We walk through the path of life with our beneficiaries offering primary health care, education, food security, women empowerment programs, capacity building and social support.

Between 1988 and 2017 we have touched the life of over two million people.

LOVING GAZE IS AN INDEPENDENT NGO, WITH 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN NIGERIA.
Fostering the human desire for joy, hope and positive change.

Let’s start this journey of brotherhood, love and faith.

Loving Gaze welcomes every single person “at home”, with a loving and caring gaze. We want all our beneficiaries to feel that they are never alone, despite their health condition, their challenges, and difficulties. We recognize each person’s irreducible dignity and uniqueness, which cannot be reduced to her social, economic or health condition. We share a wider loving gaze that bonds our friendships and eagerness to walk together in life.

We build a concrete friendship with our patients offering the medical care they need, a concrete friendship with our children, helping them to continue their primary and secondary education, with our communities enabling them to cooperate and shape a better future together.

“The problem of the whole world’s existence is the happiness of each single person” (Father Luigi Giussani). Each single person’s happiness goes beyond and above the human contingency: hardship or prosperity, health or sickness.

Loving Gaze aims at offering a true friendship, which embraces professional support and care. We want our beneficiaries to experience love and care whenever they meet us: as patients in our clinics, or as students in our schools.

This year’s annual report spotlights some of the positive changes which has happened among us, thanks to your support. We often glimpse that change in a single moment when a patient, a woman, a child feels welcomed with care, and recognizes her own value. Take a moment to read our stories, and then consider the change you can make by becoming part of the solution with Loving Gaze.

Barbara Pepoli
Loving Gaze General Manager
Working every day to transform lives and futures.

LOVING GAZE
WE CARE. DO YOU?

SOCIAL Services
QUALITY Health Care
WOMEN Empowerment
PRIMARY Education
FOOD Security
CAPACITY Building
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>We touched the life of 70,000 people</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>63,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients treated in our three St Kizito clinics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **50 tons** |
| Of maize produced in Taraba State |

| **6,000** |
| HIV tests |

| **340** |
| Children born in our clinic |

| **112** |
| Women trained |

| **1,600** |
| Students in our four schools |

| **300** |
| Secondary schools scholarships |

| **1,300** |
| TB tests |

| **46** |
| Farmers united in a cooperative |

| **3,800** |
| Infant vaccines administrated |

| **5,760** |
| Food packages distributed |

| **178** |
| Malnourished children treated |

| **574** |
| Women attending Health Talks |

| **76** |
| Professional health care providers attending our trainings |

| **900** |
| Children screened by our dentists |

| **4** |
| New classes in St John School |

| **1** |
| Refurbished St Kizito Clinic in Ikorodu |

Sowing seeds of change.
LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME

THE CHALLENGE

Children and adolescents in Nigeria represent 45% of the population. The population’s exponential growth has weakened the already fragile country’s infrastructures and limited resources.

In Nigeria, around 5 million children do not have access to primary education.

WHAT WE DO

Loving Gaze reaches 1,600 students directly with four schools. We run two schools in Lagos: SS Peter & Paul and St John Schools and two schools in Taraba State: The New Seed and St Monica Schools. We also support 300 primary and secondary students attending private and public schools in Lagos State.

Even though 60% of our students need support, we encourage all the families to contribute, based on their ability, to their children’s school fees. This enables them to take responsibility and value their children’s education.

In 2017, we started the filling of the outdoor area to prevent further flooding damages and we renovated the SS Peter & Paul School playground, to the joy of our children.

Thanks to Procter & Gamble generous contribution, we opened four more classes in St John School. This meant we were able to welcome 100 new children from the Egun community in Oreta, Ikorodu.

We keep enriching our students’ learning experience with the reading classes, sports activities and the theatre experience. In 2017 our school children brought on stage Pinocchio and they are now working on the Wizard of Oz story.

We keep investing in our children and promoting their participation to the secondary schools’ scholarships’ exams. For the first time, in 2017, also St John School’s students attended the exams. We are proud to say that our best students are now enrolled in Daywaterman College, Lagoon School, St Gregory School, Eucharistic Heart College, Christ the King College and Maryhood School.

We support 1,600 students’ studies, from nursery to secondary school.

