WHO ARE WE?

Santé Diabète is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2001 to address the lack of access to medical care for people with diabetes in Africa and development agencies’ failure to take this health emergency into account.

Initially present in Mali, Santé Diabète then developed its actions in Burkina Faso, Senegal, the Union of Comoros, and in France (headquarters of the association), with permanent teams in each country today.

OUR MISSION

Strengthening and structuring healthcare systems to improve the prevention and management of diabetes

With a team of 40 people and over 200 local and international partners, Santé Diabète works in the field on a daily basis to save lives by better diabetes prevention and management in order to improve the quality of life of people suffering from this chronic disease. Santé Diabète has developed a unique expertise in diabetes in Africa and in developing countries which is regularly sought at an international level (missions to strengthen national health systems, involvement in expert studies, etc.). In parallel, since 2011, Santé Diabète has been developing a health and international citizenship education program in France.

OUR APPROACH

Santé Diabète has a unique way of working

- We are the only NGO specialising in the fight against diabetes in Africa
- We manage diabetes in the long term by strengthening local healthcare systems
- We work directly with Ministries, Health Departments and national, regional, and local healthcare structures
- We build a strong civil society by structuring it and we support patient associations
- We promote South-North, South-South, and North-South collaboration
- We apprise the world through international advocacy
- We contribute to the fight against diabetes at a global level by being the only independent NGO recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and a member of its Global Coordination Mechanism on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD)
- We work with an international network for local solutions
- Our operational structure and management are based in West Africa as close as possible to the field.

SANTÉ DIABÈTE IN 2020

40 employees

200 partners

Awareness-raising in 9,220 students

70,500 people at risk screened

1,840 health professionals trained

25,000 people supported (with type 2 diabetes)

900 treatments for children with type 1 diabetes undertaken
**DIABETES**

Diabetes is a disease related to pancreatic dysfunction that is characterised by chronic hyperglycemia, namely an excess of sugar in the blood.

There are three main types of diabetes:

**Type 1 diabetes**, which affects 10% of people with diabetes, mainly children and young adults: the pancreas no longer makes any insulin and must be “artificially compensated” by daily subcutaneous injections of insulin.

**Type 2 diabetes**, which affects 90% of people with this disease and more particularly sedentary and overweight adults over the age of 45, is linked to the misuse of insulin by the cells of the organism.

**Gestational diabetes** occurs in pregnant women, with varying degrees of hyperglycemia and increased risks of complications during pregnancy and delivery, and of subsequent development of type 2 diabetes.

**THE FIGHT AGAINST DIABETES**

A global health emergency

Today diabetes is the 7th leading cause of death in the world, hitting all countries hard, those with high income and those with low income alike. The fight against diabetes has become a real health emergency. The alarming progression of diabetes is directly linked to the evolution of our lifestyles (sedentary, massive urbanisation, production methods and food consumption...) which has a strong impact on human health and on the environment and increases the risks of developing noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes.

**DIABETES IN THE WORLD**

- **463 million** people with diabetes in 2020
- **10%** of the global population
- **8 out of 10 people** with diabetes live in developing countries
- **1 person** dies from diabetes every 6 seconds
- **7th** leading cause of death
- A figure which has increased fourfold in just 30 years and which, according to International Diabetes Federation estimates, could reach 700 million people by 2045.
SITUATION OVERVIEW

Burkina Faso is one of the countries where the density of health professionals is one of the lowest in the world with only 1 doctor and 5 nurses on average per 10,000 inhabitants. This shortage significantly limits the country’s ability to provide its population with sufficient, effective and equitable health services, with the cost of treatments being very high. The fight against noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) - including diabetes - has become a priority with over 30% of the country’s adult population affected by an NCD.

KEY FIGURES IN BURKINA FASO

- Human Development Index (HDI): 183rd (out of 189 countries)
- Diabetes prevalence: 7.3%
- Overweight: 13.4%
- Obesity: 4.5%
- Cost of diabetes: 1 month of diabetes care = 50% of a family’s income (out-of-pocket spendings)

OUR ACTION

Since 2012, Santé Diabète has developed programs in Burkina Faso that have enabled:

