Annual report
2017
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**LA CHAÎNE DE L’ESPOIR**

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La Chaîne de l’Espoir lost its dearest friend and long-standing support on 28 August 2017. Mireille Darc, our iconic godmother, used her own struggle with the disease to fuel her involvement for children with a heart condition. Her smile, presence and doggedness will be forever etched in our memories. As a tribute to this commitment, which was so dear to her, La Chaîne de l’Espoir and her family and friends have created the “Enfants à cœur” (Kids at Heart) solidarity fund to continue treating children, who can often be saved with just a surgery.

It is true that thousands of children have already been saved, but how many more are still awaiting the longed-for operation? A recent study in the Lancet, a scientific and medical journal, shows that 5 billion people today have no access to surgical and anaesthesia care.

In other words, the first causes of mortality today are no longer malaria, HIV or tuberculosis, the great ills of the twentieth century, but the absence of access to technical and surgical facilities, fatal in cases of high-risk pregnancy, heart disease, or any type of trauma.

Hit very hard by this newly exposed scourge, Sub-Saharan Africa shows the stigma of a medical desert: from the west to the east, hospital facilities are far too scarce, if not non-existent, and health care personnel, abandoned by public authorities, is missing. Resourceless populations, often isolated, may therefore not have access to any decent care.

La Chaîne de l’Espoir finds this situation totally unfair and mobilises massively and confidently to help those abandoned populations. After the CUOMO Centre in Dakar, in operation since January 2017, the André Festoc Unit will open in September 2018 in Bamako, where 2,000 exhausted children suffering from a heart condition are waiting for surgery.

Because of the state of absolute squalor in which whole families and communities live, other ills can be found, beyond heart defects. Burn sequelae, noma, caustic oesophageal stenosis are not just medical jargon. Noma, a ravaging gangrenous infection of the face, leads to exclusion and to death of the victim in 70 to 90 percent of cases.

That’s why La Chaîne de l’Espoir developed a programme of reconstructive surgery in 2017, for all of West Africa, that includes awareness-raising, prevention, medical and surgical care and training of local teams.

To have equal chances in life, one needs to receive care from birth and even during pregnancy. La Chaîne de l’Espoir thus supports the development of access to gynaecological and obstetrical care in countries where too many women still risk their life and the life of their child during childbirth. In Kabul, surgical services in gynaecology-obstetrics and neonatology are increasingly independent and in Bingerville, the maternity ward will soon welcome its first patients.

In this constantly changing geopolitical context, La Chaîne de l’Espoir becomes a public health actor, fighting to provide access to any type of surgery, everywhere, for everyone. The road ahead is still a long and arduous one: recruitment of medical teams, presence in areas at risk, sustainable private and institutional fundraising...

With your continuous support, we will accomplish much. With you by our sides everywhere, we will save thousands of children. Let’s continue!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you!
Our projects

Our vision

Everywhere in the world, millions of children are condemned owing to a lack of access to healthcare and education. Driven by the conviction that it is impossible to ignore their suffering and abandon them to their fate, Professor Alain Deloche decided to embark on a unique humanitarian adventure; an alliance made strong by generosity, skills and energy, which would bring together willing kind-hearted men and women ready to rise to life’s many challenges. La Chaîne de l’Espoir, founded in 1994 as a non-profit organisation (“loi 1901”), is currently chaired by Dr Eric Cheysson. As a major player in the medical field, we have created a network of medical and surgical expertise and excellence. We are actively engaged in long-term projects worldwide aiming to provide access to healthcare and education to the most destitute children and their families and communities.

Our missions

- Treat children and mothers in France or abroad who cannot be cared for in their home countries due to lack of funding, technology or specialised skills
- Provide on-site medical personnel with the specialised training needed to treat different illnesses
- Transfer medical technology and supply equipment and consumables in countries with insufficient healthcare facilities
- Promote the development of specialised hospital facilities suited to local needs
- Contribute to providing medical and surgical care to women and children living in precarious conditions
- Offer medical assistance to disadvantaged people, primarily mothers and children, including purchasing and shipping drugs and health and nutrition products
- Promote access to education for impoverished children and women
- Support or participate in medical research projects and publications with the objective of improving or developing diagnostic methods and effective treatments
- Combat starvation and malnutrition
- Relieve human suffering by any possible means
- Participate in the defence of women’s and children’s rights
- Provide humanitarian assistance in the event of conflicts or natural disasters
- Engage in all fundraising activities to finance actions matching the objectives of La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

Our guarantees

- We clearly indicate the destination of the funds collected from the public
- We use funds solely for the intended purpose and within a reasonable period of time
- We inform donors of any potential alternative appropriation of funds within the context of projects sanctioned by the organisation
- We provide donors with an annual report of the organisation’s accounts audited by an external auditor responsible for indicating in a clear and concise manner the amount of money received, their use and the portion allocated to the intended cause or project.
Our approach

To fulfil its missions, La Chaîne de l’Espoir calls on the generosity of the public and relies on funds from private donors, institutions and partner companies. The approach is based on multi-themed actions: collaboration with international organisations, governments and other local authorities, in France and in countries of intervention • Partnership with any organisation or association with similar objectives, in France and abroad • Organisation of information campaigns either for fundraising purposes or to make the public aware of the needs of children in distress • Production of audiovisual educational and informative general interest broadcasts and the organisation of conferences, seminars and training programmes • Promotion in other countries of the creation of organisations with similar goals by allowing them the use of our name and brand; La Chaîne de l’Espoir, thus guaranteeing the same respect for our rules and principles in these “affiliate organisations” • Actions relayed in France and abroad by local groups gathered as “regional branches” • Assistance of volunteer host families responsible for caring for and accommodating children transferred to and treated in France for the duration of their stay.

Our values

La Chaîne de l’Espoir values its donors’ trust and willingly gives full managerial transparency. We hold ourselves responsible and accountable to them and refuse to use any fundraising method which, through words or images, could harm the dignity of an individual or undermine respect for sacred beliefs. La Chaîne de l’Espoir chooses service providers based on unprejudiced management principles, respect of the bidding process and use of multiple suppliers. La Chaîne de l’Espoir provides its employees with an employment contract in compliance with the social law of each country, without discrimination as to race, nationality, gender or religion. We ensure that our representatives abroad abide by the local laws and respect the inhabitants and their beliefs and customs. Likewise, volunteers are bound by the organisation’s code of ethics and the ethical principles of their profession. Lastly, La Chaîne de l’Espoir always tries to foster close relationships with the populations of the countries in which it works and ensures that its actions and methods are at all times consistent with its values.

“La Chaîne de l’Espoir is a collective adventure uniting us and giving us the strength to move forward…”
Highlights for 2017

Commissioning of the Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology in Dakar, Senegal, and first open heart surgeries

First mission of paediatric surgery for victims of caustic oesophageal stenosis at the Sylvanus Olympio Teaching Hospital in Lomé, Togo

100,000 beneficiaries of our healthcare programmes

First mission of reconstructive surgery for severe burns at the Cotonou National Teaching Hospital, Benin

Opening of three operating theatres in Rabbia, Sinoni and Bardarash in Iraqi Kurdistan

234 missionaries have carried out 2,913 days of mission
Total budget M€42
including M€20 in completed and transferred constructions

Medical first at the Children's Hospital in Vientiane, Laos: esophageal atresia surgery on a newborn

80 children transferred as part of the Treatment of Children in France programme

Launching of the school health pilot project in Haiti

Three women graduated from the postgraduate programme of the French Medical Institute for Mothers & Children (FMIC) in Kabul, Afghanistan

55,000 beneficiaries of our education programmes
La Chaîne de l’Espoir has a strong international orientation and was active in 30 countries in 2017 and in places affected by major humanitarian disasters.
2017 Achievements

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Treatment of children in France

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir pursued its initial purpose, namely the reception and care of children in France. 80 children were operated on in 2017 due to the partnerships developed with the largest paediatric surgery centres in France. The teaching hospitals (CHU) of Nantes, Rennes, Caen, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Lyon, Marseille, Monaco, and the Georges Pompidou European Hospital, the Necker Children’s Hospital and the Montsouris Institute in Paris have provided highly qualified medico-surgical teams to treat children in optimum conditions.

In 2017, a new regional branch was launched in Tours. Dr Paul Neville, head of the cardiac surgery department at Clocheville de Tours regional teaching hospital, is its medical representative.

Three children have marked the year:

Magass, an 8-year old boy from Senegal, was born with Hirschsprung’s disease, his intestines having developed outside his abdomen. A team of Necker Children’s Hospital was able to operate on him and change the direction of his life.
Antoine, 9 years old from Cameroon, suffered from severe burns in his early childhood. He has received surgery in the Brétéché clinic in Nantes and can now use and move his arm and his hand. A big soccer fan, he was invited to attend a game with FC Nantes during his stay.

Elinah, a young girl from Madagascar was doubly affected by disease. She was first operated on in Toulouse for a cleft lip and palate and second for a heart defect. Today, her heart is beating regularly and she is smiling again. She went back home to her family, completely changed.
La Chaîne du Savoir (Chain of Knowledge) is a programme developed by La Chaîne de l’Espoir since 2015. Its objective is to develop innovative solutions, tools and services to ensure the health of vulnerable children, by using new information and communication technologies. La Chaîne du Savoir takes part in the future challenges of the Social Solidarity Economy and globalisation.

- **ECHOES, distance live ultrasonography for children**
  Online at www.echoes.cloud since 2016, the ECHOES platform underwent strong technical and ergonomic improvements in 2017.

It provides secure and easy-to-use access to the centres in La Chaîne de l’Espoir network (French Medical Institute for Mothers & Children in Afghanistan, Cotonou’s Atinkanmey polyclinic in Benin, Phnom Penh’s Children’s Pavilion in Cambodia, Luxembourg Mother-Child Hospital in Bamako, Mali, Maputo Heart Institute in Mozambique and Fann Teaching Hospital in Dakar, Senegal).

In 2017, 1,000 children had distance echocardiograms, i.e. more than 2,000 young patients since the start of the programme.

**Specialties:**
- Training using new technologies, distance echocardiography,
- Obstetric and neonatal care training

**Programme coordination:**
Constanza AGUILERA (France)

**Location:**
- Paris (head office), Afghanistan, Benin, Cambodia, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Vietnam

**Funding:**
- La Chaîne de l’Espoir
  / Private partners

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**2017 Achievements | La Chaîne du Savoir**

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- La Chaîne de l’Espoir
  / Private partners
- **Organisation of a consultation via ECHOES**
  - Presentation of the skills and expertise of each doctor, requester or expert to facilitate contact
  - Training of the doctors in the use of the platform
  - A control box and tutorials are sent to the local teams during a mission of La Chaîne de l’Espoir
  - Patient identification and creation of a secure follow-up sheet
  - Validation of connections and technical interfaces
  - Appointment scheduling
  - Connection to ECHOES and beginning of consultations with transmission of real-time HD echographic images. Perfect sound quality and the information and numbers appearing on the screen can easily be read by both the local team and the expert doctor in France
  - Findings and follow-up need to be reported

- **Outlook for 2018**
  The echocardiography programme will be pursued and developed in 2018. La Chaîne de l’Espoir also plans to implement, via ECHOES, a training programme for doctors and midwives to reduce perinatal mortality (maternal and infant mortality).

  The objective is to improve the knowledge and skills of the medical teams for better diagnosis and immediate care in case of birth complications.

  A neonatology pilot mission will be carried out at the Mother-Child hospital in Bingerville, Ivory Coast. It will also be possible to develop this training programme at the Mother and Child Centre of the French Medical Institute for Mothers & Children in Kabul.
Logistics, procurement & biomedical

Equipment of missions and infrastructures

The main activities of the “Logistics, Procurement and Biomedical” department are as follows: technical expertise support, purchase and shipment of consumables and medical & biomedical equipment in the countries of intervention of La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

Structures rehabilitated or built by La Chaîne de l’Espoir are equipped with shipped biomedical equipment and medical consumables, thus ensuring compliance with international quality standards.

The activities of this department are essential to the success of the missions conducted by the medico-surgical teams as they enable them to operate on children locally, with all the necessary equipment.
In 2017, the French Medical Institute for Mothers & Children (FMIC) of Kabul was the first exporting destination of La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

Shipments to Senegal also continued with the commissioning of the Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology (CCPC) in Dakar.

At the same time, shipping activities to Mali increased significantly during the first quarter of 2017 towards the future opening of the André Festoc Centre (AFC) in Bamako.

As of today, La Chaîne de l’Espoir manages over 9,000 references (sterile and non-sterile consumables, instrumentation, biomedical equipment and medical furniture) recorded in a computer database for easy traceability.

The department’s teams expanded in 2017 with the arrival of a volunteer OT nurse to help prepare missions, as well as a young technician, who joined the team of biomedical volunteers available for field missions.

**Outlook for 2018**

Mali will continue to represent a substantial portion of the activity until the first operations: 4 containers were en route in May and others are scheduled until the opening expected in the fall; several missions on technical expertise and medical and biomedical procurement are expected in the field.

### A FEW KEY FIGURES FOR 2017

- **€1,200,000** in purchases
- **Over €170,000** in managed donations (medical consumables and biomedical equipment)
- **More than 1,200** active stock references
- **137 shipments** every year (equivalent to 30 metric tons)

### Number of Expeditions

- **74** missions
- **39** missions to Afghanistan (FMIC)
- **18** missions to Senegal (CCPC)
- **6** missions to Mali (AFC): 12 sea containers shipped to Bamako
Afghanistan

Paediatric medicine and surgery

- **Reaffirm our commitment towards Afghan people**
  
  2017 turned out to be an umpteenth year of disillusion for Afghan people. Insecurity continued to grow in a large part of the country. Beside rising crime, increasing local tensions and actions of insurgent national and regional groups, the country suffered from the attempts of the local branch of the Islamic State to destabilise the country. Against this backdrop, the army and the Afghan police forces have again seriously suffered.

  Security disturbances have occurred in a climate of economic and social turmoil, affecting a large sector of the Afghan population. In 2017, Afghanistan ranked 169 out of 188 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI).

  The difficulty for Afghan people, particularly those coming from the most remote provinces, to access basic health facilities, leads to significant mortality, women and children being the first victims. A recent survey conducted by the Centers for Disease and Prevention Control (CDC), UNICEF and the Afghan Health Ministry, shows that more than 40 percent of deaths among women of childbearing age are due to complications of pregnancy that could have been prevented.

  Despite a very volatile security environment and difficult working conditions, our volunteers have joined efforts with numerous field actions.

- **2017, a strategic year of transition**
  
  In 2017, the French Medical Institute for Mothers & Children (FMIC) became a referral hospital of 161 beds including 61 beds intended for paediatric medical and surgical care, 15 beds for paediatric intensive care, 17 beds for adult heart patients, 52 beds for gynaecology and obstetrics care and 14 beds in neonatology intensive care. The challenge for La Chaîne de l’Espoir is to follow the growth of new services devoted to women and neonates, while guaranteeing that the quality of the paediatric and adult care created in late 2014 (training based on mentoring provided inside the hospital and long-distance training and teleconsultation using new technologies) is maintained.

