



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

“The Province of Spain collaborates on the Ödos PROJECT to help female victims of trafficking to escape from slavery and to have a bright future together with their children”

María Rosario Iranzo and Alejandro Florit, Provincial Councillor and Director of Hospitaller Identity of the Province of Spain, explain what the 'Ö2 Project' is and how our Institution collaborates.



M^a Rosario Iranzo and Alejandro Florit

Among victims of human trafficking, in Spain we currently have an especially vulnerable group due to the lack of a protection mechanism applicable to it. We are referring to **women with children or who are heavily pregnant that enter the country illegally and do not see themselves as trafficking victims**, and therefore are not included in government resources.

Since 2013, the annual figure ranges between 130 and 180 people who upon not seeing themselves as trafficking victims 'disappear' and become 'invisible to the authorities due to a crack in the legal system through which they escape, making their protection and that of their

children impossible.

Faced with this situation and trying to give an effective and integral answer to this very vulnerable group, the 'Ö2 PROJECT' is born, whose main objective is to create a collaboration network among different organisations and institutions that offer possibilities and resources to these women to escape the slavery in which they live with their children.

Organisation and phases

The project is expected to start in 2018 but before, one of the organisational complexities that must be dealt with is the plurality of organisations, activities (social, health, legal, etc.) and pro-



Activity with women attended

professionals associated with it. With this diversity, it is necessary to ensure a minimum level of homogeneity in the action guidelines, which means making sure that **the person being helped is the real focus of attention** and can harmoniously go through the different phases of the project, ensuring a smooth flow of information among the different organisations that are part of it. To do so, a resolution council will be established, made up of a representative of each collaborating entity.

There are two phases of this initiative: the first one will be based on identification, reception and recovery of their basic needs, while the second one will focus on accompaniment so that each woman who is helped can build a decent future, free and safe in Spain, together with her children.

Hospitaller Sisters' Participation

Our participation in this project mainly consists in the assessment of and **assistance for those women who, after experiencing abuse, have mental health needs and problems**. Although, we also will try to cover other health needs. This intervention would be divided into two phases, in line with the general phases of the project itself:

1. Recovery phase

At the beginning, it will be necessary to offer the women and their children protection in a safe environment. It is at that moment when our collaboration will begin; we will make an assessment, diagnosis and detect needs regarding the mental

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health of each person. Through the charity work of our professionals, we will provide this aid and will provide them the treatments they need, including psychiatric medications when needed.

Additionally, other general health needs that may arise will be explored. In this sense, we will try to collaborate through our hospitals by offering other types of health interventions when possible.

2. Phase of building a hopeful future

This project aims to offer these women the opportunity to rebuild their lives with their children, protecting them from this type of 21st-century slavery, such as sexual exploitation. Those women who have started a treatment will need our help to continue it through the normal channels in Spain. We will also support this connection with the public health system in a personalised way from Sisters Hospitallers.

Results, acknowledgements and collaborating entities

We are aware of the difficulties of obtaining results that may be considered successful in an intervention project of this type. Only through respect for human dignity can the relative success of the results be assumed. Changing one life is enough, offering new opportunities so that the effort of so many people makes absolute sense.

In any case, networking between pre-existing organisations, many of them from the Church like us,

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is already a success in itself. So we are grateful to be involved in this project together with each and every one of them: Fundación EMET-ARCOIRIS, Congregación de las Esclavas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Universidad Loyola Andalucía, Universidad Pontificia Comillas-ICADE, Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes, Villa Teresita, Save the Children and CÁRITAS, among others.

We are also grateful for the human and professional involvement in this initiative; to Isabel Lázaró, professor at Universidad Pontificia Comillas-ICADE; as well as to our professionals Francisco de Álvaro, Francisco del Olmo and Lourdes Núñez who with their devotion and work have contributed to our participation in the project becoming a reality.

Collaborate

If you want, you can also collaborate and/or help us with a financial donation. To do it, please get in touch with us through this email address: hhproyecto2@hospitalarias.es

To start this project, an investment of one million two hundred thousand euros is needed. At the present time, one million euros have managed to be raised among all the organisations involved. **Help us to help!**

General situation of human trafficking



Human trafficking is a global phenomenon comparable in size to slavery in the ancient world which, according to the International Labour Organization, affects a total of 20.9 million people, especially women and children.

In Europe, data collected by the European Commission in its 2012 statistics report show that between 2010 and 2012, a total of 30,146 victims were recorded of which 67% were women (13% are girls). The number of victims in Spain reached 1,964.

In Spain, the profile of the identified trafficking victims confirms the European trend since according to the indictments of the State Counsel's Office corresponding to the 2013 Report, victims come almost exclusively from sexual exploitation (90%) and they are, for the most part, citizens of Paraguay (28%) and Romania (26.8%), followed by Brazilians (17%), Nigerians (9.8%) and Chinese (8.5%).

