

December, 2016

Families, Partners, Sponsors and Friends greetings from the SHAHICA team, particularly from Raphia Noumbissi who just returned from 3 weeks long outreach.

Raphia was in Fouban from December 2nd 2016 till December 26th 2016. There she joined forces with SHAHICA team from the Cameroon side, other volunteers including medical professionals, student and cultural organizations.



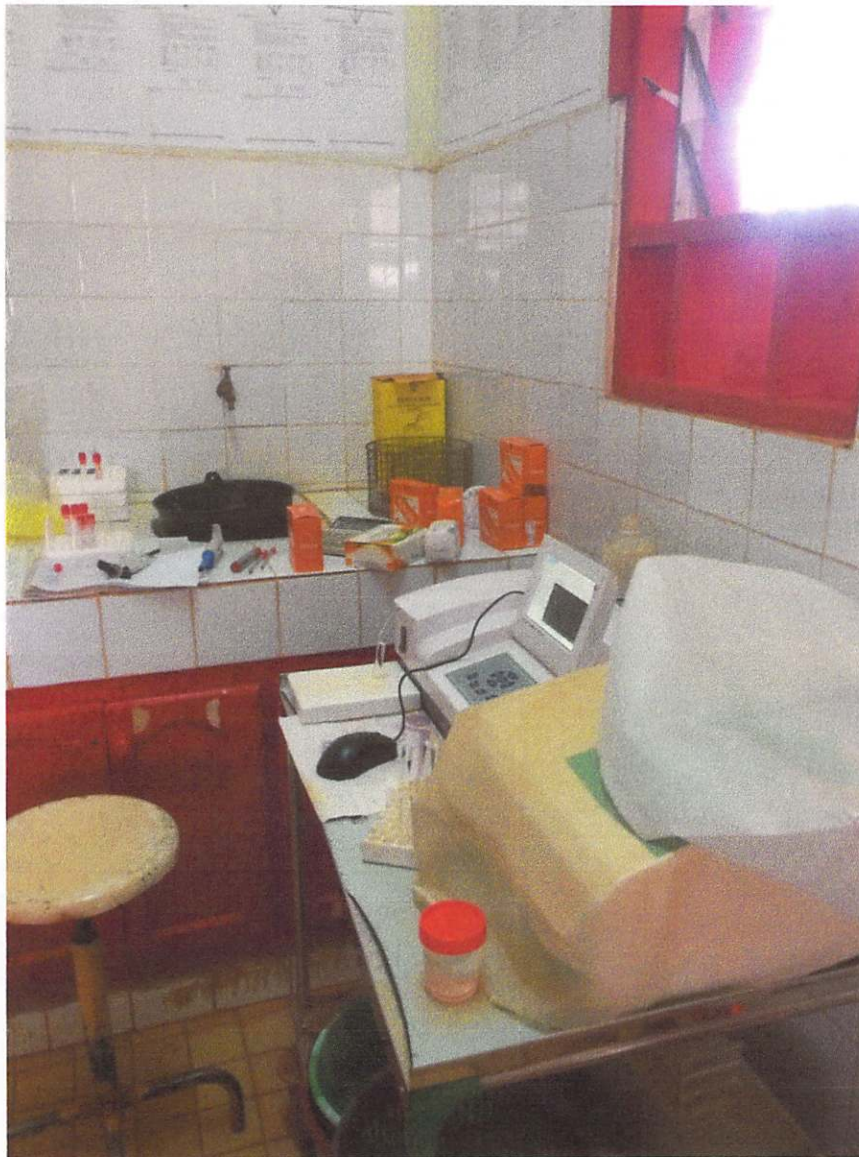
SHAHICA youth team!!

We focused on the following areas this year:

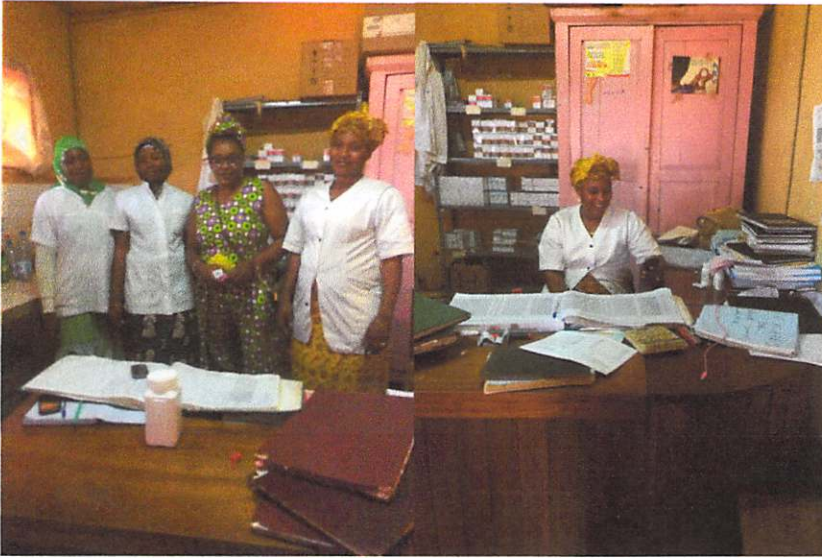
1. HIV care.

Raphia started the outreach by taking part of the HIV education and testing planned in conjunction with the cultural festival in the village. For two days Raphia worked along side of Ceproscome (a local AIDS organization) to provide HIV education, prevention and counseling to nearly 150 people. Following those two days, Raphia spent a day and a half meeting with the local HIV specialist at the government hospital. She also met with the lab corp workers at the medication

distribution center. The goal of the meeting was to continue to mature our relationship, talk about their needs and how we can be of any assistance. One of the things that was discussed was the vital need for a viral load machine in Fouban. Not being able to offer a viral load testing in the town is a huge barrier in the fight against the disease. The closest city where the viral load can be performed is about an eight hour driving away.







Medication distribution center

## 2. The Orphan Day Camp

The Camp started on a very positive note. We had eleven young people this year to help with the camp. Among them were two of our orphans, Arouna and Ali, who worked this year as counselors.

Twenty-four out of twenty-seven children in the program attended the camp. One young lady did not come because of her fragile health. The other two unfortunately relocated after the death of their caretakers a few months ago. Despite our efforts, we were unable to locate them. The camp took place in the Community Day Center. The team worked hard to clean it, put up decorations, and making sure that the building was safe and welcoming. We hired a few workers to clean the surroundings outside of the building. The topic of this year's outreach was schooling since the camp took place in the middle of the school year. In addition to each day topic related to school, we made sure to add a social theme such as:

- Healthy food and eating habits
- The importance of water, along with washing hands every day before eating lunch
- The need of having a clean body and clean teeth
- The need of preserving the culture.

Through out the week, caretakers and local cultural organizations came by to visit and support the work of SHAHICA. Five new children (two HIV positive and three disabled) were screened and assessed for SHAHICA's orphan program. At the closing of the week, all the children and helpers were presented with a small gift either from the sponsors or from SHAHICA funds.





During her time in Fouban, Raphia continued to foster existing



relationships as well as start new partnerships in the town.

The caretakers group remains very committed and involved in all aspects of the orphans care as well as supporting the development of the Community Day Center. My eternal admiration goes to the caretakers for all they do to care these vulnerable children.

As usual this year trip and outreach were only possible because of your help, support, prayers, time, and donations. We are very thankful for all your help and support.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we seek God's plans over the next year. Our prayers are for God to bring in financial resources needed to resume the work at the community day center. We would also like to have a full medical outreach during our next visit there.

God bless!!!

Raphia Noumbissi