Activities:
Medical and paramedical training, medical assistance and supervision

Medical specialties:
Paediatric medicine and neonatology, paediatric specialty surgery
(heart, orthopaedics, visceral, plastic, ophthalmology),
interventional cardiology,
gynaecological and obstetrical medicine and surgery

Programme coordination:
Loraine LUCMALLE,
Sophie TRAN (France),
Géraldine DEROME
(Afghanistan)

Location:
Kabul

Funding:
French Embassy
/ Agence Française de Développement
/ Private partners
83 missions with a combined duration of 1,495 man days, including 59 medical and paramedical missions, were organised at FMIC. 33 health professionals worked over a combined duration of 906 man days, including 17 months of long-term missions, among which were:
- 20 long missions (20 days and over): adult and paediatric cardiac surgery (8), anaesthesia (5), medical coordination of the Mother and Child Centre (6) and gynaecology (1)
- 39 short missions: adult cardiac surgery, adult and paediatric interventional cardiology, anaesthesia, intensive care, gynaecology, paediatrics-neonatology, orthopaedic surgery of the upper limb, plastic and reconstructive surgery, paediatric surgery, nursing care, biomedical engineering and medical procurement.

- **Contribute to the development of gynaecological, obstetrical and neonatology care**
  To contribute to the full efficiency of the Mother and Child Centre, we had to focus our actions on this specialty to make FMIC a referral centre for child, woman and neonate care. The multidisciplinary medical team of La Chaîne de l’Espoir, composed of 11 specialists in perinatal care, has continued its support role during 21 missions.

- **Continue to support specific paediatric care, requiring the strengthening of capacities**

and the contribution to the development of specific adult care from a long-term financial perspective: cardiac surgery, interventional cardiology, orthopaedic and retinal surgery

Developing the skills of the Afghan teams by initiating new medical or surgical techniques or specialties has been another priority. The cardiology and cardiac surgery centre is a true reference centre in Afghanistan. Cardiac surgeries have increased by 45% (408 in 2017 - including 70 adult surgeries - as against 281 in 2016). The adult interventional cardiology activity has expanded, with close to 1,000 interventions, and the training in paediatric interventional cardiology, initiated in December 2016, continues.

The focus has been on microsurgery during 2 orthopaedic surgery missions. The last retinal surgery mission in 2017 enabled the identification of a hundred patients. Missions will intensify in 2018.

- **Develop and maintain qualified staff in hospitals**

The Postgraduate Medical Education Programme (PGME) positions FMIC as a regional and national training centre. In 2018, 12 residents will graduate and will succeed to the 20 first graduates in the classes of 2016 and 2017. In 2019-2020, the postgraduate training will be opened to two new specialties: gynaecology-obstetrics and cardiac surgery.

- **Access to health care for the poorest**

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir maintained its contribution to the social welfare fund of FMIC, with the help of the French government, thus enabling indigent patients from the 34 provinces of Afghanistan to receive medical treatments. 4,498 hospitalised patients and 46,646 ambulatory patients have benefited from the solidarity programme, i.e. 75% of the patients of the paediatric hospital.

- **Outlook for 2018**

In 2018, La Chaîne de l’Espoir will continue to foster quality care and general services, with a special focus on gynaecology-obstetrics, neonatology, cardiology and cardiac surgery, hygiene and asepsis, and development of skills in retinal surgery and microsurgery.
Treatment of sick children

- **Treatement of sick children at the Pavilion**

La Chaîne de l’Espoir created the Children’s Pavilion in 2008 in order to give the most vulnerable children from the 34 provinces of Afghanistan and their families access to medical and surgical care at the French Institute for Mothers & Children (FMIC). Between 2008 and December 2017, 6,998 Afghan children from among the most disadvantaged population have benefited from this project and gender parity has been maintained with 49% girls. It means 7,349 surgeries and 39,895 consultations.

La Chaîne de l’Espoir continued to advocate more than ever in 2017 for free access to quality specialty care for children. 1,307 new children were registered in the Children’s Pavilion in 2017 and 990 surgeries and 5,009 clinical consultations were provided (13% year-over-year growth from 2016). At the end of 2017, 885 children were completely cured and some 1,034 children were already on the waiting list in January 2018. In 2017, the Pavilion hosted children from the 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

In addition to the medical and surgical treatment covered by La Chaîne de l’Espoir, all their needs are paid for (transport, accommodation and food). During their stay, families attend hygiene awareness sessions and partake in health-related prevention actions.

The number of attendees has doubled to reach 50 persons per week. Children and their relatives may also receive psychosocial support, should they need any. The network of 26 partners has expanded and diversified despite the complex political and security environment.

- **Outlook for 2018**

La Chaîne de l’Espoir will continue to defend free access to quality specialised care for children and will extend that access to the most vulnerable Afghan women, in order to give them access to surgical gynaecological care at FMIC.

To fulfil this mission, La Chaîne de l’Espoir shall continue to mobilise its local partners on patient referencing and on the development of financial partnerships and innovative funding methods to be able to maintain and increase the number of patients.

**Afghanistan**

**Activity:**
Medical and social care of impoverished children from provinces

**Programme coordination:**
Loraine LUCMALLE, Sophie TRAN (France), Géraldine DEROME and Najibullah SAMADI (Afghanistan)

**Location:**
Kabul - Afghan Children’s Pavilion

**Funding:**
La Chaîne de l’Espoir / AFD / French Embassy in Kabul / Global Affairs Canada / Aga Khan Foundation Canada / Private partners

885 children treated and operated on
1,307 children newly recorded
West Africa

University education

In West Africa, the universities of Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Lomé (Togo), Cotonou (Benin), Dakar (Senegal) and Conakry (Guinea Conakry) offer a Postgraduate Specialisation Diploma in Paediatric Surgery (PSD-PS) recognised by the African Madagascar Council for Higher Education (CAMES). Its curriculum is harmonised by the West African Health Organisation (WAHO).

Since 2014, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has contributed its expertise in a support programme for the teaching of paediatric surgery, bringing together teachers and doctors studying in five countries in West Africa. Overall, eight theoretical and practical training seminars with some twenty volunteer French experts have been organised since the start of the programme, enabling 57 children to be operated on.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir organised two training seminars. The first one took place in May at the Lagune Mother & Child teaching hospital (CHU-MEL) in Cotonou. In total, 30 student doctors accompanied by six professors in charge of the PSD-PS participated in the seminar. Practical and theoretical teaching on minimally invasive techniques in paediatric surgery (diagnostic and laparoscopic surgery) was provided by Pr Naziha Khen-Dunlop, paediatric visceral surgeon, and Dr Azuka Desroches, paediatric orthopaedic surgeon, both from the Necker Children’s Hospital. The second seminar took place in November, also at the CHU-MEL in Cotonou.

Dr Didier Moukoko, from Angers teaching hospital, conducted a session on hip pathologies. In parallel to these activities, five students have also been awarded scholarships: three students enrolled in the paediatric surgery PSD-PS in Lomé and two students enrolled in the PSD-PS in Abidjan.

Outlook for 2018

La Chaîne de l’Espoir will organise in May a first seminar on visceral and orthopaedic traumatology at the Albert Royer teaching hospital in Dakar. A second training seminar will be organised in November on oesophagus diseases and club foot (equinovarus) at the Charles de Gaulle teaching hospital, in Ouagadougou. It will take place prior to the biennial conference of the African Association of Paediatric Surgeons, thus enabling the participants of the seminar to attend.
Medico-surgical treatment of caustic oesophageal stenosis

Caustic burns are usually caused by accidents and are due to the child ingesting liquid or solid products containing high doses of caustic soda: soap, detergent, weedkiller, hair dye product, etc. Those products look like harmless products (water, sweets, sugar...) and are stored in unsecured containers or places. Caustic soda-related accidents primarily affect children aged 0-5 years. They cause severe burns and lesions on the lips, tongue, inside of the mouth or the oesophagus and even stomach damages. The extremely severe condition suffered by children who have ingested caustic soda is called caustic oesophageal stenosis. It impedes the correct passage of fluid and foods. The child can no longer eat without difficulties and horrible suffering. Sometimes, the child is unable to swallow anything and gradually falls into a state of severe malnutrition, leading to inevitable death in the absence of any specialised care.

Since 2013, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has been enabling African children, suffering from caustic oesophageal stenosis, to live a normal life once again, after undergoing surgery in France. In view of the strong demand from its medical African partners, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has decided to get involved on the ground.

In April 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir organised the first mission for training and the medico-surgical treatment of caustic oesophageal stenosis, in collaboration with the paediatric surgery department of the Sylvanus Olympio teaching hospital (CHUSO) headed by Pr Jean-Pierre Gnassimbé. This first mission had a threefold objective: bring the expertise of a multidisciplinary medical team locally to ensure the care of children from countries of the subregion suffering from stenosis of the oesophagus; strengthen in situ the capacities of the senior surgeons coming from Guinea Conakry, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Togo and Ivory Coast; develop a common intervention strategy between medical specialty: oesophageal surgery
Programme coordination: Alexis PONEL (France)
Medical advisor: Pr Yann REVILLON (France)
Location: Benin, Ivory Coast, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Senegal, Togo
Funding: La Chaîne de l’Espoir
La Chaîne de l’Espoir and its local partners towards the regionalisation of the programme in West Africa. A team of six volunteers made of two surgeons, one anaesthetist, two recovery room nurses and one OT nurse has been recruited by La Chaîne de l’Espoir for this mission. Working in close collaboration with the local medical and surgical teams, they have successfully operated on seven children. Together, surgeons have carried out four oesophageal plasties, two dilations and one bronchial endoscopy plus cleaning and reopening of the oesophagostomy. La Chaîne de l’Espoir has also approached the Fondation Terre des Hommes Lausanne in Lausanne, that has been developing prevention actions around the issue of caustic oesophageal stenosis in Guinea Conakry since 2013. La Chaîne de l’Espoir wishes to expand its expertise and to pool experience to prepare, with the Foundation, a regionalised programme involving prevention, awareness, advocacy, training and medico-surgical treatment.

**Outlook for 2018**

La Chaîne de l’Espoir plans to continue organising missions of training and medico-surgical treatment, in Mali in particular. The long-term objective is for partner countries affected by this scourge to have reference centres for this type of surgery to which patients can be transferred.

The partnership with the Fondation Terre des Hommes Lausanne will lead to the implementation of joint actions in Mali and the development of a regionalised programme.
Paediatric surgery, general and specialised

First victim of global warming, Bangladesh is also one of the poorest countries in the world. With a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.579, Bangladesh ranks 139 out of 188. Access to healthcare is extremely limited for the poorest people, all the more so when they live in the Chars, ephemeral islands of the Ganges–Brahmaputra Delta, that lack any decent or accessible hospital facility.

To respond to health needs, Friendship has set up satellite clinics and hospital ships moving from island to island to provide consultations, care and minor surgeries. In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir organised 8 missions on Friendship ships: 1 in general medicine and cardiology, 2 in orthopaedics, 1 in visceral surgery, 2 in ENT, 1 in gynaecology and 1 in dentistry.

All in all, more than 350 people were treated and 48 operated on. Missions also include training sessions in, for example, hygiene and sterilisation techniques or cardiology consultations intended for Friendship medical and paramedical staff.

During the last couple of years, the teams of La Chaîne de l’Espoir have reported a large number of children with cerebral palsy related to perinatal outcomes.

Teams composed of Pr Jean-François Mallet, an intern and a physiotherapist have developed new project content targeting the training of Friendship paramedical staff in simple actions designed to rehabilitate children. 50 persons were trained in 2017 with already very promising results.

Furthermore, Bangladesh is facing an unprecedented crisis with the influx of Rohingya refugees in its already overcrowded territory.

Friendship is also strongly involved in the efforts made to provide refugees with medical care through the creation of 8 dispensaries and 2 birthing centres.

• Outlook for 2018
La Chaîne de l’Espoir will continue its care and training programme in general and specialised surgery and will strengthen its action for the rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy.

Upon Friendship request, La Chaîne de l’Espoir also wishes to bring its expertise for the opening, care organisation and staff training, particularly in maternal and child health, of the Shyamnagar Hospital, in the south of the country.
Since 2012, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has implemented actions in partnership with the Lagune Mother & Child Teaching Hospital (CHU-MEL). Since 2016, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has helped the Hubert Koutougou Maga National Teaching Hospital (CNHU-HKM) treat children with congenital heart defects through the ECHOES programme. In 2017, a new partnership agreement was signed with the CNHU-HKM giving La Chaîne de l’Espoir the opportunity to develop new actions focusing in particular on the CNHU-HKM severely burned patient unit. Two education seminars were also organised at the CHU-MEL, with the assistance of its medico-surgical team, as part of the West African postgraduate diplomas in paediatric surgery.

Reconstructive surgery
Paediatric general surgery

• Severe burn programme
The high prevalence of burn injuries in Benin mainly relates to the handling and smuggling of low-grade gasoline. A support programme has been launched, following the request of CNHU-HKM management and the financing of the Rotary Club. The CNHU-HKM has entirely refurbished the severe burn unit to prepare this project and La Chaîne de l’Espoir was able to carry out its first reconstructive surgery mission in August 2017, mainly focusing on the
treatment of burn sequelae. The mission was performed by Dr Julien Szwebel, from the Saint-Joseph hospital in Paris, and Dr Leslie-Ann See, from Dijon Teaching Hospital, volunteer plastic surgeons, in close cooperation with Pr Michel Fiogbé, head of the paediatric surgery department, Pr Pierre-Claver Hounkpé, head of the anaesthesia/resuscitation department and burn unit, and with the support of Dr Odry Agbessi, plastic surgeon. A total of 17 children were operated on during the mission.

Furthermore, a bath trolley, essential for the care of severely burned patients, was ordered in Paris and delivered at the CNHU-HKM in December.

Lastly, the collaboration between La Chaîne de l’Espoir and Solidarité Grands Brûlés de Nantes Lomé (SGBNL) has enabled La Chaîne de l’Espoir to organise the participation of members from the CNHU-HKM burn unit in training missions carried out in Togo by SGBNL.

• ECHOES programme
  La Chaîne du Savoir
The ECHOES programme initiated in Benin in 2016 has enabled the long-distance development of the skills, via a live streaming system, of the local medical teams in diagnosing children with congenital heart defects.

In 2017, twenty children (out of which five children were operated on in France) were enrolled in this innovative programme, launched in Benin, with Dr Philippe Adjagba of the CHNU-HKM of Cotonou.

• Outlook for 2018
In order to consolidate its support to the CHNU-HKM burn unit, La Chaîne de l’Espoir wants to implement a cycle of two training and treatment missions every year together with the provision of specialty medical equipment.

Moreover, based on missions developed in Togo since 2012, La Chaîne de l’Espoir wishes to organise an itinerant mission with the CNHU-HKM and CHU-MEL paediatric surgery departments to provide disadvantaged children with access to surgery in their home region.

