EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROJECT IN MEKI, ETHIOPIA (SINCE 2011)

SOME FIGURES

- 102,901 pediatric consultations performed at the Let Children Have Health Clinic in Meki (500 attended at the Nutrition Unit)
- 8,511 patients admitted for long and short stays
- 46 orphans living at the "Let Children Have Home" Orphanage and 25 children attending the "Let Children Have Care" Day Care Centre in 2017
- 205 orphans and their families (1,200 beneficiaries) followed up in the 'Orphan and Vulnerable Children Program' (OVC) in 2017

In Ethiopia, there are an estimated five and a half million orphans, among which almost one million have lost their parents because of AIDS. Meki is a town in east-central Ethiopia, located 130 km south of Adis Abeba, within the Oromia Region.

ORPHANAGE AND OVC PROGRAM

In 2011, the Pablo Horstmann Foundation took over the "Let Children Have Home" project in Meki. This project aims to offer a real home and an integral quality education to 46 orphans at a foster home, as well as giving support to other 205 external orphans in foster care, through the OVC Program (Orphan and Vulnerable Children).

The OVC program supports orphans and foster families according to their individual needs. A team of two social workers and a coordinator helps these families and monitors the progress of the children in school. In addition to clothing, food and hygiene products, medical examinations for the orphans are carried out every six months at the Pablo Horstmann Clinic "Let Children Have Health".

THE PABLO HORSTMANN CLINIC “LET CHILDREN HAVE HEALTH”

This clinic was inaugurated in 2012 to serve not only the children of the orphanage, but the entire population of children and youth in the region, where at the point of our arrival, the infant mortality rate in children under 5 years was 17.9%. In these years of existence, the clinic has gone from offering basic assistance in outpatient consultations to becoming a reference center for severe malnutrition treatment and inpatients admittance in the region. Since 2019, the clinic has expanded to include a Maternity Ward with an antenatal and postnatal care unit with a delivery room.

The clinic is managed by local staff and a Spanish health team that come to Meki yearly to assist patients, conduct specialized medical campaigns and continuously train the local staff in order to improve the quality of care. Among its units, the clinic counts with: Neonatal Care Unit, Nutritional Unit, Physiotherapy Unit, HIV and Tuberculosis Units and a multipurpose area to carry out yearly subspecialty campaigns (cardiology, otorhinolaryngology, dermatology and dental) which did not exist in the region before.

In recognition of our good practices, the Ethiopian Health Authorities granted our clinic the title of “Specialized Pediatric Clinic.”
The Pablo Horstmann Foundation was created 2007 in memory of Pablo, with the aim of improving quality of life and assist the most needy, especially by covering the basic needs of children and young people. Our activity focuses on the achievement of the following fundamental sustainable goals: cooperation for the development of quality health in particularly disadvantaged areas in developing countries, support, education and social promotion for the most unprotected sectors of society and promotion and training of volunteers. These are some of our most important projects:

**ANIDAN PABLO HORSTMANN PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL IN LAMU, KENYA (SINCE 2007)**

**SOME FIGURES**
- 121,355 pediatric consultations performed at the Hospital
- 4,400 patients admitted for long and short stays
- 7,600 subspecialty assistances made in medical campaigns

*Lamu, an archipelago located on the north-eastern coast of Kenya, suffers from a particularly precarious health situation due to its rural environment and the lack of health care provision.* Additionally, it faces a high rate of tropical diseases and a difficult access to existing health centres for the population living in remote islands.

Since the inauguration of the hospital, more than 120,000 patients have been attended, including more than 12,000 children assisted out of the premises, by outreach health visits or medical camps. These outreachs were carried out by ambulance boat.

The health authorities acknowledge that, in its 11 years of activity, the hospital has already effectively contributed to the reduction of infant mortality in the district, which has dropped from 12% to 7.6%. UNICEF considers our hospital an approved centre for the distribution of nutritional aid.

