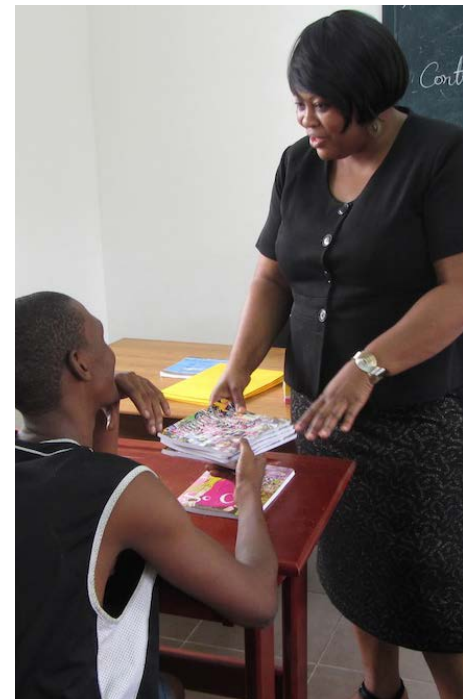


Summary



- 1. EDITO**
Together with FSBO, let's build the Gabon of our dreams !
- 2. PINK OCTOBER**
Maximum mobilisation for an ambitious objective
"Pink October", a matter for each and every one of us
- 3. PINK OCTOBER suite**
The First Lady launches "Pink October" in the Provinces
Encouraging results
And reaching even further...
- 4. OZAVINO SCHOLARSHIP AND THE CAREERS HANDBOOK**
A scholarship designed to support the best pupils
- 5. OZAVINO SCHOLARSHIP AND THE CAREERS HANDBOOK suite**
A precious adjuvant for a successful career choice
- 6. SOLIDARITY PRISON**
A country holiday at Libreville Prison...
...Before returning back to school
- 7. SOLIDARITY HANDICAP**
2015: The year of continuity
Training first and foremost



The FSBO's founder surrounded with the medical team of Gamba

Each to his own job and a job for each and every one

The 6 recipients of the OZAVINO scholarship have returned to their studies with determination and enthusiasm: four have started in French "Grandes Ecoles", two have chosen a university curriculum, one in Canada, the other in Morocco. FSBO will support these bright students throughout their course in order to ensure that their projects, both professional and personal, come to fruition. FSBO also used the beginning of the academic year as an opportunity to deploy its "Careers Handbook" project widely, reaching out to the Province of Ngounié to distribute copies of the handbook in schools and the public library in Mouila. Designed to offer school-leavers a wide array of careers on offer in Gabon and to guide them in accordance to the needs of the job market, the careers handbook is receiving a unanimous response. Pupils, educators and teachers, parents, everyone recognises this tool as being central to the professional and social integration of our youth.

Edito

It's back to school! Whilst the trees are turning green again under the first rain of the season and pupils are heading back to school, FSBO is doubling its efforts to steer its projects to their conclusion. Whether they be dedicated to women in their fight to preserve their health and fight for the integrity of their family, to the young in the pursuit of their dreams, or to those made frail by the wounds dealt them by life, FSBO intends to bring them to their conclusion with help from everyone to achieve a better life together in our country.

In October, pink is our colour!

For the second year running, FSBO returned after the summer under the colours of "Pink October", a worldwide awareness and early screening campaign against feminine cancers. From 3 October to 13 November, "Pink October" mobilised many public figures to stand alongside FSBO: healthcare personnel and management, communications people, FSBO volunteers, companies and institutions, came together to talk about cancer, to incite women to come forward and be screened. Initially launched in the Province of Estuaire in 2014, under the guidance of the First Lady, also FSBO President, the screening campaign has spread to 3 new healthcare regions: Ogooué-Maritime, Haut-Ogooué and Woleu-Ntem. The results of the second edition of "Pink October" speak for themselves: almost five times more people were made aware of the issues linked to feminine cancers than in 2014 and approximately three times more women visited healthcare centers as part of the screening programme than last year. But although the concept of "Pink October" is already impacting the Gabonese population, it is important to remain vigilant going forward. Cancer is not a fatal disease; caught and treated early, it is an illness like any other.

Solidarity from all sides

It was back to school also at the Central Prison in Libreville ! On 19 October, the 51 pupils of the Second Chance school also opened their books to build themselves a better future. FSBO wishes to leave no-one by the side of the road. We have opened three classrooms at the Central Prison in order to improve the level of education of incarcerated minors and help to increase their chances of social reinsertion. Let's hope these young people will regain the taste for effort we all need to blossom as individuals and to succeed professionally. Finally, in the context of its programme "Handicap", FSBO helps people living with a motor disability to find their place in society; it has provided the maintenance workshop with 2 new technicians, specifically trained to maintain mobility equipment. This is a great asset for the happy recipients of the facility as they depend on their equipment to go freely about their business.

