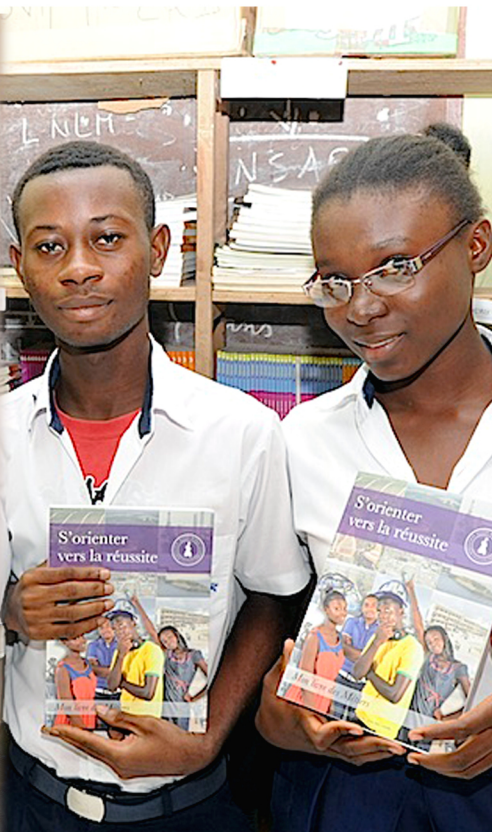


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Editorial

At this time of the year when the youth of our country is hard at work revising and preparing relentlessly for upcoming exams, FSBO has decided to honour its energy and determination to move forward: Firmly anchored in the 21st century, our young people are mobilising to be the actors both of their own personal success and of the development of Gabon. FSBO is fully determined to assist and support our adults of tomorrow through the many challenges they are confronted with, according to their hopes and aspirations. The teams of the Foundation would like to take this opportunity to wish every candidate every success for their various exams, with special wishes for the 8 pre-selected recipients of the Ozavino Scholarship.

May the third term rhyme with health and success



Sensibilisation at Bitam.

Yes, our pupils have worked extremely hard this term, and FSBO has assisted and supported them in their efforts. To preserve the health of our youth from the dangers they face through STDs and AIDS through information, reaching out into all neighbourhoods and homes... such is the aim of the Safety First Campaign. This campaign was deployed in Libreville as well as in the towns of Owendo, Akanda and across the province of Wolleu-Ntem. Openly and in a light-hearted manner, FS-

BO deployed its awareness campaign reaching as many people as possible, sensitising them to the problems of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and the dangers of early pregnancy, thanks to Safety Camps and the mass distribution of "You and Me by FSBO" condoms in the various colours of its different initiatives. But FSBO also took in hand the professional future of our children: Many, of course, are striving to pass their exams, but what to do next? What careers to embrace which would be both fulfilling and provide employment? In parallel with the safety First Campaign, FSBO therefore presented and distributed its Career's Book "Aiming for Success" in 36 different schools across the Wolleu-Ntem and Estuaire Regions. From the very start of the coming school year, our teams and volunteers will travel the roads of Gabon to meet the youth of the other provinces. This 250-page book answers the questions our students have by helping them to turn towards some form of training related to their skills, their taste and the Gabonese employment market.

Preventing feminine cancers: the fight goes on



Early Cancer female screening at the Cap Esterias dispensary.

But FSBO is not for that matter neglecting its fights on other fronts: The prevention of breast and cervical cancers remains

one of its 2015 objectives. It is important now for the Foundation to pursue its early screening actions for feminine cancers in the two target health regions of Libreville and Owendo, as well as to spread these actions to the North, the South-East and the region of Ogooué-Maritime. Last but not least, the training of healthcare assistants, doctors and specialists; everything has been put in place to optimise the chances of success of an early screening operation for feminine cancers in these regions.

5th anniversary of International Widows' Day: Report and Outlook

Finally, the 5th anniversary of International Widows' Day was marked by legal and administrative consultations in 3 arrondissements of Libreville, in Owendo and in Akanda. The aim was to inform widows, their families and the public in general on the advances which characterise this cause close to FSBO's heart which since 2010 has been fighting for an improvement of the situation of widows in Gabon. Of course, we are far from having reached our objective. Mentalities need to be changed when it comes to widows and women in general, and these women will only obtain the respect they deserve if they ensure they are autonomous; but our country is on the right path, this decade will be the decade of women in Gabon... or nothing!



Juridic and administrative consultations during the International Widows Day, 2015.



