

Frequently Asked Questions about the Roro Surgical Center

Why should I support this project?

There are over 140 distinct ethnic groups in Chad, and up to 70 of those groups are still considered least-reached. Simply stated, it will take creative, compassionate and intentional outreach efforts so they hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Offering compassionate health care is a proven way to reach them.

Why is it strategic to place a surgical center in Roro?

Roro lies on a major trade route and is home to a large market. The closest hospital is about forty miles away over difficult roads. To complicate matters, floodwaters during rainy seasons make it next to impossible to travel to other medical facilities.

Do you already have experience with medical ministry in Roro?

Yes! Opened in late 2009, the Louis Bauman Dispensary currently serves 2,500–3,000 patients per year. The Director Beahim Aaron is a licensed nurse who received his training at the National University in N'Djamena.

What are the most common conditions that will be treated? What will not be treated?

This Surgical Center will be equipped to treat hernias, perform Cesarean sections, provide limited gynecological care, and offer other basic surgical procedures. It will not be equipped for treatment of ophthalmological conditions, cardiac problems (other than medications), and orthopedic issues (other than basic fractures).

Who will lead the Surgical Center?

Djirkouadje Etienne will assume responsibilities as Director of the Surgical Center. He was selected for this position based upon his effectiveness at leading the Roro Dispensary from 2010 through 2012. As a licensed nurse practitioner, he received surgical training from a medical school in Burkina Faso. He is also a certified evangelist and serves under the authority of the Medical Works Department of the AEEFT (The Union of Grace Brethren Churches of Chad).

Does the Chadian Medical Works Department have experience in administering a Surgical Center?

Yes! Opened in 2008, the Surgical Center of Gadjibian is located in southern Chad, about a six-hour drive west from Roro. It has an excellent reputation throughout the region and even serves patients from as far away as Cameroon, which lies 260 miles farther west. The Gadjibian Surgical Center averages seventy-five surgeries per month during the dry season (December-April) and approximately twenty surgeries during planting season (May through November).

What will be the relationship of the Surgical Center with the official Healthcare System of Chad?

The staff and facilities of all of our medical ministries are recognized by the Chadian government, and we purchase all medical supplies and medicine through the government supply system.

Frequently Asked Questions

about the Medical Ministries of Encompass and its Partners in Chad

How long have you engaged in medical ministries in Chad?

Our first missionary team arrived in the region in 1921. Comprised of an evangelist, a medical doctor, and two nurses, they established a pattern of holistic ministry that we've followed for almost 100 years. Originally the regions of the Central African Republic and Chad formed one colony under French authority. When Chad gained independence in 1960, Encompass was already very active in the region.

What is the primary way you minister through healthcare?

Our primary focus is to provide quality and compassionate medical assistance through dispensaries. Directed by licensed nurses, these medical outposts treat malaria, typhoid fever, influenza, gastrointestinal disorders, hypertension, infections, dysentery, and other common medical conditions.

How extensive is your ministry through healthcare?

Currently we partner with eleven Medical Dispensaries. They are located in the towns of Gadjibian, Roro, Bembigane, Moundou, Begone, Bedralal, Laoukemasse, Berliang, Moula, Tarangara, and Dobo. A 12th Dispensary is currently under construction. We also partner with small pharmacies in the towns of Manda Kou and Laramanaye. Pharmacies are staffed by evangelists who have received basic medical training.

How do you select locations for Dispensaries and Pharmacies?

Our medical ministries are directly tied to the work of the Department of Evangelism and Church Planting. Decisions concerning the location of new dispensaries and pharmacies are based upon our mutual commitment to evangelizing the least-reached and to providing quality healthcare in regions where it is lacking. Final decisions concerning location are also dependent upon approval from the Regional Medical Director of the Chadian government.

Is there a program for training new medical workers?

Yes! Currently there are nine students enrolled in three schools: two are studying to be midwives, four to be nurses, and three to be nursing assistants. In addition, two men are pursuing advanced training to perform surgeries. The basic requirement in Chad to lead a dispensary is to be a licensed nurse with three years of formal training.