Together with FSBO, let's build the Gabon of our dreams !



Action Against Cancer

December
2015 N°9

Newsletter Sylvia Bongo Ondimba Foundation



Women of Port-Gentil displaying the #gabonrose (#forapinkgabon)

For the second year in a row in Gabon, and as part of its "Action against Cancer Programme", the SBO Foundation for the Family would like to develop and strengthen the concept of 'Pink October' with the collaboration of the Ministry of Health. But what does 'Pink October' mean? For the last 22 years, it has been the month of a worldwide drive for increasing awareness of feminine cancers. For the duration of this 'pink' month, events are organised in order to make people understand, talk about and mobilise against cancer. This year, the main objective of the FSBO through this fight which is so close to its heart, is to bring awareness to our people of the importance of early screening of breast and cervical cancers. It was also important for the FSBO to support healthcare workers in advising and caring for their patients. From 9th October to 13th November this year, an information and awareness campaign was rolled out first across the Province of Estuaire, and then across 3 new health regions: Ogooué-Maritime, Haut-Ogooué and Woleu-Ntem.

Maximum mobilisation for an ambitious objective

Designed to incite 10,000 women to report to the different healthcare centers for screening, the 'Pink October' 2015 campaign involved 47 healthcare centers across 4 chosen Provinces: Estuaire, Ogooué-Maritime, Haut-Ogooué and Woleu-Ntem. This campaign also mobilised the National Anti-Cancer Programme team (PNLC), 180 healthcare personnel and 10 accompanying staff and FSBO personnel. All of these highly motivated people took over from each other to convince women of the importance of detecting cancerous lesions early, insisting heavily on the cost-free nature of the process.

It has to be said that this year, the various centers took upon themselves to call on the women of their area, a sign of strong commitment on the part of healthcare staff; this led to massive participation on the part of women. New screening units were even set up, such as the one located at the Regional Hospital of Lambaréné, or others located at the Central Prison in Libreville, or at the Military Unit in Baraka.

"Pink October", a matter for each and every one of us

A media storm on a national scale supported the SFBO through this challenge: TV spots and televised debates, mobile apps on social networks, a photo story which ran in the ladies' magazine 'On Dit Quoi ?', a phone texting campaign: No opportunity was missed for talking about cancer, for providing information and mobilising the population. In Libreville, a caravan designed to provide awareness went from street to street across the capital. Close

to 50,000 information flyers, 10,000 bracelets and tee shirts and 600 caps were distributed at key locations of this campaign. In order to facilitate dialogue and lift taboos still surrounding this illness, a freephone number was set up, freephone 1455.

And so that no-one could say they didn't know, Libreville was dressed in pink throughout the month of October: Highway billboards proudly showed off their pink banner which read "Feminine cancer, speak about it to the women you love", and over 300 pink posters reminded everyone that cancer is an illness like any other: discovered and treated in time, it does not inevitably lead to death. Different actors from civil society such as from companies or certain institutions, rallied to the cause by allowing their female employees to be screened during working hours. More generally, the 2015 'Pink October' campaign was aimed at creating an impact on people's minds, to familiarise them with the concept and provoke a nationwide mobilisation against cancer.



Dr N. Ambounda raising awareness about cancer to the women of Port-Gentil



Action Against Cancer

December
2015 N°9

Newsletter Sylvia Bongo Ondimba Foundation



Women getting aware of the the early screenings about feminine cancers



Awareness campaign at Oyem



The Airtel team, mobilized for the the pink october campaign



The First Lady launches 'Pink October' in the Provinces

From 14th to 16th October, the First Lady of our country was the highlight of the 'Pink October' campaign in the Province of Ogooué-Maritime. In a direct and convivial dialogue with local women and with healthcare staff, she proved her commitment for the cause of women's health as well as her desire to promote their wellbeing. I have first and foremost come here to listen to what you have to say in order to better understand your worries and your everyday needs". she declared when she first arrived.