Lastly, a mission of training and care in visceral and urological surgery will be organised at the CNHU-HKM with the same department.
Schooling assistance

La Chaîne de l’Espoir started its programme in favour of the school enrolment of disadvantaged children in Benin in 2011. Actions are undertaken as part of a programme conducted jointly with the NGO Bien-Etre et Développement (BED). BED has been helping an impoverished population in several fields for more than 20 years and, more specifically in the education sector, by being present in two elementary and one secondary schools in Hévié’s region, where its activity is concentrated.

The material schooling assistance provided to the children studying in the supported schools has continued to guarantee the quality of their education. Children have received school supplies, books, uniforms and food kits. Annual distributions aim at meeting their basic needs and providing them with nutritional support. Furthermore, school children may enjoy medical services, if needed. At the end of 2017, more than one hundred children were receiving some kind of support.

A project to combat violence at school has been developed with the following objectives: increase knowledge about violence, and its consequences and alternatives, in the schools included in the project; improve awareness and stimulate a change in the behaviour of the personnel of the schools towards the preservation of dignity and the well-being of all; develop a culture of respect for the rights of the child by placing the child back at the heart of educational action. The priority targets were the “Children Ambassadors”, teachers and parents of pupils.

Also, BED has taken the initiative to improve the teaching and learning environment of the school in Dossounou, where La Chaîne de l’Espoir built a nursery school in 2017. Now, children can enjoy an educational garden.

• Outlook for 2018
La Chaîne de l’Espoir will extend its individualised support and its assistance to BED’s actions.

A borehole is planned to water the educational garden and make it self-sufficient for the production of food.
In Burkina Faso, many people suffer from maxillofacial deformities (noma sequelae, cleft lip, tumours or burns) and endure the consequences of these pathologies: dental problems, feeding and growth problems, respiratory conditions, and hearing and speech impairments. Beyond physical pain, discrimination against victims of maxillofacial malformations also cause real moral suffering. Access to medical and surgical care remains extremely difficult in the absence of surgeons, structures and financing. To deal with such a situation, La Chaîne de l’Espoir launched a programme of reconstructive surgery of the face in 2014, combining care and training.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir carried out two missions conducted by Pr Narcisse Zwetyenga of the Dijon Teaching Hospital. He came with a team of surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses. 123 patients underwent surgery. The support of our partners, Ensemble pour Eux, Bilaadga and Sentinelles, for the recruitment and pre and postoperative care of patients, is still locally very important. Missions have also focused on the training and empowerment of local surgeons. Further to the creation in 2016 of a Postgraduate Specialisation Diploma (PSD) in Maxillofacial Surgery in Burkina Faso, 18 students have followed theoretical and practical classes delivered by Pr Zwetyenga (PSD professor) and members of the team.

**Outlook for 2018**
As early as January 2018, La Chaîne de l’Espoir will launch a vast project, in collaboration with Sentinelles and Bilaadga and the community radio, La Voix du Paysan (Peasant’s voice). The project will provide an integrated approach for the prevention and care of children suffering from noma or other facial malformations or diseases in Burkina Faso.

Key activities will range from local campaigns to raise awareness of the population of remote towns in specialised surgery to knowledge building for the civil society, medical care and social follow-up. This programme benefits from a 3-year financing by the Agence Française de Développement.
Cardiology and cardiac surgery

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir continued to bring technical and financial support to its partner, the Calmette Hospital, as part of its multi-year commitment. Eight child surgeries have been financed every month and financial support has been provided to organise consultations for indigent children, thus offering the poorest children access to this quality hospital.

• Consultations
In 2017, 5,091 paediatric consultations took place at the Cardiology Department of Calmette Hospital (CDCH) compared with 4,424 in 2016.

The cardiology department really took off some years ago. The management of the department was transferred from La Chaîne de l’Espoir to Calmette Hospital in 2015. It is the conclusion of a long-term successful partnership that has enabled the training of an efficient medical and paramedical team and the development of a spirit of service inside the hospital. Cardiac consultations are carried out in two consultation rooms, with modern ultrasound equipment, that is systematically used. Drugs are distributed free of charge to patients, owing to the financial support of La Chaîne de l’Espeoir.

• Surgical activity and telemedicine
In 2017, 105 patients received therapeutic acts compared with 112 in 2012. This slight decrease is partly due to the fact that the children operated on suffered from more and more complex pathologies requiring long surgeries and particular postoperative care.

Out of the 105 children treated, 15 underwent interventional cardiology acts, that make it possible to carry out many operative procedures without any surgery, via the arteries. 90 patients have received conventional surgery. Children in the programme may only be operated on after Pr Daniel Sidi has given a second opinion from Paris via video conference.

Since 2015, we have been organising a teledicine session every week with Pr Daniel Sidi and the team of cardiologists from CDCH headed by Dr Sok Phang.

Those sessions are a way to establish a dialogue between an expert and younger cardiologists, to train them and improve the ultrasound diagnosis.

• Outlook for 2018
The support of La Chaîne de l’Espoir will continue at the Calmette Hospital with a goal to strengthen medical skill in the management of complex heart diseases.
In Cambodia, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has traditionally been working on the development of two medical specialties: paediatric cardiology and neurosurgery. Like previous years, two training missions took place in 2017, at Kantha Bopha Hospital in Phnom Penh.

The purpose of these missions, conducted by two neurosurgeons, Pr Didier Scavarda (Marseille) and Dr Jacques Beaurain (Dijon), was to achieve the empowerment of the hospital’s team, which is taking more and more responsibility during complex surgeries. The only barrier to full autonomy remains the resuscitation department. Its organisation should be further improved with the use of more modern equipment (ventilators) than what is currently in place.

As a few new respirators were installed in 2017, the local team has to become familiar with their use and their systematic handling in postoperative care.

- **Outlook for 2018**
  For 2018, a training project is currently being drawn up on maximum equipment appropriation and the implementation of related protocols.
Ivory Coast

Mother-child Hospital in Bingerville

In 2014, La Chaîne de l’Espoir was called upon by the Children of Africa Foundation for its assistance in the realisation of the Mother-Child Hospital in Bingerville (MCH), in several keys areas. The construction of the MCH is completed and the facility should open in the early months of 2018. It is a private non-for-profit hospital including 127 beds, with a public service mission.

The objective of this new hospital is to contribute to the reduction of neonatal, maternal, infant, and child mortality and morbidity in the Ivory Coast, where mortality indicators remain alarming. Furthermore, the needs in health care infrastructures are still insufficiently covered. The objective of the Mother-Child Hospital is to increase the health care service offer for both mother and child by developing a service offer at the tertiary level of the healthcare pyramid, in order to ensure a global and integrated quality treatment of the mother-child unit.

The medical services offered will include, among others, medical and surgical emergencies related to mother and child, medical and surgical paediatrics, medical and surgical gynaecology, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, oncopaediaitics, etc.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir continued to support the Children of Africa Foundation. In particular, La Chaîne de l’Espoir provided assistance in the recruitment of a new general manager and a new CFO, both French expatriates. A training programme was also established in key areas and La Chaîne de l’Espoir will organise related medical and biomedical missions to assist the teams of the Mother-Child hospital in 2018 and 2019.

La Chaîne de L’Espoir, a member of the Board of Directors of the hospital, has also participated in different meetings which will allow the hospital to offer high quality care accessible to all, including the most impoverished, as early as the beginning of 2018. All aspects, such as equipment, procurement of supplies, economic model, information systems and recruitment and training of care staff, are studied jointly.

• **Outlook for 2018**
In 2018, La Chaîne de l’Espoir will provide assistance to the hospital before and after its opening, through its medical, paramedical and biomedical experts, towards the implementation of protocols, staff training and work required to obtain various international accreditations.
Since 2010, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has promoted the development of a paediatric surgery programme in Cuba, in collaboration with the Cuban Society of Paediatric Surgery and the Paediatric Urology Section of the Cuban Urology Society. Numerous visceral and reconstructive surgery missions have enabled the treatment of patients suffering from complex pathologies, and the training of young doctors, with the creation of a diploma in paediatric urology. 25 Cuban doctors have been trained in this specialty. La Chaîne de l’Espoir has also brought its support to the creation of a house of doctors inside the Centro Habana Paediatric Hospital (CHPH) dedicated to the accommodation of training doctors from remote provinces. Since 2014, the Paediatric Urology Centre within CHPH has become the referral centre for the teaching of paediatric urology in Cuba.

In 2017, the continued presence of Pr José Uroz contributed to the organisation of intense training sessions in different hospitals included in the programme, and, in particular, the Juan Manuel Marquez Paediatric Hospital for children and the Salvador Allende Hospital for teenagers, both located in Havana. Thanks to that training, many children and adolescents with complex pathologies have been operated on. Classes and practical training sessions have focused on urinary medical specialties:

- Paediatric urology
- Paediatric visceral surgery

Programme coordination:
Nathalie DE SOUSA SANTOS

Medical advisors:
Pr José UROZ,
Dr Emilio CORDIES,
Dr Ramon VILLAMIL (Cuba)

Missions:
Year-round

Locations:
Havana - Ciego de Avila, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus

Funding:
La Chaîne de l’Espoir
incontinence, sexual ambiguity and abnormal genitalia. The paediatric urology classes are conducted by Pr José Uroz 4 hours per week over a 6-month period with groups of 4 students. At the end of their training, attendees receive a diploma from Havana university, certifying their specialisation in urology. Training sessions have also taken place in the provincial towns of Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila and Cienfuegos. La Chaîne de l’Espoir has continued to support the library of the Centro Habana Hospital by providing books and various educational tools.

2017 was also an eventful year in terms of events technically and financially supported by La Chaîne de l’Espoir. In January, the Sociedad Cubana de Cirugía Pediatrica organised a training session for 50 Cuban surgeons. In June, for the third time since 2011, La Chaîne de l’Espoir organised and financed the 3rd National Symposium of Paediatric Surgery, in Varadero.

Over 90 Cuban surgeons attended and a hundred communications and conferences were delivered to all the attendees during those working days.

In November, La Chaîne de l’Espoir brought financial support to the 21st National Conference of Paediatric Urology.

Training is widely accessible, allowing surgeons from a country still not very open to benefit from the development in best international practices.

- **Outlook for 2018**

In 2018, the training programme will continue. The refurbishment of a study room in the Centro Habana Hospital, destroyed by hurricane Irma in September 2017, is also scheduled as well as the creation of a laparoscopy laboratory at the Comandante Fajardo Hospital, also located in Havana.

*150 surgeons trained*
Education, care and prevention

La Chaîne de l’Espoir has implemented an education and health programme intended for young Haitians, following the violent earthquake that hit the country in 2010. The programme started with an operation focusing on the children returning to school after the disaster, in partnership with the Fondation Paradis des Indiens, a local organisation dedicated to the education of deprived children in Les Abricots. The programme rapidly shifted towards supporting education for close to 2,500 children in the ten schools founded by our partner. Support is in the form of participating in the financing of the activity of the health centre and the schools of the Foundation. It also includes school supplies for the pupils of the ten schools.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir continued its efforts to give the children the opportunity to further their education in good conditions in the aftermath of hurricane Matthew, that severely impeded the functioning of the schools at the end of 2016.

La Chaîne de l’Espoir funded rehabilitation work on the main school of Les Abricots village, enrolling more than 350 children in school, and on the health centre dedicated to all the schoolchildren. Reconstruction work was also started during the year on six schools located in the hilly parts and one school was closed.

The existing medical setup was strengthened in the early months of the year to improve child treatment and care and implement prevention measures. A full time local doctor has been recruited to carry out paediatric consultations. He was also trained in the screening of sensory disorders, that may hinder preschool children’s learning.

Children suffering from eye diseases have received specialised care.

• Outlook for 2018
La Chaîne de l’Espoir wishes to pursue and develop its actions to promote the education and health of young Haitian people, with a particular emphasis on prevention measures at school and enriched teachers’ training.
Specialisation of nurses in paediatrics (SIPHA)

The objective of the Haitian state is to improve the country’s health system and to significantly reduce child morbidity and mortality during the 25 years to come, in a context of articulated and dynamic socio-economic development. The Haitian Health Ministry demonstrates a strong commitment to strengthen the training of health professionals and wishes to improve the quality of child health care. In light of this, the creation of a paediatric nurse state diploma appeared to be necessary. The professionals thus trained through the SIPHA programme will participate in the quality of the Haitian health care offer designed to reduce child mortality.

- Six supervising and/or training missions were carried out by the team of INPHA
  The 16-month training provided by the programme leads to a paediatric nurse state diploma, delivered by the Ministry. The intended goal is for the learner to be able to exercise diagnostic and therapeutic responsibilities inside the framework of a project defined by doctors, specifically paediatricians, with whom the nurse works in cooperation with the child and its parents. The learner contributes to prevent risks related to the context, and participates in primary, secondary and tertiary public health education, as part of the objectives of the Public Health and Population Ministry. In the child’s best interests, it provides preventive, curative and palliative care of a technical and relational nature, suited for the age of the child and its development.
  60 nurses have received specialised training in paediatrics as part of the SIPHA project; and now, most of them work in the country’s public paediatric services.

- Outlook for 2018
  The project will continue over the next three years. Three paediatric subspecialties will be added in the training programme addressing graduates from the first two SIPHA years: neonatology, paediatric resuscitation and school health.
  INPHA and La Chaîne de l’Espoir will jointly participate in the development of the medical paediatric project of the future General Teaching Hospital of Port-au-Prince.
Since 2011, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has developed a programme designed to promote the education, protection and health of vulnerable children in Jaipur. The programme is conducted in partnership with a local organisation, Taabar. It is based on day care and support to the education of children exposed to street dangers, school enrolment of girls from lower castes, and empowerment of women in the districts of intervention, through training. It also includes health education and care for children eligible for the programme and their community.

In 2017, the teaching provided to the 1,600 children continued to be enriched, thanks in particular to training sessions, attended by the local team, on a variety of topics: teaching based on art, integration of technology in classes, psychology and child protection...

The extra-curricular activities proposed to the children particularly focused on their personal development. Scientific and artistic activities were reinforced in order to allow the children to express themselves and explore and discover their talents. Peer education also expanded with, for example, older children conducting classes.

Material support towards child education has continued (school supplies, uniforms and shoes...) and the distribution of daily meals has been extended in the second quarter to children from isolated communities.

In 2017, the Sneh school obtained the authorisation to take in children up to college level, when, initially, it was covering only nursery and primary level. This recent status gives young schoolgirls the opportunity to stay longer in the same school to pursue their education, and older pupils, enrolled late at school, the opportunity to catch up over a longer period of time.

Workshops for women including 15-day to 3-month training in henna, cosmetic and sewing techniques have been well attended.

