



Fondazione
Dr. Ambrosoli
Memorial Hospital

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KALONGO NEWS



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"Let us not grow tired of
Doing Good"

Pope Francis

DEAR FRIENDS,

Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli is being beatified on 20th November 2022 in Uganda, after a two-year delay and a long wait due to Covid 19- pandemic.

We are joyful and grateful for his beatification. We are looking forward to sharing with all of you all the events being organized to celebrate such a long waited moment: it's a unique opportunity to encounter and remember once again the remarkable personality of Father Giuseppe, who is still a source of surprise and inspiration these days. His encouragement helps us to persevere in supporting the miracle of Kalongo Hospital.

Exactly 65 years after the foundation of the Hospital named after him and in the year of his beatification, **I wonder about the future** of this extraordinary endeavour, his effort to guarantee equal rights and access to medical care and schooling to everybody. A very vital institution in an area which is now even more neglected, poor and unknown to the world.

The present situation is quite uncertain, it's a long way to go, and sometimes it feels endless.

These days, looking at the terrible events we are witnessing, let's not be overwhelmed by a feeling of helplessness, which distress us all. Following the path of resilience revealed by Father Giuseppe, we intend to continue our work in truthfulness and hope, doing our best to promote a more honest and fairer world.

We intend to persist in conceiving new growth and development paths, together with the Hospital and the midwifery school, to provide tangible solutions to the needs of the more vulnerable people in the community. This will also offer a better future to these two organizations, which are vital to the survival of thousands of people each year.

The Hospital informed us of their many, significant needs: old buildings' portions need to be renovated, plumbing, electrical and power systems, together with the waste disposal system – all must be refurbished, to meet the increase in complexity of hospital management and the more efficient standards required. Other needs are: roofs to be remade, an Intensive Care Unit to be added to the surgery, a new incinerator to be built and new clean energy sources to be installed.

These are priority needs, which have to be added to our ongoing support to the daily hospital needs, which in turn sharply increased during the Covid-19 pandemic; medical and technical missions must also be supported and, finally, local personnel shall be encouraged to stay on and contribute to such a challenging mission.

Please do help us to persevere in carrying on the legacy of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli in Uganda, **to let it be known to everybody. To let its needs be known.** To allow his wonderful work to keep saving human lives and bear fruit. Not only in Uganda.

A good deed is a river in flood, it runs over the banks, it overflows, it's overwhelming. It overcomes, everything.

Giovanna Ambrosoli
Giovanna Ambrosoli

YOUR TESTIMONY IS PRECIOUS

We are collecting pictures, letters, memories of all the people who met Father Giuseppe, in sight of the many events planned for his Beatification.

If you are one of these people please write to us at:

info@fondazioneambrosoli.it or call us at **02.36558852**.

You will help us to **keep his memory alive** and his good deed.



Do Good, Forget it.
Someone else will find it.

Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli

A LEGACY OF GOOD DEEDS

All our testimonials, who had the privilege to meet Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli, feel the awareness to have shared part of their life with a remarkable, unique man, who was considered to be a saint by many of his contemporaries. The following are two of the more significant testimonies.

“Ambrosoli was not a character apt to be depicted in hagiography (...) Just an example: he was quite friendly, amiable, and sociable when out of the hospital, but very strict and serious as a medical doctor. Even more so in the surgery. Strict, but not aggressive. There are different ways to perform surgery: surgery can be aggressive, or quiet, caring, or non-aggressive. Ambrosoli performed a caring kind of surgery and I feel privileged to have been his student.

He used to repeat: “In the surgical block you must be merciless”, meaning that sterilization processes had to be perfect. Where this was not done, consequences could be disastrous, as it unfortunately often happened in the Government Hospitals. Terrible health problems and unexpected complications were common.

But how was he outside the operating block? He did not interfere in other people’s work, he would rather encourage personal responsibility and autonomy. He would not accept the waste of resources. (...) One could not say he was simply a good man, generous and humble. He did know what he wanted and what he was doing. But you cannot say you did know well Ambrosoli if you had not been working in surgery with him.