INSTITUCIONAL

Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centre in Arimba, Angola



Laying of the cornerstone ceremony of the 'Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centre' in Arimba-Lubango, Angola

I want to start sharing a dream which I kept silent for many years in my hospitable and missionary heart. This unrest comes to me from a long time ago, from my time during novitiate I wanted to go to a new foundation, far away if possible, to experience the difficulties of the first sisters.

After many experiences and despite harsh working conditions, today I see my dream come true. Last 24 April, our founder's feast, the **laying of the cornerstone** took place to build the future '**Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centre**', which will be in the **Arimba-Lubango municipality in Angola**.

This day has had a great impact on all the sisters present. **We felt the future was in our hands!** This first hospitaller building that will be born in Angola (if it is not already born), where charity will be practised and many hospitallers will want to give their lives following the example of Christ.

During the ceremony, we wanted to sing our congregation's hymn to remember that this is not our work but the work of the whole congregation, from the effort of all the hospitallers that make up the congregation, represented here today.

'It is meaningful that we make this blessing on the day that we celebrate the feast of our founder, St.

Benedict Menni. May he help us to be strong and brave in the practise of charity for so many sick people and people in need', said our Superior General Anabela Carneiro, present at this ceremony, which also gave us great joy.

With the blessing of the cornerstone of this Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centre, we want to re-affirm our **willingness to keep serving people who need mental health care**. We do it dedicating our whole lives, as consecrated women, to following Jesus the Good Samaritan and his example, serving those who need it most. We also do it through our professionalism, offering sick people care that combines science and charity, as Sister Anabela said in her speech.

May the Lord bless this seed of hospitality, dropped in the Angolan soil, and strengthen us so that following the example of St. Benedict Menni we know how to be 'Samaritans of Love', strong in the practise of hospitality.

We know that there will be difficulties but, following the example of our founders, we trust that being God's work and not ours, He will help us to carry out the work begun.

Isabel Martins, Sister Hospitaller



INTERVIEW

"After 50 years of Hospitaller presence in Ecuador, our goal is to keep improving mental health services"

Leonor Idiazábal



Hospitaller Sister, Leonor Idiazábal, tells about how she spent the 50th anniversary of hospitaller presence in Ecuador, as well about its evolution throughout these years of history.

Before beginning, could you put these 50 years of 'Hospitallity' in Ecuador into context?

In 2017, specifically on 24 June, it was the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Clinic, at the service of people with mental illness in Quito, Ecuador. This clinic was the first that Sisters Hospitallers opened in this country.

What was the purpose of hospitaller presence in Ecuador?

During a trip that she took to Bolivia in 1966, the Superior General at that time, María Maximina Zabalza, visited Ecuador and took an interest in the neglectful situation in which people with mental illness found themselves.

Faced with this harsh reality, she proposed to the sisters of the Pasto Community, Colombia (country bordering Ecuador), that they look for strategies to respond to the situation of neglect, especially of women with mental illness in Ecuador.

Who were the first sisters?

In October of the same year, the Provincial Delegate of Colombia, Sister Emerenciana de Jesús Gazólaz, Sister María Ludmila Sánchez and Sister Virtudes de Santa Teresita Orzánco travelled to Quito, accompanied by Mr. Nicanor Vela from Quito.

In February 1967, the sisters who were mentioned travelled again, accompanied by Sister Elda de María Monreal and Sister Gertrudis del Sagrado Corazón Ollacarizqueta who established the first community made up of: Sister María Ludmila Sánchez as superior; Sister Elda as vice president; and Sister Gertrudis as an assistant. Sister

María Luisa del Puy Goñi arrived on 20 June from Spain as the ecclesiastical administrator.

What was the inauguration of the first centre like?

On 24 June, the community of the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Clinic was inaugurated with the celebration of a Holy Mass presided over by the cardinal and the presence of sisters from the Colombian houses, members of the Spanish embassy, the country's authorities and many other people that supported the cause. Then he proceeded to bless the clinic's facilities.

At the end of this celebration, Dr. Julio Endar, a psychiatrist who had been appointed director of the centre, made a presentation about it accompanied by Dr. José Cruz Cuevas, who was the second director of the clinic.

What is the current condition of our institution in Ecuador?

Psychiatric care was and continues to be a very important need in the country. Our institution has been growing on all levels over time. With great effort, perseverance and vision of the future, our mental health services, teaching and research have been strengthened.

In the past nine years, we have opened up to other fields in the area of health, always in line with our Charismatic values. Today, we are a leader in scientific and human quality.

