

Mag

# MANIBUS

TV

2nd EDITION: AUGUST 2022

## WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

*Every child has an inherent right to life, survival and development (Article 6), to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health (Article 24).*

## SPECIAL REDEAC

*Hortense NNAME, Chairperson of the Children's Rights Network in Central Africa*

## INTERVIEW

Marius ASSOUMOU NDONG (Kemp)  
Former international basketball player and Founding President of the Association Sportive Le Relais (Sports Association)

## BIRTH CERTIFICATES

*Focus on the census of children's birth certificates in Ogooué-Maritime*

# THE WORD FROM ASSOCIATIONS

*We are one of the pillars of democratic, Social and cultural life.*

## FOCUS ON LA MAISON D'HERMANN

*La Maison d'Hermann (Hermann's House) is one of the member associations of the coordination of civil society organisations for the protection of children in Ogooué-Maritime. It has its headquarters in Port-Gentil*

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ASSOCIATION MANIBUS PRÉSENTE

# Noël pour tous

5ÈME EDITION

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**23 au 25 Décembre 2022**

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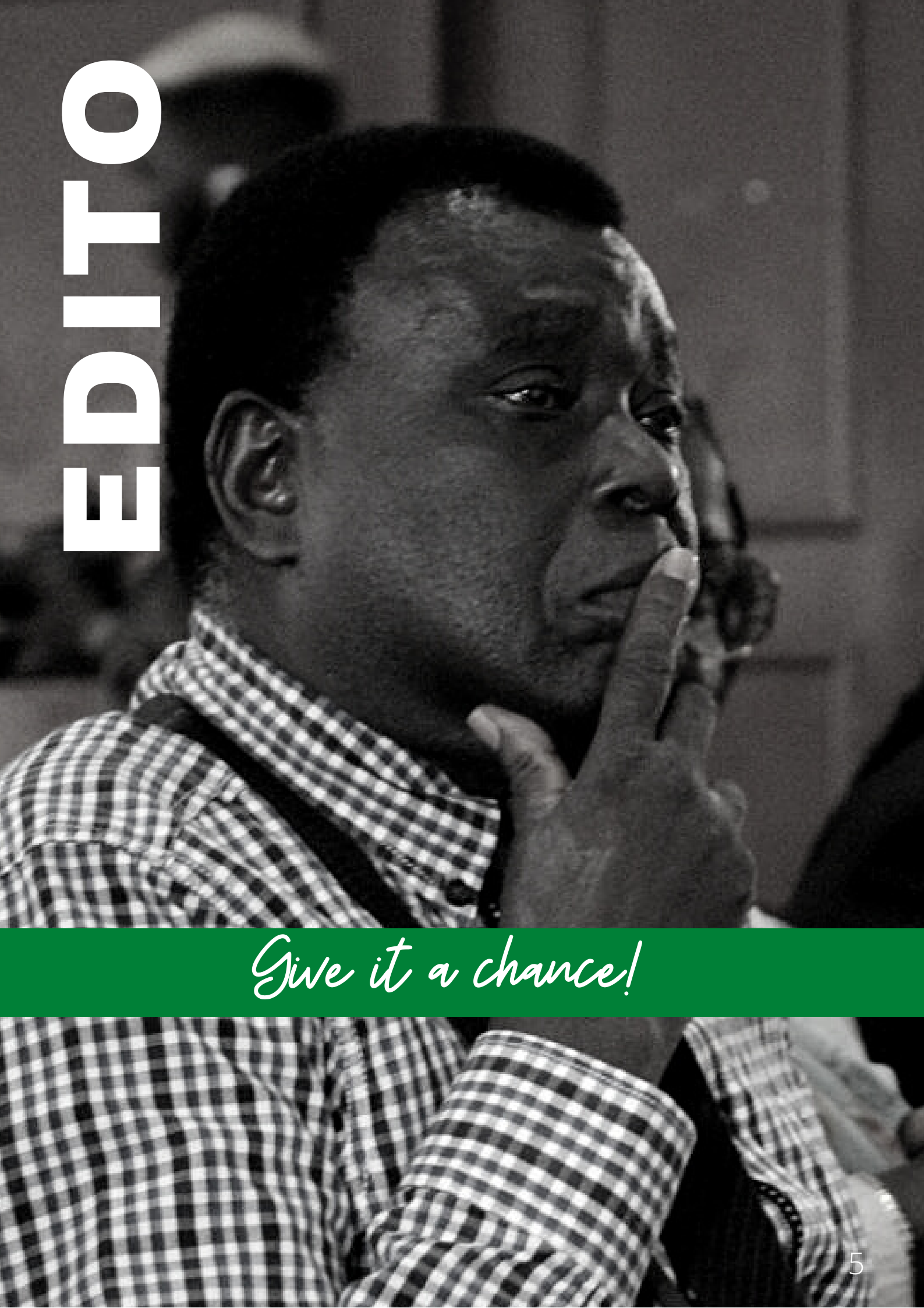


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# EDITO



*Give it a chance!*

***"It is when each of us waits for the other to start that nothing happens" (Abbot Pierre).***

Fernand Nkéro made the national anthem of his country, Gabon, ring out one night in July 2022, in Nairobi, Kenya. The warm joy he brought to thousands of his countrymen was followed by the cold shower of the words of the newly crowned African Judo champion in his category (-66 kg): due to lack of funds, he will not go to the world championships scheduled to take place a few days later in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

And now, in one of the many forums where the Manibus TV report is played over and over again, a chain of solidarity is being set up. Paul, Jacqueline, Ulrich, Roger, Hervé, Cathy and many others... Everyone contributed, however modestly. Including compatriots from the so-called "Gabonese diaspora" and no doubt some friends of Gabon of various nationalities.

Social networks sometimes work miracles. An oil company in the country's economic capital got involved, and then another, a subsidiary of a multinational company that is involved in transport, logistics and communication, among other things. Wow! It all worked out. Beyond expectations.

The young athlete was able to go and compete against those of his age and category. He did not win, being eliminated in the first round by disqualification because the referee felt he was not attacking enough. To win in his first world competition, without a coach to guide him, would have been miraculous, and probably not a good thing for the rest of his young career. One has to let things happen in their own time. He was learning.

And he will be for as long as it takes. But he is already a champion. No matter what the result. We will remember, for the sake of history, that from the four corners of Gabon, and even the whole world, men and women rose up to give this boy his chance.

"Boupendza was not offside". This is the title of a collection of short stories in which a pleiad of Gabonese authors, in order to discuss the injustices of our societies, took as a pretext a game fact that occurred on January 23, 2022, during the football match between Gabon and Burkina Faso for the round of 16 of the African Cup of Nations played in Cameroon.

On that day, Aaron Boupendza, a Gabonese striker, left his half of the pitch and was judged offside as he went to face the opposing goalkeeper. Was he going to score and undoubtedly give the Gabonese team victory? We will never know: the referee did not give him the chance to perhaps finish off the game and qualify his nation.

How many of them, here or elsewhere, have not been given the slightest chance? How many children from poor families, modestly described as economically weak, will never know the joy of attending a classroom or a playground? How many others, because they have disabilities, are kept out of sight and will never have the opportunity to show what they can do? And what about those babies who are stealthily thrown into a ditch or a rubbish bin? Thirty-six weeks of pregnancy was not enough to convince mothers to give a chance to these living beings who did not ask to be born. This is really bad luck for them. And too unfair!