His was clearly a free choice, a choice of love and service for his neighbour and the Church, fulfilled with strength, determination, seriousness, stamina, all abundantly accompanied by a sense of humour (but not in the Surgery!)”

Dr Gianfranco Carletti

“I was a staff member of the Maternity Ward in Kalongo for over seven years, from 1980 until 1987, when we were all evacuated. I was privileged to work, pray, dream, worry, rejoice and suffer as a member of the community in Kalongo, to meet and admire a missionary who left such a lasting memory in my life.

Father Ambrosoli has been a 360-degree model, so to speak. He was a model to admire, but far too demanding for me to adhere to.

He stands out for his natural and shy way to live in holiness in his ordinary life.

I was impressed by his friendliness and kindness to each and everybody; whoever met him felt at ease, thanks to his humble attitude.

He was simple, but demanding with himself, generous and understanding with other people. He made himself available 24 hours/a day if he could relieve pains and save human lives. Working in a Maternity ward, I often had to call him at night, for emergency surgeries. I was so sorry to interrupt his (so short) sleep and rest, but his answer was always prompt and encouraging: “That’s what we are here for, we have to save the life of mother and child”.

Sister Lea Zandonella

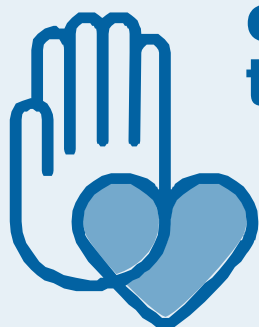


**A legacy to
Fondazione
Ambrosoli, be it small
or large, can provide
development and
future to Father
Ambrosoli’s marvelous
work in Kalongo. To let
good deed last
forever.**

For more information about
legacies:

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Our commitment to Kalongo



2021

741.000 €

The total amount of the economic support for the hospital

HOW WE RAISED FUNDS

50,8%

Institutions

39,6%

Private Citizens

6,6%

Companies

3,1%

5x1000 Italian Government Public Funds

HOW WE USED THE FUNDS RAISED

83,6%

Projects and activities in Kalongo

4,4%

Structural costs

12%

Communication and fund-raising

Financial Year July 2020 - June 2021

HOW THE FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED IN KALONGO



HOSPITAL

12.203

Admissions

4.437

Paediatrics

4.144

Maternity

1.521

Surgery

31.595

Outpatient visits

6.390

Antenatal visits

2.576

Deliveries

435

Premature Deliveries

15.927

Paediatric vaccinations



MIDWIFERY SCHOOL

150

Students Enrolled Annually

19

Graduated students with Foundation Scholarship

In 2021

Fondazione Ambrosoli
funded:



DISTRICT OF

AGAGO



Two medical missions and one technical mission to Kalongo



Medical equipment, technical equipment and health devices needed to face the Covid-19 pandemic



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: 1 incubator, 1 infant warmer, 1 suction machine, one full-time clinical officer



One project manager and one gynaecologist were hired



One Ultrasound Probe



1 monitor for checking vital signs, 1 Paediatric CPAP



STRUCTURAL AND MAINTENANCE INTERVENTIONS

- 1 **Renewal of the photovoltaic system** of the Guesthouse for doctors and volunteers on missions in Kalongo
- 2 **Maintenance work on hospital laundry machinery**



PAEDIATRIC PROJECT:

- 1 **Renovation of the main block of the Paediatrics Ward** and expansion of the area
- 2 **A large porch was built** all around the Ward



STAFF QUARTER RENOVATION PROJECT:

- 1 **Built a new building** with two family apartments
- 2 **Two apartments** in dilapidated condition have been **refurbished**
- 3 **Maintenance works and expansion of the hydraulic network** have been carried out

“Each time a child recovers, a village grows”

The youngest and more vulnerable children have been deeply affected by the Covid- 19 pandemic in the past two years. Any transfer, even those due to severe health problems, needed a District official authorization during the lockdown and during the curfew time (which ended in January 2022). Thus, a decrease in the activities of all Hospital Departments, including Pediatrics. Children reached the Hospital after long delays and were therefore often admitted in severe health conditions.