For the fifth edition of International Widows' Day, the SBOF once again highlighted the importance of awareness and information by organising administrative and legal consultations targeted towards the inhabitants of three districts in Libreville, Owendo and Akanda. Since the adoption by The UN of the Resolution 65/169 of the 20th of December 2010, the international widows' day has been celebrated for 5 years already, a perfect time to step back and assess what has been achieved. What advances can the widows rejoice in? What future lies ahead for this difficult yet ambitious fight?

Administrative and legal consultations: better understanding leads to better defence

The town halls of Libreville, Owendo and Akanda opened their doors for administrative and legal consultations from the 23rd to the 25th of June of this year.

Widows and their families who are still unaware of the mechanisms which allow them access to their rights as surviving spouses were made welcome. It was also important to make known to the larger public the new plethora of regulatory and legislative measures adopted by the government, and which aim to protect widows and orphans. Finally, these consultations were designed to target institutions and administrations relevant to the needs of widows in order for them to be aware of changes in the law and to be better armed to respond to users' requests.

In order to optimise these three days of awareness campaign, 10 volunteers from the Foundation who had previously been trained by the Directorate General of Widows and Orphans to deal with specific questions relevant to widows, were deployed across the various chosen sectors to distribute information leaflets and mauve ribbons on the streets, and to di-

rect the population towards the various consultation locations.



Mrs Ngayis, from the FSBO, listening to a widow.



International Widows Day

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2011-2014: awareness actions to awaken national conscience and concrete realisations



Widows during a consulting session with Mrs Ngayis.

Having lifted the veil and allowed a first wave of awareness of the injustice facing widows, both nationally and internationally, the First Lady has been fighting constantly since 2011 within her Foundation in order to put in place concrete measures to improve their situation of widows and their children.

For the last five years, a large number of awareness actions targeting the Gabonese population have been put in place to highlight problems relevant to widows and orphans.

In order to identify the various aspects of the problems facing widows in Gabon, an information and awareness seminar covering the entire national territory and involving a number of different experts was held in 2011 on this topic.

The official report entitled "The Situation of widows in Gabon: a legal and anthropological review" enabled the collection of precise data relating to the condition

of widows and orphans in our country. Since 2011, FSBO has deployed a number of successive communication campaigns targeting the general public, families and widows, so that no one in our country may say that they "were ignorant of the phenomenon of spoliation of widows".

Marching with the people in support of widows in 2011, launching a limited edition of stamps created by the Gabonese post office to commemorate all women widowed that year, the 2013 "Citizens' Enterprises for Widows" actions led by the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, the awareness campaigns conducted to highlight administrative and legal processes to be undertaken by the surviving spouse in 2013 and 2014, short radio broadcasts, TV spots of awareness...so many varied actions undertaken with one single objective: to touch and mobilise the greatest number to achieve a radical change in mentality and attitude towards our widows.

All these actions have begun to bear fruit and since 2011, a certain number of legislative and administrative measures have been taken in favour of the cause of widows.

The creation of the National Observatory for the Protection of Family Rights in 2012 constitutes a major advance since its role is, amongst others, to lead enquiries into the situation of children, widows and orphans in Gabon. Aid organisations have been set up: the National Social Support Fund (FNAS), operational since 2013, centralises and collects funds destined to social support and family protection; a legal assistance unit created in 2012 composed of lawyers assists the surviving spouse and the children by providing legal

support. It is in this spirit that in 2011, the Foundation created the Mbandja Centre in Libreville as well as anonymous free phone 1455, to inform and lend a listening ear to widows. In June 2013, over 900 widows received legal, administrative and psychological support, and over 200,000 calls were processed.

Certain laws have been modified and adopted, and in particular the one giving the surviving spouse the right to obtain the death certificate of the deceased, thus protecting him or her from acts of dissimulation or of destruction of official documents, acts which might be carried out by the in-laws; or the one aiming to replace the Family Advisory by the Inheritance Advisory.



International Widows Day

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From a fight for widows' rights to a fight for the rights of women and the family: a priority in 2015



FSBO volunteers.

It is clear from the study of the situation of widows that many advances are still to be made for so many women and their families: access to information and education, legal and social support, combating discrimination in the work place or at home, or the fight against physical violence are all issues which merit specific attention. In this respect, the year 2015 turns out to be a symbolic year : on an international level, with United Nations' global conference on women's issues in Beijing, and on a national level, with the launch of the Decade of Women by the Head of State.

To promote the Family and women's rights in 2015: such is the FSBO's ambitious project.

The access to information enabled by the awareness campaigns is an essential lever for changing mentalities towards women at every level of society: families, leaders, deciders, and employers.