Maxime Le Forestier, the French singer-songwriter, said in one of his songs: "I want to leave this world regretting a little; I want to leave this world happy". And happiness, when one thinks about it, is so little. It is in the sparkling eyes of a child who brings back good grades to his parents, or in the dance steps you can take with an autistic child who you have managed to get out of his bubble.

***To those, they were given a chance.***

BY MR. FIDÈLE AFANOU EDEMBE  
COORDINATOR OF CSO IN OGOOUÉ-MARITIME



**Orabank**

**INTRODUCTION TO  
ORABANK'S CSR  
APPROACH**



*We have been committed to continuous improvement of our **CSR PERFORMANCE** since the publication of our 1st integrated report.*

Orabank's vision is to build a leading banking group that participates in financing the sustainable development of an emerging Africa.

A combination of both internal and external factors prompted the Orabank Group to revise its CSR strategy in 2015 so as to increase its consistency with the new and emerging expectations of its stakeholders.

Our CSR strategy is reflected in the implementation of a roadmap that is broken down into four areas and eleven commitments.



# Notre stratégie RSE

Se traduit par la mise en oeuvre d'une feuille de route qui se décline en 4 axes et 11 engagements.



Agir et interagir en faveur d'une finance responsable et éthique

Ancrer une culture d'entreprise basée sur l'éthique, la conformité, l'intégrité et les codes reconnus de déontologie

Maintenir une gouvernance efficace

Nouer des relations de confiance, harmonieuses et pérennes avec nos différents partenaires



Être reconnu comme un employeur de référence

Offrir des conditions de travail attractives et motivantes

Accompagner et développer le capital humain

Garantir la représentativité de la société et un traitement d'égalité des chances



Être un acteur du développement économique et social de l'Afrique

Créer de la richesse locale pour nos partenaires et de l'emploi

Favoriser l'inclusion économique et sociale grâce à nos offres digitales de service

S'engager dans le cadre d'actions solidaires régionales



Soutenir économiquement la protection environnementale

Augmenter la performance environnementale du Groupe

Financer la croissance verte et soutenir l'investissement par des mesures d'adaptation au changement climatique

We have been committed to continuous improvement of our **CSR PERFORMANCE** since the publication of our 1st integrated report.

We carried out a **MATERIALITY STUDY** which enabled us to prioritise the most relevant challenges and to develop a strategic roadmap.

## Our actions:

### *Working for the well-being of communities*

Orabank, faithful to its vocation for the well-being of communities, carries out various solidarity actions. We are involved in organising associative and charitable events and in supporting projects related to education and sport in particular.

We stand alongside public institutions, associations and NGOs, as well as civil society, to promote a more equitable and inclusive society. This gives consistency to our leitmotiv "growing together, and for Africa".







**Orabank**

## **Examples of solidarity activities:**

1. Accompanying happy (weddings, births) and unhappy (deaths) events of the staff.
2. LAB-FT training for our partners
3. Training in the code of ethics
4. Cyber security and fraud
5. Credit Workflow
6. Interoperability and inter-banking of payment systems
7. Meal distribution via Orabank Club
8. Exchange forum on Covid with our partners
9. Setting up a medical area for first aid
10. Sponsoring Covid tests
11. Decoration of staff
12. Online training
13. CFPB registration
14. DG participation in the women's forum
15. Respect for the feminisation rate
16. Field action contract with AOC
17. Purchase of services from a student start-up
18. Donation of 14.3 tons of food to the most vulnerable populations, i.e. those most affected by the spread of the coronavirus pandemic
19. Participation in the edition of the book of the year for students, teachers, and parents of Blaise Pascal High School
20. Supporting the NGO FEED (Women and Children in Need) acquisition of birth certificates, distribution of medicines/school supplies...
21. Support the AEODA orphanage (provision of food, medicines, school fees)
22. Sponsoring the enrollment of an orphan who is not attending school
23. Vaccination sessions (Pfizer, Sinopharm, Johnson & Johnson) sponsored by the bank
24. Periodic disinfection of offices and after detection of a case of Covid
25. Digital product campaign



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Humanitaire  
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d'un enfant

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iront à l'école, seront  
nourris et soignés.



Renseignements :



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# FOCUS ON LA MAISON D'HERMANN



***Founded in 2020 by Carnancitha Moussavou Nguimbi, who is its President, La Maison d'Hermann (Hermann's House) is one of the member associations of the coordination of civil society organisations for the protection of children in Ogooué-Maritime. Its headquarters are in Port-Gentil.***

Helping destitute children, orphans, abandoned babies, children orphaned by AIDS, or children living with a disability, makes La Maison d'Hermann an association with multiple activities.

More generally, La Maison d'Hermann seeks to improve the living conditions of OVCs, an acronym for "orphaned and vulnerable children" because they are confronted with vulnerable situations. These include abused children, street children, sexually abused children, trafficked children, child soldiers, children displaced by war, etc.

This leads it to form multiform partnerships with other associations and NGOs involved in one or other of its fields of action. The activities are focused on education, particularly literacy courses, upgrading, health, and initiation to entrepreneurship through free training workshops.

In 2020, La Maison d'Hermann made its first appearance thanks to the Catalogue Challenge organised by Lestat XXL and which opposed Lord Ekomy Ndong to Franck Ba'Ponga. The aim was to "like" the Canal Plus Gabon page, with each "like" earning 500 CFA francs for the association.

The amount collected (3,982,000 francs) enabled the association to have its headquarters in Cité Rose Total Gabon, villa 11, not far from Canal Olympia.

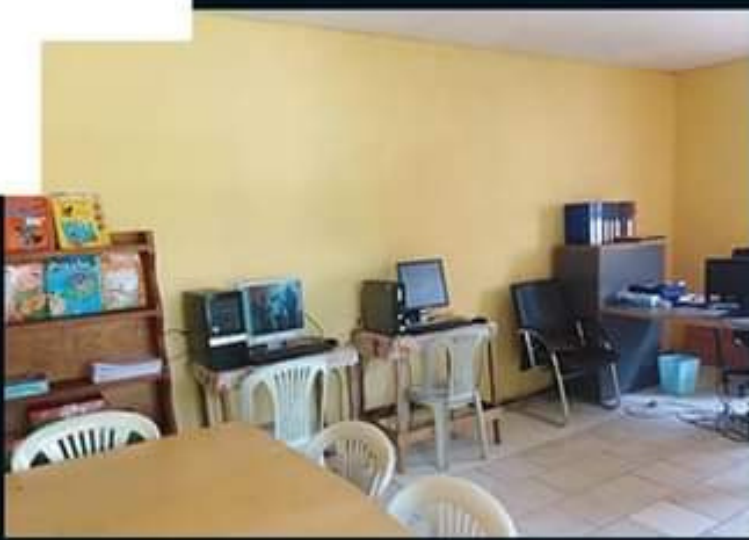
The solidarity basket, the Christmas of hope, the new school year of hope, the Mwanas entrepreneurs, and the solidarity hike are some of the actions carried out, often with other associations. Its immediate projects include the opening, in 2023, of a grocery shop and a library in partnership with the association Le Cèdre.

### ***Who is Hermann?***

Carnancitha Moussavou Nguimbi had to go to Cameroon to accompany autistic and Down's syndrome children. She received support from Hermann, a man, she says, "with a golden heart", who bore all the costs of the trip and supports her in everything she does for children; he is her elder brother. She wanted to honour him by naming the association after him because, she says, "we must honour people while they are still alive".