It's easy to understand the impact on the health situation: despite a slight decrease in the number of patients admitted, there was a sharp increase in the number of days needed by the children to recover. In 2021 children admitted decreased by 178 in number, while hospitalization increased by 6000 days; **hospital bed occupancy all over the year was constantly over 100%**- which means that health operators almost daily had to care for more people than each department could accommodate.

The mortality rate registered also confirms this tragedy: **mortality amongst children admitted to Pediatrics Ward was the highest registered in the past 14 years.**

Malnutrition is also increasing steeply: the economic crisis due to the Covid- 19 pandemic and the strict lockdown measures caused more poverty and food security worsened, all this in an area which has not yet recovered from the disruption of the civil war. As a result, after years, **malnutrition in 2020-21 was the second-highest recurring mortality recorded at the Emergency, the first being malaria.**

Even during this dreadful time, the Pediatric Ward kept working, assisting and lovingly caring for all children in need, even more so for the most fragile among them. Once again, in very poor areas, lacking relevant infrastructure and resources such as Kalongo, **people make the difference**, thanks to their passion and expertise. That's why we **strongly believe in investing in Human resources:** this is the right path to make our support efficient and long-lasting.

Thanks to the **remarkable support from Fondazione Mission Bambini Switzerland, Fondazione 13 Marzo, M&G** and all our friends who strongly believed in our project and supported it, we managed to keep the Pediatric care active throughout a terrible hardship time and to finalize the refurbishing of the Pediatric Ward in Kalongo.

The works supported and finalized in the past three years reshaped a beautiful Pediatric Ward for the local community.



Main data – Pediatric Ward

	2018 -2019	2020 -2021	Unit variation
Admissions, total	4.143	3.965	- 178
Hospitalization, Days	20.188	26.188	+ 6.000
Bed Occupancy rate	91%	118%	+ 27%
Mortality Rate, in numbers	59	119	+ 60



MAIN MORTALITY CAUSES 2020-2021

	Mortality rate (n°) for the disease	Hospitalization for the disease	Mortality rate
Malaria	56	2375	2.36%
Anaemia (not due to Malaria)	26	331	7.85%
Severe Malnutrition	9	98	9.18%
Saepitcemia	8	184	4.35%
Respiratory Syndroms	7	355	1.97%

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2019-2021

- We **moved the Hospital Kitchen** to a more suitable area, far from the patients' rooms and **converted the old kitchen into a garden**, for children and families
- We **built 10 new toilets** and **11 showers** for children and families
- **An old storeroom is now a new Ward**, of 13 new beds
- We **refurbished the Isolation ward for infectious patients**
- **Two new wings were added to the main ward**
- We **built 5 new toilets** in the main ward (before only one was available)
- We **provided a new, large covered pathway all around the wards**, to shelter children and mothers waiting to be examined or admitted



LET'S INCREASE THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF THE CHILDREN IN KALONGO

“Dying of hunger during the Covid 19 pandemic **is more than a chance**”

FAO Food Security Report 2021

Malnutrition in Uganda has reached dramatic proportions – even before the Covid- 19 pandemic: 28,9% of children under 5 are constantly malnourished, 53% are anaemic, and 12% are underweight at birth. All of them are conditions strictly connected with poverty, food security, endemic diseases (malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia), unsafe feeding habits and inadequate sanitary practices (WHO 2021).

In the past two years, 34% of children in Uganda were undernourished, mostly due to the school closure – since 66% of schoolchildren received the only certain meal of the day at school (UNICEF 2021, WFP 2021).