The mobile clinic, offering access to basic health care, psychosocial assistance and session raising health awareness for the children of the districts of intervention and their community, received 40,000 patients in 2017.
La Chaîne de L’Espoir has been active in Iraq since 2003 and has conducted activities in heart surgery, paediatric surgery and training, sending international surgical missions up until 2015, enabling more than 200 children to be operated on over the period. The objective of the continuous presence of La Chaîne de l’Espoir in Iraq since April 2016 is to meet the needs in general and emergency surgery in the north-western parts of the country, where fights between the Kurdish army and the Islamic State organization have destroyed most of the hospital facilities. In the towns of Rabbia and Sinoni, close to the Iraq-Syria border, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has pledged to restore surgery services for war-affected populations: casualties, internally displaced persons, minorities and isolated host communities. La Chaîne de l’Espoir also participates actively in the stabilisation process of the region with the strengthening of local skills in surgical care, as is the case in the town of Bardarash. La Chaîne de l’Espoir has equipped the hospital’s operating theatre, making it functional, and has contributed to the medico-surgical response to the battle of Mosul, helping war-wounded, displaced persons and local civil populations.

Crisis context and humanitarian needs
Aggravated by the military actions carried out in 2017 to regain large territories from the Islamic State organization, the political and humanitarian context of the region has continued to be affected by protracted conflicts and increased movements of populations. This situation has further deteriorated the economic and humanitarian context giving rise to unprecedented pressure on the public services of the North of Iraq.

In 2017, 11 million people in Iraq required humanitarian aid, out of which 3 million in the Nineveh province and 2 million in the Governorates of Dohuk and Erbil.

One of the most important implications of the humanitarian crisis relates to health infrastructures and, above all, specialised medical services for internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities. This is particularly true in the vicinity of the territories freed from the shackles of the Islamic State organization.

The strengthening of state health capacities is a key element to ensure medium-term stability in northern Iraq, as it is vital to the peace and reconciliation process. Providing stable and sustainable medical services to its population appears to be a prime requirement for the Iraqi Kurdistan government. The capacity of local authorities to provide those services,
more particularly to displaced populations, is, however, jeopardised by the region’s political developments. Hence, the presence and support of NGOs such as La Chaîne de l’Espoir remains essential.

**Support to general emergency surgery in Rabbia and Simoni**

In a time of war and with the ongoing battle for Mosul, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has mobilised its surgical and paramedical expertise in order to allow access to quality emergency care in the areas most affected by the conflict, in particular, in Rabbia and Simoni. The project, started in June 2016, is funded by the European Union (ECHO), the United Nations (IHPF) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (CDCS). Two operating theatres designed to provide care to isolated populations have been equipped and made functional through the project. La Chaîne de l’Espoir performed its first surgeries at the end of December 2016 in Rabbia and at the beginning of February 2017 in Simoni. The main activities conducted in 2017 have enabled technical experts, such as biomedical technicians and OT nurses or anaesthetists from La Chaîne de l’Espoir, to be deployed to recruit, manage and train the Kurdish medical teams, while ensuring the sustainable commissioning of facilities and equipment. The capacity of the referral emergency hospitals to care for the patients has also been improved with orthopaedic and specialised surgery missions in Dohuk and Erbil.

The mobilisation happened in a context of expected influx of casualties following the battle for Mosul. This project was completed on 31 December 2017. The activities implemented in 2017 have enabled 943 general and emergency surgeries and 4,350 medical and surgical consultations to be carried out. 93 medical and surgical staff, whose roles are vital for the good functioning of the operating theatre, have received training during missions.

**Support and sustainability of the medical and surgical care in Bardarash**

With the help of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has pledged, starting in March 2017, to equip and set up an operating theatre in the hospital of Bardarash, one of the region’s poorest districts. There was no surgical capacity on the ground, although the city had to face an influx of Syrian refugees and displaced people in the camps. The initial part of the project extended until October 2017 as an emergency response strategy, whereas the second part running until March 2018, entered a stabilisation phase.

The operating theatre was inaugurated in July 2017 in the presence of the French Consul in Iraqi Kurdistan, representatives of the Governorate of Dohuk and many media. Two local surgery teams composed of 10 people each have been recruited and trained; they work in turn in weekly rotations. While the first phase of the project primarily dealt with general surgery activities, operations since December 2017 have been focusing on orthopaedic surgery and paediatric ENT.

Since the opening of the operating theatre, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has carried out more than 1,500 medico-surgical consultations and close to 500 surgeries.

Training missions will be deployed in the first quarter of 2018 in order to strengthen the care capacities of the Health Department of the province of Dohuk over the long term.

**Outlook for 2018**

La Chaîne de l’Espoir will continue to develop its medical and surgical planning in this area and reinforce its capacity to harness the medical and surgical skills necessary to meet the needs of refugee, internally displaced and isolated communities.

Several international expertise missions are already scheduled to train and support the Iraqi medical teams: a heart surgeon, an anesthetist and a midwife specializing in mother and child care will be deployed during the first six months of 2018.
La Chaîne de l’Espoir enters its 11th year of collaboration with La Chaîne de l’Espoir Iran (Zanjireh Omid Institute) with specialised paediatric surgery missions sent to Iran to operate on children with complex pathologies and to strengthen the skills of the Iranian surgeons. Every year, 8 or 9 missions are carried out by French surgeons who bring their expertise and know-how. As of today, 6,800 children have been treated in the six partner hospitals (Child Medical Centre, Imam Khomeini Hospital, Noor Afshar Hospital, Shahid Rajayi Hospital, Sina Hospital, Vali-e-As Hospital). At the same time, Iranian surgeons regularly come for training in major French hospitals to acquire in-depth knowledge in their specialty.

In 2017, eight surgical missions were sent to Iran by La Chaîne de l’Espoir. In France, eight Iranian surgeons took an advanced course in heart surgery at the Necker Children’s Hospital and in paediatric surgery at the Robert Debré Hospital and the Bizet Clinic.

- **Orthopaedic surgery**
  Two missions on the treatment of brachial plexus injuries were conducted by Dr Philippe Valenti, an upper limb surgeon.

  195 children were examined and 58 were operated on. Three Iranian surgeons were trained. Two spine surgery missions were carried out by Pr Keyvan Mazda, an orthopaedic surgeon at the Robert Debré Hospital. 70 patients were examined and 20 children with serious pathologies were operated on. Two Iranian surgeons underwent some practical training.

  One mission, conducted by Pr Philippe Wicart, an orthopaedic surgeon at the Necker Children’s Hospital, focused on...
the treatment of children with clubfeet. Out of the 40 children examined, 20 were operated on.

- **Paediatric and plastic surgery**
  Seven children were operated on and 30 examined by Pr Yann Révillon and Pr Christophe Glorion, both surgeons at the Necker Children’s Hospital, during their visceral surgery mission.

30 children affected by maxillofacial deformities have received reconstructive plastic surgery during the mission of Dr Selim Bennaceur, a plastic surgeon at the Robert Debré Hospital.

Furthermore, Dr Catherine Amrein, an intensive care anaesthetist at the Georges Pompidou European Hospital, conducted an anaesthetist-resuscitation mission as part of the training on neonatal cardiac care.

- **Outlook for 2018**
  Iran contends with a significant shortage of material and human resources in the field of specialised paediatric surgery. Due to the embargo, the training of new specialised paediatric surgeons (heart, orthopaedics, plastic and neurosurgery) has been seriously hindered. In the current absence of sufficiently skilled surgeons, only one paediatric surgery case out of four can be treated every year.

In the face of this need, La Chaîne de l’Espoir Iran (Zanjireh Omid Institute) has decided to build a new paediatric 500-bed hospital scheduled to open in Tehran by 2019.

In the framework of this programme, La Chaîne de l’Espoir is committed to strengthen the training of Iranian surgeons via missions organised throughout 2018.
Jordan

Paediatric cardiac and orthopaedic surgery

Close to 656,000 Syrian refugees continue to live on Jordan’s territory (UNHCR). 51 percent are under 18 years of age. In the absence of any universal health care system, access to health care is increasingly difficult for the most vulnerable people. Surveys show that at least one baby out of 50 is born with a major congenital defect in Jordan. The annual death rate is 14.2 for 100,000 persons as compared with a world average of 8.8. The surgical treatments required for such pathologies are too expensive for refugees to afford, which results in complications and sometimes severe disabilities.

To address this issue, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has been working in Jordan since 2012 to offer quality surgical care to children excluded from the health system: refugees from Syria or other countries (Palestine, Iraq, Yemen...) or impoverished Jordanians.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir, with the financial support of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), conducted 10 missions (4 in cardiac surgery and 6 in orthopaedic surgery) to treat children with heart defects or orthopaedic malformations, most of them congenital. 390 children and young adults were examined and 140 were operated on.

To strengthen the referral system and the postoperative monitoring, partnerships with the local teams of Humanity and Inclusion (Handicap International) and Medair were put in place. In view of the large number of congenital hip dislocations inappropriately detected and not treated at birth, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has conducted two early detection pilot campaigns in collaboration with the Mafraq Emirati Red Crescent Hospital. 250 babies were examined in screening consultation and twenty were treated.

• Outlook for 2018
   In 2018, we will strive to reinforce the network of health providers for a more efficient identification and referral of patients and implement a system for the screening, early detection and treatment of the most common orthopaedic malformations.

Medical specialties:
Paediatric cardiac and orthopaedic surgery

Programme coordination:
Lucie DECHIFRE (France), Amanda WIGFALL (Jordan)

Medical advisors:
Dr Sylvain CHAUVAUD (cardiac surgery),
Pr Jean-François MALLE (orthopaedic surgery)

Partners:
La Chaîne de l’Espoir
Luxembourg, Cadéia de Esperança, Chain of Hope UK,
Handicap International, Medair

Location:
Amman, Mafraq

Funding:
European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
Operations (ECHO)
A vast majority of the population in Laos lives below the poverty line. This has serious implications on child access to fundamental rights, and in particular the right to health. There are many contributing factors to the inaccessibility to health care needed by children: lack of infrastructure, lack of financial means or poor knowledge in paediatric surgery. The faculty in Vientiane launched an appeal for help, which La Chaîne de l’Espoir, via Pr Pierre Hélardot, decided to respond to in 2011, with the development of a programme to support paediatric surgery.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir continued this programme and four missions were carried out with the objective to strengthen the capacities of the Children’s Hospital staff to monitor the children operated on during previous missions, and to examine and treat patients. 102 children have received surgery during these missions.

20 surgeons and anaesthetists have attended training courses provided by the medical specialists of La Chaîne de l’Espoir. Training sessions included both theoretical and practical aspects. Overall, local teams have made some real progress, particularly in visceral surgery.

However, with the opening of the new haematology and oncopaediatrics unit and the delivery of laparoscopic surgery equipment, it appears necessary to develop training sessions in those new specialties.

• **Outlook for 2018**
La Chaîne de l’Espoir will pursue its missions to accompany the start of laparoscopic surgery and to further train local teams.
Paediatric orthopaedic surgery

With 1.5 million refugees in its territory, Lebanon has the highest world ratio of refugees per capita: 1 refugee for 3 Lebanese. The health system is under pressure and there are considerable obstacles to health care access for all the vulnerable populations. Birth defects, which affect between 2,000 and 5,000 children born in Lebanon every year, are completely ignored. Congenital malformations not only have consequences on the life expectancy and human development of the children, their school, occupational and social integration, but also on their family and community.

Since December 2016, La Chaîne de l’Espoir, with the financial support of the Crisis and Support Centre, has launched a programme allowing access to paediatric orthopaedic surgery for the most vulnerable children. In partnership with the Union of Relief and Development Associations (URDA) and the Sacré-Cœur Hospital of Beirut and the Shtoura Hospital in the Bekaa valley, this project has enabled 200 children born with orthopaedic deformities to be operated on in 2017: 800 consultations were carried out and dozens of patients in postoperative rehabilitation have received physiotherapist treatment.

With the technical support of La Chaîne de l’Espoir, URDA has established an effective system for identifying and referencing patients and ensures tight postoperative monitoring with families, thus securing its role as referral in surgical matters related to vulnerable persons in Lebanon.

**Outlook for 2018**
La Chaîne de l’Espoir wishes to consolidate its achievements and ensure the treatment of new children with not only orthopaedic deformities, but also heart defects, as was the case until 2016. As there is a great number of badly detected defects uncared for at birth, the project will include a detection phase and the early treatment of the most common orthopaedic malformations (club foot, congenital hip dislocation), in collaboration with primary health professionals.
In Mali, the security situation continues to be bogged down in the northern and central regions of the country. As a result, Mali’s health system struggles to provide the necessary human and financial resources and unevenly covers the territory. Regarding the management of heart diseases, the “Luxembourg” Mother-Child Hospital (LMCH) in Bamako, is, in effect, a referral centre. Pr Mamadou Diarra still has more than 2,000 cases of diagnosed children awaiting surgery. Their conditions are life threatening due to lack of care. The objective of the programme of la Chaîne de l’Espoir is to support the local teams in providing child medical and surgical care in the purpose-built André Festoc Centre. The construction of a technical platform dedicated to paediatric cardiac surgery was initiated in 2016.

• Training activities
A medical and paramedical team of 7 Malians has been identified to attend training in paediatric cardiac surgery practices and techniques. A partnership agreement has been signed with La Rabta Teaching Hospital in Tunisia, to take in 7 trainees over a 6-month period. 2 intensive care anaesthetists and 4 paramedics started their training at the end of December 2017 at the Teaching Hospital. The training targets the gestures and protocols to be followed before and after the operation, together with surgery’s after effects. Their training will continue in the new unit in the second half of 2018.

Another surgeon, Dr Bréhima Coulibaly, is also currently being trained. He joined the department of Pr Olivier Baron in Nantes,
through the existing cooperation between the Point G Hospital in Bamako and the city of Angers.

• **Start and follow-up of the works**
The realisation of the technical platform, including 2 operating theatres and their related wards (sterilisation and resuscitation with 6 beds) is carried out in several stages. The construction began in April 2017. The structural works phase was performed between April and October and was further pursued with the construction finishings phase. The installation of the technical lots, scheduled for the autumn 2017, has required the purchase and dispatch of the first technical pieces of equipment. La Chaîne de l’Espoir has conducted several infrastructure missions relating to construction site supervision and the proper conduct of work.

• **Purchase of equipment and furniture**
The Purchase and Biomedical teams of La Chaîne de l’Espoir made every effort to provide the equipment needed for paediatric cardiac surgery. The biomedical equipment of the operating theatres, intensive care unit and related services, and the medical furniture have been either recycled or ordered new, to fit in the allocated budget. The objective is to equip the future structure according to international standards and to provide the centre with all the technology required for this type of surgery.

• **Transport and dispatch**
Two freight forwarders are responsible for the transport of the biomedical equipment as well as certain technical equipment needed for the construction (medical fluids/air conditioning): CMA CGM for maritime transport, and Bolloré, otherwise. Ocean freight is carried out to the port of Dakar followed by road transport between Dakar and Bamako.