*For more information, La Maison d'Hermann is on Facebook*

# PEAU NEUVE POUR LA MAISON D'HERMANN



 CANAL+ GABON

CANAL+

**The bureau of La Maison d'Hermann**

**President:** Carnancitha NGUIMBI

**Secretary-General:** Alain Serge NGOMA

**Treasurer-General:** Bruno Ibouanga

**Head of External Relations:** Elyse Beckamba

**Legal Officer:** Wilfried Abaga

# ART EXHIBITION AND SALE AT APHOM HEADQUARTERS



On Saturday 30 July, the Ogooué-Maritime Association of Disabled Persons (APHOM), in partnership with the Ogooué-Maritime section of the Confederation of Craftsmen and Small Enterprises of Gabon, organised a large exhibition and sale of products, some of which were made by members of this confederation who live with a disability, at its headquarters at 25 logements. Clothing, decorative objects, and other fashion accessories were available to visitors. An exhibition sale that is in line with the will of both partners to work towards the empowerment of people living with a disability.

*"Today, we have decided to support them so that they can show the creative genius that is within them. Regardless of their disabilities, they have a lot to give and today we are not disappointed with all the achievements that have been made by these craftsmen. You have hand-woven bags made by a blind woman, it is heartwarming."* Rita BEAL, President of CAPEG.

The visitors took pleasure in discovering the exhibited objects, proof of the real know-how of craftsmen living with a disability.

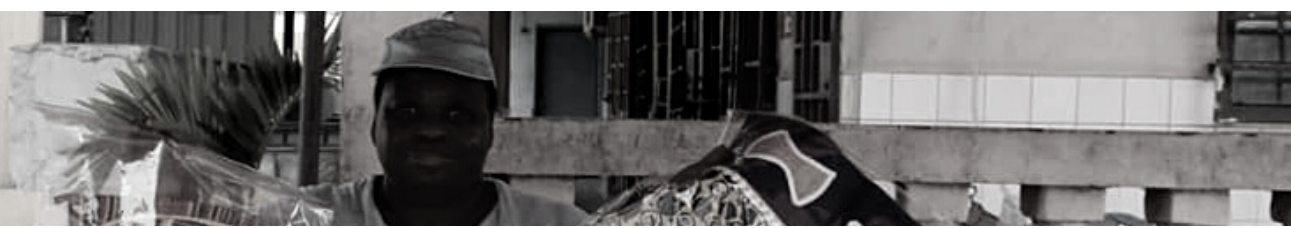
*"They come here to show what they know and can do with their hands. After visiting the different stands, what a joy! There are all sorts of handmade things: bags, coconut "glasses" and flower bouquets. What a joy!"* André EKANG MINKO, Visitor.

For Pierre MANDZANGA, President of APHOM, disability should not be an obstacle to exercising an activity. He considers that the APHOM members who exhibited should be models that can motivate others who think they are disabled.

*"They are not many, but there are a few who stand out. And these few become engines, mentors to boost the others. But, as they say, "the vase can only hold its capacity", not everyone is supposed to fill up to 200L."*  
Pierre MANDZANGA, President of APHOM.

Through their various achievements, people with disabilities participate in the national economy. An appointment has been made for the next exhibition to be held in Omboué, by the Nkomie lagoon, on 14, 15, 16, and 17 August as part of the Nandipo festival.

**Castro TCHIBOZO**



L'ASSOCIATION YEMALY ORGANISE UN



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**BASKETBALL**  
ET DE SENSIBILISATION



DE  
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**18 ANS**



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# THE WORD FROM ASSOCIATIONS

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*We are one of the pillars of democratic, social, and cultural life.*

"The state cannot do everything". This is one of the arguments generally used to justify, if not claim, the existence of the associative movement. It is true that, in many respects, associations, NGOs, cooperatives, and foundations, to name but a few, are, among civil society organisations (CSOs), those whose vocation is not to replace the State but to assist it in the implementation of development policies for populations, given that if the problems of populations are not necessarily development problems, development problems are always problems of populations.

Moreover, many associations and NGOs are agents of development. This is the essence of the rationale for community-based organisations (CBOs).

Through their commitment, CSOs invest in fields where government action is supposed to provide responses to populations (education, health, environment, employment, social and solidarity economy, etc.). This is why it is inevitable that in the long term, there will be an examination of the public-private partnership type of relationship that the State would benefit from establishing in a formal and sustainable manner with these actors who are deployed in the field to offer public utility services to the populations."

This being said, it would be reductive to consider these components of the associative sector solely from the point of view of their contributions to tasks that are "complementary to the action of the State."



# THE WORD FROM ASSOCIATIONS

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*We are one of the pillars of democratic, social, and cultural life.*



Indeed, the association is first a crucible of democracy. People join freely, after having read the goals and objectives. People choose their leaders democratically, express their views freely and abide by decisions that have been approved by the majority.

Community life is also, essentially, the place where solidarity and voluntary commitment are made. It teaches not only how to live together but also how to do things together and how to do things unselfishly. It develops team spirit to the detriment of individualism. It is therefore a space for education in citizenship and generous solidarity.

Finally, associations develop activities that strengthen social ties and the development of individuals. They convey values based on solid cultural and societal foundations.

In short, associations are first, and perhaps above all, places where human rights are expressed and promoted in a thousand ways. They can serve as incentives for public action, just as they are capable of being vigilant sentinels of the directions our societies are taking.

If we look closely, and because they target, first and foremost, the marginalized, the voiceless, the underprivileged, or the poor, many of our associations appear to be bulwarks against the development of inequalities and social injustices. In addition, very often, if they are unable to repair the irreparable, they act as whistleblowers that should not only be heard but also listened to. We would then realise that the associative movement, for all the aforementioned reasons, is indispensable in the search for innovative solutions to the challenges affecting our societies, if we want to build a fairer and more human world.



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GABOMATUNES



MANIBUS TV  
LA TELEVISION ASSOCIATIVE



# MANIBUS TV

## DISCOVERING YOUR NEW CHANNEL MANIBUS TV

We are a multidisciplinary association of mutual aid and social action called Manibus (Hand in Latin). In order to strengthen the popularisation of the actions carried out, to improve the associative aspect and the actions for the development of Man, we are launching the first exclusively social television channel in the country.




### WHAT DO WE DO?

Our socio-cultural programmes include:

- With NGOs: Make yourself known
- The weather
- TV Reports
- News
- The Morning programme
- Board games (Children's rights)
- Thematic programmes
- Innovative projects and calls for donations



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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# OUR PROGRAMMES :

## SOCIO-CULTURAL

We share joy and good mood through entertainment programmes: inter-neighbourhood dance competitions, singing competitions for children, reading competitions, board games and sport, which remains a unifying activity for young people.

This cultural programme aims at the blossoming of children.

## COMPANIES / ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We offer you coverage of all your social and cultural corporate events.

We support you in the creation of event concepts.

We provide you with our field knowledge for your various social and cultural actions.

## EDUCATION

Our children have rights that are unfortunately not well known. We are launching a programme aimed at discovering all the rights of children, through fun and innovative programmes. These programmes will be dedicated, not only to children, but also to adults so that they are aware of their rights.