Our first bamboo school was established in the 90’s. In 2003 we opened the SS Peter and Paul School (Ikate Waterside) and in 2007 the St Johns School (Ikorodu).

Today 60% of our students still need support to continue their studies. All our students in St John School and both schools in Taraba State are supported.

10% of our schools students win scholarships to continue their secondary education.
Lack of access to quality health care in Nigeria is a fundamental source of many of the society’s ills, resulting in thousands of preventable deaths every year. TB and HIV are still on the rise and patients need continuous treatment and support. Rarely poor people have access to quality health care, or medical consultation for safe drugs assumption, and they ignore the basic hygiene, diet and health care principles.

Since 1991 we offer basic health care to the most vulnerable in Lagos, through three clinics in Lagos, all of them located in poor communities: Jakande Housing Estate (Lekki), Ibi-Idari (Mushin) and Oreta (Ikorodu).

We provide support and quality treatment for malaria and tuberculosis, so-called diseases of poverty, which can be fatal if not treated. We implement actions to fight HIV/AIDS, for which we have treatments that are effective, but difficult to provide over the patients’ entire life spans.

Early this year, the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), through the recommendation of the Lagos State TBOP, donated a GeneXpert test device platform to St Kizito Clinic. The GeneXpert test substantially improved the diagnosis of tuberculosis among the Eti-Osa community and beyond. This landmark achievement enabled us to detect Multi-Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB) as well as hard to diagnose TB, especially among people living with HIV.

Our clinics work in close cooperation with Lagos State specialist hospitals, referring critical cases, and we often receive consulting support from international volunteer doctors.

According to the latest WHO data, life expectancy in Nigeria is 53, while in Europe it is 80.

Since 2005 St Kizito Clinic has been a Lagos Health Ministry certified TB/DOT Centre for the fight against Tuberculosis. Since 2007 we have implemented HIV treatment in partnership with USAID and other international bodies. In 2017 APIN extended St Kizito Clinic as a project’s partner in ART for the next five years to contribute towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

St Kizito Clinic Clinics offer a variety of services, including:
- 24-7 Consultation and Pharmacy
- Laboratory exams
- X-ray, Ultra-sound and Electrocardiography
- Immunization
- Injections and dressing
- Women health: Gynaecology, breast and cervical cancer screening
- Specialist consultations: Eye clinic, Dentist
- Corporate and HMOs services
- Ambulance emergency service
- 24-7 Maternity home

We believe that affordable high quality care should be available to all the members of our community. This is why, year after year, we continue offering more specialised consultations to our patients, partnering with professional and dedicated doctors.
Only 4 in 10 births are delivered with the assistance of a skilled provider, placing Nigeria among the countries with the highest maternity mortality rate.

Our Maternity Clinic, since 2016, assisted the delivery of over 745 children and referred more critical cases to specialised hospitals.

In 2017 with support from PEPFAR (USAID) small grants we organized several health community programs for women and non professional providers in underserved urban communities covering basic hygiene, prevention and treatment of HIV as well as children and new born care.

In 2017, thanks to Dr Alessandra Det Governatore, a professional dentist who volunteered from Italy, we ran a dental screening for 900 children in Lagos, inclusive of oral health care talks and distribution of tooth brushes and tubes of tooth paste.

Women Health Care
Our clinics delivered health care support to vulnerable women since their inception. We offer antenatal and postnatal care, cervical and breast cancer screenings in our clinics and through mobile outstations. Our gynaecologist and fertility specialist provides family planning and natural fertility treatment. We are an authorized centre for Anti Retroviral Therapy to make sure our HIV patients deliver safely and raise their children free of HIV.

We run health talks in the communities to teach women basic hygiene, health and food security measures for babies and children. In 2017, with PEPFAR Small Grant support, we reached 575 women.
empowering
countries,
for change.

THE CHALLENGE
Statistically women invest twice as much of their incomes back into their family than men (80 percent to 40 percent), yet, in Nigeria they are victims of violence, discrimination and stand out as the most vulnerable in the society.

WHAT WE DO
We started our Women Empowerment program in 2011 within the community of Ikate Waterside with vocational trainings and small soft loans. In 2017, thanks to the PEPFAR Small Grant, we were able to train 575 women with our health talks and train the trainers’ programs.

