

# Activity<sup>™</sup> Report 2023



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# OUR IDENTITY

The foundational goal of La Chaîne de l'Espoir is simple but extremely powerful: saving the lives of children unfairly disadvantaged by their place of birth, victims of serious illnesses which often require complex surgical interventions. This is how La Chaîne de l'Espoir was born: not from a study but from an encounter between a doctor, a child and countries where access to healthcare is not assured.

Pediatric surgery is clearly at the forefront of our action. In this vast medical field, we have chosen to specialize, aware of the fact that every child deserves specific attention, whether it's in cardio-pediatrics, ortho-pediatrics or other specializations requiring our expertise. But today our vision goes far beyond pediatrics. Over the years, we have widened our horizons, including adults in our actions, adapting our approach to the emerging and changing needs of populations in the countries where we intervene. Today La Chaîne de l'Espoir is a medical NGO in its own right, an important healthcare actor, extending its influence through various programs such as school health, recognized for their significant impact.

Our achievement lies in our capacity to secure our action over the long term, to put down deep roots and to invest in the training of medical and paramedical personnel as well as in the building and equipping of healthcare infrastructures complying with international standards. For example, in Cambodia and Senegal, we have realized this vision by training local medical teams, by building hospital structures and by contributing to their management and to the functioning of medical installations. These initiatives have had a significant impact, spreading their know-how over all of West Africa. For example, in Dakar, we support healthcare financially whereas in Mozambique we take charge of the management of the hospital. The recent successes of La Chaîne de l'Espoir, such as the South-South transfers in Dakar, illustrate our commitment to medical cooperation between countries of the global South. This innovative model transcends the North-South or South-North paradigms, opening up new perspectives on the role we can play in the world. For example, the Dakar teams were trained in Vietnam, thus achieving a fruitful South-South collaboration. Likewise, our expansion to new horizons such as Morocco, where we operate on children from West Africa, exemplifies our global approach to healthcare. Furthermore, our support for the development of Diplomas in Specialized Studies in Pediatric Surgery in African countries strengthens local capacities and

**Prof. Alain Deloche**  
Founder of La Chaîne de l'Espoir



Saving a child is saving the world.

promotes the autonomy of local healthcare actors. These successes are only the beginning of a promising South-South vision in which solidarity and knowledge -exchange transform lives and pave the way to a better future.

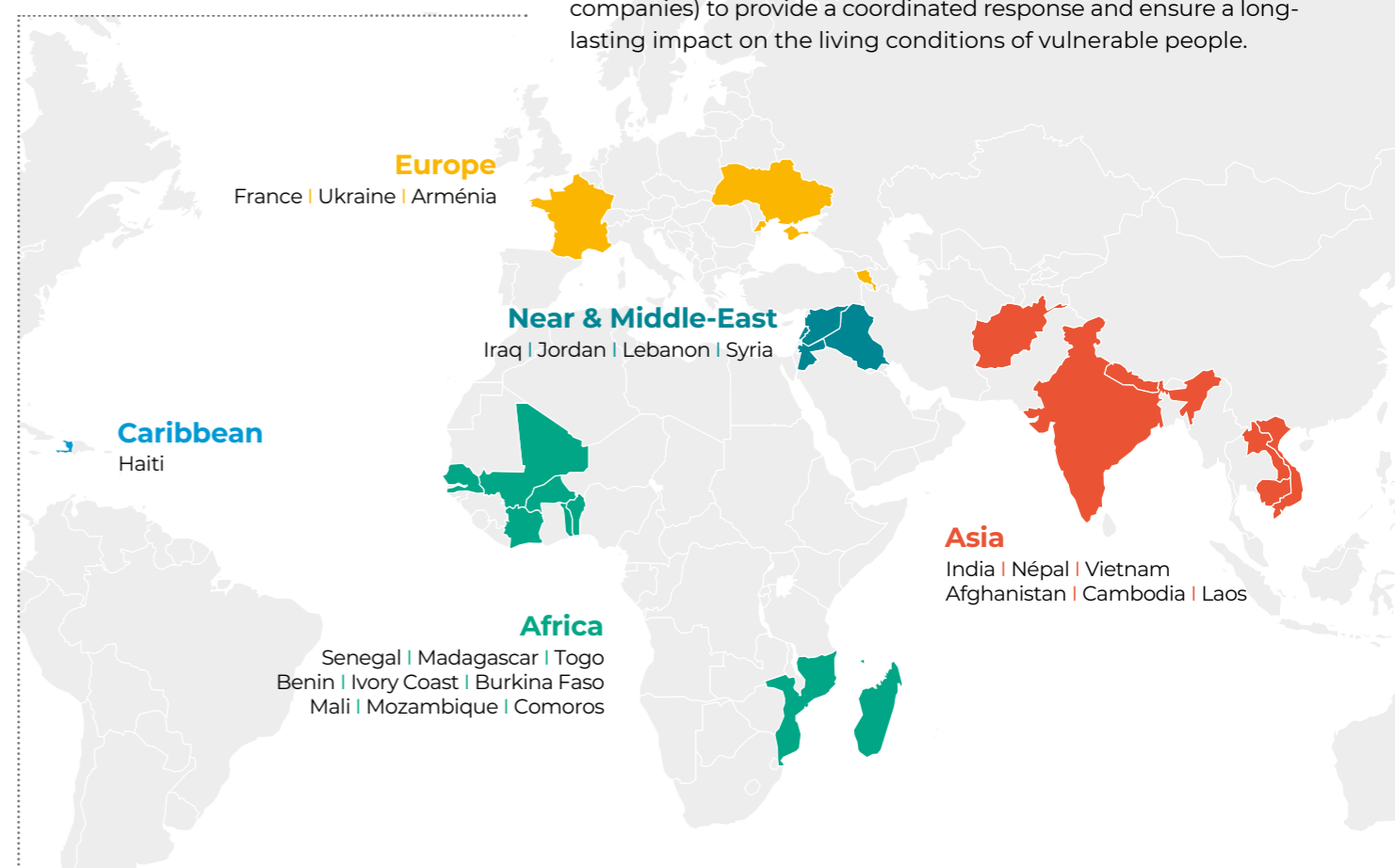
In spite of these successes, waiting lists for children in need of care are getting longer and longer and it's becoming increasingly difficult, in a tense and uncertain economic environment, to raise the financial resources indispensable for our action.

As our thirtieth year dawns, we face the future with ambition and humility. We aspire to controlled growth, opening up new zones of intervention, while preserving the essential core of our mission. We believe that humanitarian action in the future will play out in the field, as close as possible to local populations, in a spirit of cooperation and co-development.

The symbolic strength of La Chaîne de l'Espoir lies in its capacity to sow grains of hope. My friend Fr Ceyrac used to say: « In doing this, you plant seeds in the universe », meaning that every surgical act becomes an act of love, a sign of our commitment to these children, symbols of a better future. Because saving a child is saving the world. It brings a glimmer of hope in a realm of desolation.

## Vision & mission

La Chaîne de l'Espoir is an international medical NGO, independent, apolitical and non-denominational. We are focussed especially on vulnerable people, notably children and women. We emphasize a logic of intervention integrated in a chain of care, and joint action with local teams, aiming to make them autonomous. To that end, our volunteer doctors, caregivers and technicians carry out operations and provide training on the techniques best adapted to needs and situations. We put in place the structural means necessary for surgery, both material (hospital construction, equipment) and human (surgical, medical, paramedical and technical skills). Upstream, we invest in prevention and screening. We work in close partnership with all the healthcare actors (local authorities, hospitals, international institutions, associations, companies) to provide a coordinated response and ensure a long-lasting impact on the living conditions of vulnerable people.



## Our axes of intervention



### Medical care and surgery

to meet the most urgent needs of children and mothers in France or abroad, where they don't have access to technical and financial means in their native countries.



### Training

of local teams thanks to our international network of medical experts.



### Building and equipping hospitals

in countries where healthcare structures are inadequate.



### Prevention and screening

from the earliest age, notably in the framework of school healthcare programs.

# THE HIGHLIGHTS

2023

2023

## France

Signature of a new convention with the CHU of La Réunion, regulating care for children suffering from cardiac pathologies. The implementation of this agreement led to the resumption of transfers of children from Madagascar to La Réunion: 6 Malagasy children had operations as a result.

January  
February  
March

## 1<sup>st</sup> quarter



Celebration of the 1,000<sup>th</sup> child operated on at the Cuomo Cardio-Pediatric Center (CCPC) in Dakar.

## Senegal

In the framework of a partnership with the **Université Polytechnique de l'Ouest Africain (UPOA)** in Dakar, La Chaîne de l'Espoir participated, on March 1st 2023, in a ceremony marking the delivery of equipment for surgery, imaging, operating theaters, consultations, neonatology and laboratories. All these devices are meant to train operational engineers both on maintenance and on the management of the technical platform in the university.



## Irak

Launch of the project of renovation and partial reopening of the Medical Research and Care Center (MRCC) in Iraq. This state-of-the-art engineering project stands out from other projects due to its double governance, the very specialized medical care required and the exceptional history of the center itself which has never been operational since 2014. La Chaîne de l'Espoir will be working on it with Expertise France for a period of 3 years.

## Indian Ocean

Launch of a pilot project for treatment of pediatric cardiopathies in the Union of the Comoros. Following training in April 2023, echoes® consultation sessions were set up by pediatricians and cardiologists at the Centre Hospitalier El Maarouf and at the CHRI d'Hombo.



## West Africa

Launch of a multi-country study to identify the next intervention zones for our project of integrated prevention and treatment for noma and maxillofacial pathologies.

April  
May  
June

## 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter



## Togo

Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of La Chaîne de l'Espoir's work in Togo, in presence of the main stakeholders in the actions carried out in the country (*representatives of the Ministries of Education and Health, heads of establishments, teachers, students, associative and hospital partners, financial backers ...*).



## Togo

First training mission on loco-regional anesthesia in this country, with the participation of about forty healthcare professionals from Togo but also from Ivory Coast, Congo and Benin. This is part of the planned extension of the program to the regional and sub-regional level, both for doctors and for anesthesia technicians.

# THE HIGHLIGHTS

2023

2023

## Jordan

In summer 2023, La Chaîne de l'Espoir, with the financial support of France, relaunched its program of cardio-pediatric surgery which aims to improve access to holistic care for children suffering from congenital cardiac anomalies. The project is based on three main axes of intervention: community mobilization, early detection, medical and surgical treatment.

July  
August  
Sept.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter



## Benin and Ivory Coast

Launch of an integrated project of prevention, awareness-raising, capacity building and access to treatment for victims of accidents caused by the use of corrosive substances in Benin and Ivory Coast.