Awareness campaigns are all the more necessary because changing mentalities is a

slow process... but it is clear that women have a leading role to play in their fight against discrimination, and to this end, education is the only way: to educate women is to allow them the right to earn a living, in other words to access autonomy; it means informing them of their rights and giving them, therefore, a chance to break the cycle of this curse of abuse and spoliation.

Finally, the consolidation of a judicial arsenal enabling further protection of women and their families is an essential stage in the improvement of their condition: women must be able to rely on an adequate and simplified judicial apparatus with competent and motivated professionals. Such is the vision carried by the FSBO teams.



FSBO volunteers listening to widows.

« I heard about that Widow day, and I came along with two orphans of my hood so that they can beneficiate of any kind of help and advices. We are asking the Fondation to go in each neighborhood just to see the living conditions of the widows and their orphans. »

MBOUITY Rose, headquarters, along with two orphans





Act against Cancer

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Global view of the site «La Maison de Vie».



Over a year ago now, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, FSBO set up a massive feminine cancer early detection program which is progressively spreading inland. The initial set up of the program in 2014 enabled basic actions to be triggered in the 2 pilot regions of Libreville and Owendo: personnel training, equipment of health structures initiation of awareness and screening activities.

In 2015, the Foundation set itself the objective of reinforcing its actions within the 2 pilot health regions and to widen their scope to the provinces of Haut-Ogooue, The Ogooue-Maritime and Woleu-Ntem. To this end, training sessions for healthcare workers were organised in the health regions of the South East, of the North and of maritime during the first 3 months of the year.

In parallel, the building work on Alice House, the first purpose built living space in Central Africa are progressing. This huge enterprise is bringing to fruition a project which FSBO holds close to its heart: to provide the most venerable patients of ICL (Libreville Cancer Institute)

with free accommodation throughout their treatment as early as 2016.

Cap Esterias: a brand new clinic for a far reaching campaign.

From the 29th of June to the 3rd of July 2015, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, FSBO has lead an information/awareness and feminine cancer screening campaign targeting the women of Cap Esterias and its surrounding neighbourhoods: this free service had never before been available to the population living in this area because of refurbishment work being carried out at the clinic.



Consultation in the dispensary of the Cap Esterias.



Awareness campaign for the early screening of female cancer at the Cap Esterias.

During the first 3 days, close to 2000 women ages 25 and over were made aware of the purpose of early screening and treatment of feminine cancers, by far the most frequent cancer in Gabon, and almost 100 women were examined. The last phase of the campaign was a clinical breast and cervical examination led by a reinforced team of gynaecologist, midwives and nurses. In order to support the vigilance of the women examined towards the problem of feminine cancers,

information leaflets and pink ribbons were handed out to them at the end of these sessions as well as insecticide treated nets.



Act against Cancer

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From Franceville to Oyem and Por-Gentil, focus on training



Midwives trained to the early screening of female cancers..

In view of optimising the chances of success of early screening feminine cancer actions in the 3 provinces targeted this year, FSBO has organised training sessions for healthcare providers: these took place from the 25th to the 27th of March at the University Hospital of Franceville (CHR) from the 14th to the 16th of April at the CHM in Oyem and from the 26th to the 28th of April at the CHR of Port-Gentile. For 3 days, 8 gynaecologists, 13 GPs, no fewer than 42 midwives or matrons and 19 nurses were thus able to familiarise themselves with the approach, the concepts and the techniques of early cancer screening. They were also able to touch upon the principles and organisational basis upon which the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Screening program (DPCSC) is built.

Alice House construction coming along...

Construction work on Alice House in moving along swiftly as it is 6 weeks ahead of the initial schedule. A visit was organised last month which enabled the heads of the Foundation to witness the evolution of the project.

It is estimated that work will complete during the second term of 2016. The major role it will play in supporting cancer patients and their families makes it a priority project for FSBO.



Alice's Home site.



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Libreville Safety First Camp.

After visiting Libreville and the Province of Estuaire in March and April, the Safety First campaign went onto the Province of Woleu-Ntem from the 15th to the 23rd May this year. The FSBO caravan travelled from Mitzic to Medouneu, Minvoul, Bitam and Oyem to meet with and deliver its message of awareness to the youth of the area regarding issues relating to HIV/AIDS, to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) as well as to early pregnancy. In parallel with this campaign, FSBO visited 10 secondary schools of the Province in order to present and distribute its Careers Book which provides advice on careers, vocational training and employment opportunities in Gabon.

Safety First: why and for whom?

