



March  
2016 N° 10

Newsletter Fondation Sylvia Bongo Ondimba

## Summary



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## ÉDITO

*At the beginning of this new year, the President and her team at the Sylvia Bongo Ondimba Foundation for the Family join together to wish everyone a very happy New Year 2016. May hope and joy accompany us all throughout this coming year in our everyday lives, in our homes and in the projects close to our heart.*

### **Health and Education : two areas on the road to improvement and consolidation**

Since SBOF began its involvement in the fight against cancer in Gabon, much progress has been achieved both in terms of prevention and in patient care. The results of the feasibility study which launched last November to vaccinate young girls against the HPV virus and significantly reduce the incidence of this terrible disease were revealed during World Cancer Day. And it's good news!



*Colposcopy donation at the regional center of Franceville*

The vaccination of pre-pubescent girls would be well-accepted by the population. With adequate means in place, this vaccine will shortly be added to the list of vaccines compulsory in Gabon. And that's not all.

The Regional Hospital in Franceville received a colposcope from the hands of the SBOF President, Mrs Sylvia Bongo Ondimba.

This piece of equipment will enable this hospital centre to refine its results in terms of early diagnosis of cervical cancer.

As for the education of our children, we will not allow it to take a back seat. The Ozavino Incubator which is a recruitment pool for the prestigious Ozavino Scholarship will be "taking root" in Port-Gentil at the start of this year.



*Young students of the Pepinière's program of Port-Gentil*

The Careers' Handbook is now also revealed to the pupils of the Haut-Ogooué province. May they make good use of it by choosing a career suited to both their preference and the country's local needs.

### **A great gesture of solidarity towards our out-of-school or disadvantaged youth.**

The Foundation wishes not to leave out anyone by the side of the road to the harmonious and sustainable development of our country. Unattached youth, economically weak families and people living with reduced mobility find in the Foundation that little nudge they need to take off.



*The newly equipped dormitory of the Arc-en-ciel center*

This year, 34 young people who had dropped out of school will receive training which should lead to a job thanks to the support of the SBOF and its partners. The Foundation will also organise a donation of 500 pairs of "The Shoe that Grows" adjustable shoes intended for 500 children from economically disadvantaged families.

**Together with SBOF, we march on... ever better....ever further...**



Awareness campaign against female cancer

*Approximately one third of all cancers could be prevented and others can be cured if they are diagnosed and treated on time.*

**Ban Ki-Moon, 4th February 2016**

At the start of this year, SBOF has placed special importance on prevention within the scope of its “Action Against Cancer” programme. Coinciding with World Cancer Day, SBOF published the results of its study on the various conditions required for the establishment of an HPV vaccination programme for young women in our country; this study was initiated in November 2015. Amissa Bongo Regional Hospital in Franceville also received a colposcope from the President.

#### World Cancer Day: Prevention above all.

According to figures published by the World Health Organisation, cancer remains the first cause of death across the world. In Southern countries, this terrible

illness is fatal in 70% of cases.

In Gabon, feminine cancers are the most destructive, the number one killer being cervical cancer.

In order to prevent and control cervical cancer, WHO recommends including the systematic vaccination of young girls aged 9 to 14 against HPV within national programmes set up to fight the illness.

A feasibility study including research on relevance and acceptance of such a programme in our country was therefore initiated by SBOF in collaboration with AMSPEV (Moroccan Association for Public and Environmental Health) last November.

The results of this study were revealed at the Military Hospital to mark World Cancer Day on 4th February 2016; they are extremely encouraging.

Since all studies relating to the impact of vaccination of young girls shows a very

significant reduction of the risk of cervical cancer, almost 90% of parents have come out in favour of vaccination.

Moreover, through careful management of a wider vaccination programme, and providing adequate human, material and financial resources to meet the needs of the programme, it is perfectly possible to set up a national anti-HPV vaccination strategy across the Republic of Gabon.

**90%** of parents in favor of vaccination

## ➤ Continuation

**S**upported detection and prevention programme, this strategy would naturally coincide with the worldwide strategy concerned with the health of women, children and youth launched in September 2015

### Early detection: better and further...

The new unity of detection of the Amissa Bongo regional hospital presents a colposcope. This device is used for cervical examinations, enabling the detection of pre-cancerous lesions and therefore faster treatment.

8 patient suspected of presenting pre-cancerous lesions during this campaign were examined using the colposcopy in order to confirm the diagnosis.

One of them was able to undergo a resection, i.e. the removal of affected cells. Without this intervention, these lesions would have developed into cancer.

The regional hospital in Franceville is equipped with an early detection unit as well as personnel trained to run it. It launched its screening activity during the 2015 « Pink October » campaign. It is also planned for the Port-Gentil unit to be equipped with a colposcopy to reinforce the early detection set-up already in place.



*The President of the SBOF meeting with women of Franceville*

### A deontological and scientific committee



*The scientific steering committee's headed by the President of the Foundation*

On the 3rd of March, the SBOF for the Family was pleased to undertake its first deontological and scientific committee for cancers, within his premises. Run along by her President, this committee counted the greatest health experts of the country.

They will be helping by providing their expertise the different actions and advocacies run out by the Foundation.

On the agenda of this committee, a presentation of the various actions engaged throughout the “Act against Cancer” program, so that perspectives about the development of actions concerning female cancers can be defined.