Three questions to Ms. Hortense NNAME,  
President of REDEAC

# INTERVIEW

*Ms. Hortense NNAME, President of the Network for Children's Rights in Central Africa, based in Gabon, answered questions from Manibus TV Magazine.*



**MTVM: Ms. Hortense NNAME, what is REDEAC?**

**Ms. Hortense NNAME:** REDEAC is a network of national coalitions for the protection of children's rights in Central Africa. Member coalitions come from Gabon, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, DRC, Congo and Burundi. Currently missing are Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome & Principe. We support member coalitions in their work to promote and protect children in the sub-region, particularly through capacity building.

*Our training is aimed at coalition leaders and their member associations as well as children. We encourage children to speak out, as soon as they can, so that they can express their own concerns and expectations. Even if they do not know why they are being treated unfairly and unequally, put in danger or abused, usually by adults, they feel all these abuses and are able to express them and it is important to listen to them.*

*We represent Central Africa at the African Union's Committee of Experts on the Rights of the Child; we are members, along with coalitions from other sub-regions, of CSO FORUM, the Forum of Associations for the Protection of the Rights of the Child in Africa. We take part in the work of the Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, and every five years we present alternative reports on the rights of the child in each country to the UN headquarters in Geneva. These reports confirm or contradict those presented by States Parties that have ratified international instruments such as Conventions or Charters on the rights of the child. In Gabon, for example, there are reports of ritual crimes, child abductions and sexual violence and abuse. We also have a sentinel role, to challenge governments and remind them of the need to respect their commitments to protect children's rights.*



## MTVM: What is your relationship with States?



**Ms. Hortense NNAME:** *We represent Central Africa at the African Union's Committee of Experts on the Rights of the Child; we are members, along with coalitions from other sub-regions, of CSO FORUM, the Forum of Associations for the Protection of the Rights of the Child in Africa. We take part in the work of the Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, and every five years we present alternative reports on the rights of the child in each country to the UN headquarters in Geneva. These reports confirm or contradict those presented by States Parties that have ratified international instruments such as Conventions or Charters on the rights of the child. In Gabon, for example, there are reports of ritual crimes, child abductions, and sexual violence and abuse. We also have a sentinel role, to challenge governments and remind them of the need to respect their commitments to protect children's rights. We almost gave up but our determination and will to defend the cause of children prevailed.*



## MTVM: What about REDEAC in Gabon?

**Ms. Hortense NNAME:** *In Gabon, where REDEAC's headquarters are located, it is RESPEG, the National Network for the Promotion of Children's Rights in Gabon, which is a member of REDEAC. It is RESPEG that presents the shadow report on behalf of Gabon. Until we have premises, RESPEG is hosting us because we are financially limited. We have taken all the necessary steps to obtain legal status, set up an office, and look for donors. It will soon be much better. For the moment, two partners are supporting us financially, Save the Children and Plan International, who work directly with the Committee of Experts on the Rights of the Child at the African Union. We have some difficulties in taking off because we have gaps compared to other networks, especially those in East and West Africa. We have recruited a consultant in Cameroon who will strengthen our fundraising capacities. Having the headquarters in Gabon will also allow REDEAC representatives to develop partnerships with ECCAS, CEMAC, and AfDB. REDEAC's visibility in Gabon will undoubtedly also benefit RESPEG and its member associations.*



All over the world, too many children start life in a disadvantaged position simply because of who they are and where they come from...

Visit the website: <https://www.savethechildren.net/>





## UNICEF GABON MEDIA COMPETITION NOTICE

*UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, is organising a competition for the Gabonese media on the theme: "The media, a key partner for the promotion of children's rights in Gabon"*

### **Media professionals, grab your pens, microphones and cameras!**

"The media, a key partner for the promotion of children's rights in Gabon". This is the theme of the competition organised by UNICEF Gabon, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, and to which media men and women working for a media organisation in Gabon are invited to participate.

According to the notice published on the UNICEF Gabon website (<https://www.unicef.org/gabon/avis-de-concours-medias>), this competition, which is individual and free, distinguishes two categories of participants. Those living outside Libreville and Port-Gentil will present radio reports, in French or in "vernacular language with or without translation". Candidates from Libreville and Port-Gentil will present a television report or a press article in French. The productions will focus on various areas related to children's rights (Health, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Child Protection, Nutrition, Education, Social Protection, private sector investment in children, good governance in the social sectors, etc.). Candidates have until 28 October 2022 at 5 pm to send their productions.

One of the requirements is that an applicant may only submit one story per the theme. In other words, any applicant who submits more than one story in a theme will be automatically disqualified. Competitors may submit journalistic works of their broadcasts between 1 January 2022 and October. The submission can be sent by email via Wettransfer to [unicefgabon@gmail.com](mailto:unicefgabon@gmail.com) with the subject line UNICEF MEDIA COMPETITION 2022, no later than 28 October at 5 pm (Gabon time). It must be accompanied by evidence or publication media such as scanned newspaper articles in PDF format for print or online, in MP4 format for video, in MP3 format for radio, and accompanied by the candidate's information in a separate file (candidate's full name, date of birth, position, media organ, province and place of work).

Launched on 20 July 2022, the competition aims to make the media promoters of children's rights in Gabon. It is a continuation of the capacity-building seminar organised for media professionals at the beginning of July by the Ministry of Communication, supported by UNICEF. For two days, thirty men and women from the media were briefed on several themes on children's rights and their importance for development and the human capital index.

Given that the media is a powerful tool for promoting behavioural change, UNICEF and its partners, including the Ministry of Communication, hope that productions dealing with the cause and rights of children in Gabon will multiply to better convey the voice of children.



# WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?



## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

*Every child has an inherent right to life, survival, and development (Article 6), to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health (Article 24).*

Although remarkable progress has been made over the past three decades (the number of children dying before the age of five has fallen from 12.5 million in 1990 to 5.2 million in 2019), it is still not enough. In 2019 alone, about 14,000 under-five deaths occurred daily and if current trends continue, between 2020 and 2030, 48 million children, half of them newborns, will die before the age of five.

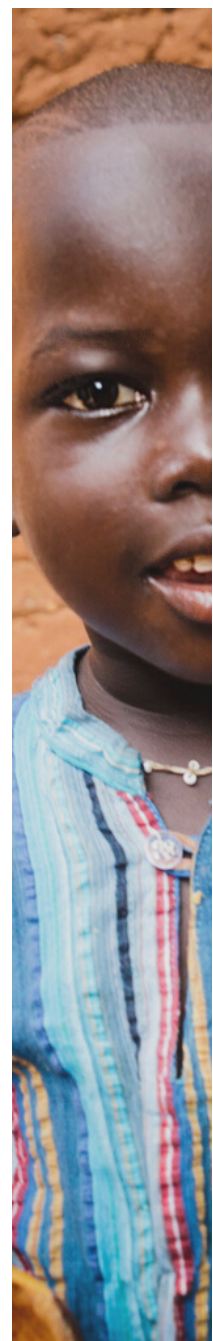
Many of them die because of illnesses that can be prevented or treated if they receive affordable and quality care.

UNICEF advocates for universal health coverage for every child to survive and thrive.

