

## 4-year-old Abdoulaye from Mali undergoes surgery in Switzerland

Abdoulaye is a four-year-old boy from Mali. His illness was discovered at six months, following a respiratory attack. After being hospitalised in his home town, he was transferred to Bama-ko's mother-child hospital. He was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot, a complex congenital heart defect that could not be operated on in his home country.

The hospital referred Abdoulaye's parents to Tdh, who suggested transferring the young boy to Switzerland for surgery.

Abdoulaye arrived in Switzerland on 28 March 2017 and was sent to Geneva University Hospital for an initial check-up where his diagnosis was confirmed. After several examinations, surgery was scheduled for 6 April. The operation was a success.

After being discharged from hospital, Abdoulaye returned to the convalescent home La Maison in Massongex, where he continued his recovery along with around 40 other children.



In total, Abdoulaye spent almost three months in Switzerland, during which he recovered from surgery, received dental treatment and had post-operative check-ups. At the end of his convalescence, doctors authorised his return to Mali subject to ongoing check-ups and, on 12 June 2017, he returned home to his family.

Today, Abdoulaye lives a happy and healthy life with his parents, brother and sisters – as all children should.



### Financing

The full programme costs include child care in Africa before and after medical treatment (including air ticket), treatment in their home countries or in Europe, personnel as well as operating expenses and partner support costs. The value of free treatment in our partner hospitals, the work of volunteers and further assistance from our partners is an estimate.

Programme value	Actual cost	Offered services
CHF 11 million	CHF 2 million	CHF 9 million



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 Helping children worldwide.

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## Specialised care programme

Annual Report 2017



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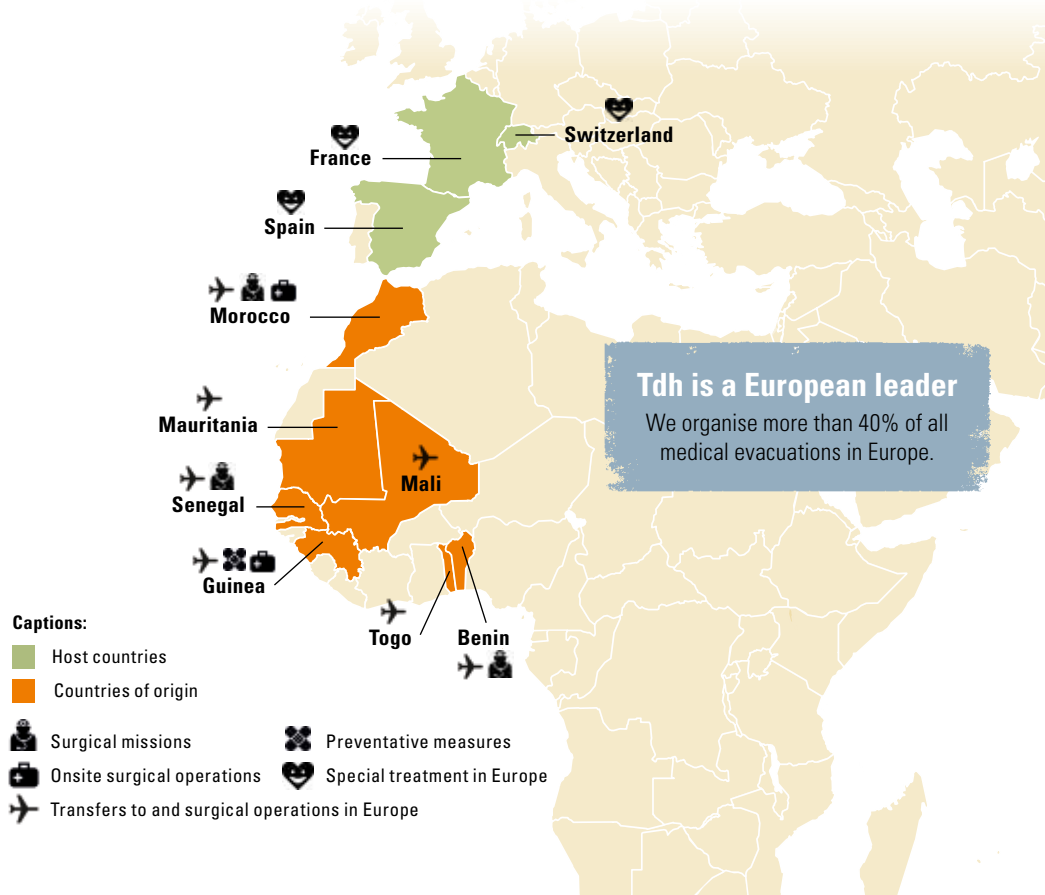
## Journey towards Life

Tdh's "Journey towards Life" programme aims to provide specialised care to underprivileged children with serious illnesses, particularly heart problems. We contribute to the development of child care by strengthening the skills and knowledge of local health care personnel. Children who, due to a lack of qualified medical staff or the poor standard of local facilities, cannot be treated in their own country are usually transferred to Switzerland for surgery.

### Volunteer commitment

-  **4600 hours** spent visiting hospitalised children.
-  **76'000 km** travelled by volunteers assisting children treated by Tdh.
-  **4350 hours** of escorted flights and CHF 237,000 worth of donated plane tickets.
-  **150 volunteer** godparents, attendants, foster families.

## Project countries



## Our activities

### Skills transfer

Tdh's specialised care strategy is based on making high-quality specialised paediatric surgery available to children with curable diseases from underprivileged families. It aims to establish a balance between treatment for pathologies in Africa and transfers to Europe. In spring 2017, five nurses (three men and two women) from Fann Hospital in Dakar, Senegal, travelled to Switzerland to receive theoretical and practical training on intensive care for patients resuscitated after heart surgery. Developing the skills of medical staff will help make local hospitals autonomous.

### Surgical missions

Surgical missions help develop the diagnostic expertise of local doctors and make it possible to train students on heart surgery, paediatric cardiology, anaesthesia and resuscitation. Every year, three Swiss medical teams

travel to Benin, Senegal and Morocco to carry out operations. This approach helps lower costs, establish local centres of excellence and avoid transferring sick children away from their families.

### Specialised care 2.0

The details of children who receive treatment through Tdh are systematically recorded in our new software program CASEnet, an electronic database with more than 11,000 records. Key care providers can now securely access these files, whether they are working in Africa, Switzerland or Spain. Each file contains information on the patient's family and social environment, medical records, transfers and treatment in Europe. This software program means that stakeholders can now monitor children's diagnoses, surgery locations, convalescence and return journeys in real time, no matter where they are.

## 2017 results

### Specialised treatment in Europe

237 seriously ill children received specialised treatment, whereby 200 came to Switzerland (university hospitals of Geneva, Lausanne and Bern) and 31 went to Spain (Madrid, Seville, Pamplona, Cordoba and La Coruna) and 6 to France (Lille).

### Mortality rate

The mortality rate for children with heart disease during transfers in Europe is between 1% and 3%. One child died in Switzerland in 2017 and was repatriated to his home country.

### Local specialised treatment

- 145 children received surgery in their home countries thanks to competency-building activities or surgical missions.
- More than 1300 consultations took place, including more than 900 post-operative check-ups.