“Alone, we go faster. Together we go further!”



*The Careers' Handbook Tour within the Haut-Ogooué*

**A**t the heart of SBOF's concerns lie the country's youth and its future.

At the start of the year, all projects targeted towards our young people wishing to complete their training and find a job were met with great enthusiasm in three of the country's regions. The Ozavino Hothouse programme is being set up in Port-Gentil and the Careers' Handbook has been widely distributed across the schools of the Haut-Ogooué Region.

### Opening of an Ozavino Hothouse in Port-Gentil

From the 3rd to the 8th February last, SBOF Vice-President, Mme Mensah went out on a mission to set up the Ozavino Hothouse in the country's economic capital.

In direct link with the Ozavino Scholarship programme, the Hothouse is aimed at the very best pupils in the Gabonese system: it offers close support from 7th grade students in order to encourage pupils and facilitate their application to the Ozavino Scholarship which is extremely selective.

In Port-Gentil, Mme Mensah had mee

tings with the various actors of the programme.

Mme Mensah programme and her team also visited local schools in order to promote the Ozavino Scholarship and the Hothouse; 10 pupils were admitted to the Ozavino Incubator programme which is already operational in Libreville.

### Distribution of the Careers' Handbook across the Haut-Ogooué and Nyanga Region

The SBOF team in charge of the "Education" project visited the various schools of the Haut-Ogooué region from the 21st to the 25th February 2016 to present and distribute the Careers' Handbook.

This book is receiving unanimous praise and is designed for secondary school pupils: it informs them of existing careers as well of the various training programs leading to employment opportunities in Gabon.

From Okondja and Akiéni to Moanda, as well as across the major schools of the regional capital, the SBOF team presented

the book and practical guide to pupils representing classes from 9th grade to 12th grade students in each of the schools visited.

This mission also enabled the SBOF team to familiarise pupils of this region with the Ozavino Hothouse.

No less than 1068 copies of the Careers' Handbook, 41 practical guides and 98 Careers' Handbook USB devices were distributed in the Haut-Ogooué. End of March, the team also went to the high schools of Tchibanga, Moabi and Mayumba, where 300 of those books have been distributed.

**1368** Copies of the  
Careers Handbook

**41** Practical Guides



# Initiatives For Young People

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## PEPINIERE PORT-GENTIL 2015-2016



Yves



Daisy



Mike



Nick



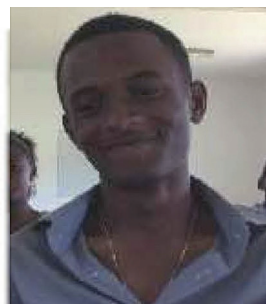
Yolène



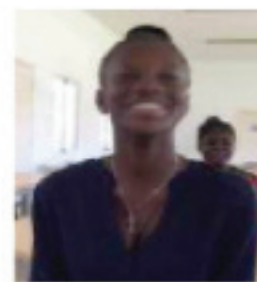
Roger - Sorelle



Clarine



Rodney



Julick - Darleine



New dormitory for the young boarders of Arc-en-Ciel

Among the many actions of solidarity led by SBOF since it was created, an essential place is given to supporting young people who have either dropped out of the school system or are experiencing great social difficulties: this year, 34 young people will receive vocational training thanks to the SBOF Unqualified Youth Social Insertion Scheme.

Since 2014, SBOF has been supporting vulnerable young people who have dropped out of the school system, in order for them to access training which will qualify them for a job.

When they have completed this vocational training they are awarded a diploma or professional certificate.

Nine young people have already benefited from this project which is part of the Youth out of School Reinsertion Scheme.

This year, SBOF has wanted to award 34 of these young people an opportunity to be trained in a skill and thus to contribute to their professional reinsertion.

In order to optimise chances of success, the training schemes which these 34 young people are a part of focus primarily on three main issues: on developing their skills, on the multi-faceted support which the Foundation and its various partners can provide, and finally on the supervision missions conducted by SFBO and its collaborators.

## TESTIMONY



Andy, 23 Butler

« For 2 years, i was taking classes in accounting and management, but I could not reach the request objectives. So, with this training, wich I consider as a second chance, I hope to have a new start. Iwill be useful, and avoid idleness ».



Nanette, 32, Governess

« It has been 2 years now that I have been looking for a job, having a background of archivist. I never thought of being trained as a governess. My mother told me about it. After my training, I will open my own agency, and I will at my turn, form other women who are in the situation I was ».



# Initiatives for Solidarity

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## A new dormitory for boarders at the Arc-En-Ciel home

The SBOF for the family is continuing with his engagement in favour of the youngsters and street kids living in the Arc-En-Ciel home.

On March, this orphanage received a large equipment donation for its dormitory.

Today, about 200 street kids are beneficiaries of the Foundation, throughout food pro-

urement, social and educative activities and leisure.

Sister Clarisse, who is in charge of those kids says about this help that “ Kids really feel considered thanks to this donation’.



Beneficiaries of the program for youth reinsertion

## TESTIMONY

Junior, 11, living at Arc-en-Ciel for 2 years

*«I feel good here. Thank you for the help. From now on, I will have pleasant nights».*



Stevy, 15, living at Arc-en-Ciel for 1 year



*«Before, we used to have old wood beds, which were shaking in all directions. Today, the Foundation has granted us with iron beds. Thank you for everything you are doing for us».*