In Port-Gentil, surrounded by FSBO volunteers, Mrs. Bongo Ondimba actively participated in the awareness campaign which targeted women and was organised on the location of the largest market of the business capital. She then went to the Military Center and diagnostic unit of the Regional Hospital Center in Port-Gentil, and finally to the Military Centers in Gamba and Ombooué. At every stage, the First Lady reminded everyone of FSBO's commitment in treating cancer through its Alice House facility. Whilst finding out about everyone's difficulties, particularly those of women waiting to be screened, the First Lady encouraged and congratulated medical staff members for the enthusiasm they displayed during this second edition of 'Pink October'.

In the Province of Haut-Ogooué, the campaign was launched on the 21st October : following a two-day awareness drive, the Franceville Regional Hospital Center (CHR) screening unit began its screening activities with the support of

the Direction Cancer Prevention and the FSBO team. These activities began progressively within medical centers starting on 26th October.

In Woleu-Ntem, the awareness phase took place in Oyem from 26th to 28th October ; however, screening activities at the CHR with support from the Direction Cancer Prevention, from the CHU in Angondjé and from FSBO, began on the 27th October.

In all military and regional hospitals, screening exams continue to take place ; mobilisation month might be over, but screening carries on.

Encouraging results

On 13th November, a ceremony which took place at the Cancer Institute in Libreville brought the 2015 edition of 'Pink October' to a close. FSBO was keen to thank all who had participated in this campaign : Healthcare staff and management, volunteers, the media. FSBO also unveiled the first results. The 2015 edition of 'Pink October' turned out to be a roaring success going by the figures published :

+ 8500 women were screened,
77 000 people were made
Freephone 1455 was dialed
57 500 times

And reaching even further...

FSBO wanted to present its feasibility and acceptability study for HPV vaccination. In order to significantly reduce mortality rates (still far too high) linked to cervical cancer in our country, it appears necessary to resort to HPV vaccination : the target population would be girls aged between 9 and 13 before they become sexually active. To this end, FSBO has set up a partnership convention with the Moroccan Public and Environmental Health Association (AMSPV) with the aim of conducting an acceptability and feasibility study of HPV vaccination in our country with Gabonese specialists: a sample population taken from Gabonese schoolgirls and their parents will enable a more effective set-up for HPV vaccination in Gabon.

And to complete the effort, the FSBO team is on calling everyone to participate in the upcoming Libreville marathon on 29th November 2015. Let's get our trainers, tee shirts and pink baseball caps ready so that the 2015 edition of 'Pink October' may come to a close in the elation of this sports event, a source of joy and shared happiness.



Marie



Adeline



Mirinda



Jowill



Julie



Luc

Since the very start, the SBO Foundation for the Family has placed Gabonese youth at the very heart of its action. Fully aware that it constitutes the pillar of its development, the SBO Foundation for the Family conceived and launched two separate projects aimed at contributing to the future of our young people. Since 2012, the Ozavino Excellence Scholarship has enabled Gabonese youngsters who distinguish themselves through their ambition, on both a personal and a community level, as well as through the excellence of their academic achievements, to access renowned universities relevant to their professional ambitions and intellectual ability. This year, FSBO is reiterating its support for young people through the national launch of a careers handbook entitled *Striving for Success*. It is a work destined to inform school pupils about existing careers, as well as about the various training schemes available which correspond to job opportunities across Gabon.

A scholarship designed to support the best pupils

Thanks to the Ozavino Scholarship, 13 young Gabonese students are currently pursuing their dream studies in total serenity. Aiming to encourage the most talented students, the Ozavino programme selects candidates according to extremely rigorous criteria, looking at both academic ability and leadership skills. This year, 6 of them have received this prestigious award. Marie, Adeline, Miranda and Jowill have gone to Grandes Ecoles in France; Julie was awarded a place at the Mohamed VI University of Casablanca; Luc, for his part, chose the University of Toronto.

In an effort to personally follow the recipients, the FSBO Vice-President was in France from the 1st to the 8th September this year. This mission was meant not only to offer quality support to young Miranda who is not yet 18 and had just started at INSA in Lyon, but also to encourage 3 other 'newcomers' as well as

the recipients from previous years to continue to excel in their studies and to express their leadership skills and the FSBO values they hold dear. It was also an opportunity to reinforce the relationship of trust and to set up an assistance and tutorial network between the scholars, and encourage their involvement in FSBO's various actions.

On top of that, our recipients living in France got offered a nice surprise! They had the chance to exchange in an informal manner with the First Lady of Gabon, during one of her official trips. Mrs Sylvia Bongo Ondimba has been seduced with their innovative ideas, as much as the enthusiasm they have when sharing their aspirations. She then offered few advices, and was delighted by the fact that beyond their differences, they share the same dream: give and bring their part with excellency to the development of Gabon, on the national and international scenes.