• **Outlook for 2018**
2018 will be a significant milestone for the “Luxembourg” Mother-Child Hospital. Regarding infrastructure, construction site supervision missions will continue at a sustained pace until delivery in the spring of 2018. Technical support will be a prerequisite for activity and first operations. The implementation of the equipment and the technical testing of the building will be of particular concern.

Large-scale installations will then be carried out, like the oxygen generator connection, that will benefit the entire hospital. In a second phase, medical support will be provided through expatriate missions to support the local medical and paramedical teams in the establishment of the paediatric cardiac surgery department.

The second half of 2018 will be paced by regular missions to ensure teams’ mentoring. Every member of the local staff will be assisted by his/her expatriate counterpart in order to be fully trained and to achieve close collaboration between the teams.

Mr Samba Mariko, a biomedical technician at LMCH, will also undergo a 1-month training at the Orléans regional hospital. He will afterwards go back to Bamako to install and maintain biomedical equipment, with the help of our experts at La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

Some training will also be given to the technicians of LMCH (air conditioning, electricity) by the volunteer experts of La Chaîne de l’Espoir, to plan and establish the maintenance of the building.
The Maputo Heart Institute (MHI) was founded in 2001 as a non-profit private hospital. It is financially self-sustaining largely thanks to the diversification of its medical activities (general surgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, medical imaging, pharmacy and laboratory, cardiology and cardiac surgery). This financial autonomy allows it to offer medical and surgical care to poorer patients in the field of cardiac surgery. La Chaîne de l’Espoir also plays a supporting role in complex surgical and cardiac cases as well as the supply of certain consumables.

In March 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir carried out a medical mission, with the surgical team of Pr Pascal Vouhé (Necker Children Hospital). The mission took place during the General Meeting and Board Meeting of MHI, with La Chaîne de l’Espoir as one of its directors. The objective of this long-prepared mission was to strengthen the medical and surgical team and discuss future prospects and financing for MHI.

During the mission, Pr Pascal Vouhé either operated or helped the local teams to operate on 12 children selected for unusual and particularly complex cardiac medical specialties: Cardiology, cardiac surgery

Programme coordination: Nathalie DE SOUSA SANTOS

Medical advisors:
Pr Daniel SIDI (paediatric cardiologist, France), Dr Beatriz FERREIRA (cardiologist, Mozambique)

Location: Maputo – Heart Institute (MHI)

Funding:
La Chaîne de l’Espoir / Private donor
diseases. 24 catheterisations were carried out. Pr Daniel Sidi performed 125 consultations to diagnose patients and continue the training of Mozambican cardiologists on specific pathologies. The training was also supplemented with theoretical conferences delivered by Pr Daniel Sidi and Pr Pascal Vouhé.

In 2017, 186 patients were operated on at MHI, which shows that the local teams now have the capacity to operate alone, thanks to years of support provided by La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

The constant support of La Chaîne de l’Espoir also provides an opportunity to address topics such as training projects abroad - through grants - for nurses and anaesthetists, and the state of consumables stocks for inventory optimisation, and to maintain solid relationships with French authorities via the Embassy, to ensure their interest in this programme.

La Chaîne de l’Espoir also assists in the monthly financing of the Children’s Pavilion’s activities.

Poor children coming from the province, who could not stay by themselves in Maputo, are accommodated at the Pavilion during pre and postoperative periods.

Lastly, in 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir agreed to provide €70,000 for the purchase and local delivery of consumables.

This logistics assistance towards procurement and freight remains essential as most of the purchases are made in South Africa, at much higher costs.

**Outlook for 2018**

Considering the economic crisis and galloping inflation pushing up consumable prices and a raise in wages, the help of La Chaîne de l’Espoir will remain decisive, in particular to maintain the quality and academic aspects of MHI.
Since 2011, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has been conducting a programme for the education and health of Nepalese children in a situation of vulnerability, being exposed to the dangers in the streets. This programme is conducted in partnership with Child Protection Center Services (CPCS), an NGO engaged for many years in assistance and rehabilitation works for the country’s street children. In order to prevent the phenomenon of street children, the programme provides global support of the children and their community, through day care centres offering child educational, medical and psychological support, while involving the families in the programme’s activities.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir continued to provide support to some thirty centres welcoming 1,200 children, mostly in the districts of Kathmandu, Dolakha, Sindhuli and Morang. During the year, the children have received material support to facilitate their schooling: distribution of school supplies and uniforms, payment of expenses related to their education and daily snacks. Two years after the earthquake, reception conditions remain somewhat precarious in the schools and many pupils still study in temporary buildings in the Dolakha district.

School support was provided in the centres and the children were also able to partake in many activities designed to promote their development and well-being, such as dancing, singing, crafts, sports or cooking, and organisation of competitions.

The creation of libraries in the three regional centres of Dolakha, Sindhuli and Morang have contributed to enrich those activities with the purchase of books and educational games. A corner has been created in each of them to encourage reading and a loan system has been put in place giving older children the opportunity to be appointed “librarian of the week”. Efforts to develop child and parents’ awareness have continued with regular sessions on street dangers, sexual abuses, schooling, and the rights of the child, as well as health and hygiene.

In August 2017, the country was again affected by heavy floods and the local teams made every effort to help victims. The Morang centre, in particular, came forward with emergency help and provided a shelter, food and health care to affected communities. Specific activities were undertaken to help the children and their families cope with such a difficult situation.

**Outlook for 2018**
Based on the success of the regional centres, La Chaîne de l’Espoir, with CPCS, wishes to gradually open family centres, that would concentrate the action by bringing together children from several already existing centres.
Uzbekistan

Cardiac surgery

La Chaîne de l’Espoir has been working since 2015 in partnership with the Specialized Surgery Center V. V. Vakhidov, based in Tashkent, to improve professional practices in the management of children operated on for congenital heart defects. This partnership was established on the initiative of the Sen Yolg’iz Emassan Foundation, chaired by Mrs Leila Karimova, that covers for all the expenses of the missions of La Chaîne de l’Espoir, as well as for the cost of the consumables used for surgeries.

Upon request from the Foundation, and due to a significant patient waiting list, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has increased the number of its missions at the Center V. V. Vakhidov. Consequently, 3 cardiac surgery missions were carried out in 2017 (compared with 2 in 2016), in order to treat children more quickly, as they are, most of the time, in a critical condition.

Each of the missions was intense in terms of training both in the operating theatre and in resuscitation. They have permitted a real appraisal of the fully autonomous teams as the French surgery team has been reduced to the minimum to allow Uzbek doctors to be on the front line.

These more frequent visits are also a good way to get acquainted with the various stakeholders and to better assess their capacity, as well as the constraints, problems or local obstacles. Conclusions are, at this stage, very positive. Work is safe, teams are in place and well coordinated and people are eager to learn and they make continued progress.

• Outlook for 2018
La Chaîne de l’Espoir plans to continue its missions in Uzbekistan in 2018.

To intensify the training of the local teams according to a programme shifting towards the management of increasingly complex cases, the missions will be thematic: single ventricle, transposition of the great vessels, neonatal surgery, etc.

Prior to these missions, the V.V.Vakhidov Center will purchase single-use equipment and material adapted to neonatal surgery, anaesthesia and resuscitation.
Democratic Republic of Congo

General surgery

Goma, like the entire North Kivu province, suffers the harmful consequences on development of more than fifteen years of armed conflict, causing insecurity and isolation. Medically, public facilities are fragile or virtually nonexistent. With 6 certified surgeons for over 6 million inhabitants, the province of North Kivu deals with a lack of qualified medical personnel. This reality is part of an alarming global health context since according to the Lancet, an international scientific journal, there is a shortfall of 2.2 million surgeons, anaesthetists and obstetricians in the world. Today, the Democratic Republic of Congo ranks 176 out of 188 countries with a Human Development Index of 0.435.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir was able to conduct a mission at the Charité Maternelle Hospital, that does not have any graduate surgeon or anaesthetist.

General practitioners perform surgeries, limited to the simplest procedures.

During the two weeks of mission, 20 patients have been operated on and the further training that begun in earlier years of six doctors, all volunteers to improve their practice and discover life-saving basic skills in their isolated province of Goma, located 2,724 km away the capital Kinshasa (46-hour drive), has continued.

- **Outlook for 2018**

Another mission was planned at the end of 2017, but the mission had to be postponed to the first months of 2018 because of the difficulty in obtaining visas. However, the training will continue to teach highly motivated doctors how to deal with appendicitis and acute peritonitis, laparotomy, thoracic drainage, bowel obstructions, liver injuries, difficult intubation and management of postoperative pain.

These are simple techniques but that are not yet mastered in Goma, resulting in new deaths every month.
In Africa, it is estimated that between 3 and 5 percent of school-age children suffer from acute rheumatic fever leading to serious heart diseases. Limited financial resources and technical solutions are not efficient in combating infantile heart diseases and a large number of children still have no access to life-saving health care. As a result, La Chaîne de l’Espoir, who has been active in Senegal for nearly 20 years, and its partners, the Cuomo Foundation and the Fann National Teaching Hospital, have decided to build a Heart Institute in Dakar: The Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology, to cater for the needs of Senegal and the subregion. The Centre opened on 10 November 2016.

2017 is the culmination of four years of work, divided into various stages: feasibility study, conception, construction, equipment, training, opening of the centre and beginning of the surgical activity.

The Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology (CCPC) is the only centre dedicated to the treatment of children with heart conditions in West Africa. Its purpose is to contribute significantly to the extension and improvement of the current paediatric cardiac care offered in Senegal and the region. CCPC has been built and equipped in compliance with international standards. It is an exceptional tool in the child care pathway. In 2017, 137 children were operated on at CCPC.

Additionally, 9 patients have received surgery during a catheterisation mission conducted by Pr Patrice Guérin, from the Nantes Teaching Hospital.

The common objective of the project’s partners is the systematic care and monitoring of children with cardiac diseases.
over the long term. Therefore, La Chaîne de l’Espoir and the Cuomo Foundation assist the Fann Hospital in the management of CCPC, to guarantee a high-quality care offering, comparable to European hospitals. The health care teams will continue to be trained until they become fully autonomous.

In 2017, 11 successive teams of international experts came to strengthen the medical, paramedical, biomedical and technical knowledge and skills of the CCPC’s staff.

Senegal has made efforts to improve its health coverage with the 1998-2007 National Health Development Plan. However, due to the high cost of their treatment, heart diseases are still not a priority for the governments of emerging countries. La Chaîne de l’Espoir, with the help of its partners, has consequently decided to create an Endowment Fund devoted to cover all or part of the treatment of deprived children. As of today, 65 children have benefited from this international assistance.

• **Statistical indicators for 2017**
  - 72 experts came to pass on their theoretical and practical knowledge
  - 79 days of training
  - 2,500 consultations
  - 137 surgeries, out of which 80% were open heart

• **Highlights in 2017**
  - Start of the surgical activity on 16 January 2017
  - 100th child operated on at CCPC on 5 October 2017

• **Outlook for 2018**
  CCPC will enter its second year of operation. In 2018, La Chaîne de l’Espoir and the Cuomo Foundation will continue supporting the activity of CCPC in medical, administrative and financial matters. As the CCPC’s medical and paramedical teams are fast learners, the missions’ pace will be slowed down. Medical support will be provided through theoretical and practical thematic training missions in order to enable the teams to improve their specific knowledge. Those missions will continue to be conducted by international teams.

Technical support (hygiene, biomedical, nurse management, stock control, etc.) will continue with the objective to guarantee top quality functioning at CCPC.

A project manager will be recruited to assist the CCPC’s team in administrative and financial matters.

That person will collaborate with the centre’s manager towards the introduction of activity, quality and finance indicators. Senegal now has the indispensable care and training tool, which will allow it to become a reference in the subregion in terms of care offerings for children with cardiac conditions.

The challenge now is to refine the skills of the medical teams, train new practitioners and make health care accessible to as many people as possible.
Senegal

Treatment of poor children suffering from a heart condition in West Africa

The Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology (CCPC), primary centre in West Africa dedicated to treating children suffering from a heart condition, now provides surgical treatment. After five years of assistance, the centre will be able to accommodate up to 500 children a year. The construction of the Children’s Pavilion was made possible by the financing of the ENGIE Foundation and the Suez Foundation. The Children’s Pavilion is intended to receive and accommodate poor children and one accompanying parent. It is a non-medical facility enabling children to be located near CCPC for consultation and care.

This programme includes the reception and accommodation of children from Senegal and the subregion during pre and postoperative consultations.

The building of the Children’s Pavilion, started in October 2016, was completed in June 2017.

The purpose of this building is to provide better quality care to a specific population of sick children from deprived families.

To better meet that objective, the structure has been conceived like a house, under the guidance of Pr Ndiaye, head of the cardiac surgery department of the Fann National Teaching Hospital.

It is a non-medical facility built in compressed earth blocks (CEB). Particular attention has been paid to exterior and common spaces. Furniture has been manufactured locally. The Pavilion has been equipped to receive 18 children and their families, on a permanent basis, i.e. 500 children every year.

• Outlook for 2018
From the very first year, this structure for children and their families coming from regions far away from Dakar and from the subregion will increase accessibility to medical and surgical care at CCPC.
Thailand

Education

At the end of secondary school, only half of the Thai children have basic reading knowledge and 46 percent have basic mathematical skills. Confronted with the issues of the equality, fairness and efficiency of the educational system, La Chaîne de l’Espoir continued in 2017 to upgrade its programme in 57 schools, through its various components: socio-educational, school health and protection of the most vulnerable.

Regarding the socio-educational component, the means available for the mobile libraries and experiential teaching methods for the sciences have multiplied and children clubs and new vocational training courses have opened, resulting in improved teaching methods benefiting more than 10,000 children.

As for school health, 6,000 primary-school-age children have participated in oral hygiene education sessions and 700 children have received care, through a partnership with the neighbouring health centres and hospitals.

In order to address the increasing problem of early pregnancies, 105 referent high school boys and girls have attended a first training on sexual and reproductive education, that will be followed by peer awareness sessions.

The scholarship scheme has been replaced by individual support in five pilot schools to better respond to the needs of the children at greater risk: they may thus receive either psychosocial support or financial support to cover for school fees or to access health care.

This pilot phase has been widely accepted by the community and already shows tangible results.

Finally, the House of Hope has continued to welcome and protect fifty children in situations of extreme vulnerability, with increased efforts towards their social and family reinsertion: 17 of them have been able to live back with their family, while continuing to benefit from close psychosocial services.

• Outlook for 2018

Individual support will be further extended to all the 57 partner schools, together with socio-educational and school health measures targeting more than 15,000 schoolchildren.

At the House of Hope, the emphasis will be placed on strengthening capacities, the empowerment of the local team and work related to social and family reinsertion. A pilot project will also be conducted in the district of Chong Mek, at the Lao-Thai border, severely affected by the problem of human trafficking and exploitation of children.
La Chaîne de l’Espoir has been developing a programme of paediatric general surgery in Togo since 2012, in partnership with the paediatric surgery department of the Sylvanus Olympio Teaching Hospital in Lomé (SOTH). The primary objective of the programme is the continuous training of the medico-surgical team of the paediatric surgery department. Equipment allocations and surgery missions are therefore organised in order to strengthen the skills and capacities of our partners from the SOTH.

