

# KALONGO NEWS



"This return has been prepared by the people as a field is prepared for sowing, precisely because he was like the grain of wheat which, having fallen to the ground, dies and produces fruit".

*F. Egidio Tocalli*

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Every time I go back to Kalongo, I realize that I still haven't gotten used to that river of people who patiently and confidently wait their turn every day to be visited in one of the hospital outpatient clinics or who fill the paediatrics, maternity, and surgery wards. And I am still amazed and moved, as well as in front of the eyes of future midwives, full of confidence in the future.

**I believe that Blessed Father Giuseppe has left us a legacy to carry on.** A gift to be preserved for the future of our and Kalongo's children, a tacit alliance of closeness, help and sharing between us and this welcoming, strong and tenacious person.

**A crown of people who poured out to participate in the celebrations for the beatification of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli demonstrating gratitude, love and a vivid sense of belonging to this unique and special place which has continued with unspeakable tenacity, for more than sixty years, to designing a different tomorrow for thousands of the most fragile people on the planet.**

Father Giuseppe's gift is truly an extraordinary adventure that fills our lives with meaning. An adventure that the Ambrosoli Foundation has been living for 25 years alongside the hospital and the obstetrics school.

In the last months, in Kalongo on behalf of the Foundation, technicians, resident doctors and volunteers have been alternating in a coming and going capable of giving a decisive and clear sign of continuity and trust to the hospital, the obstetrics school and the local community, increasingly poor and exhausted after the Covid years.

**Being there is fundamental. It is important to understand needs, grasp requests, expectations and expectations, to guide but, above all, be guided towards solutions that arise from within the community, not imported from here, cut to our measure.**

Father Giuseppe had understood it and lived it day after day: we need to be humble and silent so that we will be able to understand who is most in need and make each of our interventions an opportunity for sustainable and lasting growth.

For this reason, first of all, sharing knowledge, cultivating skills and abilities, and collaborating are necessary. The results achieved last year together with all of you are a concrete example of this. We could not have done it alone.

Sometimes our appeals and our requests for help seem inappropriate to us, almost presumptuous in the face of the immense human tragedies we are witnessing in this part of the world. Helpless and anxious.

**But human suffering has equal dignity, and what matters is that someone takes charge of it and takes care of it. Wherever it appears.**

Blessed Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli taught it to us!

*Giovanna Ambrosoli*  
Giovanna Ambrosoli



**“Everyone felt he was a brother, father, confrere, sister, mother, and confidant. Everyone felt absolutely welcomed as if no one else existed for him in the world.”**

*Father Arnaldo Baritussio*



# A MAN WHO HAS MADE HIMSELF AFRICA

di Tito Squillaci

Father Giuseppe was not simply a person who gave Africa his medical knowledge, he was above all **a man who travelled his spiritual path in Africa, to the point of becoming Africa.** On November 20, 2022, this reality received the consecration.

**Summarizing in a few lines the emotions experienced on the occasion of the beatification ceremony is quite difficult for me** since I felt touched by so many sensations scattered between the past, present and future.

Already in the time spent in Kalongo, in the 80s, the feelings of esteem, affection and gratitude towards Father Ambrosoli were a widespread and shared experience not only among those who worked alongside him but above all among **ordinary, poor and simple people with whom he had a privileged relationship.** The past has surfaced several times, with many small episodes of daily life lived together with him, but also with names and faces never erased from the memory of fraternal friends with some of whom we anxiously waited to be able to meet again on that very day to enjoy the Kalongo of today, with a missionary community even more deeply rooted in this place and with the legacy of the father: the hospital, alive and vital, and the midwifery school, still alive and still an engine of formation, thanks to his ultimate sacrifice.



When my mind then looked to the future, I saw a community in which every family could adequately feed their children, could adequately cure them, so as not to see them die again from so many curable diseases, and could send them to school to prepare them for life, because, even in Africa, we are in the third millennium. Seen from Kalongo these things still seem like a utopia. But looking back at the present, at the progress that Ugandan society has made in recent decades, and at the role that hospitals and schools continue to play, tells us that **all of this is possible. We simply need to keep moving forward, with the awareness that the road that has been traced before us is the right one.**

*Dr Tito Squillaci, paediatrician carries out regular missions to the Kalongo hospital. His professional support covers not only the clinical field but also the paediatrics, neonatology and maternity staff training's didactic one.*



**With a gift in your bequest, large or small, you will help us carry on the legacy of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli in Kalongo.**

