320
Zinc	Simple diarrhea child	3	1	19	5	7	21	34	8	15	9	18	140
Paracetamol	Pain and fever	28	52	23	49	18	38	69	25	32	27	39	400
Amoxicillin 500 mg	Pneumonia adult	1	34	8	38	13	24	39	23	12	10	29	231
Amoxillin	Infections skin and teeth	8	22	23	66	10	21	18	25	13	6	30	243
Co-trimoxazol (bactrim) 120 mg	Pneumonia child	2	10	3	17	7	11	13	19	6	8	19	114
Tetracyclin pommade *	Conjunctivitis	3	18	4	3	6	9	26	0	11	2	3	85
Miconazol	Mycose	4	7	10	9	6	10	8	0	8	8	0	70
Fer et acide folique	Pregnancy, prev. Anemia	1	10	5	14	2	13	6	0	9	1	13	74
Fansidar	Pregnancy, prev. Malaria	0	0	2	2	2	3	2	0	1	1	5	18
Brufen	Pain in back and articulation	24	35	6	28	15	30	26	45	19	4	14	247
Dakin	Woundcare	2	4	1	5	5	7	8	0	0	8	10	50
Total		124	390	249	505	147	348	465	222	178	154	318	3.100

Treatments given in combination with health education sessions (mossambo) in 2019

Medicine	Treatment	Gbagbali	Pokola 1	Pokola 2	Matoto	Indongo	Minganga 1	Minganga 2	Mobangui	Mbandza 1	Mbandza 2	Momb./Boug.	Total 2019
Albendazol (Zentel) 500 mg	Intestinal worms	77	135	197	156	170	109	579	171	357	357	747	3.056
Cefuxim et azitromycin	STD's	4	14	5	5	2	12	13	0	1	1	4	61
Préservatifs	HIV prevention	36	22	24	70	30	12	28	1	9	9	31	272
Total		117	171	226	231	202	133	620	172	367	367	782	3.389

Appendix



Appendix

