

The Dokotoro Project 2015 Annual Report



Mission: To empower West Africans to improve their health and well-being by translating and publishing "*Where There Is No Doctor: A Village Health Care Handbook*" in French and Bambara.

About the Dokotoro Project

The Dokotoro Project is an effort to translate *Where There Is No Doctor*, the world's most widely used health manual, into French and Bambara, the main languages spoken in Mali, as well as neighboring countries in West Africa.

Where There Is No Doctor is a 600-page, easy-to-read, and heavily-illustrated primary health care manual. It is primarily written for community health care workers and educators in developing countries where health care services are limited. Today, it is the most widely-used health guide in the world, and in the United States and other developed countries it is well known among Peace Corps volunteers, aid workers, and missionaries.



Published by the Hesperian Foundation, *Where There Is No Doctor* has been translated into over 80 languages. Almost all of these editions have been translated by other non-profit organizations or volunteers, using Hesperian's open copyright policy. This policy allows the book to be freely translated and adapted into different languages and cultural contexts.

By translating this book, we will make critical medical information available to the 14 million people in Mali, and in neighboring countries, who speak Bambara. This book can allow a neighbor to help a mother safely deliver her baby, a community health promoter to stitch up a wound of an injured worker, or a women's group make a simple water filter that prevents the spread of diarrheal diseases.

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world, with about half of the population living on under \$1 per day. The UN Human Development Index ranks Mali 178th out of 182 countries, while the UN Poverty Index ranks the country as the third-lowest in the world.

The Dokotoro Project Steering Committee is currently made up of three active volunteers: Matthew Heberger, Michelle Chan, and Sean Cochrane, all of whom live in the San Francisco Bay Area in California.

A Note from the Dokotoro Project

Everyone involved with the Dokotoro Project is deeply saddened by the November 2015 terror attack in Bamako that claimed 20 lives. We send our condolences to those who died and we are praying for peace in Mali. Our efforts to field test the book have been seriously set back by the security situation in Mali. In particular, Peace Corps has suspended programs for the time being and withdrawn all volunteers from the country.

Our Translator Team

We are thrilled to be working with a talented team of Bamako-based language scholars, who until recently, served as instructors for the United States Peace Corps in Mali, teaching new recruits the intricacies of language and culture in Mali.



Salifou Bengaly

Since 2007, Mr. Bengaly has spent most of his time working for the US Peace Corps in Mali as a language instructor. He speaks, writes, and teaches English, Arabic, French, Bambara, Senoufo and Minianka, and is conversant in Bomu. During his free time, he likes to read and debate current events.

Fatoumata Bouaré

Fatoumata Bouaré, or just “Fatim”, was born in the city of San in Mali’s Segou region. She is a graduate of FLASH (Faculté des Langues des Arts et des Sciences Humaines) at the University of Bamako. Ms. Bouaré has worked with the United States Peace Corps since 2006 as a language and cultural instructor.



Diatrou Dembelé

In 2000, he began working for the Peace Corps, where he has taught French, Bambara, and Malinké to trainees and volunteers. During this time, he helped translate several documents, such as a *Life Skills Manual*, documents about food security, and others. Mr. Dembelé has also written general and technical instructional manuals for the Malinké language.

Yagaré Magassa

Ms. Magassa, who goes by Mamaï, studied English in the *Faculté des Lettres, Langues, Arts et Sciences Humaines* (or FLASH) at the University of Bamako from 2002–2006. After university, she worked with Americans and Germans as a language facilitator and with Malians as a teacher, merchant, and actress. She speaks English, French, Soninke, and Bambara.



Report of 2015 Activities

Translating the Book into Bambara

At the end of 2015, we finished translating about 95 percent of the book into Bambara. Currently, the Bamako-based translation team is working on the final chapter, the “Green pages,” a reference section of the book which describes usages, dosages and precautions for all of the medicines referred to in the text.

Translating the Book into French

When translating texts into minor languages, it is good practice to create a parallel version in a major language as well. This makes updating the text much easier in the future, which is critical for a book like *WTIND*, where updates are crucial to ensure ongoing medical accuracy. We have translated about 90 percent of the text (which includes the cultural adaptations) into French, which is the working language of government, NGO experts, and formally trained medical experts in Mali.