The project will last three years and is co-financed by the French Development Agency.

## Nepal

First medical mission in the health center of the Dolakha district in Nepal to enhance the capacities of school nurses, notably concerning annual health checks, and to support the referral process towards regional health centers.



## Ukraine

Evaluation missions carried out in the regions of Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhya revealed needs which went beyond war traumatology. Urgent needs identified in pediatrics, maternal health and sexual and reproductive health will orient the actions of La Chaîne de l'Espoir in 2024.

LAOS



Setting up of a children's representative body by the Hospices Civils de Lyon (HCL) so that children can have a voice and be involved in the improvement of their care. The committee is composed of children being treated in the HCL, HCL professionals and volunteers from associations approved by the HCL. La Chaîne de l'Espoir is associated in the framework of its program for the accompaniment of hospitalized children.

## Burkina Faso

Launch of non-mission autonomous operations at the CHU Yalgado Ouédraogo (14 patients were operated on autonomously). Reception at the CHU of Tengandogo of a medico-surgical and paramedical team from Niger for capacity building in cardiac surgery.

First Comorian child transferred to the CHU of La Réunion after being seen in an echoes® consultation by Comorian healthcare personnel.

Training of two operating theater nurses, in the CCPC in Dakar, in preparation for the launch of open-heart operations in the Centre Hospitalier de Soavinandrina (CENHOSOA) in Antananarivo.

## Lebanon

Faced with the increasing difficulty of access to health services in the country, La Chaîne de l'Espoir initiated a pilot project in general pediatric and neonatal surgery in close collaboration with the public hospital La Quarantaine in Beirut. After several years of interventions in Lebanon, this initiative is a first for La Chaîne de l'Espoir which wishes to increase the sustainability of its actions by collaborating with public medical institutions.

Oct.  
Nov.  
Dec.

## 4<sup>th</sup> quarter



First laparoscopic surgery mission in Laos (Children's Hospital in Vientiane): about 15 children had operations.

## Afghanistan

Evaluation by La Chaîne de l'Espoir of its healthcare access program (2018-2022) financed by the French Development Agency with the support of the Samuel Hall consulting company. Impacted by huge changes in circumstances (political takeover by the Taliban, Covid-19), the project succeeded in contributing to the increase in medical expertise at the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children (FMIC) in Kabul as well as improving access to tertiary care for vulnerable people.




# 2023 IN FIGURES

 **7,171**  
patients operated on

 **52** sponsors  
and financial backers


 **232,000**  
direct beneficiaries

 **2,526** healthcare  
personnel trained

 **390m<sup>3</sup>**  
and 94 tons of medical  
equipment and  
consumables shipped

 **26**  
countries of intervention  
for a total budget of €31,35M

 **116**  
medical, technical,  
coordinating and  
exploratory missions

 **813**  
collaborators worldwide  
including 208 employees  
and 605 volunteers



# OUR ACTIVITIES





## Cardiac surgery

### ■ CAPACITY BUILDING

Various actions were put in place to enhance the skills of healthcare personnel in partner structures by means of missions in France, cross training, and training sessions between different African partner hospitals of La Chaîne de l'Espoir.

Thus, two operating theater nurses from the Centre Hospitalier de Soavinandriana (CENHOSOA) in **Madagascar** followed a training course at the Centre Cardio-Pédiatrique Cuomo de Dakar, built by our association in 2017. In the Union of **the Comoros**, a partnership initiated with the Centre Hospitalier régional d'Hombo de l'île d'Anjouan and the Centre Hospitalier El-Maarouf in Moroni enabled a first medical mission in the framework of the pilot project of treatment for pediatric cardiopathies in the Indian Ocean. Three cardiologists from Moroni and Anjouan were trained, allowing the integration of the Comoros into the echoes® platform.

**In Mozambique**, two missions enabled competence building for five cardiologists and three surgeons concerning the treatment of complex cardiac pathologies.



To accompany prevention in face of the increase in acquired cardiac pathologies, awareness-raising campaigns on bucco-dental hygiene were carried out in the Comoros and in Madagascar.

**In Mali**, eight training missions were organized to improve care for complex cardiac pathologies in adults. Three Malian paramedical staff followed a two-month training course in Dakar, where a Malian surgeon with a scholarship from La Chaîne de l'Espoir is continuing his specialization in cardiac surgery.

**In Burkina Faso**, a mission was carried out to continue mentoring in treatment of congenital cardiac malformations. Finally, in December, five members of the staff of the Hôpital Général de Référence de Niamey, in Niger, followed a first training course at the CHU de Tengandogo in Ouagadougou with a view to developing cardiac surgery in Niger.

### ■ DETECTION AND REFERENCING

**In Jordan**, La Chaîne de l'Espoir screened 123 babies for congenital cardiac anomalies and gave them specialist consultations. The process of early detection is of capital importance because it enables rapid initiation of the treatments and interventions necessary to guarantee the best quality of life possible. By identifying these problems at the earliest age, La Chaîne de l'Espoir acts proactively. As regards vital surgical interventions, they often represent the only hope of survival for many pediatric and neonatal patients.

**In Burkina Faso**, 185 ultrasound consultations were carried out during eight remote ultrasound sessions using the echoes® platform.



**In Madagascar**, 995 children had ultrasound consultations, 166 of them during 35 echoes® sessions and 829 during two massive screening missions.

**In Mali**, more than 250 consultations were carried out by teams from the Centre André Festoc. In the Comoros, 33 children had consultations during 13 echoes® sessions.

### ■ MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CARE

2023 was a record year in terms of heart operations **in Mali** in spite of a difficult context (death of Dr Coulibaly, one of Mali's leading figures in this discipline, political tensions in the country). Indeed, 124 cardio-pediatric operations were performed at the Centre André Festoc during eight cardiac surgery missions, under mentoring or autonomously by Malian teams. **In Senegal**, 247 surgical interventions took place at the Centre Cuomo, 147 of them on children. Of those pediatric interventions, 132 were carried out autonomously.

**In Madagascar**, 21 children had closed-heart surgery, performed by CENHOSOA teams. Among the new referred cases, 45 children needing an open-heart operation were transferred to metropolitan France, La Réunion or Switzerland. In the Comoros, among the cases referred after their first diagnostics, two were transferred to La Réunion for a cardio-pediatric operation. In Mozambique, during two mentoring missions, 26 children had an operation and 16 cardiac catheterizations were carried out by local teams.

**In Burkina Faso**, 70 children received surgical care for cardiac malformations. Among them, 40 operations were performed by teams from the CHU de Tengandogo, 23 operations took place during three missions carried out by La Chaîne de l'Espoir and its operational partners, and 6 children were treated by means of transfer abroad (3 to France and 3 to Dakar).

### ■ AWARENESS-RAISING

To accompany prevention against the development of acquired cardiac pathologies, awareness-raising campaigns on bucco-dental hygiene were conducted in **the Comoros** and in **Madagascar**.

As a result, 1,280 people were made aware of this issue and were also alerted to the risk of developing a cardiac malformation due to bad practices. Furthermore, 1,200 bucco-dental hygiene kits were distributed. This strand of activity still needs to be developed in other zones where cardiac surgery projects are conducted.

All these figures show the increasing activity of the association. Today this active training on cardio-pediatrics is taking place in eight countries and we plan to launch this type of action in four or five new countries in 2024.



## Pediatric surgery

La Chaîne de l'Espoir supports actions on all the pediatric surgery specialities so as to develop the know-how of local teams.

**In Togo**, two missions, led by Dr Philippe Valenti, providing care for the after-effects of the elongation of the brachial plexus, took place at the CHU Sylvanus Olympio de Lomé, enabling operations on 24 children to improve the motricity of their upper limbs. Dr Valenti transmitted his skills to the team of Pr Jean-Pierre Komla Gnassingbé, head of the pediatric surgery department in the hospital. The second mission was carried out in the framework of a teaching seminar for students preparing a West African Diploma of Specialist Studies in Pediatric Surgery (DES-CP), involving more than 60 participants who came from six different countries to benefit from this teaching.

In 2023, the program for the development of loco-regional anesthesia (LRA) continued **in Burkina Faso, Mali** and, for the first time, **in Togo**. Launched in 2021 to compensate for the lack of training on this technique, the deployment of LRA enables operations which are safer and painless, more efficient and less costly. Simultaneously, La Chaîne de l'Espoir took charge of the donation of ultrasound scanners to partner health establishments. This year 90 anesthesia doctors and technicians followed training thanks to four missions led by Dr Xavier Raingeval. A first session took place **in Togo** with 40 anesthetists, coupled with a donation of three ultrasound scanners for the anesthesia services of the CHU Sylvanus Olympio and the CHR de Kara. **in Mali**, 15 anesthetists were trained and 20 **in Burkina Faso**. Furthermore, Dr Xavier Raingeval trained 20 anesthetists in Ethiopia, in the framework of a partnership, launched in 2023, with the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent. This collaboration makes it possible to constitute a group of local doctors, able to continue this program in regions where we are no longer allowed to go (Mali) and to extend it to other countries (Senegal) and regions of English-speaking Africa (Nigeria, Rwanda in 2024).

**In Ivory Coast**, the Ivorian medico-surgical teams of the **Hôpital Mère Enfant** (HME) de Bingerville receive guidance for the improvement and modernization of the offer of services in various surgical specialities, notably in ophthalmologic surgery.

**In Ivory Coast and henceforth in Benin since 2023,**

In 2023, the program for the development of loco-regional anesthesia (LRA) continued in Burkina Faso, Mali and for the first time in Togo.