AN APPROACH TO  
**EDUCATION FOR ALL**  
BASED ON HUMAN RIGHTS



# CENSUS OF CHILDREN WITHOUT BIRTH CERTIFICATES IN THE PROVINCE OF OGOOUE-MARITIME



The Gabonese government, in partnership with UNICEF, launched a census, last February in the province of Ogooué-Maritime, of children born between 2004 and 2021 who do not have a birth certificate. About 1,700 of them were registered. To measure the impact of this operation and while waiting for the Court of Port-Gentil to continue the process, the various actors who took part in it recently met with Michel IKAMBA, a UNICEF child protection specialist. These were mainly the Provincial Directorate of the Family, the Provincial Directorate of Social Affairs, town halls, prefectures, doctors, the CNAMGS, and the Port-Gentil Court.

For Mr. André MEYE, 2nd Vice President of the County Council of Bèndjè, *"in the villages there are many children who do not have a birth certificate. And today, a child without a birth certificate is a child who has no life"*.

Mr. Joël OTANDO, 3rd deputy mayor in charge of Civil Status at the Port-Gentil town hall, says that: *"it is with a lot of seriousness that we are participating in this operation because before it was a bit scattered missions, that is to say that we had to deal with associations that improvised in the field, forgetting that a town hall's mission is to deal with civil status related issues"*

# CENSUS OF CHILDREN WITHOUT BIRTH CERTIFICATES IN THE PROVINCE OF OGOOUE-MARITIME



*"We must ensure that with the mayors who were present, the doctors, the social workers, and civil society, we can accelerate this process so that by the start of the next academic year, each child who has been assisted can go to school with a valid birth certificate."*

The right to a name is one of the guiding principles of the rights of the child. Those registered could be in possession of their birth certificates before the start of the academic year 2022-2023. This is in any case the wish of Mr. Michel IKAMBA:

*"We must ensure that with the mayors who were present, the doctors, the social workers, and civil society, we can accelerate this process so that by the start of the next academic year, each child who has been assisted can go to school with a valid birth certificate."*

Mr. Michel IKAMBA took advantage of his stay in Port-Gentil to visit some structures in the economic capital working in the area of child protection, including the *Centre Espérance Mission Insertion de Ntchenguè*, the *Mission Nissi* reception centre and the *NGO Agir pour le Handicap à l'Ecole...*

Castro TCHIBOZO

# AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST FEMALE DELINQUENCY



Coach VEGAS, in collaboration with the Port-Gentil children's court, organised a six-day awareness campaign against female delinquency in Port-Gentil. At the end of this campaign, a big conference in a local hotel was an opportunity for the sensitised people to come and share their experiences after medical treatment for some and advice for others. Manibus TV collected some reactions:

*"I took in a lady suffering from drug addiction. Since Friday, I had taken her under medical care to try to calm her down, as she was agitated due to the effect of drugs and alcohol. Today, this lady has testified to this care and has committed herself to give up this life in order to be useful in society."*

Mr. LANDU Simon, Partner, Medical Officer).

*"We will continue to do this conference and we hope that the work we are doing in the lives of these young girls and mothers can lead to other people also deciding to change their lives and, why not, to come to us so that we can help them."*

Ms. MARAT-ABYLA TCHANDI Greta C.,  
President of the Children's Court.

*"It's a follow-up for these young ladies, already medically and also to know the skills they have. If they have followed a training course, if others want to go back to school, it depends on the desire of some of them, and perhaps through our capacity, we will be able to put some of them back to school or find them a job, why not, to integrate the new life."* Ms. NGUEMA Vanessa

This awareness campaign against female delinquency is a first in the economic capital.

The organisation's missions do not stop at conferences. It is planned to follow up on all these sensitised people, in order to facilitate their social reintegration.



*It's back to school*

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# THE LEADERSHIP MEET-UP COMES TO PORT-GENTIL

Pépécy OGOULIGUENDE, President of the NGO Malachie, mentor coach in leadership, international speaker and Alumni USA, conducted, together with other panelists, for the first time in Port-Gentil, a Masterclass workshop with several modules including transformational leadership, financial management, results-based management, structuring of associations and networking. The aim was to strengthen women's leadership skills and give them tools to become autonomous through entrepreneurship.

*"We have experienced an event that has affected the world, notably the Covid crisis, and people are finding it difficult to recover. So we really need to support them, give them strategies to recover and start again properly. For that, we really need mental, psychological, emotional, and financial preparation to be able to meet the new challenges."*





In this workshop, financial management had a special place, as most young entrepreneurs find it difficult to save. Gwénaelle Simbi épouse Marat-Abyla, coach in financial intelligence, made it her duty to provide the participants with keys and tips to master finances and especially to save.

*"Financial intelligence, which unfortunately cannot be learned in school, is the set of skills that enable an individual to become financially free, autonomous, and not dependent on people."*, she said.

Pépécy OGOULIGUENDE, who has made women's empowerment one of her key priorities, invited Micheline OTOUNGA, an experienced resource person, to the meeting, who put the objectives of the masterclass in relation with women's rights:



*"A woman's place is in the home! We don't deny it, but women must know that in society, gender equality issues must also be instilled in them."*

For this first event in Port-Gentil, Pépécy OGOULIGUENDE was surrounded by local civil society organisations, notably Talents de Femme, Agir pour le Handicap à l'Ecole and the NGO PaulSarah. Ms. Scholastique MAGANGA, President of the last mentioned NGO, welcomed the initiative in these words:

*"In the 21st century, and even more so at a time when the authorities of our country have decreed the decade of the woman, it is important that each woman stands up and assumes responsibility for fulfilling her ideal life."*

At the end of the workshop, the objectives were achieved and the participants left satisfied. This is the case of Graziella, an entrepreneur:

*"The biggest problem for entrepreneurs today is that we are entrepreneurs, but we have a hard time managing our finances. And we need more of these events to learn how to manage our finances and why not develop our business more."*

After this meeting, the next step will be to set up a platform bringing together the women trained in this way, who will be able to benefit from support in the implementation of their projects.

# DID YOU SAY LEADERSHIFT?

## WHAT IS IT?

We all know roughly what leadership is. At least, we can characterise what a leader is. Recently, a new concept has appeared in the semantic field of these notions. It describes "the leader's ability to change and elevate his or her leadership to a higher level so as to not only move his or her organisation upwards but also by developing other leaders".

In other words, it is about considering that being a leader is far from being an end in itself. The leader is called upon to adapt to a world in perpetual evolution which obliges him to develop certain capacities, by being flexible and by being aware of the changes he must make within himself, in order to improve himself and have a positive impact on the environment around him, knowing that the good leader is the one who has the predisposition to train other leaders. John Calvin Maxwell, one of the leaders of this school of thought and author of numerous reference books, summarises with the formula: "a good leader makes others shine".

For this specialist in leadership and theorist of leadership, who is also an international speaker and pastor, the starting point is an observation that has two consequences for leadership.

The fact is that the world has never experienced such rapid and profound change as it is now. For leadership, two main consequences follow from this:

- More than in the past, there is a need for leaders;
- Leaders need to be flexible to make the necessary changes within themselves to adapt to this ever-changing world.

Therefore, every leader must work on himself to be able to:

- 1-Know how to get the best out of others;*
- 2-move from a mindset of goals to a mindset of growth;*
- 3- Not just climb but build ladders for others;*
- 4-Move from management to connection by involving employees in decision-making;*
- 5-Understand that diversity is profitable;*
- 6-Have authority based on certain moral values including integrity (inspire trust) and courage (know how to take risks).*

Leadershift practitioners believe that a leader is someone who is constantly challenging himself or herself and never stops climbing. Leadership workshops are designed to give leaders the tools to develop individual action plans, with clearly identified and quantified objectives to be achieved by the end of a time schedule with activities to be carried out.