Many volunteer hours have gone into the creation of the French-language book. We will be pushing to finish this in the coming months. This represents a totally updated and corrected version compared to the edition of *Là Où Il n’y a Pas de Docteur* published by the NGO ENDA in Senegal, which is very out of date.

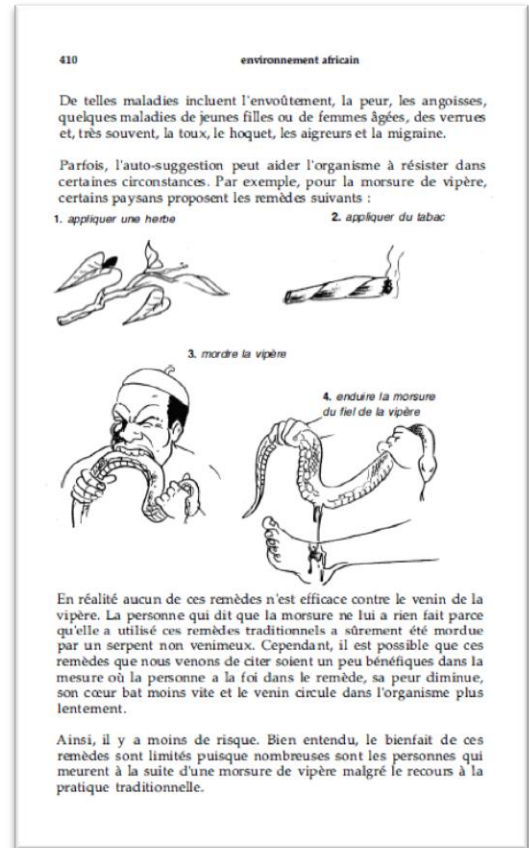
In addition, the French translation will greatly expand the reach of the book, as French is spoken by more than 120 million people throughout Africa. We anticipate that this information will be extremely valuable for health workers and communities in countries such as Guinea, Cameroon, Senegal, Cote d’Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Further, our contacts at the Hesperian Foundation tell us that there is an enormous pent-up demand for *Where There Is No Doctor* in French. They believe that it will sell very well, and that we can use our portion of the proceeds to subsidize printing and distributing books in Mali.

Adapting the book for West Africa

In 2015, we finished adapting the latest, medically updated version of *Where There Is No Doctor* to the cultural and health context of Mali and West Africa. For example, we reached out to medical experts, Mali-based health NGOs, government ministries to provide input on key sections of the book, such as the Family Planning chapter.

Because *Where There Is No Doctor* is meant for poor communities and readers with little formal education, the book relies heavily on illustrations and simple layout to make the information accessible to readers. In 2015 we finished creating or modifying all of the illustrations and

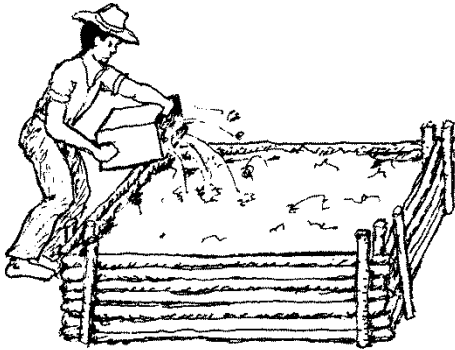


graphics. Our team also created new illustrations that were appropriate for the West African context.

Below are a number of illustrations showing the before and after of how we modified illustrations to make them better or more culturally relevant. Other new graphics included detailed renderings of West African plants and herbs that are used as popular home remedies in Mali.

Examples of New Illustrations

Old - Image in the English-language edition (illustrating the use of compost to increase food production)



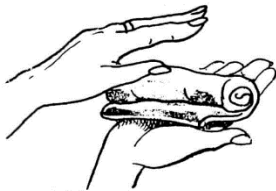
Old - explaining that for women with menstrual pain, it is important to stay active



Old - cover your mouth when you sneeze. But sneezing into your hand is a surefire way to spread germs!