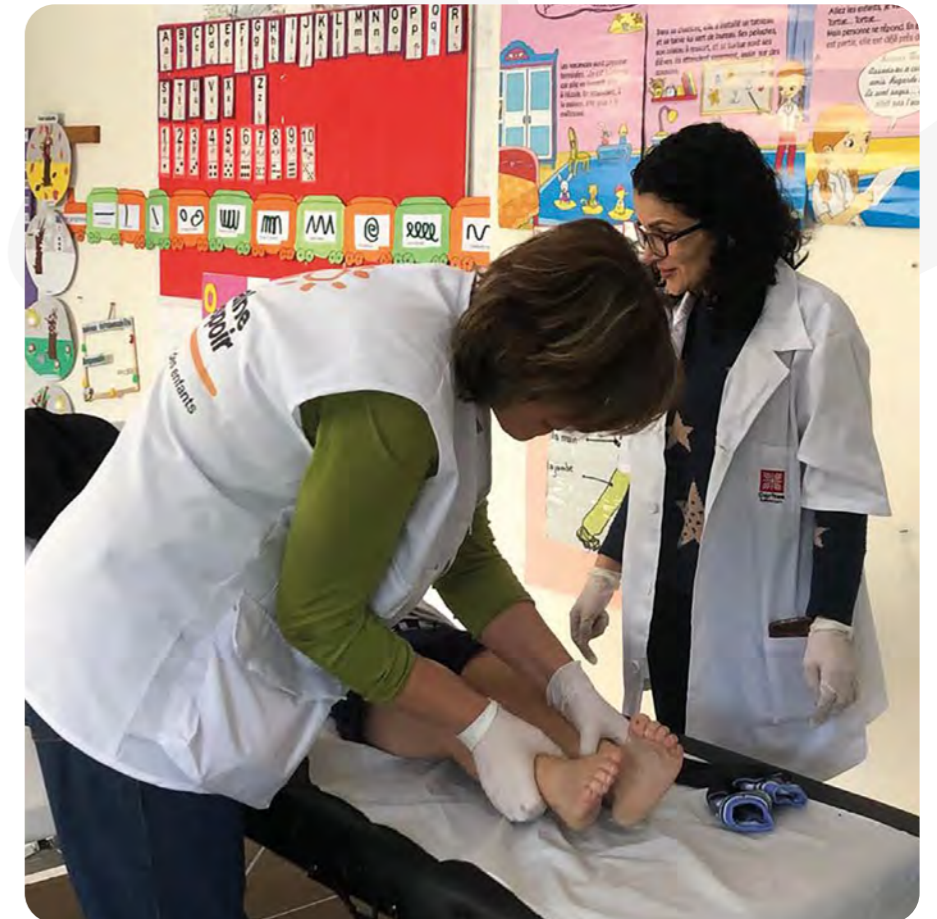
La Chaîne de l'Espoir, with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD), renews its commitment to the improvement of prevention and care for children suffering from esophageal burns. As a result, 42 children from Chad, Cameroon, Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast and Equatorial Guinea were treated by HME teams thanks to the accompaniment of teams from Hôpital Necker-Enfants Malades in Paris and Hospices Civils de Lyon.



In Benin, after discussions with the Minister of Health and the directors of CNHU and CHUMEL it was agreed that a multi-disciplinary team will be called in so as to establish a healthcare chain in Cotonou for children suffering from esophageal burns and to define the technical prerequisites.

**In Togo and Benin**, we support the organization of itinerant pediatric surgery missions with the pediatric surgery services of the hospitals in the capital. These missions are carried out in regional hospitals and make free care available for children from disadvantaged areas. The operations are essentially for pathologies commonly called "simple" but which are in fact disabling. Children with more serious pathologies are referred to competent CHUs. Three itinerant missions were organized in 2023, enabling consultations for 1,257 children and operations for 467.

**In Cambodia**, La Chaîne de l'Espoir continues to build the capacities of teams in the hospitals of the Kantha Bopha Foundation. Six missions were conducted this year to train teams in the hospitals of Siem Reap and Phnom Penh in three specialties: cardiac surgery, orthopedic surgery and neurosurgery. Seventy-two children had operations thanks to this skills transfer. The mission of Prof Gérard Babatasi got media attention which highlighted the progress of the cardiac surgery program and the coming autonomy of the local teams which from now on will need only one control mission per year.



**In Laos**, the capacity building of teams in the Children's Hospital of Vientiane is continuing. Around thirty children were operated on during two missions. The mission in November 2023 marked a milestone: for the first time in Laos, local teams were taught the techniques of laparoscopy, minimally invasive surgery to reduce as much as possible the opening of the abdomen when performing an operation. Simultaneously, an exploratory mission was conducted in the north of the country to identify the next intervention zones of La Chaîne de l'Espoir. Henceforth, efforts will be concentrated in the south to train new teams.

**Lebanon** is facing a crisis which is getting worse and worse. Financial obstacles to healthcare access are constantly increasing, particularly as regards surgery, jeopardizing the right to healthcare for the most vulnerable people. Faced with these alarming facts, in December 2023 La Chaîne de l'Espoir launched a pilot project with the public hospital of La Quarantaine in Beirut, aiming to reduce the rate of morbidity and mortality of vulnerable children and newborns. This project enabled 23 vital surgical operations treating various neonatal and pediatric pathologies, some of which required a period in intensive care, as well as organizing psycho-social support activities for families.



## Plastic and maxillofacial surgery

In 2023, La Chaîne de l'Espoir deployed plastic surgery training activities essentially in **Burkina Faso** and **Mali**.

For several years these two countries had been the intervention zones for the «Program of prevention and integrated care for maxillofacial pathologies and Noma», cofinanced by the French Development Agency (AFD). However, the suspension of French public financing in **Mali**, at the end of 2022, had a strong impact on our actions in 2023. As a result, only surgical activities could be carried out in the country, with a strong mobilization of our operational partner, the Malian association New Face. This involved support for case-by-case reconstructive surgery and the organization of a local mission bringing together several Malian surgeons who for one week operated on children suffering from maxillofacial pathologies and the after-effects of burns. A total of 60 children had reconstructive surgery operations. On the other hand, screening and awareness-raising activities had to be canceled due to the political and security situation.

In **Burkina Faso**, in spite of the prevailing security crisis which complicates the deployment of activities, all of the actions of awareness-raising, early screening, referencing, capacity building and medico-surgical care have been successfully implemented. Thus in 2023, 21,000 people benefited from awareness-raising activities conducted in collaboration with our local partner, La Voix du Paysan. In addition, 392 traditional practitioners and 276 basic health agents were trained on the recognition, primary care and referral of patients suffering from maxillofacial pathologies, in partnership

A multi-country study was launched in 2023 to identify three priority countries for the extension of the program of prevention and integrated care for maxillo-facial pathologies in the sub-region.

with Fondation Sentinelles. The skills of 25 surgeons, 10 of whom are training to be specialists, were developed during interventions in the operating theater. Finally, 90 children had operations, 75 of them during a medico-surgical mission led by the teams of Prof Narcisse Zwetyenga, a maxillofacial surgeon at the CHU de Dijon, and 15 autonomously by local doctors. These operations, independent of any mission, were part of a study aiming to promote that mode of intervention as an alternative to the organization of French missions, in an operational context becoming more and more complex.

Furthermore, a multi-country study was launched in 2023 to identify three priority countries for the extension of this program in the sub-region. The results are expected during 2024.



## Life in the Children's Pavilions

The **Children's Pavilion in Hô Chi Minh-Ville, in Vietnam**, accommodated and financially supported 73 children who had operations in the different hospitals of the economic capital of the country, twice as many as last year. Indeed, the efforts made by the network of dispensaries run by Dominican nuns, together with the support of the local administration, made it possible to bring to the Pavilion all the children on the waiting list. The youngest child to have an operation was only 14 days old and the oldest 15 years. The Pavilion continues to provide medico-social accompaniment to the child beneficiaries and their parents. A map of the geographical origin of patients shows that the beneficiaries of the Pavilion come mainly from the southern region of Vietnam, from the high plateaus to the south coast.

The **Women and Children's Pavilion in Kabul, Afghanistan** remains a place of hope for many families in a country which is going through a particularly severe humanitarian and economic crisis. In 2023, thanks to this project, 3,516 children and 542 women from the 34 provinces of Afghanistan had access to care at the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children (FMIC). That corresponds to more than 310 operations per month, with an increase in activity of more than 60% compared to 2022. To remove as many obstacles to care as possible, the beneficiaries are accompanied all along the way by our medico-social teams, benefiting from awareness-raising sessions on subjects such as hygiene, post-operative care and women's health. This big increase in our activity was made possible notably thanks to substantial financing by the Crisis and Support Center of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

To remove as many obstacles to healthcare access as possible, beneficiaries are accompanied all along the way by our medico-social teams...

In 2023, the **Children's Pavilion in Dakar, Senegal**, received 26 patients. In some cases, young adults also had operations, these being patients who had cardiac surgery in childhood and who needed a second operation, as is the case with certain pathologies. Throughout the year, children were received from Burkina Faso, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-Kinshasa, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-

Conakry, Sierra Leone and Togo. Their stays lasted on average 45 days. For the first time, this activity had the financial support of the Fonds de Mécénat Servier (Servier Sponsorship Fund) and the charitable association CFAO (AB-CFAO), to which we are very grateful. In addition, regular funding from La Fondation Alain Deloche continued.





## Screening and prevention



Preventing the occurrence of certain pathologies, this is a fight which our association has sustained and reinforced in recent years.

Screening as early as possible in order to treat patients long before the appearance of complications and even to prevent the occurrence of certain pathologies - this is a fight that our association has been ever more strongly committed to in recent years.

Ranked 170<sup>th</sup> out of 189 by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), **Haiti** is one of the poorest countries in the world. Its economic and social development has been hindered by political instability, increasing violence and a high level of insecurity. The UNO has therefore constantly raised the alarm about the plight of 12.23 million Haitians, 6 million of whom already live below the poverty line. Since 2010, La Chaîne de l'Espoir has been working with the local foundation Paradis des Indiens in the region of La Grand'Anse to support education

and to prevent health problems among 2,500 children. This year, 1,028 girls and 1,146 boys got health checks. The main pathologies detected among the children were flu syndromes, anemia, scabies and ringworm. 115 children had abnormal results for ophthalmological tests. 46 % of them consulted a specialist and 8 % were prescribed glasses. Finally, thanks to our action, 1,006 children had dental consultations. The aid provided by our association is the only medical care available to these extremely deprived and isolated children.

**In India**, the expansion of informal settlements means limited access to clean water. Poor sanitation increases the risks of waterborne illnesses such as diarrhea, cholera and hepatitis. These slum areas frequently have no neighborhood healthcare centers. Women and

children sometimes have to travel long distances to get treatment, which is time-consuming and costly. To overcome these obstacles, La Chaîne de l'Espoir, in partnership with the Indian NGO Taabar, developed two mobile health clinics (one treating children and the other reserved for girls and women), as well as five centers where 1,500 children are made aware of health issues. The mobile clinics provided more than 20,000 consultations in 2023.

**In Nepal** since 2018, we have been intervening, thanks to our partner, the NGO Child Protection Centers and Services, in healthcare centers which are similar to school infirmaries. This is where nurses identify children with health problems and/or in need of psychosocial monitoring. They also make children aware of hygiene, health (including women's health), as well as the risks of the street. These centers are supported and supervised by four regional structures, composed of a medical team and social workers. They provide primary care to children identified beforehand but also, when necessary, refer the children to hospitals. In 2023, this program notably provided medical and psychosocial support for more than 10,000 children, referred 937 children to hospitals, distributed 19,074 menstrual hygiene kits and organized 1,222 awareness-raising sessions.