In Ecuador, there are currently three Sisters Hospitallers centres: the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Clinic in Quito; the Sagrado Corazón Psychiatric Institute also in Quito; and the Emmet Dalton Mental Health Centre in Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas. All of them focus their services on helping people with mental illness.

The sisters who make up the Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe community group are: Sister Antonina Moro Rojo, Sister Luzia Guadalupe da Silva, Sister Geovanna Vásquez Peralvo and myself. In Ecuador, there are a total of 15 sisters.

How are they celebrating this anniversary?

Upon reaching 50 years of Hospitaller service in Ecuador, the way to celebrate it could be nothing other than to keep providing assistance to the Ecuadorian people, with the goal of improving their mental health services.

Under this premise, an international congress was held on 22 and 23 June, following the tradition of high-quality training spaces taught for years at our centres in the city of Quito.

The theme chosen for the congress could be none other than 'APPROACH DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND DISASTERS' in memory of the victims of the earthquake in 2016 that devastated the country and resulted in the loss of human lives and property, as well as physical and mental imbalance both individually and collectively. These events awakened our solidarity.

A wish for the future...

The challenges at this time in the country's history and the trajectory of hospitaller work mean reinventing charisma and passing it on to those who are part of the hospitaller mission to keep proclaiming the tender and compassionate love of God to the people and communities most in need.

Volunteering in Ghana



Alberto Martín Portal together with a patient in Ghana

English Province

Alberto y Oscar Martín Portal, two brothers who are audio-prosthologists at Centro Europeo de la Audición in Madrid, Spain, have visited our 'St. Francis Xavier Hospital' centre in Assin Foso, Ghana, for the fourth year in a row to help hearing impaired patients.

This project came about due to the high rate of severe deafness detected in the country, especially in the paediatric population.

'Every time we travel to Ghana, our goal is to try to adjust as many hearing aids as possible in record time, but doing things right so that the result can last over time. The expectations have been more than met. This year, we have seen cases of girls adjusted the year before, who at the time didn't speak because they couldn't hear, and now they even speak English. We are very satisfied', said Oscar and Alberto.

Both are keen to go back and to be able to monitor the results of the people adjusted this year. They feel really happy to selflessly exercise their profession, focusing on giving each patient the best solution.

'We are forever grateful to Sister Lourdes and Sister Felicia for making us not miss the comforts that we left behind in the first world as much', added the Martín Portal brothers.



IV Training Sessions

Spain Province



IV Training Sessions on the Institution's Identity Framework

On the 6th, 14th and 20th of June, the Fourth Training Sessions on the Institution's Identity Framework (MII, for its abbreviation in Spanish) for management and the members of Sisters Hospitallers management boards were held at the Madrid Provincial House in Spain. On this occasion, they have been focused on **hospitaller leadership and the value of the service for the ill and people in need.**

'This year, we set out to maintain a focus that would serve as a unifying channel for all activities and encounters: our value of service for the ill and people in need. This training activity delves into this value and explains it for those of you who must lead our Hospitaller project', said Matilde Porras, provincial superior of the Spanish province.

And there are many types of leadership *'but not all are equally valid at our institution since from our identity, leadership must always be to serve others'*, empha-

sised Sister Matilde. *'Just by knowing our strengths and weaknesses, we will be able to reliably analyse to what extent we are remaining faithful to exercising hospitaller leadership at each centre'.* To exercise good leadership, it is essential to develop the capacity for reflection, among others. To do so, leaders need time to take a break and distance from the various challenges they face, to assess and thus be able to respond with depth to the continuing challenges that must be faced as an institution.

Capacity for reflection

Developing capacity for reflection leads to a deep understanding of reality, by pointing to the right direction and distinguishing the future to head towards. 'Our institution is not satisfied with just any leader, but with the best. Those who know how to combine science and charity. People who never forget that everything that is done here is focused on the best interest of the people ser-

ved, people who at the same time demand things of others, they are the first to set an example," added Sister Matilde.

Hospitality through service

As for Maria Rosario Iranzo, Provincial Councillor of Hospitaller Identity, she emphasised: 'When leading, we focus on the figure of Pope Francis, on his attitude of closeness and compassion towards people, without forgetting that we are called to make HOSPITALITY visible through SERVICE'.

During these sessions, Professor Francesc Torralba participated as a speaker, with a keynote speech where he delved into ethical leadership: *'It is essential to have an impact on the new paradigm of ethical leadership in order to not only have authority in organisations but also to maintain the cohesion and loyalty of the people who work in it... Not only must there be fair paid recognition, the emotional salary must be taken care of too'.*

VI Benedict Menni Contest

Portuguese Province

The Benedict Menni contest is an initiative of the Portuguese Province that aims to reinforce the presence of research in the welfare work of all its centres and facilities.