Blanche, Terminale A1, Lycée Jean-Jacques BOUCAVEL, Mouila

« I find this initiative very good. I remember having seen the TV ad on television. Last year, there were a few problems with choosing career paths. With this book, I think it's going to get better, and I am sure we are going to make good decisions thanks to this careers handbook. »



**Tiburce MAMADOU MOUGONGOU
Headmaster of the Mouila Academy**

« This initiative has come at the right time to support the staff, I am thinking of the Administrative Councilor; I am thinking of the teachers. I believe the Careers Handbook will support the pupils in their learning. Since this handbook's objective is to help pupils find appropriate jobs, I believe it is a very, very good initiative. »

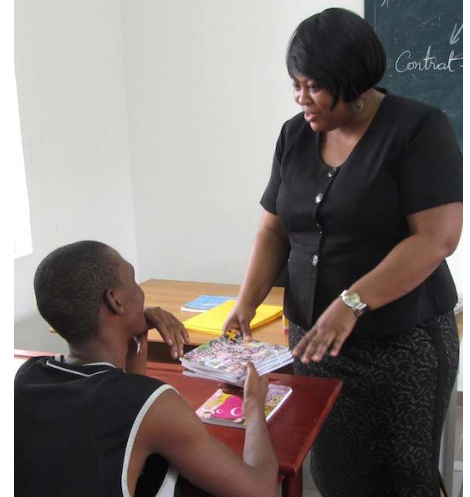
A precious adjuvant for a successful career choice

Initiated last May in the Province of Woleu-Ntem in parallel with the Safety First campaign, the distribution caravan for the Striving for Success careers handbook travels on. First in Estuaire, then throughout Ogooué-Maritime, Moyen-Ogooué and Ngounié, its objective is to make this 250 page book available in the libraries of the different high-schools visited, as well as in public libraries, with an average of 50 copies per school. This project, close to the heart of FSBO, was born of several realisations: in our country, 30% of youngsters are out of work, whilst 2,500 jobs remain unprovided for each year. This paradox is worsened by the fact that pupils who are finishing high-school have great difficulty in making the right decisions when it comes to choosing a career path, mostly through lack of information. As for the educators, i.e. parents and teachers, they have access to few tools to help them advise our youth wisely, particularly when it comes to statistics relating to the specific needs of our country in terms of employment.

Faced with the great distress of having to witness massive failure among poorly-advised students, or students whose qualifications will not lead to employment, FSBO, through Striving for Success, offers a vast catalog of existing careers in order to inform school-leavers about jobs and training schemes which match employment opportunities in Gabon. Beyond its informative function, this book establishes the necessary link between the world of education and the world of employment. After Estuaire, Woleu-Ntem, Ogooué-Maritime and Moyen-Ogooué, the caravan made its way to the Province of Ngounié where it visited 11 schools, both public and private, dispensing either general or vocational education, and the library of Mouila. 612 copies of the careers handbook were distributed, taking the total number of books distributed to date to over 6,000. The handbook was very well received. The headmasters particularly appreciated the FSBO initiative of coming into direct contact with the teaching staff in order to involve them closely with the project, in full recognition of their role: to help the students use the handbook in an optimal and efficient manner. In due course, the project should spread to the entire country and be enriched with new tools.



Students from the MODJECKOU College discover the Career Book



Back to school at the Libreville Prison

For the past 4 years and in partnership with the Arc-en-Ciel Association, FSBO has made a commitment to guaranteeing that the right to education of minors in conflict with the law be respected with the aim of achieving their social reinsertion. The education program initiated in 2011 was favorably received by both beneficiaries and penitentiary staff. It offers varied activities such as literacy, learning support, road safety awareness and concentrates on both social and professional reinsertion. This programme also provides diploma courses in small scale agriculture and first aid, as well as art initiation workshops for painting or sculpting. To this day, it has enabled 287 teenagers living in in detention to actively prepare their return to their family and their reintegration into the community.

A country holiday at Libreville Prison...

During the school holiday, 20 incarcerated minors were trained in the techniques of garden agriculture by the Gabonese Institute for Support and Development

in the context of a partnership agreement signed on 20th May this year between this institution and the SBO Foundation for the Family. This was a course which they could graduate from with a diploma; it was of course aimed at combating boredom and the lack of activity in the prison environment, but it was mostly designed to encourage the professional reinsertion of the teenagers at the end of their prison term .