In the framework of its commitment to healthcare access from the moment of birth, La Chaîne de l'Espoir, thanks to the support of the French Development Agency, has been conducting detection campaigns, since 2018 **in Jordan** and 2019 **in Lebanon**, to identify possible congenital orthopedic disorders in the two countries as well as cardiac conditions in Jordan.

**In Jordan**, monthly campaigns enable the systematic screening of congenital orthopedic disorders in babies less than one year old, facilitating immediate treatment for congenital luxations of the hip for babies under six months. **In Lebanon**, pediatricians screen children up to the age of 18 and refer them to partner orthopedists. These campaigns are crucial because they simplify treatments while improving their results and because they help to prevent malformations. In addition, La Chaîne de l'Espoir organizes awareness-raising campaigns and training for medical and paramedical personnel as well as for community health workers so as to increase their knowledge of these malformations, the risk factors and the treatment options. These activities make it possible to prevent the potential development of handicaps, to

improve the efficiency of the healthcare system and to reduce the cost of treatment.

Following the launch in 2022 of phase 2 of the project «My health, my school: a collective challenge **in Togo**», co-financed by the French Development Agency, the year 2023 saw the rollout of activities in 16 target schools, notably the launch in nursery and primary schools of early screening for pathologies causing learning disabilities. Thus, 23 teachers were trained on early screening and collaborated with professionals in neighborhood health centers on health checks (422 children) and treatment for diagnosed pathologies (218 children were referred to specialists). The association obtained financing from the City of Paris enabling reinforcement of the Water, Hygiene and Sanitation part of the project through the construction of school latrines. Furthermore, there were sustained efforts to mobilize school communities, actors from government and from Lomé civil society, raising issues of l'EHA, sexual and reproductive health, non-violence, addictions and domestic accidents.





## Crises and humanitarian emergencies

The year 2023 has seen a large number of humanitarian crises added to those already underway.

**In 2023, numerous humanitarian crises broke out, adding to those which were already going on.** It all began with the terrible earthquakes on the border between Turkey and Syria, for which La Chaîne de l'Espoir mobilized an emergency fund to support our Syrian partner. Then a devastating conflict broke out between two rival factions of the government of Sudan, causing the displacement of several million people. In September, while a new earthquake struck Morocco, an unprecedented storm ravaged the north of Libya.



The year ended with the disastrous escalation of the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

In addition to all this, rising insecurity in Haiti continues to suck the country into a maelstrom of extreme violence while armed conflicts intensify in the Sahel countries and in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Wars, the effects of climate change and social inequalities plunge millions of people into prolonged crises, whether it be in Ukraine, Afghanistan or East Africa. According to the UNO, nearly 300 million people in the world are in need of humanitarian assistance.

■ On January 6, 2023, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 struck the south of Turkey and the north-east of **Syria**, causing enormous casualties and material damage. The humanitarian response in Syria was hampered by a complicated political and logistical context. The disaster resulted in more than 2,000 deaths and 5,000 injured in the country. The health

infrastructures, already weakened by years of conflict, suddenly had to face a huge influx of patients, putting the whole system under severe pressure. La Chaîne de l'Espoir managed to intervene in Aleppo in support of a private hospital infrastructure with which it works regularly, helping to carry out urgent surgical care.

■ **In Armenia**, Prof François Pons, a visceral and thoracic surgeon, a volunteer for La Chaîne de l'Espoir, participated in a seminar on war wounds organized in October 2023. His participation aroused great interest at a time when the region of Nagorno - Karabakh had just been suddenly taken over by neighboring Azerbaïdjan. Following rapidly afterwards, in the framework of a partnership with the Franco-Armenian medical organization HAY asso, there was a skills transfer process by means of a training of trainers in January 2024. Nine Armenian surgeons with various specialities followed a training course.

## Building and equipping hospitals

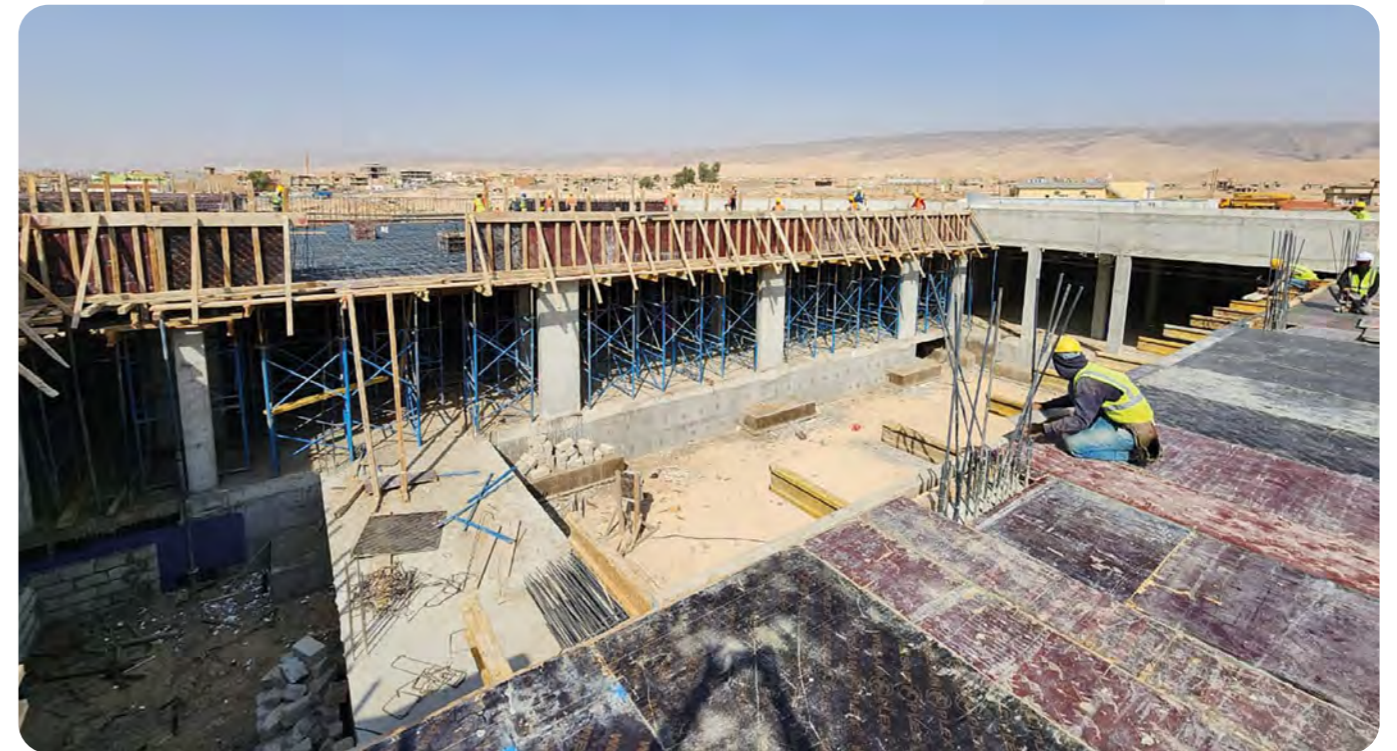
Because of the technicity of its projects, the Infrastructures and Biomedical Department collaborates with multi-disciplinary professionals. Biomedical technicians and engineers, health programmers and economists, technical referents, architects: every expertise has its place. In order to support its teams at the headquarters and in the field in the development of these projects, La Chaîne de l'Espoir reinforced and extended its partnership strategy in 2023.

**Skills-based sponsorship** has opened the door to new collaborations:

■ **APTISKILLS**, an engineering consultancy, carried out feasibility studies on the extension and rehabilitation of the Children's Pavilion at the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children (FMIC) in Afghanistan.

■ **A2MO**, a medical programming consultancy, enabled the feasibility of an extension to the Centre Cardio Pédiatrique Cuomo de Dakar, in Senegal.

Other skills-based sponsorships are under consideration.



**The technical expertise of La Chaîne de l'Espoir is also based on its team of volunteers.**

The year marked a renewal in the animation of this network and saw the organization of two volunteer days. On this occasion, volunteers learned about ongoing projects, future needs and gave feedback on past projects to initiate a capitalization process. In 2023, this network was composed of 33 volunteers of many different profiles and specialities, some retired and some still active. Several of them have gone on missions, for example to Madagascar to install biomedical equipment, to Kabul to repair heart-lung machines, to Bamako to remotely support a team on medical fluids or, again, to Senegal to conduct a training course on magnetic resonance imaging for students of biomedical engineering.

In order to support its teams at the headquarters and in the field in the development of these projects, La Chaîne de l'Espoir reinforced and extended its partnership strategy in 2023.



**The realization of our projects also depends on a vast network of partners intervening at different phases, from conception to completion.**

Engineering design consultancies, suppliers, construction companies, architecture agencies: all these assist La Chaîne de l'Espoir in successfully carrying out its activities. Several of them were first met at different congresses. Indeed, La Chaîne de l'Espoir participates in several **hospital engineering events**. This enables us to highlight and promote our actions while also strengthening our position in these vast networks of hospitals and associations.

- At the 63<sup>rd</sup> congress of Ingénieurs Hospitaliers de France (IHF), La Chaîne de l'Espoir gave a talk on the adaptation of engineering to local constraints, illustrated by the case of the French Medical Center of Sinjar in Iraq.
- In September, we had a stand at the congress of the French Association of Biomedical Engineers (AFIB).
- Finally, during the first biomedical congress of the Hospital Network of Africa, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean (RESHAOC), which took place in Cotonou in Benin, La Chaîne de l'Espoir participated in a lecture on mobilizing adequate investment and maintenance budgets in order to provide high-quality biomedical services.

Simultaneously, **a process of increasing contacts with training schools** was initiated in the last quarter of 2023 to highlight the specific expertise of hospital engineering and to develop these skills internationally. Thanks to these new contacts, distance learning projects can be implemented, with some teachers accepting to devote part of their time to leading seminars. In 2023 there were nearly 100 hours of skills building courses.

The activities of the Infrastructures and Biomedical Department increased, though in a rather exceptional context which saw the departure and arrival of several members of the technical team:

- nearly 10 new engineers were recruited in the headquarters and in country offices;
- more than 30 volunteers went on missions in the field, giving a total of 150 days of support to local teams and partners.

In spite of certain geopolitical events which complicate interventions on the ground, La Chaîne de l'Espoir was able to continue its projects and formulate new ones, thanks to remote mentoring, the commitment of our technical teams in France and abroad, the availability of certain suppliers locally and the incredible dynamism of volunteer and sponsor teams.