- The training of 4 specialist endocrinologists and diabetologists who participated in the specialised degree of endocrinology and the university degree of diabetology;
- The support of the teams from the Yalgado University Hospital Centre with the training of 400 health professionals (doctors and paramedics) working in regional hospitals and secondary health facilities;
- The implementation of campaigns to prevent diabetes risk factor together with free screening (diabetes and hypertension), in all regions of Burkina Faso with 35,000 people screened;
- The implementation of actions to prevent risk factors for diabetes in schools and high schools in different regions of Burkina Faso, raising the awareness of more than 4,000 students;
- Strengthening community stakeholders through the formation of networks of peer educators;
- The structuring and capacity building of associations for people with diabetes so that they can actively take part to the prevention and management of diabetes (pilot actions of prevention and therapeutic education);
- Strengthening patient associations in prevention and therapeutic education actions;
- The structuring and capacity building of associations for people with diabetes so that they can actively take part to the prevention and management of diabetes (pilot actions of prevention and therapeutic education);

The challenges of the coming years are threefold:

- To continue to conduct trainings of specialists and generalist health professionals in the management of diabetes to strengthen the supply of care in the country;
- To strengthen even further the role of patient associations in prevention and therapeutic education actions;
- To strengthen the actions undertaken in prevention to fight risk factors of diabetes and take charge early on of people with the disease to prevent complications related to it.

Santé Diabète is also taking action to enable the State to play a stronger part in the prevention and management of diabetes, notably by lowering the prices of anti-diabetes treatments and by including this disease in the universal health insurance plan that should be set up in Burkina Faso.
In 2013, only 3.8% of health districts in Burkina Faso had health professionals trained in the management of diabetes. In 2019, thanks to the action of Santé Diabète, all (100%) of the health districts of Burkina Faso had trained health professionals.

Mr SAWADOGO Inoussa, Project Manager Prevention and Support to Civil Society

“2018 and 2019 were particularly marked by the development of training of health professionals in the management of diabetes / tuberculosis / HIV comorbidities and of a network of peer educators from associations for people with diabetes and HIV / AIDS. The aim of this action was, initially, to integrate the management of patients with comorbidities. Secondly, it helped to integrate the prevention of risk factors for diabetes in people with HIV / AIDS and vice versa. This pilot action is important to strengthen the country’s health system.”

IN 2018 AND 2019, WE HAVE:

- Screened **57,089** people presenting with diabetes risk factors
- Raised the awareness of **8,762** people on the prevention of comorbidities: Diabetes / Tuberculosis and Diabetes / HIV
- Trained **530** health professionals in the management of diabetes
- Formed a network of **16** peer educators from associations to achieve community prevention

More than 58% of those screened have at least one diabetes risk factor: overweight, obesity, high blood pressure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Screened</th>
<th>% of people with higher than normal blood glucose</th>
<th>Number of people with at least 1 risk factor for diabetes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td>2539</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mens</strong></td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td>4419</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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In 2019, an inter-country dialogue framework was organized to meet the needs of pooling good practices, discussing the methodologies developed and effectively capitalizing on the actions carried out in the fight against diabetes in Africa from programs developed by our NGO in Burkina Faso, France, Mali and the Union of the Comoros. This framework for dialogue constitutes a real platform for the actors involved in the fight against diabetes and in meeting the challenges of this global health emergency.

"This year has allowed us to strengthen our actions in the field to provide more support to people with diabetes. It has also enabled us to increase our visibility beyond the world of diabetes and has opened up interesting opportunities for us to collaborate with stakeholders in global health, nutrition and the environment. Their mobilisation is, and will increasingly be, essential in the fight against diabetes and in meeting the challenges of this global health emergency."

Stéphane Besançon, CEO of Santé Diabète

"Thanks to Santé Diabète, I am now helping my community as a peer educator"

Mrs DRAMERA, 64 years old, type 2 diabetic, founder of the Vivre Avec Son Diabète (Living with Diabetes) association

"Santé Diabète has helped me to learn how to live better with my illness on a daily basis and to improve my knowledge of diabetes. During workshops about nutrition, I learned how to prepare and eat balanced meals, which are also local dishes. I was also told how to engage in physical activity - such as walking - adapted to my lifestyle. Thanks to the training of Santé Diabète on facilitation techniques, I am now, as a peer educator, supporting members of my community to help them live with their diabetes and to avoid complications."

Stéphane Besançon, CEO of Santé Diabète

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OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Primary prevention
- Strengthening healthcare provision
- Humanitarian diabetes response
- Therapeutic education
- Access to medicines
- Strengthening civil society
- Support for public health policy
- Health and Citizenship Education
- Development of university degree courses
- Advocacy
- Research

OUR ACTION IN BURKINA FASO

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