Preparatory meetings for the course which was placed under the responsibility of the prison Social Services enabled a list of 25 people which would be selected for this course to be drawn up; they included 23 teenagers and 2 adults. Furthermore, the SBO Foundation for the Family organised an interview with each of the candidates before the beginning of the course. As per the terms of the Agreement, FSBO financed all agricultural tools and materials necessary to their studies.

Two different training modules were offered:

- the Initiation to Garden Agriculture, alternating theory and practice; its objective is to impart basic notions and techniques necessary in this area: preparing crop beds and nurseries, sowing and re-embedding techniques, crop maintenance and protection.

- The specialisation module, targeting more the different technical pathways specific to each crop type.

The course ended with a round table reflexion on the theme of 'rotating crops and simplified management of a garden agricultural operation.' Finally, a ceremony which was graced by the presence of representatives from the Central Prison in Libreville and SFBO was the setting for the students to receive their certificates.

Thanks to this training session, the Central Prison in Libreville now has its own vegetable garden and 20 gardeners able to produce and care for a great variety of different food crops which are greatly appreciated in our country.

...Before returning back to school

As for the 2014-2015 school year, the 51 pupils of the Central Prison in Libreville were back in their classrooms by the 19th October. In order to better respond to the needs of the teenage prisoners whose formal education level is very low, three classes were opened in 2014 within the prison: class A corresponding to beginners in reading and writing; class B corresponding to primary school level and to the first 2 years of secondary school; and CD open to students of 3rd, 4th and 5th years of secondary school.

Currently, this school which is a second chance for the teenagers is divided into two classrooms and one meeting room which were entirely refurbished by the SBO Foundation for the Family.



School equipment for the prison



Beneficiaries of the Handicap Workshop

Within the scope of its Initiatives for Solidarity, SFBO launched the Solidarity Handicap project from the time the Foundation was founded. In order to contribute to the social integration of those made vulnerable through motor disability, FSBO delivers mobility equipment in the shape of manual and electric wheelchairs, junior wheelchairs, scooters and walking frames. Between 2011 and 2015, 767 different pieces of equipment were distributed across the entire territory of Gabon. In order to ensure that this project continues, a maintenance and repair workshop for rolling equipment was set up in Libreville as early as 2010 and a number of maintenance missions were conducted across different country locations inland.

2015: The year of continuity

FSBO's commitment to people living with disability is carrying on from previous years. Last term, 8 emergency cases received the last of the 2014 funds; for instance, on the 2nd October, little Betty-Flore, 13, tried out her junior wheelchair for the first time when it replaced her old one which had been uncomfortable and far too big for her years. This very bright pupil of troisième welcomed the newly-found freedom she was given by SFBO in very moving terms: "I will be able to go to the shower and above all, get about."

In terms of the maintenance workshop, FSBO is concentrating its efforts on two objectives: to train new technicians for the maintenance and repair of the distributed equipment, and to support the transfer of the Handicap workshop to the Gabonese Red Cross (CRG) through a number of different activities and fund-raising. This workshop has in fact already been moved once to come under the CRG umbrella after a partnership agreement was signed.

Training first and foremost

As recommended by INVACARE, FSBO contributing partner, two of the Handicap workshop technicians were trained by INVACARE in Tours, France, from 2nd to 6th November 2015. These 2 resources were picked according to precise criteria: their knowledge of mechanics and IT, and their personal qualities of approachability and patience which reveal their true sensitivity to the plight of people living with a motor disability. Candidates also had to demonstrate

volunteering experience and their work with charitable organisations.

Thierry MABICKA was chosen for the post of Technician and mechanic. 39 years old, this member of the Disabled Association of Ogooué-Maritime and of the Handisport Federation of Gabon built up his experience in repairs and maintenance of rolling equipment in Port-Gentil. Alexandre Robert SOMAND MAYILA was for his part, hired in the role of technician and IT specialist. 33 years old, he has been assisting the Red Cross in Ogooué-Maritime for the past 4 years. These two technicians were trained to acquire highly specific skill sets such as understanding rolling equipment or the software used to locate spare parts, identifying the cause of breakdowns, learning to take the equipment apart, to reassemble motors as well as to tune-up and adjust the equipment. As soon as they got back, the 2 newly-trained technicians underwent practical training from 9th to 27th November within the Handicap workshop of Libreville under the supervision of two experienced technicians. They were able to become acquainted with the equipment, put into practice what they had learnt in terms of diagnosing issues, of up-keep and maintenance of the equipment brought in by users and to assemble new items received.



Betty, young beneficiary