**Among the important projects supported by the department in 2023, we may mention the following:**

**In Ukraine**, the war continues to wreak havoc, both in areas near the front and in the country as a whole, regularly subjected to strikes by drones and missiles. In 2023, La Chaîne de l'Espoir continued its support in improving access to medical and surgical care in hospitals near the front line (Mykolaivska, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporiz'ka) which treat the wounded, by supplying emergency traumatology kits (more than 6 tons) and biomedical equipment. During the first quarter, the association, in partnership with Mehad, trained 800 personnel in war medicine and delivered 52 portable ultrasound scanners to 47 health structures. And in May we opened our representation and coordination office in Kyiv and recruited a local team to carry out activities. Following evaluation missions during the second quarter, La Chaîne de l'Espoir identified needs in cardio-pediatrics and in maternal health which will be taken into account in the widening of our field of intervention in Ukraine in 2024.



**In Iraq**, La Chaîne de l'Espoir continues to promote access to healthcare in the region of Sinjar by coordinating the project of building and equipping the Sinjar French Medical Center (SFMC), supported by the Crisis and Support Center of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs as well as the MADAD funds of the European Union. At the end of 2023, 87% of the construction is completed and certain parts are practically finished. Monitoring the construction schedule made it possible to simultaneously supply equipment and biomedical material. As regards major equipment for sterilization, radiology, operating

rooms, diagnostics and monitoring, the laboratory and morgue, contracts have been signed and the material is being shipped to the SFMC. Other equipment and smaller complementary medical material are being purchased. La Chaîne de l'Espoir has regularly maintained coordination spaces with the local authorities, such as the Ministry of Health and the Health department of Ninive, which will be in charge of the functioning of the SFMC, so as to ensure that they will take control of the establishment in the best possible conditions, thus improving the provision of health services in the region.







In the city of Mosul, under reconstruction after years of war and occupation by Daesh, La Chaîne de l'Espoir, financed by Expertise France, supports the rehabilitation of the Mosul Research and Care Center (MRCC) by providing technical expertise so as to re-open certain services, notably the consultations area (phase 1) and then other highly specialized medical services (phase 2).

In 2023, in the framework of phase 1, on-site evaluations were conducted to precisely determine what studies and works were necessary. Minor repairs were planned to ensure compliance with international standards. La Chaîne de l'Espoir provided specifications for improving air treatment in the most sensitive rooms, upgrading water treatment and designing the waste treatment area. The association also contributed to the preparation of purchase files, tender documents, technical specifications and quality controls on medical equipment for the partial re-opening of consultation areas as well as specifications for future minor repairs.

The project of the new unit for cardio-pediatric surgery in the Centre Hospitalier de Soavinandriana (CENHOSOA) in Antananarivo, **Madagascar**, is advancing, with support missions on biomedical equipment and

infrastructures, hygiene and also governance. Long-awaited equipment has been shipped. The final work and finishing touches are being carried out with the installation of the production facility for medical fluids and also the renovation of the flooring in the operating theater so as to guarantee high-quality care enabling the first open-heart operations. All the teams are fully mobilized for the launch planned in 2024, in partnership with the teams of the CHU of La Réunion. The inauguration of the new cardio-pediatric unit will mark the beginning of the regional Indian Ocean project for the development of care for pediatric cardiopathies in the zone, with the CENHOSOA at the heart of these new surgical activities. Since September 2021, La Chaîne de l'Espoir has assisted the Université Polytechnique de l'Ouest Africain (UPOA) in Dakar, **Senegal**, in reinforcing its training program for biomedical engineers.

This support includes the improvement of the study laboratory for practical courses, the organization of seminars between February and June 2023 and a program developed in close collaboration with the pedagogical team of the UPOA which dealt with various subjects: the management of medical waste, extracorporeal circulation, imaging, radiation protection and medical fluids.

Sixty-two Master's students followed these seminars conducted by volunteers of La Chaîne de l'Espoir, some of them from the international circle of the AFIB. This project is part of a larger campaign in which we wish to progressively involve ourselves: advocacy for the proper maintenance and better management of medical equipment. Mastering the utilization and anticipating the deterioration of medical devices, understanding and diagnosing these technologies - these are vitally important skills. In 2023, this collaboration with the UPOA was extended to another school, Polytech Marseille, through the intermediary of La Chaîne de l'Espoir. The two schools subsequently signed a partnership agreement enabling student exchanges and joint projects.

## Maternal health

At the Hôpital Mère Enfant (HME) of Bingerville, **in Ivory Coast**, the project of modernization of the maternity ward was launched in 2022, and La Chaîne de l'Espoir, a member of the Board of Directors, participates in a comprehensive reflexion on improvement of care for mothers and newborns. This involves multi-disciplinary work with the gynecology-obstetrics teams to enhance the quality of care and the security of patients. To achieve the set goals, HME is aided by consultants specialized in hospital care, the APIS consultancy, a partner of our association, and by our teams through regular participation in working groups, specialized support both remote and on-site. In addition, numerous exchanges took place with Mme Michèle Goussot-Souchet, a volunteer midwife for La Chaîne de l'Espoir. She also continued her work reinforcing the practices of the hospital teams concerning the improvement of the circuit of consultation and childbirth, dealing with obstetrical emergencies and transferring ultrasound skills to the obstetrical operating room. As a result, in the best possible security conditions, the HME handled 1,462 childbirths this year, making a total of 1,531 newborn babies.

**In Afghanistan**, La Chaîne de l'Espoir actively supports the medical team in the maternity ward of the French Medical Institute for Mothers and Children (FMIC). In 2023, more than 800 childbirths took place in the maternity. However, the whole profession of gynecology-obstetrics is itself in danger in Afghanistan. In this conservative country where gender segregation is the cultural norm, reinforced since the change of regime in 2021, women can only be treated by other women, but now women no longer have access to medical careers. This is why La Chaîne de l'Espoir maintained its activity in 2023, particularly thanks to three medical missions - gynecologists, anesthetists and operating room nurses.

At the Mother-and-Child Hospital in Bingerville, the project of modernization of the maternity was launched in 2022.

**A volunteer, Batoul Lyakoute, an operating room nurse, sees these missions as «a duty to train these extraordinary women that we tend to forget more and more».**

Support by La Chaîne de l'Espoir also continues by means of distance learning. Following a gynecology-obstetrics mission in March, Dr Huma, in charge of the postdoctoral program in gynecology-obstetrics in Kabul, together with Dr Dom and Dr Lechartier in France, launched a series of training sessions. Intended for residents in postdoctoral training, these courses deal with basic colposcopy and pelvic pain, and are accompanied by discussions of practical cases.





# AND NOW, PROSPECTS AHEAD



**Anouchka Finker**  
CEO of La Chaîne de l'Espoir

Sketching out the prospects for 2024 may seem like a singular approach at a time when, since the first day of the year, we have been so mobilized by humanitarian emergencies. **Current international events, the magnitude of crises and emergencies, impose their agenda on us**, putting us under pressure in a constantly accelerating race, **strongly mobilizing the teams of La Chaîne de l'Espoir as we carry out our humanitarian mandate in the field of medicine and surgery.**

Recurrent crises mark our daily lives, by their violence, their intensity, the urgent need to respond: the invasion of Ukraine, the war in Gaza, the disaster in Armenia, the tragedy of Afghanistan, even if, alas, the latter country now gets less attention from the media and the public in spite of the enormous suffering endured by the Afghans, especially the women and girls of that country who must never be forgotten. And of course all the other theaters of conflict in which La Chaîne de l'Espoir continues, whatever the cost, to carry out its mission in the service of the most vulnerable people in circumstances which have become more and more difficult.

**There is an ever-widening gap between, on the one hand, the necessity for urgent humanitarian response, the multiplication of crises due to global geopolitical disorder, and, on the other hand, the decline in respect for international humanitarian law.** In those places where we are actively engaged, in those troubled areas where our teams on the ground are confronted with violence, where they take risks in carrying out their humanitarian mission, our task is getting more and more complicated. This observation was widely discussed at the **National Humanitarian Conference** which took place in December 2023

The future is ours !  
I believe we can say  
for certain:  
2024 is a pivotal year  
for our association.  
Together, with  
pride and optimism,  
let's raise to the  
highest level this  
noble mission of ours:  
act to save.

under the auspices of the President of the Republic, a conference during which I was able to make known our mandate, our mission. I was also asked, on behalf of all the French humanitarian organizations, to express to the French authorities our **concerns about the deterioration of the international situation and its consequences for humanitarian access which must absolutely be preserved**, and also to **strongly assert the necessity for France to guarantee the growth of humanitarian financing, taking account of the explosion of needs.**

We already know that in the coming months the services of La Chaîne de l'Espoir will be greatly in demand ; we must mobilize so as to be present and effective in crisis areas where our unique expertise will be called upon.

# FINANCE, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES





## Principles of financing and execution of activities

### Resources

The resources of the association come from four main sources of financing:

■ **The general public** is the main source of revenue of La Chaîne de l'Espoir. These donors support the actions of the organization either by one-off donations to help finance surgical operations on children or by regular donations enabling medium or long term actions, notably organizing local treatment and training missions, equipping hospitals and conducting educational programs.

Appeals to the general public are made by post, email or telephone. Regular donations by automatic bank transfer and online donations are our two main lines of development.

■ **Companies and foundations** participate in financing big projects of La Chaîne de l'Espoir by means of partnerships which may last several years, notably for hospital projects, treatment and training programs and medical equipment programs.

They may also contribute to care programs for children in France and abroad and to educational and school health programs.

Events or rallies are also organized jointly by companies and La Chaîne de l'Espoir so as to unite employees around a common cause (sports events, auctions, gala evenings, ...).

■ **Institutional partners** support big projects by La Chaîne de l'Espoir which last over the long term and which, by an integrated approach, aim to provide populations with a multi-faceted and sustainable response to their needs.

■ **Bequests** and donations to La Chaîne de l'Espoir are the result of the interest of donors and the general public aroused by means of the newsletter, publications and our website. A particular and regular relation is then established with the donor through personalized communication.

### Utilization of different sources of funds according to the type of activity

Funds collected from the general public, bequests and part of the private funds from companies (sponsorship) and other private contributions (foundations) finance the totality of the activities of La Chaîne de l'Espoir (treatment for children in France, treatment abroad, school health, training, equipment and construction,...).

When they are dedicated to a specific project, these funds are earmarked so that they can be clearly tracked by cost accounting. Their utilization is then devoted to programs defined in agreement with the partner, whose objectives, budget and activities correspond to precise specifications.

### Voluntary contributions in kind

To carry out its actions, La Chaîne de l'Espoir also relies on in-kind support.

■ **Volunteer work** makes an essential contribution to the activity and influence of our association.

### Volunteers on mission abroad:

Every year several hundred surgeons, doctors, nurses and technicians ensure the success and professionalism of the medical and paramedical missions of La Chaîne de l'Espoir abroad.