**If you would like more information on bequests:**

**Ilaria Baron Toaldo  
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# 2022



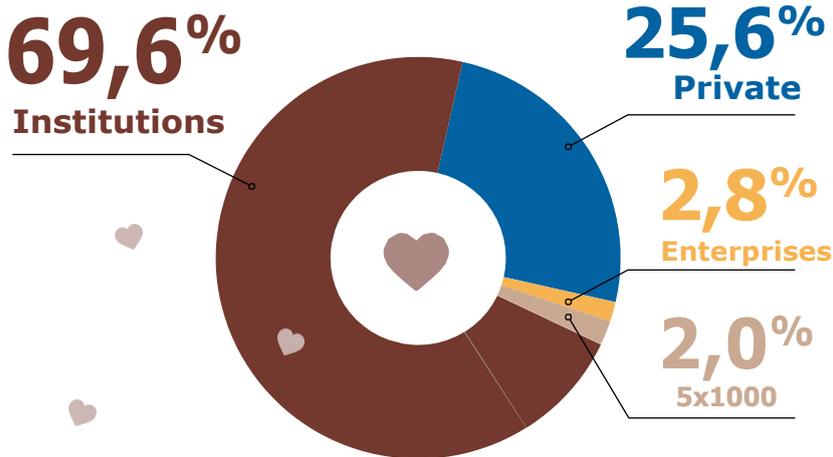
## Our fundraising



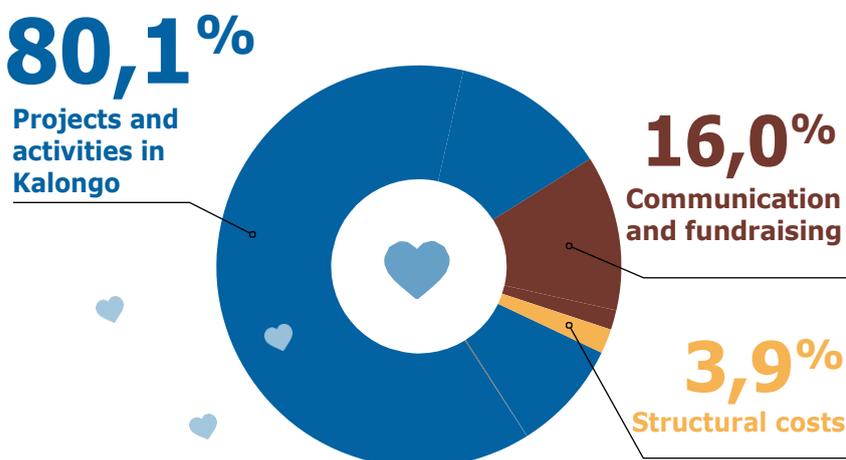
**938.000\*€**

Total economic interventions  
in favour of Dr Ambrosoli Memorial Hospital

### HOW WE RAISED THE FUNDS



### HOW WE USED THE FUNDS RAISED



\*fiscal year July 2021 - June 2022

## HOW THE FUNDS WERE USED IN KALONGO



### HOSPITAL

**12.913**

#### Hospitalizations

4.398

In Paediatric

4.595

In Maternity

2.141

In General Med.

**27.591**

#### Outpatient visits

**6.550**

#### Prenatal visits

**2.905**

#### Deliveries

**325**

#### Premature newborns

**18.858**

#### Paediatric vaccinations

**3.202**

#### Surgical operations



### SCHOOL OF OBSTETRIC

**173**

#### Students Enrolled Annually

**43**

#### Students receiving a scholarship from the FA

## THE CELEBRATIONS FOR FATHER AMBROSOLI

“ It is difficult to fully understand a fact of such great significance as having reached the goal of holiness. Father Giuseppe is for all of us, as well as for "his people" of Kalongo, an example of concrete and industrious love, a source of inspiration for the right path to take

”  
*Giovanna Ambrosoli*

The rite of beatification of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli took place in Kalongo on Sunday 20 November 2022, presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Monsignor Luigi Bianco, delegate of Pope Francis.

An extraordinary moment for everyone, especially for the community of Kalongo. The celebration was attended by about 20,000 pilgrims, who arrived from all over the country on the previous Friday, awaiting the day of celebrations with songs, dances and processions. Even the President of the Ugandan Republic Yoweri Museveni wanted to be present.

We share some excerpts from the homily of Monsignor Luigi Bianco:

*“The new Blessed offers a great example of a person who did not look to his own interests, but his life was dedicated entirely and tirelessly to healing the wounds of the bodies and souls of the needy as a priest and doctor. The Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis presents him as a good Samaritan.*

*He realized in his life what he proclaimed with his lips: “God is love and I am his servant for people who suffer”. For Father Ambrosoli there were two altars in Kalongo: the altar of the Eucharist and the operating table, just as there are his two hands that hold the Host and assist a sick person in need of care with the same reverence and respect. With the proverbial smile on his lips, he was always serene in his attitude and full of Christian hope, even in trials.*

*Kalongo Hospital and Midwifery School were his life and are his monument and legacy. This legacy must continue and grow even with everyone's collaboration”.*





“  
The simple people set out, many on foot,  
towards the Mountain of the Wind,  
to honor the blessed Joseph.  
The people are heedless of the danger,  
because Ajwaka Madit and his God are with them,  
indeed Joseph is one of them, forever. ”

*Filippo Ciantia*



## "YOU ARE NOT ALONE"

### *Inclusive health for the prevention and treatment of visual, motor and mental disabilities.*

#### **The context in which the project operates**

In Uganda, 18.7% of the population has a psychosocial, intellectual or motor disability.