Our programs focused on:
- Hygiene
- HIV Prevention, Testing and Care
- Feeding in context of HIV and safe infants weaning
- Puberty development, self-awareness and child abuse
- Hand, dental and environment hygiene

We also reached 112 women in Idi Araba and Orisha, Ikorodu. We periodically run soap making, bakery, catering, tailoring and hair stylist vocational trainings along with the basics of saving and business management.

We encourage women to start their own small activities, to put their talents at work and sustain their families. We support the most talented and motivated ones with the procurement of raw materials and equipment.

At the same time, in cooperation with the Cathingen NGO, we started a soft loan micro-credit program dedicated to the women of our community in Lekki.

We started our Women empowerment programme in 2011. With PEPFAR support in 2017 we reached over 500 women in three communities in Lagos.

We run vocational trainings: soap making, baking catering, tailoring and hair stylist.

To a selected number of women we provide a micro-credit to start their own small business.
Fighting children’s malnutrition.

THE CHALLENGE
An estimated 2.5 million Nigerian children under the age of five suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition every year. This makes children nine times more likely to die from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria.

Every year, nearly 420,000 children under five die in Nigeria.

WHAT WE DO
In 2017 we treated 178 malnourished children in our three St Kizito Clinics’ Nutrition Centres. We offer them emergency support, food and medicines, monitoring them on daily basis during the most critical phase. We distribute over 5,000 food packages (rice, beans and milk) every year. We teach the mothers how to take care of their babies and how to cook the Tom Brown, a rich pap loved by children. Thanks to Il Germoglio Onlus we are able to offer social, medical and psychological support to the children and their families.

We serve 5,760 lunches every year to the children and their mothers.

We offer medical care to malnourished children and support their families with socio-economic help.

With the support of local charities we distribute diapers, clothes and other small commodities to the mothers in need.

A seed of maize
In 2016, we started an agricultural project in Taraba State. It involves 46 farmers united in a cooperative. Kona is a small rural village in the vicinity of Jalingo, in Taraba State, in Northern Nigeria. Loving Gaze has been providing basic educational services to vulnerable children of Kona village for a decade. We provide basic educational services to vulnerable children of Kona village for a decade. We distribute 920 Kg of maize seeds fortified with Vitamin A along with fertilizers, herbicides and support to plough the land.

Thanks to the support of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation we support 46 farmers, 46 hectares, 1,200 indirect beneficiaries.

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Food Security

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Every year we serve 5,760 lunches to the children and their mothers.

We give instant formula exclusively when the mother cannot breastfeed.

We offer medical care to malnourished children and support their families with socio-economic help.

With the support of local charities we distribute diapers, clothes and other small commodities to the mothers in need.

Thanks to the support of the British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation we support 46 farmers, 46 hectares, 1,200 indirect beneficiaries.

We distribute 920 Kg of maize seeds fortified with Vitamin A along with fertilizers, herbicides and support to plough the land.
THE CHALLENGE
There is a lack of advanced education opportunities in the country, and where available, it is often too expensive for the average professionals. Too often senior staff migrates for better working and studying opportunities, draining very much needed professionals from the country.

WHAT WE DO
Capacity building is at the core of our educational effort, whether among primary school teachers, health care professionals or volunteers. Training health personnel is essential for improving and strengthening the quality of care and ability to provide health services.

In addition to what Loving Gaze accomplishes working every day alongside local personnel and local authorities, we run professional development courses, and we have supported field stays, involving some 500 people, including community agents, nurses, obstetricians, doctors and paramedics. We thank the senior medical professionals who volunteered to lecture at our trainings, both from Nigeria and abroad and Abbvie Pty Ltd Nigeria who sponsored some of these trainings.

We support capacity development through knowledge generation and sharing.
THE CHALLENGE

In the midst of doing and delivering, we keep discovering and affirming that each “beneficiary” is a unique person with his own needs, challenges, and dignity. While our educational and medical teams work following this guiding principle, our social workers support each beneficiary with a holistic approach, listening to their needs, visiting them at home, offering counselling and sustaining their growth.