**For further reading, it would be useful to read John C. Maxwell's The Leadership - The 11 Essential Changes Every Leader Must Make, Editions Le Trésor caché (Canada), 2020, 264 pages, 20 €.**

# INTERVIEW



*The only thing to bear in mind about our Association is that we are the future of national sport (especially in the disciplines we practice), because investing in youth and training is investing on the future*

**Mr. Marius ASSOUMOU NDONG (Kemp)**

*Former international basketball player and  
Founding President of Association Sportive Le Relais.*



***Dear Mr. Marius, please introduce yourself and tell us about your Association (missions, objectives, challenges, etc.)***

First of all, I would like to thank you for the interest you have shown in our platform. The Association Sportive Le Relais (Sports Association) is an Omnisports structure doing Football, Basketball, Athletics, Urban Dance, and soon Gymnastics. We are legally established and have our final registration certificate issued by the Ministry of the Interior.

Our main mission is the personal development of children through sport, by putting them through several exercises through which we transmit fundamental values to them in terms of the education that any parent would like to give to his or her child.

The challenges we are pursuing are multiple. Firstly, to restore the image of sportsmen and women through flawless human behaviour. Secondly, to advocate for the healthy occupation of children outside school hours. Also, we aim in the long term to help our students to go towards professionalism, through a very long process (detection, initiative, and training).

***How long does the Association Sportive Le Relais exist? What is the history of its creation? (Date and motivations of creation)***

Our Association exists since January 2014. What motivated its creation was my will to hand over to the new generation, in the learning of Basketball, on the one hand.

On the other hand, my desire is to supervise young talents and give them an opportunity to evolve in a structured framework of sports and human training. Finally, the worrying rise in the phenomenon of violence in schools with the use of drugs and delinquent behaviour of young people were the reasons for my motivation to provide a healthy extra-curricular environment for children.

***What are the activities of your association, the beneficiaries, and the frequency of action (activities, target, and period?)***

The activities of our Association are for the moment: Football, Basketball, Athletics and Urban Dance. The main beneficiaries are young people of both sexes, whose ages range from 6 to 30. We have a training centre for football and basketball, taking children from the age of 6, and we also have senior teams in all our activity sections.

As far as the frequency of our activities is concerned, the principle is not to take holidays, because those who sell drugs to children do not go on holiday. Knowing that one of our missions is to keep young people busy in a healthy way, we remain constant in our activities, especially in our training centres. Only the senior teams often take a two-month break between August and September.



***Which of the activities you offer are you most proud of and why?***

We are proud of all the activities we do. It is with the same enthusiasm and joy that we go up to the playground every day to occupy our young people. However, it must be said that where we put a little more rigour and attention is in our training centres. Because it is in the youth that the future lies. We, therefore, have a sporting and moral obligation to supervise them with the utmost seriousness, because if the basis is flawed (sporting fundamentals and human behaviour), the young person will never be a good sportsman, and can never be a model in society.

***When was your recent action(s)? (Date and venue)***

Our last action on Basketball is a tournament dedicated to women, which we called "Equality". We played it over two weekends: Saturday 16 and Saturday 23 July 2022. It is an initiative that allows us to show our girls that they have a place of choice and a significant impact as women in Gabonese society.

***What's the latest news?***

Our current activity is the ongoing women's football tournament that we started almost a month ago. It takes place in Belle Vue 2 in the Assélé market.

The final was held on Sunday 31 July 2022. It is a project that joins the initiative of the women's basketball tournament.

***What are the key figures of your achievements so far (results, impacts, etc.)?***

The key figures of our achievements are difficult to quantify. In our first two seasons, especially in basketball, as other disciplines were added a few years ago, we were among the best junior teams in Estuaire, with young people at the time like Auge Henri and Kinny Bouanga, who are currently students in Senegal and the USA respectively.

The arrival of Covid19 and the scabrous management of basketball before it, have slowed down our momentum in this area.

Thus, with all the current members of our Association, which are almost two hundred (200), and the diversity of our activities, we are working to have a better structure, because the ambitions that we nourish in the very short term are serious.

***Now, Let us talk a little about the people who make the association work: how many are they? What are their tasks?***

Our Association lives on a daily basis thanks to volunteer coaches who, like myself, give their time to Gabonese youth by sharing their knowledge. At the level of basketball, we have the former player Ango Aline, who is the General Manager of the section. Then there are technicians such as Mouguala Sely Fred and Coach Obame Khalid. In football, the technical direction is led by Mbazoghe Nancy, who is the head coach of our women's first division team. She is assisted by Zogo Soumano Yvon, Obiang Soumano Yves, Tchimpoutou André and Nze Arnaud.

For the Training Centre and the team, we have the coaches Graziela Bhongo and Nzambe. The Urban Dance and Athletics are led respectively by Amoughe Loïck and Godelet Rodelphe. Finally, at the level of administration, I am supported on a daily basis by Okwa Loic, Azeme Wilfried, JP and Mouity Yess, the platform doctor.

**Finally, if there was only one thing to bear in mind about your association, what would it be?**

The only thing to bear in mind about our Association is that we are the future of national sport (especially in the disciplines we practice), because investing in youth and training is investing on the future.

**Association Sportive Le Relais**  
**Tel : +241 66493474 / +241 74492946**  
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**Thank you.**



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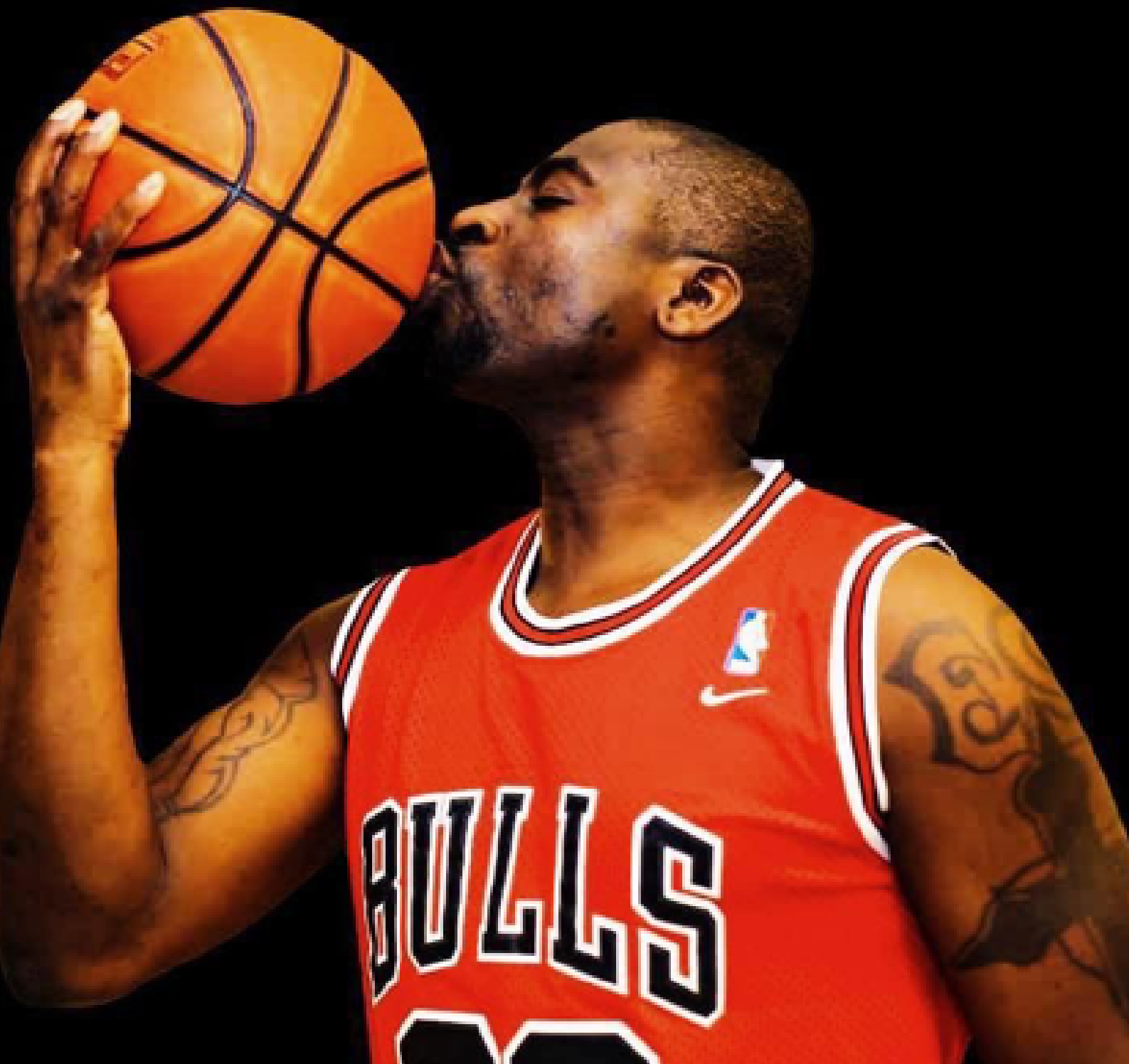
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*Our main mission is the personal development of children through sport, by putting them through several exercises through which we transmit fundamental values to them in terms of the education that any parent would like to give to his or her child.*