### Volunteers for the child support program in French hospitals:

thanks to them, children, mostly French, whose parents are rarely or never present, can benefit from regular visits and various activities which make their hospital stay less distressing.

### Host families:

Children transferred to France for surgical operations are looked after by our volunteer host families. The average duration of a child's stay in France is about two months and during this period the host families devote their time to the organization.

### Volunteers at the headquarters:

Volunteers based in the head office participate actively in administrative work, fundraising and the organization of missions abroad.

### Regional branches:

Located all over France, our dynamic volunteers participate in welcoming children who have operations in the provinces and in organizing events to enhance the reputation of La Chaîne de l'Espoir and to raise funds.

■ **Material donations and services in kind** provide important support for our actions. Medical material, equipment or furnishing, as well as different services, notably in communication, are given to us free of charge by professionals.

■ **Skills sponsorship** means that a company puts qualified staff at our disposal for periods ranging for a few days to several years. This is a great help to La Chaîne de l'Espoir and a fulfilling experience for the employees involved.

### Principal aspects of relations/conventions with French or foreign organizations which operate on behalf of La Chaîne de l'Espoir

The collaboration of La Chaîne de l'Espoir with other organizations is generally regulated by specific agreements which set out, among other things, the nature of the beneficiaries, the purpose, the definition of the operations envisaged, the responsibilities of each organization involved, the planned timetable and the modalities of monitoring and evaluation of operations.





# Finances

## Figures from the income statement by origin and destination (in euros)

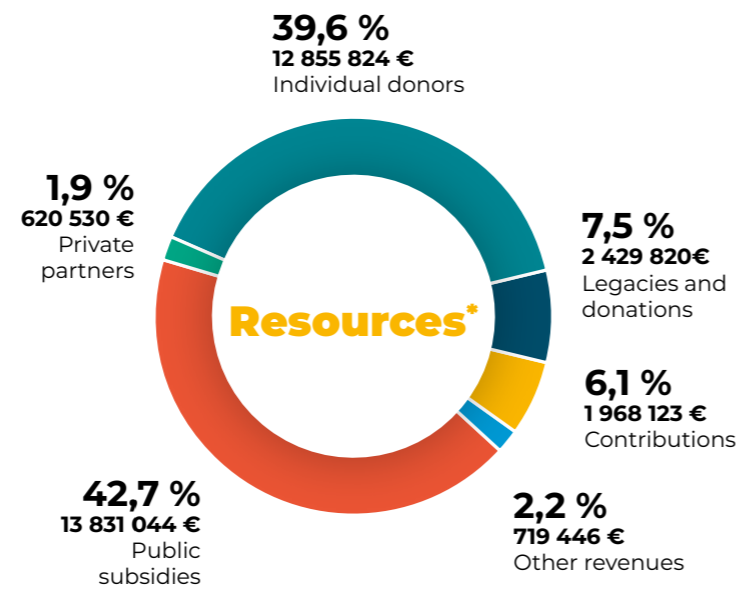
A - INCOME AND EXPENSES BY ORIGIN AND DESTINATION	2023		2022	
	Total	Of which public generosity	Total	Of which public generosity
<b>INCOME BY ORIGIN</b>				
1 - INCOME FROM PUBLIC GENEROSITY	16 363 691	16 363 691	16 584 577	16 584 577
2 - INCOME NOT RELATED TO PUBLIC GENEROSITY	2 230 052		2 279 796	
3 - SUBSIDIES AND OTHER PUBLIC AID	13 831 044		8 158 588	
4 - REVERSALS OF PROVISIONS AND IMPAIRMENTS	1 403 645	1 023 645	68 506	
5 - USE OF PREVIOUS RESTRICTED FUNDS	1 720 116	35 272	3 140 270	64 176
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35 548 549</b>	<b>17 422 609</b>	<b>30 231 737</b>	<b>16 648 753</b>
<b>EXPENSES BY DESTINATION</b>				
1 - SOCIAL MISSIONS	23 245 001	9 779 809	21 608 829	10 885 262
2 - FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	7 029 624	6 373 624	5 244 469	5 244 469
3 - OPERATING EXPENSES	1 079 539	810 518	962 308	826 872
4 - PROVISIONS AND DEPRECIATIONS	107 630	107 630	534 883	511 878
5 - CORPORATE TAX	70 152		42 717	
6 - RESTRICTED FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD FOR THE YEAR	2 936 456	45 802	2 029 331	35 272
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34 468 403</b>	<b>17 117 384</b>	<b>30 422 538</b>	<b>17 503 754</b>
<b>DEFICIT / SURPLUS</b>	<b>1 080 146</b>	<b>305 225</b>	<b>-190 801</b>	<b>-855 001</b>

B - VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC GENEROSITY	2023		2022	
	Total	Of which public generosity	Total	Of which public generosity
<b>INCOME BY ORIGIN</b>				
1 - VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC GENEROSITY				
Volunteering	1 484 709,00	1 484 709,00	2 041 712	2 041 712
Services in kind	1 820 560,00	1 820 560,00	1 940 097	1 940 097
Donations in kind	125 188,00	125 188,00	529 079	529 079
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 430 457</b>	<b>3 430 457</b>	<b>4 510 888</b>	<b>4 510 888</b>

### Origin of resources

Support from our donors continued with a slight decline compared to 2022 (-1 % for gifts by hand), in a macroeconomic context which weighs heavily on household finances. Bequests show a decrease but remain a significant source of financing in the resources of the association (7 % of the total).

Sponsorship declined compared to 2022 (-23 %), compensated by contributions from non-profit organizations, the companies which support us being constituted more and more as foundations or endowment funds. Thus, financing from non-profit organizations rose sharply (+20 % vs 2022), due notably to contributions from La Fondation des hôpitaux (300 K€) and L'Association de Bienfaisance CFAO (291 K€). Funding for our projects in the Children's Pavilions from La Fondation Alain Deloche is in constant progression due to the generosity of its donors (227 K€).



\*Exclusive of reversals of provisions and depreciations (1 404k€) and use of previous dedicated funds (1 720k€)

Public subsidies amounted to 13 831 K€ in 2023, up 70 % on the previous year, and make up an increasing part of the association's resources (43 % of resources in 2023 vs 27% en 2022). These subsidies come mainly from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Development Agency and Expertise France, in the form of co-financing for our projects in Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Jordan, Togo, Lebanon and Burkina Faso.

Other income includes ancillary income linked to provision of services, membership contributions, financial income, extraordinary income (excluding reversals of provisions), and various management income. This amounts to 719 K€ (vs 868 K€ in 2022), down 17% on the previous year.

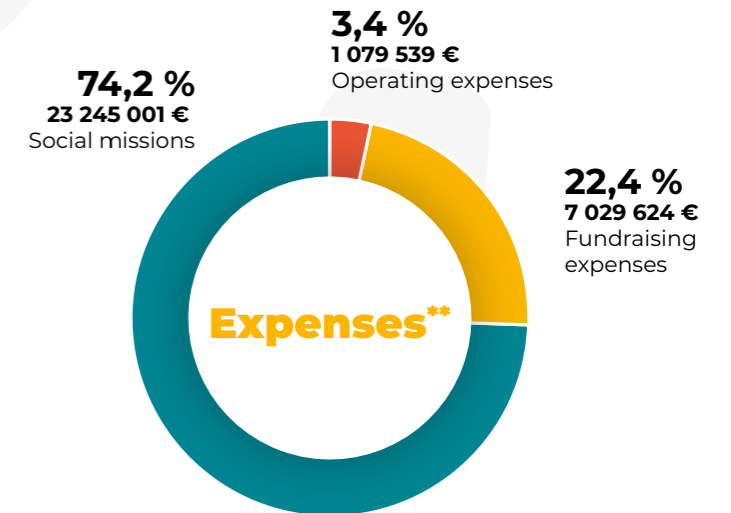
Provisions and reversals of provisions are no longer considered in this category and contracts with service providers were not renewed in 2023. This income remains marginal in the total of our resources (2%).

Funding recorded in dedicated funds, unused at the time of closure, is carried over as income in the income statement of the following year, as and when commitments are fulfilled.

In 2023, amounts corresponding to catching up on the projects of the previous years (notably in Iraq, Ukraine, Liban and Madagascar) remain significant but are down considerably compared to 2022 (1 720 K€, -45 %).

### Expenses

Expenditure on implemented programs amounts to 23 245 K€ spent in 2023, representing 74 % of total expenses.



(\*\*) Exclusive of allocations to provisions and depreciations (108 k€), and dedicated funds carried forward (2 936 k€)

Thus, the funds invested in our social missions increased by 8 % compared to 2022, marking the continued development of our activities.

Fundraising costs (marketing, communication, management of donations and tax receipts, donor relations) amount to 7 030 K€, up sharply on 2022 (+34 %) due to investments made to increase fundraising in the United States ( a debt waiver of 1 001 K€ granted on the previous financial years, and 651 K€ in financial aid for the year 2023). They represent 22,4 % of total expenses. Operating expenses are the indispensable basis of our missions. They guarantee the sound management of our resources and increased by 12 % over the year, amounting to 1 080 K€ in 2023. Their proportion has been confined to 3.4% of total expenses.

Allocations for provisions and depreciations (108 K€) returned to a more moderate level in 2023 (535 K€ in 2022).



### Simplified Balance Sheet

Assets (in K€)	2023	2022
Fixed assets	7 443	7 355
Current assets	33 630	26 135
- <i>Receivables</i>	7 273	5 950
- <i>Marketable securities</i>	4 684	4 611
- <i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	21 142	15 323
- <i>Prepaid expenses</i>	531	251
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>41 073</b>	<b>33 490</b>

Liabilities (in K€)	2023	2022
Association own funds	13 289	12 208
- <i>of which project reserves</i>	1 638	2 000
- <i>of which own funds exclusive of project reserves</i>	11 651	10 208
Provisions and deferred and dedicated funds	5 145	4 084
Debts	13 582	11 474
Deferred income	9 057	5 724
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>41 073</b>	<b>33 490</b>

### Policy on reserves

The financial year shows a surplus of 1 080 K€, partly explained by a positive operating income, in conformity with our budgetary policy aimed at ensuring healthy growth, by improved financial results due to the rise in interest rates, and by an exceptional income following a reversal of provision.

The surplus generated in 2023 will reinforce the own funds of the association and will be made available to our missions in 2024 and the following years, after validation by the governance of the association.

Thus, the reserves as of December 31, 2023 represent 5.3 months of activity, a level necessary to ensure the continuity of our actions in the field and satisfy the commitments made by the organization. This also enables us to cover unforeseen funding needs due to emergencies or a sudden decrease in income, and to finance investments and their renewal.