A mission was carried out in March 2017 by Dr Julien Rod (Caen Teaching Hospital) and Dr Nathalie Botto (Necker Children’s Hospital), both paediatric surgeons specialised in visceral and urological surgery. After a previous mission organised in 2016, this second mission at the SOTH has contributed to ensuring the continuity of the strengthening of local competencies on hypospadias.

Hypospadias is a disorder of the urethra where the urinary opening is not on the head of the penis but along the underside. The complexity of this type of intervention requires strong and specific training, that needs to be reinforced with consecutive missions. 25 children were operated on during this mission.
In addition to the equipment, a complete microsurgery kit and a pair of loupes were delivered at the SOTH paediatric surgery department. Patient recruitment and medical record collection were carried out by the six doctors enrolled in the Lomé Postgraduate Specialisation Diploma in Paediatric Surgery (PSD-PS), under the supervision of their coordinator, Pr Jean-Pierre Gnassingbé. They have directly benefited from the practical and theoretical teaching given during the mission.

• **Itinerant missions**

Since 2012, the Togo Health Programme has organised care missions in the various provinces of the country designed to operate on underprivileged children who cannot afford to travel to the capital for treatment. Surgeries are performed by the medico-surgical team of Pr Jean-Pierre Gnassingbé, head of the SOTH paediatric surgery department, with the support of a French volunteer anaesthetist from La Chaîne de l’Espoir. Prior to each mission, La Chaîne de l’Espoir carries out an exploratory mission in the Prefectoral Hospital Centres (PHC) of the selected regions in order to assess the material conditions of the mission (medical staff and state of the operating department). In July 2017, an itinerant mission was organised in Datcha, a town located in the Plateaux region, about three hours outside of Lomé. The SOTH paediatric surgery team joined forces during one week, with the help of Dr Charlotte Sgro, volunteer anaesthetist from the Bordeaux Teaching Hospital, thus allowing 116 children to be operated on.

The main pathologies treated during those missions included cleft lip and palate, hydrocele, ectopia, hernia (umbilical, testicular and inguinal), burn sequelae and bone diseases.

As of today, 686 children have been operated on in the provinces during seven itinerant missions. On average, doctors carry out 250 consultations and more than a hundred surgeries per mission. Those missions are an integral part of the practical training of the doctors finishing their Postgraduate Specialisation Diploma in Paediatric Surgery.

• **Outlook for 2018**

La Chaîne de l’Espoir plans to organise a new training and care mission in collaboration with the SOTH. Furthermore, two itinerant missions will be organised in the PHCs of Kara and Dapaong and about 100 children should be treated per mission.
In Togo, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has been developing education actions to improve the learning conditions for children since 2002. Children in a situation of vulnerability may receive some kind of support in the partner schools, through concrete measures that impact their well-being and development.

The satisfaction of basic needs (supplies and books, hygiene kits, school fees...) has enabled 817 vulnerable children to continue their education in good conditions. 12 children have followed a vocational training course, thanks to the school dropout support programme. Among them, four have passed the examination at the end of the training. A number of studies show the impact of school canteens on the reduction in the average dropout rate and the increase in school success rates.

The canteen of the primary school of Adjallé, started in 2012, offers a balanced daily meal to the 1,100 pupils on school days. Meals are prepared by six canteen-workers, who receive yearly training on hygiene and school health. The NYAGBE project, begun in 2015, continued in six schools; it offers workshops in written and oral expression using a theatrical approach to affirm self-confidence, have a better command of written and oral French, and promote risk taking and respect for oneself and others.

At the end of the academic year, the theatre clubs created in the schools gave a public performance.

The “French Learning through Play” project offers vulnerable schoolchildren from first and second grade of primary school playful activities based on games and handling to learn French, their new language of learning.

Begun at the 2016-2017 school start, the health school project aiming at improving children’s health continued during the year, through various awareness raising activities (debates, open stands, screening, drawing contests, cinema, interactive theatre, “Fair Play Cup” snooker festival, etc.) in the five pilot facilities.

Those actions have enabled teachers and trained focal points to raise awareness in pupils, teachers and parents (over 4,500 people).
Communication

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La Chaîne de l’Espoir attaches particular importance to its communication

It uses all available communication channels to highlight its actions and enhance its credibility and reputation. Its communication is essential to increase donor trust and reach a new public. Today, digital communication is a fundamental support well integrated into the communication of La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

The social networks also contribute to gaining greater exposure, increasing visibility and reaching a wider audience, and bringing communities together around the missions and news of La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

Distribution of press coverage* by type of media

- Print media: 36% (296)
- Web: 48% (397)
- Television: 8% (69)
- Radio: 7% (59)

*Since the 17/04/2017 until the 17/04/2018

Temporal distribution of press coverage* by type of media

- Print media
- Web
- Television
- Radio
- Social networks

April: 0
July: 0
November: 0
March: 0
April: 0

Essentials
La Chaîne de l’Espoir launched, in parallel with the 2017 presidential campaign, a visibility and fundraising campaign via text messages, entitled “Moi Président, C’est l’Espoir”. The ambassadors of La Chaîne de l’Espoir were invited to present their programmes in the form of videos displayed on the social networks and relayed by themselves and the friends of La Chaîne de l’Espoir. Improving the life of children and restoring hope were the central topics of this solidarity campaign.

“Destination La Vie” was a busy campaign for La Chaîne de l’Espoir at year-end.
The aim of this communication and fundraising campaign was to increase the visibility of La Chaîne de l’Espoir, collect donations and attract new donors. It was also meant to ensure the awareness of the public about the stories of the children, who are treated in France or locally, during missions organised by La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

The campaign included the introduction of a comprehensive system mainly organised around a significant digital communication, with the implementation of a dedicated internet site, that focused on the story and care pathway of the children, active communication on the social networks, email submission of appeals for donation and ads in print media.

The broadcasting of a radio spot recorded by Michel Cymès together with the publication of articles and reports also contributed to the success of this campaign in 2017.

Amount of donation:
+49% compared with the 2016 campaign over the same period
(€362,323 in 2017 vs. €243,725 in 2016)

Net collection:
+42% compared with the 2016 campaign over the same period
Digital communication

• Digital has become an essential communication tool
In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir increased its presence on the social networks thus targeting a wider audience and strengthening the links with its ever growing community.
La Chaîne de l’Espoir has a network of 17 regional branches, daily support to missions and actions of the organisation. Reception and treatment of children in regional Teaching Hospitals, visibility to the public and regional media and fund-raising events and partnership require a strong commitment and daily team work.

Events in 2017

21 January: Zumba for All! Zumba solidarity classes organised by students from the Caen IAÉ (management school)


21 March: Solidarity Afterwork organised by 5 students from Toulouse Capitole 1 university as part of their training.

2 April: Bicycle Sports Rally, annual event organised in Arpajon by the Essonne branch as part of the Bouger Pour Des Enfants.

8-14 May: Aix County Open - Caisse d’Epargne trophy, an international challenger tournament where one ace = €1 for La Chaîne de l’Espoir thanks to the SmartTrade company.

8 June: A sensitive Nantes high school. 150 first grade students caring for sick children.

6 July: Children Charity Fair for Sick Children. A supportive and generous primary school in Bouscat.

26 August: Book Fair in Normandy. One book exchanged, one voucher paid back to the organisation.

30 September: Opération Ford France dynamique. Ford dealer’s car rides exchanged for a donation by Ford to two organisations. (Evreux)

13 & 15 October: Golf Tournament of Marolles-en-Brie. Supportive members on the green.

16-17 November: Regional Branches Forum, with over 60 volunteer attendees from all over France: sharing of experience and professionalisation of volunteers.

17 December: Christmas Concert on the French Riviera. Songs and charity choir to finish the year on a good note.
Fundraising and visibility events

2017

January
- PRIX D’AMÉRIQUE OPODO: Prestigious horse race organised at the Vincennes racetrack. The benefits from the sale of the collector t-shirt drawn by Youssou Ndour and ticketing have raised €56,837.50.
- MONDAYS AT THE CHAÎNE: Serge Blisko: From sectarianism to radicalisation.
- MONDAYS AT THE CHAÎNE: Dr Véronique Fournier: Can death become a right?

November
- PRIX D’AMÉRIQUE OPODO: Prestigious horse race organised at the Vincennes racetrack. The benefits from the sale of the collector t-shirt drawn by Youssou Ndour and ticketing have raised €56,837.50.
- MONDAYS AT THE CHAÎNE: Gabriel Martinez-Gros: The fascination of the Jihad.

December

2018

January
- MONDAYS AT THE CHAÎNE: Alain Deloche, now Commander of the Legion of Honour, and Eric Cheysson, Officer of the National Order of Merit, honoured for their humanitarian commitment.

November
- LAUNCHING OF THE "ENFANTS À CŒUR - MIREILLE DARC" FUND: Pascal Desprez honours his wife’s memory and continues her involvement by creating the “Enfants à Cœur - Mireille Darc” fund for the organisation of fundraising events.
- GLTSA FUNDRAISING GALA: For the sixth year in a row, the Grande Loge Traditionnelle et Symbolique Opéra (GLTSO) and Solidarité Opéra raised €10,000 for La Chaîne de l’Espoir, during their annual gala.

Mondays at the Chaîne conferences

Since 2011, La Chaîne de l’Espoir has been organising monthly conferences open to the public: Mondays at the Chaîne. It is an opportunity to share and reflect on the world around us and to try and understand it to be one of its committed and attentive players. Every first Monday of each month, at the head office, a guest of choice gives a lecture on topics related to the geopolitical and medical situation. To view the 2017 conferences, refer to our website: www.chainedelespoir.org/fr/lundis-de-la-chaîne
The 20 km of Paris, a team building event
Running is trendy, a boon for companies looking for cohesion tools... and for La Chaîne de l’Espoir. For the 39th edition of the 20 km of Paris, close to 250 runners wore our colours. Why that many? Because of the presence of many company employees. A first successful experience for Bia Consulting, Candriam, Eneria, and Opel France/Opel Financial Services. Bricomarché, the Crédit Agricole Immobilier and White and Case have renewed their commitment this year again.

Toudou*, a life-saving teddy bear
From 1 October 2017 to 31 January 2018, the Association PharmaVie put in place a fundraising campaign and sold “Toudou” teddy bears in its network drugstores. Thanks to the support of the 500 participating pharmacies (75% of the PharmaVie network) and the generosity of their customers, more than 15,000 teddies have been adopted and €33,000 raised. The Association PharmaVie has decided to increase the amount paid to €50,000 as a token of its commitment.

* Toudou is the mascot of the “Hôpital de mon doudou”, the project supported by the Association PharmaVie. The Toudou teddy bear is offered to children at hospital to dehumanize the surgical act.
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The year 2017 was marked by the ownership transfer of three constructions, for which La Chaîne de l’Espoir was project owner as part of its actions to foster access to medical healthcare for deprived children.

The work related to these buildings was carried out with the assistance of the various financial partners and the corresponding structures built have been transferred to their final beneficiaries. These constructions can be detailed as follows:

1 - In Afghanistan, the Mother and Child Centre of the French Medical Institute for Children in Kabul (FMIC Phase 2), opened in September 2016 and financed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Aga Khan Foundation

2 - In Afghanistan again, the Afghan Children’s House (ACH), opened in August 2016 and financed by the AFD

3 - In Senegal, the Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology (CCPC), opened in November 2016 and financed by the Cuomo Foundation

All three ownership transfers had a significant and non-recurring effect on 2017 income and expense, with atypical changes in the accounts of the organisation, that are detailed below:

1 - Financing towards the construction of FMIC Phase 2 between 2011 and 2017 was entirely recognised in 2017 operating income for an amount of K€14,756 and the corresponding expense was entirely recognised in 2017 operating expense for an amount of K€15,415.

2 - Financing towards the construction of ACH was entirely recognised as operating income in 2014 and was the object of dedicated funds in the same financial year. In 2017, ownership transfer was recognised as assets disposal in the balance sheet, and as non-recurring expense for an amount of K€663, recovery of dedicated funds for K€480 and reversal of provision for K€168 in the income statement.

3 - Financing towards the construction of CCPC was recognised as operating income in 2015 and was the object of dedicated funds in the same financial year. In 2017, ownership transfer was recognised as assets disposal in the balance sheet, and as non-recurring expense for an amount of K€4,709 and recovery of dedicated funds for the same amount in the income statement.

The data presented in the tables and notes hereafter include, unless otherwise specified, the non-recurring financial impacts of the ownership transfers.

Ownership transfers resulted in K€20,112 income and K€20,787 expense in the 2017 accounts.
The organisation has four main sources of funding:

1 - The general public represents the principle source of income for La Chaîne de l’Espoir. Its contributors support the actions of the organisation, either through one-off donations to help finance child surgeries, or through regular donations funding mid to long-term actions, such as the organisation of local care and training missions and the equipment of hospitals. Education programmes are funded primarily through child or programme sponsorship. The general public is contacted either by mail, email or telephone. Regular donations by direct debit or online donations are our two main areas of development.

2 - Companies and foundations also finance some major projects of La Chaîne de l’Espoir as part of multiannual partnerships, particularly for hospital projects, care or training programmes or medical equipment programmes. They may also contribute to the Treatment of Children in France programme, education assistance programmes or, more punctually, to the operations of one or several children. Events or rallies are also organised jointly by companies and La Chaîne de l’Espoir in order to bring together employees around a common cause (sporting events, auction, etc.).

3 - Institutional partners support the larger projects of La Chaîne de l’Espoir, such as projects involving the construction, refurbishment or equipment of hospitals and the training of local doctors and surgeons.

4 - La Chaîne de l’Espoir seeks to arouse the interest of contributors and the general public in legacies with the use of a newsletter, publications and the website in order to encourage information exchange and requests. A particular and regular relationship later develops with the donor (legacy booklet, information, etc.). Excellent media coverage (TV shows, radio airplay, radio TV spots offered, press articles) together with communication activities support the promotion of our actions with donors and partners.

• Use of the various sources of funding by activity
The funds collected from the general public, the legacies and part of private corporate funds globally finance all the activities of La Chaîne de l’Espoir (treatment of children in France, treatment abroad, education, training, equipment, etc.).

When they are intended for a specific project, the funds from corporate and
Funding principles and activity

institutional partners are called “dedicated funds”. They finance programmes agreed with the partner and including objectives, budgets and activities meeting precise specifications. It might be specific care programmes, medical training, child education, medical equipment or hospital project programmes.

• Volunteers
Volunteers greatly contribute to the activity of the organisation and its image.

Medical volunteers: in 2017, 234 missionaries carried out 2,913 days of mission for La Chaîne de l’Espoir. They are surgeons, doctors, nurses and technicians, who guarantee the successful and professional medical and paramedical missions of La Chaîne de l’Espoir abroad.