Across the country, only 2% of visually impaired children use glasses and only 9% of children who need walking aids and equipment have access to such devices.

The main causes of disability during the early years of childhood are linked to endemic diseases, lack of vaccination against potentially disabling diseases and the absence of rehabilitation services.

The combination of the lack of eye, psychiatric and rehabilitation services and the scarcity of economic means available to families in the Agago district is further aggravated by the very strong stigma surrounding people with disabilities, who are perceived as a curse, potentially contagious and therefore to be removed.

Many men abandon their wives when a disabled child is born, mothers often find themselves isolated from the rest of the family and the practice of abandoning or letting disabled children die is unfortunately common because they are seen as an additional burden for the poorest families.

This is why it becomes urgent and necessary to create spaces where people with disabilities and their families can find adequate care, attention and support. But not only that, it is essential to intervene to raise awareness among the local population, reduce prejudices and promote people's dignity.

#### **The goals to be achieved**

The project aims to reduce infant mortality of children under 5 by improving prevention and treatment prospects through the creation of a health service that is more inclusive and attentive to the needs of people with disabilities, who in the district of Agago represent 22.4 % of the population.

The objective will be pursued by expanding and strengthening the services aimed at early diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disabilities at the Kalongo hospital. But not only that, an equally important role will be played by awareness-raising activities carried out to accompany the local community towards greater awareness and a change of perspective and attitude towards the most defenceless people.

#### **II The project involves the construction of:**

- **a first-level eye clinic**
- **a rehabilitation and neuro-rehabilitation centre**
- **a sub-intensive therapy**
- **a mental health clinic with specialized psychiatric staff**
- **a counselling desk dedicated to mothers and families of children with disabilities**



**ON THE GO THE THREE-YEAR PROJECT FINANCED BY AICS (ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION) AND CARRIED OUT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CBM**

To carry out these interventions, the Ambrosoli Foundation and the Kalongo hospital will be supported by CBM, an organization with solid experience in projects for the prevention and treatment of visual impairments, and project partners.

The eye surgery services will be provided by the local partner St. Joseph hospital in Kitgum which will also support the specialists of the Kalongo hospital in setting up the eye clinic.

The prevention and treatment of motor and neuromotor disabilities will be guaranteed thanks to the partnership with the CoRSU specialist rehabilitation hospital in Entebbe. Training is envisaged for the personnel of the surgical, orthopedic and rehabilitation services of Kalongo, which will make it possible to expand the type of surgery and the quality of services for trauma, road accidents and other conditions and pathologies that can cause disability.

#### **The first goals achieved**

During the first months of the project, two important structural interventions were carried out: the new eye clinic and the new motor rehabilitation centre. The works inside the eye clinic have been completed and the identification of the medical equipment and devices that will have to be purchased to make it operational is in progress. We also proceeded to recruit qualified medical personnel who can manage the optimal functioning of the clinic.

Work is still ongoing in the rehabilitation centre, to make it functional to the needs of the rehabilitation staff, equipping it with all the necessary equipment and furnishings. The space and the bathrooms will be easily usable by people with disabilities because they will be adapted to the national guidelines for the accessibility of people with disabilities.

**All the interventions carried out will also continue at the end of the three-year project because the hospital will integrate the new clinics within its ordinary activity, guaranteeing their continuation in the long term with permanent benefits for the local population.**

## TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

**Activate a periodic donation to the Ambrosoli Foundation. Your donation, large or small, will concretely support the daily work of the Kalongo hospital.**

Medicines and vaccines, milk and therapeutic food, sanitary material, surgical instruments, and life-saving equipment cannot be missing and then there are the salaries of the hospital staff (about 250 people), the fuel for the ambulance, the generator batteries for when electricity fails...

And families are increasingly poor, exhausted after the difficult years of Covid and now forced to deal with the skyrocketing prices of basic necessities, unable to face the real cost of hospital medical care. This is why the hospital keeps the rates very low to offer treatment and assistance to everyone, but it cannot do it alone.

Activate a periodic donation. Being able to count on regular donations, even small but secure ones, helps us to plan our interventions more effectively and gives the hospital the certainty of being able to treat an extra mother or child.

C/C Banco Desio: **IT70 I034 4010 9010 0000 0613 200**  
Swift Code: **BDBDIT22**



**We remind you that you are free to choose the amount and frequency of your regular donation and to modify or cancel it at any time.**

If you need help, don't hesitate to write to us at:

[info@fondazioneambrosoli.it](mailto:info@fondazioneambrosoli.it)

**Thank you for being by our side!**

### DONATE 1€ EVERY TIME YOU USE PAYPAL



**If you are a PayPal customer, set us as your favourite charity and you can choose to donate €1 to the Ambrosoli Foundation every time you pay with PayPal.**

It's nice to discover new tools to support us that cost very little to you but can make a huge difference for the Foundation!



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