### Significant facts of the year

International network



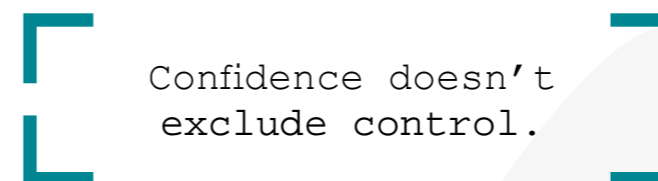
In 2019 La Chaîne de l'Espoir created an affiliated structure under American law, United Surgeons for Children (USFC), with the aim of extending its medical network and diversifying its financing to include American donors, both private and institutional. Donations collected in the United States will contribute to the funding of all the programs run by La Chaîne de l'Espoir. In order to launch this American structure, La Chaîne de l'Espoir, in accordance with an agreement signed in 2021, provided USFC with a cash advance. During the financial year 2023, the Board of Directors decided to write off a part of this debt and granted extra financial aid to contribute to the development of the American network.

The Alain Deloche Foundation



Sheltered by La Fondation pour l'Enfance (The Children's Foundation), La Fondation Alain Deloche is authorized to receive tax deductible donations de l'IFI. Its mission is to finance the construction and operation of Children's Pavilions, reception houses close to partner hospitals of La Chaîne de l'Espoir, while also funding medical and surgical care for the children accommodated there. Our four Pavilions, situated in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Mozambique and Senegal make it possible to provide care free of charge to deprived children, accompanied by a family member, during the entire duration of their treatment. 6,244 children were treated in our Pavilions in 2023, notably in Kabul.

## Rigor and transparency



The Audit and Internal Control Manager (AICM) advises and supports the association in the development of its internal procedures of management and control and regularly checks to see that they are properly applied, both in the headquarters and in the field. In the interests of independence, the AICM reports directly to the top management.

### What are the principal measures put in place by La Chaîne de l'Espoir to guarantee an effective internal control system?

All procedures in La Chaîne de l'Espoir, whether they concern financial management, logistics, human resources or projects, include control elements to ensure their proper application. The association does its utmost to apply the principles and practices essential for internal control: (1) the separation of functions and tasks ensures that the same person is not in the position of manager, validator and/or controller, (2) cross-checking the same information from different independent sources ensures its accuracy and (3) the use of control forms ensures complete and responsible control of sensitive tasks.

### How does La Chaîne de l'Espoir prevent fraudulent practices and conflicts of interest?

La Chaîne de l'Espoir works to prevent fraud at every level: notably through the implementation of the internal control measures already mentioned, the adoption of collective and transparent processes of selection and decision, the protection of sensitive goods or again carrying out checks on the probity of our collaborators, partners and suppliers. We pay particular attention to our operations on the ground, where the risks are generally higher. In order to avoid conflicts of interest, we require our collaborators to declare any links of interest (external relations) which may compromise their impartiality and clash with the interests of the association. In case of a potential conflict of interest, the person concerned will not participate in the selection process.

### Eric Legendre

Audit and Internal Control Manager of La Chaîne de l'Espoir

### What are the mechanisms developed by La Chaîne de l'Espoir to promote high ethical standards among all the stakeholders of the association?

In La Chaîne de l'Espoir, all our collaborators are acutely aware of ethical questions and a commitment to probity is obligatory for all of them (signature of our Code of Ethics and Behavior) as well as for our partners and suppliers (our deontology clauses are integrated into all our agreements and contracts). An independent system also enables anybody to report any ethical misconduct of which they are a victim or a witness. Finally, we apply a policy of zero tolerance and strong sanctions in cases of proven infringement.

### What are the procedures of La Chaîne de l'Espoir to evaluate the quality and impact of its actions?

La Chaîne de l'Espoir regularly monitors and evaluates the quality and impact of its actions using quality frames of reference: at its conception, every project must include (1) a « logical framework » defining its objectives, its expected results and impacts, the activities to be carried out, the indicators, the associated risks and the means to be mobilized and (2) a plan for monitoring and evaluation. These elements are monitored regularly throughout the project and serve as a basis for activity reports.

### How does La Chaîne de l'Espoir ensure the transparency of its actions and the communication of its evaluation results to its stakeholders, notably financial backers, donors and partners?

I carry out three or four audits a year to identify our malfunctions and recommend improvements by means of compliance plans whose implementation is then regularly monitored. Three times a year, before each meeting of the Board of Directors, I report on my work to the Audit and Internal Control Committee. Independent controls and audits, carried out by the statutory auditors, our institutional financial backers and the oversight body « Don en Confiance », also guarantee the proper use of the funds we receive and the sound management of our actions. The increasing scarcity of funding means that we must be irreproachable in this area.



## Governance and human resources

### The legal structure of La Chaîne de l'Espoir

La Chaîne de l'Espoir is an association established according to the French law of July 1, 1901 and declared to the Préfecture de Paris on December 12, 1994 under the number N° 94/4993.

### The scope of the annual report of La Chaîne de l'Espoir

The scope of the annual report of La Chaîne de l'Espoir covers the totality of its activities: treatment of children in France, emergency actions, treatment and training missions, construction, equipment, educational and health programs in schools.

### The members of La Chaîne de l'Espoir

La Chaîne de l'Espoir has 215 active members, all with voting rights.

### The Board of Directors of La Chaîne de l'Espoir in 2023

The members of the Board of Directors, including the treasurer and the secretary general, and with the exception of the president, serve their mandates free of charge and receive no remuneration in this capacity.

#### ■ La Chaîne de l'Espoir Board of Directors

##### President

- Dr Pierre Eric Cheysson, Vascular surgeon

##### Vice-presidents

- Dr Philippe Valenti, Hand surgeon  
- Dr Gérard Babatasi, Head of the cardiac surgery department of the CHU de Caen

##### Secretary General

- Jean-Roch Serra, Former director of the medical branch of the Siemens group

##### Treasurer

- Sandrine Turquetil Delacour, Accounting & administration director, Groupe MACSF

#### ■ Members

- Dr Catherine Amrein, Intensivist
- Me Jacques Bouillon, Lawyer
- Pr Christophe Chardot, Pediatric surgeon
- Dr Jean-Michel Davaine, Vascular surgeon
- Prof Alain Deloche, Cardiac surgeon
- Gonzague Desforges, Retired engineer
- Denis Duverne, Retired chairman of Axa
- Dr Naziha Khen-Dunlop, Pediatric visceral surgeon
- Jacques Maillot, Chairman and founder of Nouvelles Frontières
- Dr Paul Neville, Thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon
- Philippe Peyrat, General delegate of the Engie Foundation
- Me Sébastien Prat, Lawyer
- Pr Gabriel Rahmi, Hepato-gastroenterologist
- Dr Xavier Raingeval, Surgical anesthetist intensivist
- Pr Yann Révillon, Pediatric surgeon
- Stéphane Romatet, French ambassador to Algeria
- Dr Dominique Tournay, Anesthetist
- Dr Jean Vendroux, Plastic surgeon
- Dr Jean-David Werthel, Orthopedist

### The management team

The operational management of the association is assured by a management team responsible for the implementation of the strategy set out by the governance. This team includes a general direction, a deputy general direction in charge of operations, a medical direction, an administrative and financial direction, a development direction and a human resources direction. The executive committee includes the general direction and the five operational directions. It meets weekly.

#### ■ USFC Board of Directors

- Dr. Maurice Enriquez-Sarano, Chairman
- Marc Sage, Secretary
- Jean-Roch Serra, Treasurer
- Pr. Alain Deloche, Founder
- Dr. Eric Cheysson, Director
- Anouchka Finker, Director
- Dr. Philippe Valenti, Director
- Jean-David Werthel, Director



### The specialist committees of La Chaîne de l'Espoir

#### ■ The management committee

The role of the management committee is to ensure that the decisions of the Board of Directors are implemented and that the activities and missions of La Chaîne de l'Espoir are properly carried out. It is made up of members of the bureau and operational directors of the association. It meets at least once a month.

#### ■ The financial committee

The role of the financial committee is to advise the Board of Directors on financial decisions at a strategic level, such as policy on own funds and investment choices.

#### ■ The audit and internal control committee

The audit and internal control committee is an internal control organ assuring active monitoring of risk prevention and compliance with rules of governance. It is composed of qualified members of the Board of Directors and external experts. It is directly linked to the Audit and Internal Control Manager (AICM) who reports to it.

### Employees

On December 31, 2023, La Chaîne de l'Espoir had 75 full-time equivalent employees at the headquarters in France.

La Chaîne de l'Espoir also has numerous employees, expatriate or local, in its structures overseas in our areas of intervention:

- Afghanistan .....47
- Mali .....13

- Iraq .....	18
- Togo .....	13
- Lebanon .....	11
- Jordan .....	10
- Burkina Faso .....	8
- Madagascar .....	7
- Senegal .....	1
- Ivory Coast .....	1
- Benin .....	3
- Ukraine .....	1
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>133</b>

### Index of Female/Male Equality

La Chaîne de l'Espoir has a score of 96/100 in the Index of Female/Male Equality 2023. The aim of this index is to abolish wage inequalities between women and men in France. La Chaîne de l'Espoir is happy to continue its efforts in promoting female/male equality and hopes to show even better results in the future.