Currently there are patients overcoming distances of up to 800 kilometres to seek our services, as the Hospital has become the reference hospital in the district. Our main activities are carried out in the following units: Nutrition Unit, Vaccination Unit, HIV Unit and Cardiology Unit.

**ANNUAL MEDICAL-SURGICAL SUBSPECIALTY CAMPAIGNS AND TRAINING OF LOCAL HEALTH PERSONNEL**

Campaigns are carried out by Spanish doctors on certain subspecialties the hospital cannot provide to its patients on an on-going basis. These are gynecological, dermatological, general surgery, pediatric surgery, dental and reconstructive surgery and are implemented in collaboration with the County Hospital in Lamu in order to improve health services and health care, and above all, contribute to the training of local health professionals.
NURSERY SCHOOLS AND MOBILE CLINIC IN TURKANA, KENYA (SINCE 2007)

SOME FIGURES

- Around 1945 children attended our nursery schools, also called nutrition centres, in 2017.
- They are regularly checked by the mobile clinic team
- 24 local teachers where trained by professional volunteers

NURSERY SCHOOLS

Turkana is a semi-desert area with a malnutrition rate of 27%, where only 17% of the population is literate.
The Pablo Horstmann Foundation supports 12 nursery schools, also called nutritional centres, run by the Social Missionary Sisters of the Church, with the aim of improving the poor living conditions of almost 2,000 infants under 7 years, that live in this poor, primitive and neglected region, by fighting against malnutrition and promoting their education.
Children attending the schools are provided with two daily meals, clothing, education and basic health coverage.
On a yearly basis, a Spanish team formed by 3 to 4 teachers and a nutritionist, conduct a training course for the local teachers, teaching on health and educational issues, which in turn benefits the whole community.
These nursery schools have now become drivers of progress and development within the Turkana villages, as the children learn English and suajili, the two official languages in Kenia, which are necessary to get access to the public education system. Since the existance of these schools, the schooling rate in Turkana has risen from 17% to 60%, encouraging the Kenian government to open primary schools in the area.

MOBILE CLINIC IN LOKITAUNG, TURKANA

With this mobile clinic, every 2-3 weeks, a specialized sanitary team checks the overall health and nutritional condition of all the children attending the nursery schools, all of which did not have any health care attention before.
In 2017, these checks consisted of basic sanitary attention, deworming and multivitamin provision, malnutrition treatment as well as treatment for diseases like malaria, gastroenteritis and trachoma.
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

SOME FIGURES

- 48 professionals (doctors and teachers) volunteered in Kenya and Ethiopia in 2017
- 169 university students volunteered in hospitals in Madrid in 2017 through the Children’s Entertainment Program, distracting children from their illness situation and giving their parents a break.

PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERING IN KENYA AND ETHIOPIA

None of our projects could be carried out without the generosity and commitment of all the professionals that offer their time and knowledge to the different services provided. At our hospitals, we receive support from medical specialists, surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists and laboratory technicians. The orphanage, the OVC programme and nursery schools, receive support from voluntary teachers, specially in subjects like English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Their principal aim is the training of the local staff when new projects are starting and to improve the quality of the assistance and education provided.

The Pablo Horstmann Foundation is constantly calling for international medical and educational volunteers through its website.

UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The “Children Entertainment Program” offers student volunteers the possibility to accompany children admitted in hospitals in Madrid, in order to relieve their parents. 169 University Students took part in this program in Madrid in 2017.

The Pablo Horstmann Foundation also offers volunteer positions for young students to cover specific needs in the administration, organization and communication areas at the head office in Madrid.

Volunteers who spend a year or more in this programme have the possibility to visit our projects in Africa and do summer field work.

The foundation was awarded the 2019 UNICEF Transforma Prize for improving maternal and child health, reducing infant mortality and promoting access to health care for women in Meki, Ethiopia.

CONTACT US IN BERLIN

Monika Horstmann • +49 01606216593 • monika.horstmann@fundacionpablo.org

DONATIONS

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Camino del Sur, 50 - 28109 Alcobendas - Madrid, Spain • +34 91 6501973 • info@fundacionpablo.org

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