



HRH The Princess of Hanover  
President of the World Association of Children's Friends  
AMADE-Mondiale

Visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo  
Press Release

« Together for the DRC »

HRH the Princess of Hanover will pay a private visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from 24 to 28 September 2017 in her capacity of President of the World Association of Children's Friends (AMADE-Mondiale), a non-governmental organization based in Monaco, created by her late mother, Princess Grace of Monaco in 1963, and committed to the protection of children throughout the world. The program of HRH in the DRC includes visits to several projects co-financed by AMADE-Mondiale in Kinshasa, Gbadolite and Goma. The Princess of Hanover has already visited the DRC on three previous occasions: in February 2007; in June 2013, and in September 2016.

During her fourth visit, in Kinshasa, on 25 September, the Princess of Hanover will return to the Vivre et Travailler Autrement Center (VTA), an institution dedicated to the protection and social reintegration of girls thrown to the streets by their families for being considered as "witch children". The partnership between AMADE-Mondiale and the VTA Center was established in 2013. The funds that have been made available since then have ensured the renovation of the buildings as well as the complete care of the 30 girls housed in the center.

The Princess of Hanover will also visit TEXAF Bilembo Cultural and Contemporary Art Center, where she will meet 50 pupils of the 6th grade classes of the Mushie and Lisanga schools. These





12-year-olds will simultaneously participate in three educational workshops, focusing on games that raise awareness of biodiversity issues in the DRC (storytelling and role plays), cultural identity (knowledge of the ancients and values to build today and tomorrow) and the protection of the environment of the savannas and forests by the game Batela Mboka.

Together with the Princess of Hanover, these children will discover the short film "Debout Kinshasa!" and an episode of the series "Les Petits Métiers de Kinshasa" in the presence of the actress Yasmine and the director Sébastien Maitre. This 20-minute fiction tells the story of little Samuel, a young student from Kinshasa, who, forbidden to attend school due to lack of shoes, shows a lot of imagination to earn on the streets the few dollars necessary to be able to return to school. The film has been selected to more than 30 festivals around the world. The music of this film is a Kinoise work, the result of the collaboration with the musicians of the vocal group Kinphonik. These musicians are involved in the development of children as today they take part in the project Musik'all within TEXAF Bilembo aiming at musical awakening and to teach instruments and singing.

In the same space, the President of AMADE-Mondiale will attend the opening of the "Génération Congo" exhibition by photographer William Dupuy, commissioned to register portraits of DR Congolese children who have benefited from the various projects supported by the Monegasque NGO.

On the same day, the President of AMADE-Mondiale will visit the Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) where she will be exposed to the problems of internally displaced persons and refugees in the DRC and more specifically to the situation of women and children in the country. Presentations will be made by Ms. Ann Encontre, UNHCR Regional Representative, and Ms. Awa Ndiaye Seck, Resident Representative of the UN Women Agency.





On 26 September, the Princess of Hanover will fly to Gbadolite where she will preside over the inauguration of the first sanitary napkin manufacturing plant in the DRC. The project, entitled "Dignity for Women", is the result of a collaboration between AMADE-Mondiale, the two UN agencies and the Embassy of Brazil in the DRC, which have built a partnership with the Ugandan NGO T4TAfrica, led by Dr. Moses Kizza Musaaazi. The production unit will employ about 100 women who will participate in all stages of production, from the papyrus harvest, through the assembly, packaging and sterilization line of MakaPads, a sanitary napkin made up of local materials that are naturally absorbent and that do not use chemical elements.

The creation of this production unit, in the form of income-generating activities within the camp, is a response to the request that had been made to Princess Caroline of Hanover during her visit to the camp of internally displaced people in Mungote, in the province of North Kivu, in 2016. On 27 September 2017, she will return to this camp to distribute part of the production of the Gbadolite's factory and thus respond to the appeal made by these internally displaced women to guarantee their dignity.

On September 27 and 28, Princess Caroline will be visiting Goma. She will take part in the first "Capoeira Baptism Ceremony" in the DRC Eastern region, in the context of the "Capoeira for Peace" program. The project aims at strengthening the process of social reintegration of demobilized children from armed groups through access to the practice of capoeira. This project has been initiated by AMADE-Mondiale and it is executed jointly by the Embassy of Brazil in the DRC and UNICEF, with the support of the Governments of Canada and Switzerland. The "Capoeira Baptism Ceremony" was co-financed by AMADE-Mondiale, Sofibanque, UNICEF and the Embassy of Brazil in the DRC.

The Princess of Hanover will also visit the HEAL Africa Hospital, an institution founded by Dr. Jo Lucy, dedicated to the medical and psychological treatment of girls, adolescents





and women victims of sexual violence. The President of AMADE-Mondiale will attend the presentation of the project "Together for Women", which foresees the construction of a center dedicated exclusively to the treatment of girls, adolescents and women. At the occasion, a collaboration agreement will be signed between the hospital and the Monegasque NGO in order to raise funds to enable the initiative.

AMADE Mondiale ([www.amade-mondiale.org](http://www.amade-mondiale.org))

Founded in 1963 at the initiative of Princess Grace of Monaco, AMADE is based on a vision of a world where every child, whatever his or her social, religious or cultural backgrounds, can live with dignity, security and respect for their fundamental rights. A world where every child has the opportunity to fully express his or her potentials.

AMADE's commitment to childhood is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations in 1989, and the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the international community in 2000 to tackle poverty.

AMADE contributes to the implementation of these commitments by setting itself the following missions:

- Protect the most vulnerable children from violence, exploitation and abuse.
- Promote the development of children by contributing to access to education and health.
- Support change through advocacy.