### Volunteers

In 2023, La Chaîne de l'Espoir was able to count on the support of 694 volunteers for all the functions of the association:

- Volunteers on programs abroad .....	157
- Volunteers on programs in France .....	139
- Host families .....	170
- Volunteers in local branches .....	86
- Volunteers at the headquarters .....	53
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>605</b>





## Acknowledgements 2023

### SPONSORS

#### Who provided financial support:

Alticap ■ A2MO ■ APTISKILLS ■ Association Cœur à neuf  
 Association de bienfaisance CFAO (AB-CFAO) ■  
 Association La Famille du Cœur ■ Association Patrick  
 Narchi ■ Audit et Solutions ■ Bouygues Bâtiment  
 International ■ Clarins ■ CNP Assurances ■ Crédit  
 Agricole Assurances ■ Doulux ■ Fondation Air France  
 ■ Fondation Bouygues Telecom ■ Fondation Crédit  
 Agricole ■ Fondation Crédit Agricole Solidarité et  
 Développement ■ Fondation des Hôpitaux de Paris  
 ■ Fondation ENGIE ■ Fondation Linda Norgrove ■  
 Fondation Masalina ■ Fondation Maurice et Ute Genoyer  
 ■ Fondation Orange Burkina Faso ■ Fondation Sodebo  
 ■ Fondation Zéphyr ■ Fonds de dotation LGDE ■ Fonds  
 de dotation Solidarité Opéra ■ Fonds de Mécénat Servier  
 ■ Groupe Swatch ■ Harmonie Mutuelle ■ Info Presse ■  
 KFUNDS ■ Mecam 44 ■ Monaco Collectif Humanitaire ■  
 Novalac ■ Orabank ■ Proludic ■ Rotary Marignagne ■ SAS  
 Bernard Magrez ■ TP media ■ UTMB ■ Villard Médical

### INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

#### Governmental, European or international institutions which supported La Chaîne de l'Espoir through subsidies:

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) ■ Agence  
 Régionale de la Santé - La Réunion ■ Ambassades  
 de France au Bénin, Burkina Faso, Congo Brazzaville,  
 République démocratique du Congo, Cameroun,  
 Djibouti, Guinée Conakry, Irak, Madagascar, Mali, Niger,  
 Sénégal, Tchad, Togo, Union des Comores, Vénézuéla,  
 Jordanie ■ Centre de Crise et de Soutien (CDCS) du  
 Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères ■ Conseil  
 Départemental de La Réunion ■ DCI Monaco ■ DG ECHO  
 (UE) ■ EU - EUTF MADAD fund ■ Expertise France ■ Ville  
 de Paris

### OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

#### Who participated in the implementation of actions by La Chaîne de l'Espoir:

AKDN - Aga Khan Development Network ■ Al Hussein  
 Society, Jordan Center for Training and Inclusion  
 (AHS) ■ Aldar Albayda ■ Al-Farouq Charitable Society  
 for Orphans Care ■ AlKhalideiah women association  
 for family and child care ■ Alkora for General Trading  
 Company. LTD ■ Almanara Alzarqaa scientific bureau  
 ■ Alshehaa For Lab. And Medical Appliances ■ Anéolia  
 ■ Arabian Medical Relief (AMR) ■ Arcenciel (Liban) ■  
 ASMI ■ ATA MEDICAL ■ Aviations sans Frontières (ASF)  
 ■ AXA Assurance ■ BBRAUN ■ Beming Ingénierie ■  
 BEN Informatique ■ Bioport ■ Buwidaa charity ■ CAM  
 TOVAMED ■ Caritas Liban ■ CDC Baqa ■ CDC Wehdat ■

Centre Cuomo ■ Centre de Rééducation Motrice pour  
 Tout-Petits ■ Elisabeth de la Panouse-Debré ■ Centre  
 Paul Dottin A.S.E.I. ■ Centre Pédiatrique des Côtes  
 ■ CH Saint-Philibert à Lomme ■ Children Hospital  
 (Laos) ■ Childcare charity association ■ CHRU Tours ■  
 CHU Bordeaux ■ CHU Caen ■ CHU La Réunion ■ CHU  
 Nantes ■ CHU Toulouse ■ Clinique FSEF Paris 16 ■ CPCS  
 ■ DRAEGER ■ EDWARDS LIFESCENCES ■ ERBE ■  
 FERMENDOM ■ FMM ■ Fondation Hôpital Saint Joseph  
 ■ Fondation Paul Parquet ■ FUJIFILM ■ GE HEALTHCARE  
 ■ German Jordanian University ■ GETINGE ■ HEI Lille  
 ■ HG MEDICAL ■ Hôpital d'Enfants Margency ■ Hôpital  
 de Pédiatrie et de Rééducation de Bullion ■ Hôpital  
 d'Enfants-ASFA ■ Hôpital Fondation Adolphe de  
 Rothschild ■ Hôpital Kantha Bopha ■ Hôpital Pédiatrique  
 de Réadaptation Alice Blum-Ribes ■ Hospices Civils de  
 Lyon ■ HOSPI MEDIA ■ HULO (Coopérative Logistique  
 Humanitaire) ■ HUMATEM ■ Igienair ■ IMFE kaboul  
 ■ IMMED ■ IMT Mines Alès (IMTMA) ■ Institut for  
 Family Health ■ Institut Mutualiste Montsouris ■  
 Institut Supérieur d'Enseignement Professionnel de  
 Diamniadio (ISEPDD) ■ IRIS Conseil Santé ■ Jordan  
 Health Aid Society - International ■ Khatib & Alami  
 ■ KIDSOR ■ Ladies of Dail association ■ L'Assistance  
 publique - hôpitaux de Paris ■ Le Luxembourg au Mali  
 ■ Les Amis de l'Enfance - Centre André Bousquairol ■  
 Levant Medical Group ■ LIVANOVA SAS ■ Matachana  
 Group ■ MINDRAY ■ MSV ■ Our Step Association ■  
 Oxy Ingénierie ■ Philadelphia University ■ PHILIPS  
 HEALTHCARE ■ PHYMED - Université de Montpellier ■  
 Polytech Marseille ■ Proquest Engineering & Consulting  
 ■ Qudrat Association for Community Development ■  
 REPEMA ■ Réseau des Hôpitaux d'Afrique, de l'Océan  
 Indien et des Caraïbes (RESHAOC) ■ RMarchitecture ■  
 SIEMENS ■ Soeurs Dominicaines ■ STRYKER ■ SURGIRIS  
 ■ Taabar ■ TECHNOLOGIE MEDICALE ■ Université  
 Polytechnique de l'Ouest Africain (UPOA) ■ Vlad ■ ZOZIK  
 GROUP

### ASSOCIATIVE PLATFORMS AND COORDINATION SPACES

#### Of which La Chaîne de l'Espoir is a member:

Anams ■ Bioforce ■ Bioport Association ■ Cercle  
 international de l'AFIB ■ Coordination Humanitaire  
 et Développement - Coordination Sud ■ Comité de la  
 Charte du Don en confiance ■ COORDINATION SUD  
 ■ F3E ■ Forum Espace Humanitaire (FEH) ■ France  
 Générosités ■ IHF ■ Institut des Dirigeants d'Associations  
 & Fondations (IDAF) ■ Jordan INGO Forum (JIF) ■  
 Jordanian Health Sector Working Group ■ Le Cèdre ■  
 Quamed ■ Soliways ■ Tous bénévoles ■ Voice



# Index by continent



COUNTRY	PAGES	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET IN €
<b>EUROPE AND CAUCASUS</b>			<b>3 062 537</b>
Armenia	24	Training on "damage control", delivery of medical material and consumables	18 471
France	8, 11, 30	Support for hospitalized children, transfer of children and treatment in France	1 098 157
Ukraine	10, 27	Traumatology emergency kits, supply of medical equipment and consumables, training of medical personnel on war medicine	1 945 909
<b>ASIA</b>			<b>6 083 305</b>
Afghanistan	11, 21, 29	Pediatric surgery, cardiac surgery, orthopedic surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, anesthesia, acute malnutrition, psychosocial support, maternal and reproductive health, consultations for populations living in camps for internally displaced people, prevention and awareness-raising, screening and referencing, capacity building, distance training (colposcopy, pelvic pain), renovation works, Children's Pavilion, maintenance of biomedical equipment	5 211 464
Cambodia	19	Cardiac surgery, orthopedic surgery, interventional cardiology, neurosurgery, capacity building	75 667
India	22	Primary healthcare, school health, women's health, mobile clinics, child protection, prevention and screening, awareness-raising, psychosocial support	340 671
Laos	11, 19	Pediatric surgery, laparoscopic surgery, capacity building	20 738
Nepal	23	Primary healthcare, school health, menstrual health, prevention and awareness-raising, consultations and referencing, psychosocial support	311 161
Vietnam	21	Children's Pavilion, cardio-pediatric surgery, medico-social support	123 604
<b>AMERICA</b>			<b>119 722</b>
Haiti	22	School health, ophthalmology, language and learning disabilities, bucco-dental hygiene, prevention and screening, supply of consumables and medication	119 722

COUNTRY	PAGES	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET IN €
<b>AFRICA</b>			<b>4 635 714</b>
Benin	10, 18, 19	Pediatric surgery, urological surgery, caustic esophageal stenosis, reconstructive surgery (severe burns), itinerant missions, Echoes, prevention and awareness-raising	267 693
Burkina Faso	11, 16, 17, 18, 20	Cardiac surgery, reconstructive surgery (noma, maxillofacial pathologies), loco-regional anesthesia, Echoes, supply of biomedical equipment and consumables, prevention and awareness-raising, screening and referencing	753 925
Comoros	9, 11, 16, 17	Pediatric cardiology, training and capacity building, biomedical equipment, Echoes, awareness-raising on bucco-dental hygiene	85 147
Ivory Coast	10, 18, 29	Pediatric surgery, caustic esophageal stenosis, laparoscopic surgery, ophthalmological surgery, gynecology-obstetrics, radiology, pain management, medical and paramedical capacity building, prevention and awareness-raising, supply of medical material and consumables	466 829
Madagascar	11, 16, 17, 28	Cardio-pediatric surgery, rehabilitation of operating theater, biomedical equipment, supply of medication and consumables, capacity building, Echoes, screening, awareness-raising on bucco-dental hygiene	472 960
Mali	16, 17, 18, 20	Cardiac surgery, reconstructive surgery (noma, maxillofacial pathologies), loco-regional anesthesia, Echoes, supply of biomedical equipment and consumables	980 360
Mozambique	16	Cardiac surgery, interventional catheterization, Echoes, capacity building, supply of medication and consumables, Children's Pavilion	100 353
Niger	-	Training in Burkina Faso of the cardiac surgery team of the Hôpital Général de Référence de Niamey	9 083
Democratic Republic of Congo	-	-	422
Rwanda	-	Ultrasound scanner shipped	2 591
Senegal	8, 17, 28	Cardiac surgery, digestive endoscopy, vascular surgery, capacity building, training of biomedical engineers, supply of medication and consumables, Children's Pavilion, South-South transfers	759 730
Togo	9, 18, 19, 23	Pediatric surgery, brachial plexus, loco-regional anesthesia, itinerant missions, school health, water-hygiene-sanitation, prevention and screening, Echoes, biomedical equipment	736 620
<b>NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST</b>			<b>9 206 505</b>
Iraq	8, 27	Hospital construction, supply of medical equipment and consumables, medical and paramedical training and capacity building	7 060 165
Jordan	10, 16, 23	Cardiac surgery, orthopedic surgery, early screening, prevention and awareness-raising, psychosocial support, training of health personnel	975 125
Lebanon	11, 19, 23	General pediatric surgery, neonatal surgery, orthopedic surgery, early screening, prevention and awareness-raising, psychosocial support, training of health personnel	1 073 491
Syria	24	Earthquake emergency response, supply of medical material and consumables, essential surgery	97 723
<b>MULTI-COUNTRY</b>			<b>137 218</b>
DES	18	Diploma in Specialized Studies in Pediatric Surgery (DES-CP) in west Africa	137 218





Together, let's save children

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