On the spot radiology: Mobile clinic in Burkina Faso

"Health for All" project extends medical care

When Dr. Peter Van Dingenen launched the Paam Laafi “Health for All” project, he aimed at improving health in Burkina Faso. Four years later, the project’s realizations include basic healthcare for 13,000 children and tuberculosis screenings for a great number of Burkinabes. Agfa HealthCare’s CR 10-X is a vital link in the project: without compromising on image quality, it takes medical care from an analog to a digital level through cost-effective computed radiography.

CR 10-X
- Good cost-quality mix
- Radiation dose up to 60% lower
- Supports screening programs

"We have a digital medical record for all of these children, a unique feat in the country’s medical records approach."

Dr. Peter Van Dingenen, Founder, Paam Laafi Association
“Health for All” project extends medical care

In Burkina Faso, “children and adults still die of very treatable diseases,” says Dr. Van Dingenen. “Our own research shows that only 30% of the children attending primary school are actually in good health.” That’s why Paam Laafi has been making medical visits to local primary schools. With their mobile clinics, a team of 30 examine, diagnose and treat about 300 children in a few hours. Each child’s physical condition is documented in an individual health record, which is entered in a digital database upon return. Dr. Van Dingenen: “We have a digital medical record for some 13,000 children, a unique feat in the country’s medical records approach, which has consisted mainly of a health booklet given at birth to all citizens.”

A synergy between medical services, solidarity-based financing and communication services forms the basis of Paam Laafi’s approach. Dr. Van Dingenen: “Companies here need to have their employees checked every year, because of the high incidence of tuberculosis. We provide all examinations in one hour max, with our mobile radiology van. With our margin on the fee for each employee screened, we can provide care to five other patients who would otherwise not have access to decent care.”

Mobile radiology equipment is crucial to this service. The mobile radiology unit uses an Agfa HealthCare CR 10-X solution. This table-top digitizer is specially designed to offer lower volume users a cost-effective entry into computed radiography, without compromising on image quality.

“With the Agfa HealthCare CR 10-X, we can offer the employers a good cost-quality mix and we dramatically increase our productivity. We can do up to 30 takes per hour, with a radiation dose that is up to 60% lower.”

These mobile activities have offered a great opportunity for local doctors: over the last years a core group has come together to help build the “Health for All” program. Dr. Van Dingenen: “Together we have defined the idea of the Health for All Campus and Hospital, to be established in the outskirts of Ouagadougou. This 10-year project will eventually lead to a 120-bed campus. We hope to administer care to up to 100,000 patients per year.”