According to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the incidence of HIV/AIDS should be less than 1.2% in Gabon in 2015. However, in 2012, the incidence of this disease among the

general population of our country had reached 4.1%: 41,000 people were living with the HIV virus in Gabon. Moreover, the Demographic Health Investigation (EDS) revealed that to this day, the use of contraceptives represents only 31%. Consequently, 28% of the young women aged 15 to 19 had already become mothers at the time of the investigation. These worrying statistics show that the young people do not sufficiently protect themselves and that in general, the use of condoms remains insufficient.



Awareness act at Oyem.

This is why FSBO, in collaboration with the General Directorate for the Prevention

- 130 trained volunteers
- 18 awareness days
- 32,000 people reached by the campaign
- 82,000 condoms distributed



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of AIDS (GDPS) engaged in the Safety First campaign with three objectives: to increase young people's knowledge on the HIV/AIDS virus and on ways to protect themselves against it; to raise awareness about the use of condoms, which to this day, remains the only possible way for them to protect themselves and their future, and to distribute free condoms during this campaign. To this end, FSBO has created its own exclusive line of condoms, "You and me by FSBO", according to a colour scheme which reflects each of its initiatives.



FSBO volunteers at Mitzic.

An important awareness campaign carried out in the Estuaires and Woleu-Ntem regions

The Safety First campaign was carried out in Libreville and the Estuaire from the 11th March to the 26th April 2015. The program consisted of on-the-road awareness campaigns and Safety First Camps. In order to inform the youth regarding the risks they take by practicing unprotected sex, the Foundation volunteers trained by the DGPS, relentlessly visited the different neighbourhoods to initiate a dialogue with the youth on their home ground and

to distribute "You and Me" condoms.

As for the Safety First camps, they were set up over four Sundays on the beach in Libreville, with the objective of creating a fun-filled space, where shows, games and multiple activities centred around the chosen relevant themes took place alongside counselling and information stands. In parallel, FSBO has developed a wide-communication campaign aiming to mobilise as many young people as possible, but also to reach parents as well as health professionals working in schools.

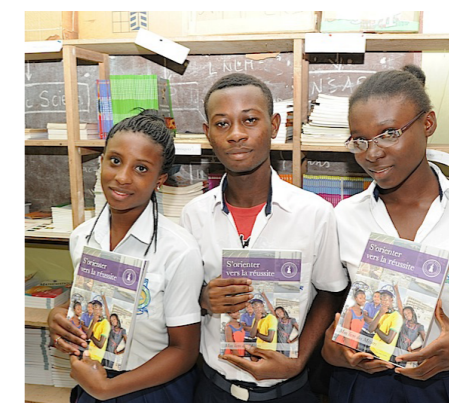
The Safety First travelling caravan then deployed its efforts across the Woleu-Ntem Region, one of Gabon's provinces where the HIV/AIDS incidence rate remains extremely high (7.2% according to the EDS 2012 report). All the way from Mitzic to Oyem travelling via Bitam, FSBO teams alternated awareness days and Safety First camps. Special attention was also given to local volunteer training; these volunteers will remain on the ground and continue to fulfil their

role as peer educators.

Training for success

During the same period, FSBO teams introduced the Careers Book into the various schools of the Province and provided the libraries of these schools with a number of copies for the use of students. The aim of this operation was to allow as many young people as possible to consult the book to help them identify careers in-keeping with their aspirations and skills, as well as relevant to the Gabonese job market. It was also an opportunity for FSBO to review the staff and the standard of both general equipment and IT hardware in the libraries visited.

- 10 000 books to be handed out
- 230 learning kits handed out
- 30 000 leaflets
- 27 000 students reached
- 36 schools visited



Assogho High School, Minvoul.



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The Careers Book presented to the students and teaching staff of the schools visited was very well received. By offering careers information, particularly in the sectors which can provide employment in our country, this book fills a need for careers advice to school leavers which up until now, was sorely needed.

The Careers Book can be obtained from the SBO Foundation, the National Office for Employment (ONE) in Libreville and in the Reading and Cultural Centre in Ntoum. It will be available in the very near future from various other institutions. Please note that the Careers Book can be downloaded free of charge from the Foundation website www.fondationsbo.org.

« I had the privilege to work with the Sylvia Bongo Ondimba Fondation and the NGO ABAA. It was my first time as a volunteer and I will do it again if I had the chance to. It is important to educate our own brothers and sisters, nobody wikk do it for us. »

Mercedes MEDZAGANE, 20 years old,
student
Moise Ekoghe High School



« This book let us know about all the different kinds of jobs existing in our country, so that we are able to make the right choice at the right moment. We are happy that the Sylvia Bongo Ondimba 's Fondation thinks about youth, even us living in the provinces. Thank you! »

NGOUA NZE Junior, Student, 25 years old



The FSBO team wishes you a great Holidays! Enjoy, and see you soon!

