



**Amici  
per il  
CentrAfrica  
Onlus**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Humanitarian emergency in the Central African Republic: Mediolanum Farmaceutici supports the work of Amici per il CentrAfrica Onlus**

***The Italian pharmaceutical company donates basic medicines to the Como-based non-profit organisation***

**Milan, 07 February 2014** – Mediolanum Farmaceutici, a 100% Italian-owned company, has taken action and decided to donate medicines in response to the appeal made by the "Amici per il CentrAfrica" non-profit organisation, a secular voluntary association that is working in the Central African Republic to guarantee health assistance above all to the children that have been affected by the civil war that has erupted in recent weeks in the sub-Saharan republic.

"Central African men, women and children are living their worst nightmare, that of genocide - explains the Amici per il CentrAfrica non-profit organisation in its donation appeal –. After the mercenary and ferocious war of the Séléka troops, who are now being disarmed by the French forces, we are currently witnessing the oldest and most disturbing of human spectacles: that which pits brother against brother, friend against friend, neighbour against neighbour. Fear is the dominant emotion in Central Africa right now, reason has been replaced by the old spectre of hatred and animosity. There are no more rules, laws, friends or neighbourhoods. The only law is that of an eye for an eye: tribe against tribe and faith against faith. Men are mutilated with machetes, women are raped and children are forced to watch these horrendous events". Given the current situation, concludes the non-profit organisation, it is impossible not to think that we are witnessing "a macabre remake of the Rwandan genocide".

**In response to this appeal, Mediolanum Farmaceutici has donated Amici per il Centrafrica Onlus 2000 packets of Kocefan – ceftriaxone sodium to treat serious bacterial infections that are resistant to the most common antibiotics – and 10,000 packets of Integra MG K plus – a dietary supplement consisting of mineral salts, magnesium and potassium, with 10% ginseng content, carnitine and carnosine.**

The products donated by the Italian company will contribute to combating infections and malnutrition, two of the most serious emergencies that Amici per il CentrAfrica Onlus volunteers have had to deal with in recent days at the "La Joie de Vivre" Centre which on Saturday 25 January - date of the last headcount - hosted 1200 children with no families. "The children are suffering from acute respiratory illnesses, malaria, serious malnutrition, fractures, diarrhoea and severe anaemia – underlines the non-profit organisation –. And there are no more drugs available in the country nor is there sufficient food to cope with this drastic and unprecedented situation in the Central African Republic".

"Consistent with our modern business vision that seeks to protect people's health, we felt it was our duty to make this donation – comments **Alessandro Del Bono**, CEO of Mediolanum Farmaceutici –. Already in the past our concept of social responsibility has seen us protect jobs in Italy. It is a vision that in some respects obliged us to get involved, also for Central Africa, alongside a Como-based non-profit organisation. 'Amici per il CentrAfrica' is once again displaying Italy's immense generosity and professionalism when it comes to moving quickly, shaking off inertia and indifference to offer tangible help. Through this donation of medicines, Mediolanum Farmaceutici intends to make a concrete contribution to assisting the children and the people of the Central African Republic, but also to raise the Italian pharmaceutical industry's awareness of the alarm sounded by the non-profit organisation that we have decided to support: the Central African Republic is at risk of genocide and this very serious humanitarian emergency is characterised by a grave shortage of drugs".

**Recommended tags:** *Mediolanum Farmaceutici, Amici per il CentrAfrica Onlus, Central African Republic, drugs, donation, humanitarian emergency, civil war*

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