WHAT WE DO

Our responsibility is towards the human need of each person we work with. This is why our Social Service team keeps growing: with 10 social workers (3 of them in Taraba State), two counsellors and one nutritionist. They offer an integrated support to our beneficiaries, verifying their medical, educational and economic needs. Quite often our patients approach us for urgent medical needs and we unveil critical economic and social needs. Our Social Service team tries to tackle them, offering school’s scholarship, supporting their search for a job, involving women in vocational trainings and most of all, listening to their request for help. They are our people in the field, keeping a close relationship with the communities: in 2017 we had over 8,200 home visits, caring for 2,340 beneficiaries.

“The problem of the whole world’s existence is the happiness of each single person” (Father Luigi Giussani)
Our team

ITALIAN EXPATRIATES, 150 LOCAL STAFF AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Pepoli
General Manager

Dr Alda Gemmani
St Kizito Clinic
Medical Director

Dr Ndidi Nwosu
Community Medical Consultant

Our talented team of 150 people: medical teaching and administrative staff and social workers.

TOGETHER.

Our ability to reach the most vulnerable people with love and care, to empower families and communities to build the foundations of good health, primary education and women safety, is possible because of our team.

Dr Alda Gemmani, Medical Director

After almost 30 years of medical practice in Italy as Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Specialist in the major hospital of Rimini, she joined St Kizito Clinic in Lagos in 2009 as Medical Director.

Dr Ndidi Nwosu, Consultant Community Physician

She worked as Senior Registrar at Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital and Enugu Teaching Hospital. She joined St Kizito Clinic in 2009 as Medical Officer and later as Project Manager.

Barbara Pepoli, General Manager

After many years of experience as Financial & Administration Director in private companies in Italy, in 2005 she came to Nigeria and she has been Loving Gaze manager since the beginning.
Loving gaze thanks all the donors who trust our commitment and support our activities:

• All our private donors in Nigeria and abroad who prefer to stay anonymous but provide an irreplaceable help to our students at our schools!
• PEPFAR for the small grant awarded to us which allowed us to expand our Women Empowerment program.
• National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP) for the generous donation of the GeneXpert test device platform.
• British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation (BATNF) which supports our agricultural program in Taraba State.
• Vodacom for the refurbishment of the library at SS Peter & Paul School, along with the high-speed internet connection and the books donation.
• GTBank which donated an ECG machine and a microscope to St Kizito Clinic in Lekki.
• PATH International for the medical equipment donation to our Clinics.
• Daywaterman College, Lagoon School, Whitesand School, St Gregory School, Eucharistic Heart College, Christ the King College and Maryhood School, which offered scholarships to some of our talented former students.
• Zil Tales for the beautiful fashionable garments donated to Loving Gaze teenagers.
• Rotary Club of VGC for the donation of medical equipment to St Kizito Clinic.
• Our international volunteers: Dr Alessandra Del Gouveratore, the dentist who spent a month with us, Adriano and Alberta, Paola Freddi, who volunteers at SS Peter & Paul School, Alba Gianferrari and Fiorenza Spano who support most of our activities in Lagos.
• Amici di Loving Gaze, a group of friends who keeps us in their hearts and minds and help us through several initiatives in Italy.

A special thanks for the trust and continuous support goes to the institutional partners who empower our activities:

• the Consulate of Italy in Lagos
• the Embassy of Italy in Abuja
• the Lagos State Health Ministry
• the Eti-Osa, Mushin Local Government
• the APIN Public Health Initiatives
• the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP)

We are grateful to Hon. Laura Boldrini, the Italian President of the Chamber of Deputies who, on an official visit to Nigeria, visited St Kizito Clinic and SS Peter & Paul Nursery and Primary School in Lekki, Lagos.
2018 marks
30 years of work in Nigeria.

WE CARE.
Our journey in the Nigerian community is only at the beginning. With the new year we started digitizing the clinics, to ensure that our patients’ records are safely recorded, to implement patient’s appointments and medication alerts, to make referrals to local specialized hospitals faster and reliable. This is only one among several initiatives we have outlined for the 2018 and beyond.

We have collaborated with the Lagos Egun community since 1988. At the time they were residing in Ajegunle-Odo, Lagos State, where, as of today, they were surviving fishing along the shores of Lagos lagoon. Today, around 250 families live on the Oreta, Ikorodu shores.
Kizito Care and Support Initiative RC No. 62015
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Support our activities
Help us spread the message