Host families: in 2017, 80 children were transferred to France and cared for by our host families. A child remains for an average period of 2 months in France. Host families have therefore contributed 4,800 volunteer days to the organisation.

Volunteers at head office: 24 volunteers based at the head office actively participate in clerical work, fundraising activities and the organisation of missions abroad. They have contributed 1,883 days to La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

Regional branches: 17 branches including 162 enthusiast volunteers contribute to the reception of the children operated on in the provinces and, more and more actively, to the organisation of events targeting the development of the image of La Chaîne de l’Espoir and the raising of funds.

• Donations and benefits in kind
Material gifts and donations in kind greatly contribute to our actions. We receive donations of medical equipment and various services from professionals.

• Skills-based sponsorship
Qualified employees are seconded by a company. It is a valuable support for La Chaîne de l’Espoir and a source of personal fulfilment for the employees made available.

• Principal aspects of the relationships/agreements with French and international organisations acting on behalf of La Chaîne de l’Espoir
The collaboration between La Chaîne de l’Espoir and other organisations is generally governed by specific agreements stating the target beneficiaries, objective, proposed transactions, responsibilities of each organisation involved, monitoring of operations and report, external communication, duration of the agreement, its termination, as well as the settlement of disputes.

• New projects
Benin, beginning of a surgery programme for severe burns
A supporting programme to the Hubert Koutougou Maga Teaching Hospital for severe burns started in 2017 with a first reconstructive surgery mission in August. This project, designed to quickly treat severe burns with the shipping of adapted equipment, was borne out of the realisation that a large number of people with burn sequelae could not be treated.

Launching of the school health project in Haiti
In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir developed a health school programme as part of its Education programme in Haiti. Health prevention actions were initiated for the children enrolled in the schools’
programme and will continue in 2018, with the objective of improving child medical care. A full-time local doctor was recruited to provide paediatric consultations to all the beneficiaries. He was also trained in the screening of sensory impairments that might impede the learning process of preschool children.

**Kurdistan, ECHO and CDCS funding for the extension of the project**
The project, including the equipment and commissioning of two operating theatres in Rabbia and Sinoni, started in June 2016 and ended on 31 December 2017. A new operating theatre was however opened in Bardarash in July 2017.

Since then, two local surgical teams of ten people each have been recruited and trained and work alternately.

While the first phase of the project focused on general surgery, operations since December 2017 primarily relate to orthopaedic surgery and paediatric ENT. Training missions will be deployed in the first quarter of 2018 to strengthen the care capacities of the Health Department of the Dohuk province over the long term.

**Mali, commencement of work at the André Festoc Centre**
Thanks to the invaluable generosity of Mrs Festoc, a paediatric surgery unit will open in September 2018 in Bamako. This unit is included in the Luxembourg «Mother-Child» Hospital with 8 resuscitation beds.

It will have all the features of a state-of-the-art paediatric surgery facility and its medical and surgical team will be supported all along the opening period towards the local treatment of the many Malian children with heart diseases.

**Senegal, start of surgery at CCPC**
The start of the surgical activity in January 2017 in the first centre dedicated to paediatric cardiac surgery in West Africa is a significant step forward and a great hope for all the children with heart conditions in Senegal and the African subregion.

In one year of activity, the Senegalese teams, together with international expert teams, have operated on 137 children. Since the beginning of 2018, the Senegalese teams have operated independently and have benefited from theoretical and practical training on complex issues, such as infant management.

**Caustic stenosis in Togo**
A new programme of visceral surgery will start in 2018 in Togo. It is intended to raise awareness, prevent, train and operate on children suffering from caustic oesophageal stenosis.

This scourge affects children who scald their digestive organs, and more particularly their oesophagus, by swallowing acid solutions (soap making pots, dyes, etc.).

The programme was developed with the collaboration of local associations trying to raise awareness regarding such hazards.
**Governance**

- **Legal structure of La Chaîne de l’Espoir**
  La Chaîne de l’Espoir is an organisation established under the French law of 5 July 1901 and registered at the Préfecture de Paris on 12 December 1994 under N 94/4993.

- **Scope of the annual report of La Chaîne de l’Espoir**
  The scope of the annual report of La Chaîne de l’Espoir covers all its activities: treatment of children transferred to France, emergency relief, care and training missions, equipment, sponsorship and education programmes.

- **Members of La Chaîne de l’Espoir**
  La Chaîne de l’Espoir has 216 active members, among whom 20 founding members, all of whom vote.

- **Management**
  La Chaîne de l’Espoir is administered by a Board of Directors, which selects, among its members, a Bureau comprising a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a General Secretary, a Deputy General Secretary and a Treasurer.

  A Director General, a Deputy Director General, a Chief Financial Officer, a Director of Development and a Programme Manager are responsible for operational management.

- **Board of Directors of La Chaîne de l’Espoir in 2017**
  **Bureau**
  **Chairman:**
  - Dr. Eric CHEYSSON
    Head of the vascular surgery department at the René Dubos Hospital, Pontoise
    End of term: June 2021

  **Vice-Chairman:**
  - Dr. Philippe VALENTI
    Hand surgeon at the Clinique Bizet, Paris
    End of term: June 2021

  **General secretaries:**
  - Dr. Sylvain CHAUVAUD
    Cardiovascular surgeon, Paris
    End of term: June 2021
  - Françoise MONARD
    Senior consultant
    End of term: June 2021
Treasurer:
- Emile DINET
  Deputy managing director of the SENY group
  End of term: June 2021

Members
- Dr Catherine Amrein
  Intensive care anaesthetist
  End of term: June 2023
- Pr Gérard Babatasi
  Head of cardiac surgery at Caen Teaching Hospital
  End of term: June 2020
- Valérie Bernis
  Deputy CEO of ENGIE
  End of term: June 2020
- Dr Michel Cymès
  ENT specialist at the Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou, Paris
  Journalist
  End of term: June 2023
- Gonzague Desforges
  Engineer
  End of term: June 2020
- Philippe Dumas
  General Finance Inspector
  End of term: June 2023
- Denis Duverne
  Deputy CEO of Axa
  End of term: June 2020
- Jean-Claude Lafeuillade
  Engineer
  End of term: June 2023
- Pr Antoine Lafont
  Interventional cardiologist at the Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou, Paris
  End of term: June 2020
- Jacques Maillot
  Founding chairman of Nouvelles Frontières
  End of term: June 2020
- Sébastien Prat
  Lawyer, Paris
  End of term: June 2020
- Dr Xavier Raingeval
  Anaesthetist at the Clinique Jouvenet, Paris
  End of term: June 2018
- Pr Yann Révillon
  Former head of paediatric surgery at Hôpital Necker-Enfants malades, Paris
  End of term: June 2019
- Dr Dominique Tournay
  Anaesthetist
  End of term June 2023
- AP/HP
  (represented by Florence VEBER, Director of International Affairs at the Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris)
  End of term: June 2021

• Specialised committees of La Chaîne de l’Espoir
  Executive committee
  The role of the executive committee is to ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Board of Directors and the proper implementation of the
Governance

activities and missions of La Chaîne de l’Espoir. It comprises the members of the Bureau and the operational directors. It meets at least once a month.

Finance committee
The role of the finance committee is to advise the Board of Directors on decisions regarding financial and strategic aspects, such as equity policy or investment decisions.

Risk and internal audit committee
The risk and internal audit committee is an internal control body ensuring active monitoring on risk prevention and compliance with governance rules. Its role is to analyse all risks to which the organisation is exposed (risk mapping) and ensure that the organisation and the procedures take into account risk prevention.

It also ensures that the organisation is managed in accordance with the laws and rules of good governance, that there are formalised processes with appropriate control on management processes and that the preparation and external audit of the accounts comply with the rules.

• Conflicts of interest
Conflicts of interest with partners and suppliers and as a component of governance are managed by compliance with a number of procedures and the implementation of internal control mechanisms to ensure respect of the principle of the segregation of duties. This set of good practices enables La Chaîne de l’Espoir to internally address potential conflicts of interest.

• Main provisions taken by the organisation to ensure effective internal control
La Chaîne de l’Espoir regularly calls on external professionals and volunteers to audit its procedures and its strategy. The risk and internal audit committee formalises this control mechanism.

La Chaîne de l’Espoir is also accountable to various external bodies, responsible for auditing the sound management of the organisation and its governance policies:

• The Charter Committee, a monitoring agency, brings together French organisations and foundations all abiding by a series of ethical principles relating to budgetary rigour, account transparency and governance.

• Deloitte, an independent statutory auditor, attests to the discipline of our management.

• Major international institutional donors (ECHO, AFD, OCHA, etc.) control our operations and our management and governance modes, at the head office as well as on the ground.

• La Chaîne de l’Espoir may be audited by the Cour des Comptes at any time.

• Assessment of the impact and efficiency of the action of La Chaîne de l’Espoir
Close contact with the health authorities of the countries concerned by the programmes of La Chaîne de l’Espoir facilitate the assessment of the programmes’ usefulness and efficacy.

Prior to the implementation of a programme, several assessment missions are carried out to determine the context, needs, number of beneficiaries, objectives, actions to be undertaken, expected outcome, human and material resources, and viability and sustainability. A provisional budget is then drafted.

The monitoring and evaluation of the programmes is based on these elements. The indicators are used to measure the achievements. According to them, programmes may either be continued and extended, or stopped.

If needed, programmes may be assessed by specialised external companies.
Human resources

La Chaîne de l’Espoir relies on a permanent paid staff but also on an important network of volunteers (clerical positions, host families, medical and paramedical staff, technicians) in France and a network of volunteers (medical and paramedical, technicians) for international missions.

- **Number of employees at the end of 2017**
  As of 31 December 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir included 44 full-time equivalent employees. This is an increase from previous years.

Local structures directly depending on La Chaîne de l’Espoir also employ many expatriate or local workers:
- Afghanistan branch ................................................. 20 employees
- Cambodia branch .................................................. 3 employees
- Iraq branch (Kurdistan) ................................. 10 employees
- Jordan branch .................................................. 1 employee
- Senegal branch .................................................. 2 employees
- Thailand branch .................................................. 6 employees
- Togo branch ..................................................... 7 employees

1 employee was seconded to La Chaîne de l’Espoir in 2017 as part of skills-based sponsorship.

- **Compensation policy inside the organisation**
  The compensation policy of La Chaîne de l’Espoir is based on the career path, skills and responsibilities of each employee inside the organisation.

La Chaîne de l’Espoir has worked to put in place a coherent salary scale and to conduct regular assessment interviews with each employee.

The combined annual amount of the three highest salaries was €267,358.

- **Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct**
  The aim of the Code of Ethics is to define and spread the values and professional conduct, which La Chaîne de l’Espoir undertakes to follow in the course of its activity. All those working or being in relation with La Chaîne de l’Espoir are subject to the Code.

All the employees have demonstrated their commitment to the humanitarian and ethical principles of La Chaîne de l’Espoir by signing the Code of Ethics.
2017 Financial Statements

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Dear Members of La Chaîne de l’Espoir,

I have the pleasure of presenting you with the 2017 Treasurer’s Report.

In 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir total resources, including extraordinary items and financial income, amounted to €42,221. Total expenditure, including financial and exceptional expenses, amounted to €41,221. The result for the year is a surplus of €999. 2017 numbers are taken from the Income Statement, which is a reference document for organisations.

- Income
  Overall in 2017, total income amounted to €42,221, an increase of €20,164 compared to 2016 (+95.4%). It included the non-recurring impact of the funding of the Phase 2 of the French Medical Institute for Mothers & Children (FMIC) for the 2011-2017 period for a total amount of €14,756, and the recovery of dedicated funds for the Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology in Dakar for €4,709 and for the Afghan Children’s House in Kabul for €480.

  Donations from the General Public
  Income originating from the general public (excluding legacies) have slightly declined from 2016 (-1.5%) at €11,447 (as against €11,616 in 2016).

  Fundraising expenses have been contained and were in line with the decrease (-€44 or -1.4%) in the funds raised. The net funds raised (donations from the general public less collection costs) were down 1.5%, from €8,531 to €8,406.

  Donations from the general public stood for 27% of the income for 2017. Excluding the non-recurring effect of the integration of income related to the three constructions transferred, they represented 52% of the organisation’s funding and remained the main source of income.

  Direct debit regular donations contribute to the sustainability of our activities and show the trust of our donors. They have increased by 10%, from €4,666 in 2016 up to €5,121 in 2017.

- State subsidies
  State subsidies amounted to €2,727 in 2017, through the contribution of the French Embassy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations to our projects in Iraq, Afghanistan and Jordan. State subsidies dropped by 39% as compared to the previous year. 2016 was marked by special actions to assist Syrian children in Jordan and Iraqi Kurdistan.

At the general meeting of association
La Chaîne de l’Espoir

2017 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | TREASURER’S REPORT
Legacies and donations
Legacies and contributions amounted to €3,135, globally steady compared with 2016 (-0.9%).

They had more than doubled in 2016, due to an exceptional donation of €2,774 in legacies were recognised at year-end.

Private partners
Contributions from private partners were up 324.8%, from €1,696 in 2016 to €7,205 in 2017.

This growth reflected the integration of the funds of the Aga Khan Foundation towards FMIC's phase 2 (€5,302). Excluding this non-recurring effect, partners' contributions were up 12.2% from 2016.

Other income
The investment subsidies from the Agence française de Développement (€9,053) and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (€400), that have contributed to the construction of FMIC's phase 2, have been recognised in operating income following the ownership transfer in December 2017.

This explains the significant increase under this caption, which amounted to €297 in 2016.

Financial income amounted to €66, down €72 compared with 2016 (-51.9%), due to the sale of securities in December 2016 to finance the purchase of a new head office.

Reversal of provision
To hedge the risk of under-financing of part of the construction of the Afghan Children's House, a provision of €168 was recognised at the end of 2016. The assets were transferred in 2017 and the corresponding provision reversed.

Recovery of dedicated funds
Dedicated funds, unused at year-end are carried forward in the income statements of the following years, according to the rate of achievement of the commitments.

In 2017, recovered dedicated funds amounted to €7,707 improving sharply due to the completion and ownership transfer of two construction projects: the Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology (€5,527 out of which €4,709 construction related) and the Afghan Children's House (€480).

Expenditure
Current expenditure
The total amount of operating expenses was globally stable vs. 2016 (+0.6%) at €4,998.

Operating costs were contained (€628 as against €601 in 2016) and development costs (fundraising, communication, management, donation and tax receipt management and data collection) were stable compared with 2016 at €4,370.

Excluding the non-recurring effect of the income integration related to the three constructions transferred, operating expenses (operating and development costs) represented 24.5% of total expenditure. Once expenditure incorporated, operating expenses represented 12.1% of the total expense.

Social aid missions
Programme expenditure included €34,060 spent in 2017 and €1,783 in commitments programmed in 2018, i.e. 87% of the total expense.

