



PRESS RELEASE

**POWER TO THE CHILDREN CAMPAIGN
BURKINA FASO**

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CHILDHOOD CANCER MEDICINES

May 13, 2022 - Paris, France / Bridgewater, N.J. U.S.A, / Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
Groupe Franco-Africain d'Oncologie Pédiatrique ("GFAOP"), a French non-profit organization based in France and **Health Impact Partnership, Inc. ("HIP")** a U.S. non-profit organization based in Bridgewater, N.J., U.S.A are pleased to announce that they have entered into a collaboration to raise funds and supply pediatric cancer medicines to Burkina Faso's two childhood cancer centers, the **University Hospital Centers Yalgado Ouédraogo and Charles de Gaulle** (the "**Hospitals**") located in the capital city of Ouagadougou (the "**Campaign**").

The Challenge:

- **In Burkina Faso, only 20% of children** with the five most prevalent curable childhood cancer¹ **will survive**, compared to 80% in high income countries. Limited access to essential drugs is one of the main causes of treatment failure, even in patient with curable disease.
- In 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer to improve access care. Through this initiative, the World Health Organization and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital announced plans to establish a platform that will dramatically increase access to childhood cancer medicines globally. During an initial two-year pilot phase, medicines will be purchased and distributed to selected 12 Low – Middle income countries. During this transition period, donations and drug purchase by NGOs will still be needed to bridge the gap in access to medicines.

The Campaign Goal:

To raise funds to purchase medicine for the treatment of the five most prevalent and curable diseases. These medicines will be donated to the hospitals in order to treat, over a period of 12 months, all the children presenting one of those five diseases. Through this initiative we aim to improve the survival rate of children with cancer.

Fundraising deadline: July 31st, 2022

To donate and learn more about the Campaign:

<https://power-to-the-children.raisely.com/>

¹Acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Burkitt's Lymphoma, Retinoblastoma and Nephroblastoma

Dr. Chantal Bouda, Head of Oncology Pediatric Unit , at Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Yalgado Ouédraogo welcomed the Campaign: "Treating childhood cancer is a complex challenge that requires a wide range of medical and psycho-social support. But access to cancer medicines is a core element of any plan that aims to increase survival. We thank HIP for its efforts to secure these essential medicines for our patients and to support the overall objectives of GFAOP."

Hal Glasser, President, HIP, commented that "Children with cancer and their parents are in the fight of their lives. HIP is excited to be working with such experienced partners as GFAOP and the Yalgado and CDG Hospitals to give the children of Burkina Faso the access to medicines that all children fighting cancer deserve."

Pr Laila Hessissen; Chair of GFAOP, "GFAOP is pleased to collaborate with HIP on this campaign. The medicines supplied will help more children survive their cancers in Burkina Faso. The Campaign comes at a critical time as the WHO, GFAOP and others continue their efforts to find sustainable solutions to the funding and supply of affordable cancer medicines in Francophone African countries."

About HIP: *Health Impact Partnership, Inc.* is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in New Jersey, U.S.A. HIP's mission is to accelerate sustainable improvements in healthcare access in low-income countries and in underfunded healthcare sectors through innovative approaches to philanthropic funding and cross-sector partnering.

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About GFAOP: the *Groupe Franco-Africain d'Oncologie Pédiatrique (GFAOP)* is a non-for-profit organization set up in 2000 to reinforce paediatric oncology units in the paediatric departments of hospitals in African French-speaking countries. GFAOP focuses its activities on the five most common and curable tumours: Burkitt's and Hodgkin's lymphoma, standard- risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia, nephroblastoma, and retinoblastoma. The main activities implemented by GFAOP are based on 5 pillars: training of healthcare workers; treatment guidelines & evaluation, support of African units; local capacities strengthening, and advocacy. Over 13,000 children have been treated by 24 African teams in 18 countries, through a network of 280 members.

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