Malnutrition increases the risk of growth deficit, developing physical and mental disabilities and, of course, getting diseases. **Among children under 2 years of age, malnutrition is the first cause of death.**

Fondazione Ambrosoli and Kalongo Hospital have jointly started a pilot project aimed at reducing the chronic malnutrition rate among children under 5 years of age in Agago District.

The project envisages a complementary approach jointly implemented by the local community and the Hospital, and the strengthening of the hospital's treatment of severe malnutrition:

1. **Health workers' ad-hoc training:** 1 Paediatrician, 1 Nutritionist, 1 Head Nurse, 1 Senior Paediatric Nurse
2. **Supply of adequate drugs,** health products and therapeutic feeding to fight malnutrition
3. **Awareness raising sessions** to spread good nutrition practices among the families of hospitalized children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers
4. **Training of health workers operating in the District Lower Level Health centres,** provided by the Paediatrician and the Nutritionist of Kalongo Hospital
5. **Training of local communities representatives,** to raise awareness of the basic principles of child and mothers adequate nutrition
6. **Increase in the number of home visits performed by hospital health workers in the local community**

Our deepest thanks go to Fondazione Museke Onlus, which is supporting the Malnutrition Unit by providing Therapeutical Feeding, drugs, sundries and funding the salary of health workers.

Fighting malnutrition is an urgent need in Uganda, linked to often unforeseeable public health challenges.



YOUR SUPPORT CAN HELP A MALNOURISHED CHILD TO FIGHT AND WIN THE BATTLE FOR LIFE, AGAINST A DEADLY DISEASE

A REGULAR DONATION MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

A monthly and regular donation can make the difference for Kalongo Hospital and all its patients: **a regular income means no need to postpone urgent medical treatment** for lack of resources or, even worse, no need to choose among those in need.

Your monthly donation, even a small one, would mean:

- **To plan our work more efficiently** for the Hospital, implementing medium and long term projects to **increase efficiency, quality and social impact of medical care**
- **To be ready to face health emergencies both** those occurring periodically and those unpredictable and dramatic, such as COVID 19

A regular donation can support **providing Kalongo with an adequate, steady supply of drugs**, medical sundries, and updated medical equipment; donations also **support the ongoing on-the-job training** of Healthcare professionals and help them take care for their patients in a **more suitable environment**.

PLEASE START DONATING NOW! EVEN A SMALL DONATION WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE FOR ALL THE CHILDREN AND MOTHERS ADMITTED AND TREATED AT OUR HOSPITAL.

You can freely choose the amount of your regular donation and its timing, and you are free to change or cancel it at any time

How to activate a regular donation:

Visit our website, select **DONA ORA**, then **DONA**, opt for donating by credit card or bank transfer and type in your personal data; we will take care of everything else.

For any other information we are ready to answer your questions: info@fondazioneambrosoli.it Call us at **+39 0236558852** and we will be glad to help you with your regular donation.

T H A N K Y O U !



A HELP FROM THE HEARTH

"I know Father Ambrosoli's hospital since my youth, having studied for some years with the Comboni Fathers. Thanks to a friend of mine, who worked as a doctor in the Kalongo hospital, after a few years I got back in touch with the reality of Kalongo and with the Fondazione Ambrosoli.

I felt a strong desire to help and to "give back" in some way for how much Life has given me and I have decided to become a supporter of the Ambrosoli Foundation and the Kalongo hospital.

Knowing in person who will receive mine little help for Kalongo, getting involved in some of the initiatives of the Ambrosoli Foundation is really useful for us as donors, because it allows us to experience first-hand the positive effects that our help, big or small, made from the heart, has on the hospital and all its patients...

Being familiar with the Foundation I have realized how important it is to them to know that I can count on constant support and for this reason, I have activated a continuous donation every month.

This little "commitment" every month reminds me that I am helping out the Foundation, as far as my possibilities, and that this help will support them for the times to come.

I invite everyone to do the same, to make the Foundation strongly feel the support of so many people of goodwill, who decided to be by its side day after day, month after month, year after year".

Massimo Nichetti