In this fourth edition of the award, the Sagrada Familia Centre for Psycho-Pedagogical Rehabilitation in Madeira was the winner with a scientific study called *'Dating abuse during adolescence'*. The Bento Menni Health Clinic in Guarda also stood out with an honourable mention for its study *'Functional capacity and associated factors of people assisted at psychogeriatric units'*.

In addition to the scientific work, the contest takes into account an artistic aspect. In this sense, the 'Sculpture and Modelling' category was the one that received the most projects, with a total of six, followed by 'Literature' with three projects, 'Video' with two, as well as 'Painting' and 'Reusing materials' with three projects each.

Participation in the 'Sixth Benedict Menni Contest' was very positive. The announcement was sent to all the centres in March 2016, and the results were made public in April 2017, while the



Works presented in the artistic category

closing and awards ceremony was held last June.

In accordance with our Institutional Identity, they foster commitment in **the Portuguese Province with the continuous improvement of care and career advancement**. Encouraging initiatives like the Benedict Menni Contest **aims to contribute to the understanding of mental illness and, thus, the optimisation of their care processes**.

New sports equipment

French Province

The Saint Raphael centre in Marseille, managed by the Benoît Menni Association of the Sisters Hospitaliers in France, encourages the physical activity of its residents.

After winning the innovation prize from the 'Buen Jeanne' Foundation, they have built a court for doing sports at the centre itself. The main objective of this initiative is to fight against lack of activity, apathy, excess weight and obesity, as well as to offer a place for residents of the centre and the people who visit them to exchange and meet.

With this new sports equipment, adapted to their needs, residents will be able to work on their motor skills and develop their physical and cognitive abilities.



Inauguration of the new sports equipment



Hospitality without borders...



Staff and activities at the centre

The Maria Josefa Recio Therapeutic Centre in Cebu, Philippines, partially opened on 12 April 2000 and fully opened on 13 September 2003, *offers a complete programme of services and comprehensive care for people with mental illness.*

Through the efforts and collaboration of the Sisters Hospitallers in Cebu and its highly qualified staff, the centre aims to achieve stability of the users' illness, as well as their social reintegration after treatment and therapy suited to their needs. *The programs and services are mainly focused on three areas: outpatient consultations, hospitalisation or inpatient services and the day centre.*

The centre is managed by 8 sisters and 16 collaborators, including 6 nurses and 3 nursing assistants who work in shifts for 24 hours, seven days per week. They also have the help of two volunteers and trainees, occupational therapy university students, who help with the patients' daily rehabilitation activities.

Currently, it has got 30 beds available to accommodate men and women from 15 to 60 years old; the average age is around 40.

Importance for their environment

The presence of the Maria Josefa Recio Therapeutic Centre in Cebu gives a lot of hope to the patients' families. *Its therapeutic approach has shown how people with mental illness can and should be treated and helped, without isolating or locking them up but rather helping them to feel integrated and loved.* In fact, those who visit the centre very much appreciate the environment and the freedom in which the users live.

The stories of improvement of many patients admitted to the centre have encouraged family members and even collaborators themselves to be patient with the rehabilitation process because it has been shown that once they recover they can reintegrate with their families and society.

The centre is a second home for the patients. The users, collaborators, volunteers, students, etc. always feel the hospitality of the place. The sisters at the centre endeavour to fulfil the wish of our founders: *'Each person that comes to us should always feel welcome'.*

The beauty of 'Josefinato'



On the verge of finishing the 'Josefinato' and before returning to our home countries, with a humble heart and full of joy, we thank the congregation that has given us the opportunity, the privilege, of stopping to evaluate ourselves and discern our motivations in the following of Christ the Good Samaritan, in hospitaller religious life.

We feel blessed, strengthened, joyful, cheerful and committed to saying yes to the gift of vocation. We also appreciate the trust placed in us, offering us so many means that help us to mature and consolidate our commitment to the Lord.

Our most sincere thanks to each community and each sister; your support, humanity and prayers have accompanied us and let us go into this formative process wholeheartedly.

Josefinas 2017

Important dates: July, August and September

- 21th General Chapter Planning Committee meeting at the General House in Rome, Italy, from 18 July to 10 August 2017
- Meeting of the Commission for the Review of the Constitutions, at the General House in Rome, Italy, from 11 to 17 September 2017
- Training for spokespeople, geared towards sisters of the General Government, Provincial Governments/Delegations and/or with spokesperson roles in the Institution, at the Provincial House in Madrid, Spain, from 19-20 September 2017
- General meeting of secretaries at the Madrid Provincial House (Spain) from 20-23 September 2017
- Seminar on 'Culture of Quality' in Lisbon (Portugal) 21 September 2017

For more information and contact:
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