These numbers included the non-recurring effects of the expense related to the three constructions transferred in 2017. Adjusted for these effects, the share of social aid missions was 73.7% of the total expense in 2017.

Provisions
La Chaîne de l’Espoir, in accordance with prudential accounting, provisioned €380 in relation to its international projects.

Earnings appropriation
As seen above, the fiscal year showed a surplus of €999, upon which the Board of Directors agreed and that is proposed to you today.

It included €675 in expenses made for our construction projects in Afghanistan (FMIC phase 2 and Afghan Children's House), now completed, with ownership transferred.

A reserve of €1,000 had been created for these projects over several years.
The Board of Directors recommended to release this reserve in full, and to allocate the €1,999 profit according to the following table:

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association funds</td>
<td>5,752,018.31</td>
<td>1,999,342.16</td>
<td>7,751,360.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa projects reserve</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>300,000.00</td>
<td>300,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan projects reserve</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<td>Earnings 2017:</td>
<td>999,342.16</td>
<td>999,342.16</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,051,360.47</td>
<td>1,999,342.16</td>
<td>8,051,360.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2017, the organisation benefitted from the following non-monetary contributions:

Volunteers
By processing administrative transactions, we know the exact number of volunteers (surgeons, doctors, nurses, anaesthetists) on La Chaîne de l’Espoir missions. During 2017, they contributed an estimated 2,913 business days, corresponding to €793.

Head office and branch volunteers
There are 24 volunteers at the head office (including 21 members of the Board of Directors) and 162 working in the regional branches. In 2017, the time contributed by volunteers working for the organisation was estimated at 8,872 business days, equivalent to €1,490.

Premises
Over the first six months of 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir continued to use 1,212 m² of office space provided by Paris Hospitals and Public Assistance (AP-HP) at a price far below market value. The savings for 2017 are estimated at €153. In July 2017, La Chaîne de l’Espoir moved into new premises in the 15th district of Paris, which it purchased in December 2016, thus terminating the agreement with AP-HP.

Consumables and medical supplies
Up to €176 worth of medical equipment and disposable goods were donated by various hospital facilities and laboratories in 2017.

Advertising space
Various advertisers and partners (press, radio, TV, documentaries) contributed €669 worth of advertising and communication space in 2017. It was a strong increase from the previous year due to the excellent participation of our partners in our campaign at the end of the year.

Host families
The crucial importance of the work carried out by host families who welcome children to France cannot go unrecognised. They take children into their homes (accommodation, food, activities) and accompany them when they travel (to the airport, hospital consultations, meetings to coordinate with the organisation, etc.). In 2017, it is estimated that the total value contributed by these volunteers, who welcomed 80 children, amounted to €288.

Skills-based sponsorship
Our partners have made 1 employee available to us in 2017, constituting an in-kind donation of €47.

The total monetary equivalent of all in-kind voluntary contributions is estimated at €3,617.

Balance sheet
Total assets and liabilities of La Chaîne de l’Espoir amounted to €20,724 as of 31 December 2017, down €13,998 from 2016, following disposals of assets at FMIC phase 2, the Afghan Children’s House and the Cuomo Centre for Paediatric Cardiology. Total fixed assets amounted to €9,637 compared to €23,916 in 2016. Current assets remained stable (€11,087 in 2017 as against €10,805 in 2016). Non-profit organisation funds were increased by the surplus recognised over the year. As of 31 December 2017, they...
amounted to €8,051, excluding investment subsidy. Loans and other borrowings were down from €7,960 in 2016 to €7,388 in 2017, indicating a sound financial position.

• Budget for 2018
The budget for 2018 was approved by the Board of Directors’ meeting of 29 January 2018. €22,568 in income and €21,950 in expense were estimated together with a provisional surplus of €618, thus ensuring the solvency and financial autonomy of the organisation.

Income
Operating income for 2018 is budgeted at €22,568 and can be apportioned as follows:
- “General public” fundraising: €12,550
- “Partners and sponsors” fundraising: €2,010
- State subsidies: €4,000
- Legacies and donations: €2,200
- Other income (including recovery of dedicated funds): €1,808

Expense
Operating expenses are estimated at €21,950. They break down as follows:
- Treatment of Children in France: €1,400
- Treatment of Children abroad: €13,300
- Education programmes: €1,800
- Head office operating expense: €450
- Development: €5,000

• Outlook for 2018
Figures established in the first few months of 2018 confirm the budget allocated to the various sectors and approved by the Board of Directors in January. Donations from the general public are slightly up from 2017 and in line with budget.

• Conclusion
In 2018, La Chaîne de l’Espoir will continue to pursue its established strategies:
- Continued growth of direct debit regular donations representing 55 percent of Marketing collection
- Increase in web and cross-channel donations
- Development of legacies and contributions
- Sponsorship policies based on partnerships and collaborative projects
- Completion of the André Festoc Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit at the Luxembourg “Mother-Child” in Bamako and new hospital projects under review
- Intervention in emergency humanitarian situations in Iraqi Kurdistan, Jordan and Lebanon
- Development of the innovation hub with the objective of placing e-health at the heart of our missions
- Implementation of an internal control system targeting the strengthening of our organisational model

La Chaîne de l’Espoir continues to expand its activity and diversify its funding sources in order to control its management ratios.

Lastly, I wish to emphasise once again the importance for the organisation of in-kind donations. They not only have represented a contribution of more than €3,600 but also, and most of all, a driving force for the development of La Chaîne de l’Espoir activities maintaining our spirit of partnership and enhancing our domestic and international reputation.

In this spirit, we would like once again to recognise the remarkable contributions of our host families and our volunteers. We thank them wholeheartedly.

Emile DINET
Treasurer
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<tr>
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<th>31/12/2017</th>
<th>31/12/2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td>Gross</td>
<td>Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concessions, patents, similar rights</td>
<td>142,081</td>
<td>122,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible assets</td>
<td>78,563</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>1,380,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructions</td>
<td>6,619,073</td>
<td>265,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other tangible fixed assets</td>
<td>48,151</td>
<td>46,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>1,774,506</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other financial assets</td>
<td>29,401</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total fixed assets</strong></td>
<td>10,071,774</td>
<td>434,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td>Gross</td>
<td>Depreciation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advances &amp; prepayments on orders</td>
<td>106,029</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>2,877,805</td>
<td>14,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment securities</td>
<td>2,705,252</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>5,313,737</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid charges</td>
<td>98,606</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>11,101,430</td>
<td>14,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>21,173,204</td>
<td>449,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pledges</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies to be processed</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Balance sheet and income statement shall form an indissoluble whole.
### BALANCE SHEET
#### LIABILITIES (IN EUROS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31/12/2017</th>
<th>31/12/2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-profit organisation funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-profit organisation funds</td>
<td>5,752,018</td>
<td>5,347,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve for various projects</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal year outcome</td>
<td>999,342</td>
<td>404,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment subsidies</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>9,453,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-profit organisation funds</strong></td>
<td>8,151,360</td>
<td>16,505,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provisions and dedicated funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td></td>
<td>247,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated funds</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,941,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total provisions and dedicated funds</strong></td>
<td>4,476,593</td>
<td>10,189,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Debts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans and other borrowings</td>
<td>5,151,677</td>
<td>5,500,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>1,196,839</td>
<td>1,486,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax and social liabilities</td>
<td>611,100</td>
<td>431,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>428,013</td>
<td>541,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>708,216</td>
<td>66,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total debts</strong></td>
<td>8,095,845</td>
<td>8,026,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>20,723,798</td>
<td>34,721,398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance sheet and income statement shall form an indissoluble whole.
## INCOME STATEMENT (IN EUROS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31/12/2017</th>
<th>31/12/2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>14,778,868</td>
<td>14,848,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship income</td>
<td>1,722,965</td>
<td>1,625,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>15,048,763</td>
<td>268,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating subsidies</td>
<td>2,727,457</td>
<td>4,437,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (I)</strong></td>
<td>34,278,053</td>
<td>21,180,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other purchase and external expenses</td>
<td>12,684,233</td>
<td>11,560,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>277,816</td>
<td>213,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and payroll</td>
<td>2,265,232</td>
<td>1,944,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll taxes</td>
<td>1,016,378</td>
<td>854,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation</td>
<td>291,243</td>
<td>25,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>380,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other charges</td>
<td>16,957,070</td>
<td>1,760,969</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total (II)</strong></td>
<td>33,871,971</td>
<td>16,388,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating surplus/(deficit) (I)-(II) = (III)</strong></td>
<td>406,081</td>
<td>4,792,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other interest and similar income</td>
<td>50,892</td>
<td>103,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release of provision</td>
<td>8,021</td>
<td>22,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange gains</td>
<td>7,559</td>
<td>12,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (IV)</strong></td>
<td>66,472</td>
<td>138,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial expense</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest payable and similar expense</td>
<td>53,701</td>
<td>23,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange losses</td>
<td>76,742</td>
<td>6,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (V)</strong></td>
<td>130,442</td>
<td>30,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial surplus/(deficit) (IV)-(V) = (VI)</strong></td>
<td>(63,971)</td>
<td>107,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current surplus/(deficit) (III)+(VI) = (VII)</strong></td>
<td>342,111</td>
<td>4,900,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-recurring income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On management operations</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>13,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release of provision</td>
<td>167,832</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (VIII)</strong></td>
<td>168,726</td>
<td>13,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-recurring expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On management operations</td>
<td>27,858</td>
<td>54,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On capital transactions</td>
<td>5,375,188</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciations &amp; provisions</td>
<td>31,196</td>
<td>167,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (IX)</strong></td>
<td>5,434,242</td>
<td>221,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-recurring surplus/(deficit) (VIII)-(IX) = (X)</strong></td>
<td>(5,265,516)</td>
<td>(208,854)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unused funds carry-forward from previous years</td>
<td>7,707,488</td>
<td>275,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected use of allocated funds</td>
<td>(1,782,745)</td>
<td>(4,561,163)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income taxes</td>
<td>1,995</td>
<td>1,258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>42,220,738</td>
<td>21,607,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>41,221,396</td>
<td>21,202,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</strong></td>
<td>999,342</td>
<td>404,531</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Voluntary In-Kind Contributions (in Euros)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31/12/2017</th>
<th>31/12/2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>2,618,108</td>
<td>2,992,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind donations (services)</td>
<td>669,422</td>
<td>407,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind donations (goods)</td>
<td>329,810</td>
<td>465,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total voluntary in-kind contributions</strong></td>
<td>3,617,339</td>
<td>3,865,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social aid missions</td>
<td>1,257,529</td>
<td>1,271,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising related costs</td>
<td>1,586,822</td>
<td>1,466,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational costs and others</td>
<td>772,989</td>
<td>1,127,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total voluntary in-kind contributions</strong></td>
<td>3,617,339</td>
<td>3,865,916</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Balance sheet and income statement shall form an indissoluble whole.*
Acknowledgement

Our institutional funders

EUROPEAN COMMISSION HUMANITARIAN OFFICE (ECHO)
The European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) is the EU branch responsible for humanitarian aid. Its mandate is “to provide emergency assistance and relief to the victims of natural disasters or armed conflict outside the European Union, without distinction of race, religion or political preference, but solely on the basis of need.” ECHO has provided some financial aid to 193 partner NGOs.

In 2013, La Chaîne de l’Espoir joined this network of European NGOs and signed the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA), renewed in 2014.

In 2017, ECHO contributed €850,000 in funding towards the emergency general surgery programme in Iraqi Kurdistan and the cardiac and orthopaedic surgery programme for Syrian children in Jordan. 1,083 children were operating on through this financing in 2017.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development is committed to act for peace, security and Human Rights, worldwide. Today, it is one of the largest funding partner of La Chaîne de l’Espoir.

In 2017, its support focused on the paediatric surgery programme of the French Medical Institute for Children and Women in Afghanistan and on emergency assistance in Iraqi Kurdistan.

• In 2017, the French Embassy in Afghanistan renewed its financial contribution to the Afghanistan programme for an amount of €1,270,000.

• The Crisis and Support Centre helped funding projects in Iraqi Kurdistan. An amount of €600,000 was raised to finance the emergency surgery programme in Iraqi war zones.

AGENCE FRANCAISE DE DEVELOPPEMENT (AFD)
In 2017, AFD continued to support La Chaîne de l’Espoir for the tenth year running.

The €100,000 aid has been spent on the completion of the extension of the French Medical Institute for Children and Women in Afghanistan.

A second financing has been granted to finance the face reconstructive surgery programme in Burkina Faso, starting in 2018.
Our partners in 2017

La Chaîne de l’Espoir expresses its sincere appreciation to all the private partners, who have provided us with financial support, in-king donations, skills-based donations, or provision of space for outdoor advertising:

- **Private companies**

- **Foundations and corporate foundations**

- **Institutions**

- **Hospitals**
• Our operational partners

• Organisations

• Advertising networks and media agencies
La Chaîne de l’Espoir thanks the advertising networks and media agencies for providing free advertising space: Amaury Médias, le Centre des professions financières, Ideas Média, L Média, Lagardère Publicité, Le nouvel Economiste, Malesherbès Publications, Mondadori, Multi Presse, Radio Classique, Radio France, RFE Vinci Autoroutes and RTL, etc. as well as all the local radios that have contributed to the year-end “Destination: LA VIE!” campaign.

• Local authorities, General Councils and municipalities

• Educational institutions and higher education schools

• Our private donors and our sponsors

• Our generous benefactors who have made a legacy or subscribed a life insurance in favour of La Chaîne de l’Espoir and who died in 2017

• Our medical and paramedical teams, our host families, our volunteers, our reporters, our photographs...

• Our godmother
Mireille Darc.

• Our ambassadors
Gil Alma, Victoria Bedos, Philippe Candelier, Sébastien Caut, Christelle Cholet, Michel Cymès, Sophie Davant, Natalie Dessay and Laurent Naouri, Marie Drucker, Jean-Pierre Foucault, Marie-Agnès Gillot, Françoise Joly, Olivier de Lagarde, Paul Nahon, Jean-Pierre Pernaut, Thomas Sotto.

• Special acknowledgements
La Chaîne de l’Esper warmly thanks all its private partners, including, Algade, who has been supporting us for almost 10 years, and the Crédit Agricole Immobilier, strongly supportive for many years.

With its end-of-year sale event of teddy bears throughout its network of PharmaVie pharmacies, the Association PharmaVie has raised funds to help us finance child operations.

—

The image contains text that is difficult to read due to low resolution and clarity. The text appears to be discussing operational partners, organisations, advertising networks, and acknowledgments. The content is primarily in French and includes names of organisations and individuals. The text is苦难 due to the image quality and readability.
Mireille Darc, dedicated patron and supporter of La Chaîne de l’Espoir, never ceased to fight for the children of the world. To keep this flame alive, her combat with La Chaîne de l’Espoir has become the combat of her husband, her relatives and her friends through the “Enfants à Cœur – Mireille Darc” Fund.

Thank you all