

## **SALISSA MWANA**

### **Child healthcare project in the rural areas of the Republic of Congo**

The project will contribute to the improvement of child healthcare in the Country's rural areas by means of a vast vaccination and screening program aimed at reducing the incidence of the main transmissible diseases.

#### **Areas of intervention and population involved**

The regions involved are: Niari and Kouilou in the south west and Cuvette in the north. The project will benefit a total estimated infant population (0-5 year-olds) of 200,000, about 30% of the Country's children, who live in the rural and isolated areas of the three regions.

#### **Objectives**

- Reduce the incidence of the main childhood diseases through vaccination programs.
- Strengthen the operational capacity of local primary healthcare facilities.
- Improve the skills and competence of local healthcare workers on immunization and prevention.
- Promote awareness among the population on the prevention of transmissible diseases.

#### **Activities**

- Rehabilitation of 30 peripheral health centers (*Centres de Santé Intégrés* - CSI) that will be completely refurbished and provided with medical tools and equipment, electricity and drinking water;
- Vaccination campaigns against the main diseases to be carried out at the health centers as well as by employing mobile vaccination units for those communities in remote areas.
- Epidemiological screening of the infant population.
- Training of the local healthcare personnel.
- Information, education and communication campaigns aimed at the beneficiary communities.

#### **Structure and organization**

- A coordination center, in Pointe Noire, in charge of organizational, administrative and logistic needs.
- 3 logistic/operational bases to manage healthcare activities, as well as the storage and transportation of vaccines in Pointe Noire (Kouilou), Dolisie (Niari) and Oyo (Cuvette).
- 30 health centers (16 in Niari, 7 in Cuvette and 7 in Kouilou) that will serve as bases for the vaccination activities, as well as for the training and information efforts in rural communities.
- 12 mobile medical units and vaccination centers (9 on land 3 on water) to link the operational bases with the public health center where vaccines are stored and the health centers, as well as to reach the remote communities.

#### **Partners and roles**

- Eni Foundation finances the project and is responsible for management and general coordination.
- The Ministry of Health makes available the health facilities involved, healthcare personnel, as well as supplies vaccines and essential drugs.
- *Fondation Congo Assistance* ensures the operational support, especially in terms of human resources, for information, education and communication activities aimed at the communities.
- The Department of Pediatrics of the University "La Sapienza" in Rome provides the scientific support to the training of personnel, the epidemiological screening activities, as well as the awareness building of the population.

#### **Duration and cost**

The project lasts 4 years (2007-2011) and has estimated cost of 8.5 million euro.