## **THE PROVINCIAL DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF AND FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OF GABON WAS RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE OGOOUE-MARITIME PROVINCE**

The first authority of Ogooué-Maritime province, Mr. Paul NGOME AYONG, received in audience the provincial delegation of the National Federation of Associations of and for Persons with Disabilities of Gabon, led by the provincial delegate Annie Edwige ADANHODOU. The latter came to introduce the members of her bureau and her 2022 action plan, which includes awareness-raising and training activities for adults and children. It will also be a time to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the coming 3rd of December.



# NOEL POUR TOUS (CHRISTMAS FOR ALL) 4TH EDITION



To strengthen the popularisation of the actions carried out by associating stakeholders, we have set up an associative village that aims to be the first associative advocacy platform on the national level. Every December, the associative village is totally dedicated to children's rights and is usually followed by a "Christmas for all" edition, which is a recreational day during which several forgotten children celebrate Christmas like all the others.

Manibus (Hand in Latin) is a multidisciplinary association for mutual aid and social action present in several countries, notably in France, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Togo. In Gabon, Manibus is very active in the fields of environment, human rights, in particular gender equality, women's rights and children's rights.

This year the Manibus Association was in Port-Gentil. In partnership with local associations and NGOs. The discussions and advocacy of the Associative Village were based on the theme: THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.

## Provincial authorities who attended

- Governor of Ogooué-Maritime Province  
Mr. PAUL NGOME AYONG
- PORT-GENTIL MAYOR: Mr. Gabriel TCHANGO,  
represented by his 4th Deputy Mayor
- 3rd VICE-PRESIDENT OF BENDJE COUNTY COUNCIL:  
Mr. André MEYE
- PRESIDENTE OF THE JUVENILE COURT:  
Ms. Greta MARAT-ABYLA
- PROSECUTOR OF THE JUVENILE COURT:  
Ms. Vanessa AMBONGUILAT
- JUDGE OF THE JUVENILE COURT:  
Mr. MOUNGUENGUI Loik



# SOME PICTURES OF THE 4TH EDITION IN PORT-GENTIL

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## Jael's Word



***Hello, welcome to my blog, which is an integral part of Manibus TV.***

I am Jael Price, a final year student in the Master's programme in taxation and, as mentioned above, a blogger for Manibus TV.

I would like to address a subject that has remained topical for decades:

*"the place of women is in the kitchen".*

The struggle of women has always been to find a place equal to that of men. With the progress of society, we can observe more and more claims; let us say that they are shifted according to the acquisitions. From the right to vote to the right to be fully active, today some people agree that men still have an advantage, despite women's undeniable and multifunctional abilities.

***The question would be: is it really an unbalanced society that cannot find room for everyone, or simply a matter of identity?***

I will try to answer the question by underscoring that this is only my humble opinion.

Prior to the 18th century, household responsibilities were shared. The man was the head of the house, guaranteeing the economic and social balance of the household. The woman was the one responsible for the integrity of the house and the education of the children. It was in 1971 that, for the first time, the legal and social equality of women and men was set out in the Declaration of Women's Rights and Citizenship. It was also the birth of an issue that will continue to exist over time.

## THE PLACE OF AFRICAN WOMEN IN SOCIETY



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Nowadays, I think that women are pillars and always have been; it is just that traditions and society have made them feel inferior.

Opinions are divided. Some will say that they feel like women by being a housewife and others by occupying so-called men's jobs. We are in a century that questions everything. Men's jobs can be done by women and vice versa. It is true that in some countries, women's rights are still limited, but this being the case, why compare yourself to men when you can build yourself up by being a woman? You just have to know what you want to be ...

Some will say that they have to work twice as hard to have the same status as a man. Is this absolutely true? Others have achieved this by simply remaining who they are, namely women. So women should be aware of their potential and use it while maintaining their identity as women.

Since the 18th century, this subject has been a matter of debate, and we are still asking ourselves whether the development of women absolutely requires equal status with men.

Today, more and more women are in the spotlight, thanks to the impact and influence they have on their contemporaries. We can mention, in no particular order, the German Angela Merkel, the American Serena Williams, the Nigerian Eloh Ogame, and the Gabonese Anne-Marie Mbot Ossouah.

Some have been heads of state. This is the case of Salome Zourabichvili in Georgia and the late Rose Francine Rogombe in Gabon, to name but a few.

### *Jael's Word*



*Something to think about: is complete and total equality necessary for societal balance?*



# A SUMMER CAMP FOR HOLYDAYMAKERS

Two NGOs, namely *Servir le Père* and *Aurore*, have teamed up to organise a holiday centre for children aged between 5 and 16 at *l'école publique de la Cité* (city public school), located behind the *Lycée d'Etat de Port-Gentil* (high school). The aim is to keep these children busy for three weeks with civic education, reading, slamming, dancing, arts and crafts, and customisation workshops.

"The summer camp is an opportunity for children on holiday to come and spend the day. They come in the morning and leave at the end of the day. During this time, there are activities in which they can take part", said Valérie ORIGO, NGO *Servir Le Père*.

During the closing ceremony of this edition, the second of its kind, parents and guests discovered, through an exhibition and artistic performances, the talents of the children revealed by the activities carried out.

"You can see that our children have real talent. The children made everything, with Ms. Rêve, their instructor, who could not be there. She showed them and they discovered their talents; they discovered that their hands could make useful things and it was a real joy", said Annie DOWE, Educator at the summer camp.

