



Even a simple  
gesture is a step towards hope  
for many children.

THANK YOU



**A.A.G. Association d'Aide à Gao**

Maison Rouge  
CH – 1268 Burtigny  
Tel: +41 (0) 79 206 92 56

CCP 17-454825-6  
BIC POFICHBEXXX  
IBAN CH59 0900 0000 1745 4825 6

Ch. du Trait-d'Union 6  
CH – 1203 Genève  
Tel: +41 (0) 79 817 88 02

CCP 10-740209-8  
BIC POFICHBEXXX  
IBAN CH29 0900 0000 1074 0209 8

email: [info@aide-gao.org](mailto:info@aide-gao.org)  
[www.aide-gao.org](http://www.aide-gao.org)



We must take  
urgent measures to  
reduce children's  
suffering and  
mortality in this  
impoverished  
region of Mali.

The vast majority of the Gao people live precariously. The years of drought, civil war, transmitted diseases, poor hygiene and a recurrent invasion of locusts have worsened the living conditions of these people, where young children are most vulnerable.





**The Association d'Aide à Gao started its activities in 2005 in Gao by undertaking responsibility for the food and health needs of 237 orphans between the ages of 0 and 5 years.**

**Today, the AAG is also involved in the programme to combat malnutrition and to improve sanitation standards.**



Gao, the last town on the edge of the desert, is 1200 km from the capital. Gao consists of about 66'000 inhabitants, made up of a minority of civil servants and a large population of rural dwellers, native to the city, as well as peasants from the nearby countryside who have settled there. These people, who originally were farmers or herdsmen, rapidly became victims to urban poverty for lack of any specific qualifications.

The poorest groups in Gao, which some development practitioners call "the floating poor belt" are to be found on the edge of the city.

### **Malnutrition: a real problem**

An anaemic and immature baby, living in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions, becomes relatively malnourished in its second six months. Anaemia and under-nutrition are accentuated by persistent malaria, with bronchopneumonia or gastroenteritis added to the pathology.

### **Our activities**

We work in close collaboration with Sophie PETRONIN, our head of mission, on a completely voluntary basis. Sophie has put in place a nutritional and health programme for orphans.

The AAG Association works with health services in the national programme to combat malnutrition.



*Sophie and Nouhoum whose mother has died.*

### **Our objectives**

Our aim is above all to help populations in need, by offering them the means to rediscover their autonomy, but without taking over from them and by respecting their dignity.

Long exploited by the industrialized countries, the African people strive to surmount their difficult condition: let's give them the chance to again become free and proud.

**Children are tomorrow's future.** In Mali, around 50 per cent of the population are less than 15 years old, and only 29 per cent are at school.

Our project aims to target the most vulnerable: orphaned infants (mother died in childbirth, father absent or unknown) and young children, in order to launch a dynamic thrust for bringing these children out of poverty.

The children's weight-to-age ratio, the accepted indicator of malnutrition, shows that lack of food is still a major problem in Mali, and especially in the surrounding enclaves, like the Gao region.

### **Our projects**

**Construction of a reception centre** for orphaned babies and young children who cannot be cared for by their families. Our aim is to help these children flourish. At the moment we have no actual building in which to do this so we are actively looking for funds to enable us to undertake this project.

**Group sponsorship** allows us to fairly secure the future of the orphans by providing them with access to food, healthcare and education.

**There are no middlemen; every franc donated is put towards helping children in distress.**

### **Rehabilitation**

In collaboration with local authorities, we are trying to find solutions to combat diseases linked to poor hygiene and illness that affect the youngest children most.