Old - how germs are spread when you don't wash your hands before preparing food... but Africans don't eat tortillas!



New! Adapted for West Africa edition by our illustrator, Ruth MacDonald



New! Ruth's awesome, empowering, way less oppressive and paternalistic adaptation



New! Today, public health experts say to sneeze into your elbow



New! Mmm... yummy tô. Or maybe it's fufu?



What's Next?

During 2016, the initial Bambara and French translations will be finished. A team of university design students is scheduled to finish laying out the entire book by Spring 2016.

We are working with Dr. Scott Lacy to conduct field testing and get feedback from future readers prior to going to press with the first edition. Dr. Lacy is the Director of African Sky, and professor of anthropology at Fairfield University



We have secured print bids from Bamako-based printers and will be creating several proofs to share with reviewers in Mali. These reviewers, which will include non-governmental health organizations, health extension agents and others, will provide input into the book before final printing. We hope to get these books into the hands of our partner organizations by the end of the year.

With Our Thanks...

The Dokotoro project has relied on the help of many volunteers to make this book a reality. In particular, we would like to acknowledge some of our “super volunteers,” including: Ruth McDonald (layout and graphics), Yousef Kazerooni (French translation), Esther Homawoo (French translation) and Bruce Sahs (accounting). We are also grateful for the good work of our Bamako-based translation team, led by Salifou Bengaly; and our editor Djibril Coulibaly.

In addition, in 2015 the Dokotoro Project would like to acknowledge the generous financial support of our many donors. In particular, we thank the Rotary Club of Webster, NY for its gift of \$500.

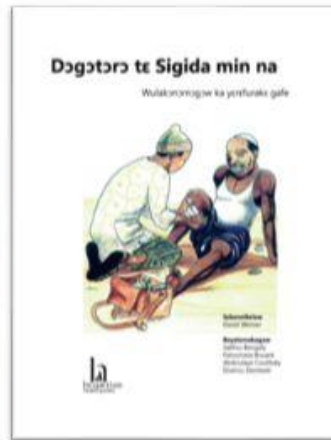
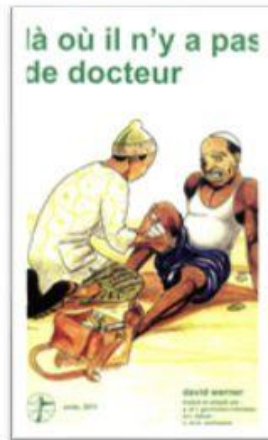
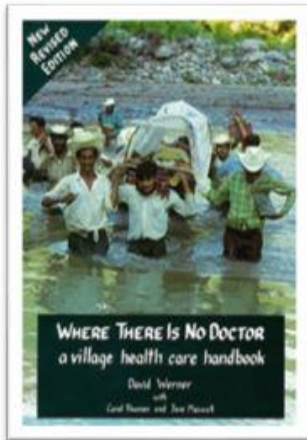
2015 Financial Report

This financial report was prepared on a cash basis.

We received significant income in 2015 from our successful fundraiser that was held in the fall of 2014 (payment received from our fiscal sponsor African Sky in 2015).

In 2015, the Dokotero project had \$10,214.48 in translation and editing expenses, and \$145.52 in bank fees. All other activities and expenses were contributed

Beginning net assets	\$1,204.71
Income	\$10,791.95
Expenses	\$10,360.00
Ending net assets	\$1,636.66



To Contribute

Thank you for considering a gift to the Dokotoro Project! We rely on donors like you. Your donation will help pay our professional translators in Bamako, conduct field testing sessions in Mali, and to have the book professionally printed. Nearly every other aspect of this project is being done by volunteers.

All contributions to the Dokotoro Project will go toward paying our hard-working translators and editors in Bamako, Mali, or to printing books to be distributed to community health workers.

You can make an online donation via First Giving, at:

<https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/matthew-heberger/dokotoro>

Or, you can send a check directly to our fiscal sponsor, African Sky. Please write “Dokotoro Project” on the memo line or otherwise specify that your donation should be used to translate *Where There Is No Doctor*). African Sky is a registered nonprofit organization, and so your donation may be tax deductible.

African Sky
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