The appointment has been made for next year for the 3rd edition.

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# AWA'S BLOG

Focus on the obstacles to girls' schooling in Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, Law N°13-2007/AN of 30 July 2007 on the Law on the Orientation of Education states that: "education is a national priority".

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## **Socio-cultural barriers**

Socio-cultural constraints are still very much present, particularly in rural areas. Tradition and certain mentalities still place women in second place: girls must be at home and tradition wants girls to be initiated into their role as housewives at a very early age. For some, "the woman should stay at home, look after the household and procreate". Traditions in Burkina Faso perceive women as inferior to men. Many women are convinced that they have no right to participate in public decision-making and conform to 'virtues' such as obedience and submission, thus refusing to allow young girls to advance in their studies. This tradition still explains the priority given to boys who are entitled to inheritance, which is not the case for girls. The reason given is that girls are expected to leave the family home after marriage. Moreover, girls are promised in marriage from their early childhood. Ties are then forged between families even before the girl has reached the age of maturity. These alliances are not only the cause of child marriages but also of the under-schooling of girls. Indeed, sending girls to school would compromise the family's position. In other words, *"the place of the woman is in the home"; the girl has to help with housework at home, and take care of her younger brothers and sisters; she is called upon to leave her family for another, so investing in her would be a loss, the girls would be less encouraged by the environment to succeed at school;* low motivation of girls at school, compared to boys, especially when they are in a situation of failure (low performance, repetition). In any case, parental education methods place less value on girls' academic success because they will always have a husband to look after them:

*"This is a conception that the girls easily internalise and use as a reason for not liking school or for not being bothered by their poor performance. Parents, therefore, emphasise that girls should learn household chores". They have less time at home to study, as they are obliged to do domestic chores; as schooling requires an economic investment, the scarcity of parents' means leads them to make investment choices, with boys being favoured in terms of material conditions that are conducive to learning at school. The differential socialisation of girls and boys is also the basis for the development of specific attitudes and behaviours in both sexes, increasing or decreasing their chances of effectively approaching the school situation and succeeding in science subjects. An example of a practical case is in Koudougou, a town where the majority ethnic group in the country lives: the Mossi. In the Moaga tradition, to announce that a woman has given birth to the head of the family, a question is asked as to whether the newborn was a boy or a girl. In Moore, the language (the language of the Mossi): 'Yaa tōndo, bi yaa sāana? This favourite expression of the old people can literally be translated as "is it us (tōndo), or is it a foreigner (sāana)?"'. This expression is full of meaning: That a girl is called a "foreigner" from birth. Indeed, behind this question of vocabulary lies a reality. Today, more than in the past, and in the city as well as in the village, this reality is glaring, especially for orphaned girls. We meet many girls, young women, or women who have not been to school. More often than not, these girls or women have lost their fathers at an early age. Others have left school or college prematurely for lack of financial means following the death of their father and there is no hope for the husband's family. Unfortunately, Mossi women are not the only ones to suffer such situations in Koudougou and in Burkina Faso, and this example is illustrative.*

*to be continued.....*





# AWA'S BLOG

Focus on the obstacles to girls' schooling in Burkina Faso



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This will enable us to develop support programmes for teenage mothers.

*In other words, "the place of the woman is in the home"; the girl has to help with housework at home, and take care of her younger brothers and sisters; she is called upon to leave her family for another, so investing in her would be a loss, the girls would be less encouraged by the environment to succeed at school ;*

## MY OPINION

*Let us not remain closed to evolution. Today, a woman is able to be at home and work in order to develop her full potential.*

*The woman is able to have a pot on the stove, send an email, and put the children to bed at the same time. She is a multidimensional being. I would like to say that you are depriving yourself of invaluable resources.*

*Education is seen as the driving force behind sustainable human development. It is understood as all activities aimed at developing the full physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual, psychological and social potential of human beings, with a view to ensuring their socialisation, autonomy, fulfilment and participation in economic, social and cultural development. Almost everyone agrees that education is the most important factor in increasing people's well-being. Indeed, access to education contributes, not only, to the development of skills, but also to individual and collective fulfilment and to the reduction of inequalities.*

*Don't miss the next edition.  
Thank you for reading!*

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# AWA'S BLOG

Focus on the obstacles to girls' schooling in Burkina Faso



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**- THE RIGHT TO BE HAPPY -**





On 24 July 2022, Gabonese people woke up with an African judo champion in the junior category of less than 66 kg. Indeed, during the night of 23-24 July, Fernand NKERO, 1st Dan black belt in judo, all crowned with the gold medal of the Niamey African Cup cadets-juniors, won a few days earlier in the capital of Niger, had, for the second time in a few days, sounded the national anthem of Gabon. It was in Nairobi, Kenya.

Born in Port-Gentil on 10 April 2003, Fernand NKERO has a strong background. Indeed, it is his aunt, Master Chantal KACH NKOLA, today a 4th Dan black belt in judo, who took him along in her club, Association Sportive un Vent Nouveau (ASVN) when he was 15 years old. The child turned out to be almost gifted in this martial art because three months after his start, he was crowned champion of Gabon in the category of cadets under 60 kg and was called to the national team. Master KACH remembers: "The boy didn't even have enough to wear. Moreover, it was necessary to preserve him, especially as the federation did not have a place to house the athletes. It was Mr. Michel ESSONGHE, who had already given him his first kimono, who gave us his support and provided the boy with everything he needed."

Thus, since 2018, the one who will continue his training at the Social Sports and Cultural Association of Total Gabon (now TotalEnergies EP Gabon), with Mr. Georges Eric Nkoma as a mentor, will pile up trophies both at the national and continental level, while continuing his studies. After obtaining his A Level in 2021, he went to Casablanca (Morocco) to study management. He had joined the AS Douanes club and trained regularly with the Moroccan national team, which prepared him a little for the various competitions where he participated, it should be noted, without any coach. Mr. Patrick ADANHODOU, President of the judo league of Ogooué-Maritime, who had visited him a few weeks earlier, had met, he said, a determined athlete and assured to be able to climb on the highest step of the podium.

What he did. The rest is history. A learning experience at the world championship thanks to a chain of solidarity and the recognition of the nation because he will now continue his adventure in France, the Gabonese state having granted him a sport-study scholarship as a high-level athlete. He also benefits from an Olympic scholarship. We are sure that he will continue to write some great pages of Gabonese judo.



## SOME LINES FROM FERNAND NKERO'S LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS

(source: Mr. Georges Eric NKOMA)

### At the national level (-60 kg)

#### 2018

- Gold medal at the Gabon cadet championship;
- Silver medal at the Gabon senior championship;
- Bronze medal at the International Tournament of the City of Port-Gentil.

#### 2019

- Gold medal at the Gabon senior championship;
- Gold medal at the Gabon cadet championship;
- Bronze medal at the International Tournament of the City of Port-Gentil.

### At the international level (-55 kg)

#### 2018

- Bronze medal at the African Cadet Championships (Bujumbura).

### At the international level (-60 kg)

#### 2018

- Gold medal at the Ouagadougou International Tournament;

#### 2019

- Silver medal at the African Junior Championships (Dakar);

#### 2020

- Bronze medal at the Dakar African Open.

### At the international level (-66 kg)

#### 2022

- Gold medal at the Niamey African Cup cadets-juniors;
- Gold medal at the African Junior Championships (Nairobi).



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