

# THE ROBERTO BAZZONI ONLUS (UK) London Gala Dinner on 9 November 2006



Ladies and gentlemen,

First I must heartily thank some good friends who have offered to be our Sponsors for this year's events (show list on screen). We have to say that it is thanks to Pioneer and all our sponsors, that our dreams become reality.

It is a great pleasure and honour being your host here tonight in these beautiful surroundings and with these beautiful faces looking at us.

Now however, I must take you, just for a moment, away from this splendour and bring you with me to the reality of what this evening is all about.

This is the reality:

According to a report presented to Parliament, the health delivery system is collapsing. Hospitals and training centers are seriously understaffed, the referral system has collapsed, buildings are dilapidated, equipment is obsolete or broken down, drugs are in short supply and erratic, including the life-prolonging Anti Retrovirals.

Life expectancy at 34 years is now the lowest in the civilized world.

The situation in the Country continues to be dramatic:

The official inflation rate is over 1200% per annum. Poverty and famine are widespread with an unemployment rate of between 70 and 80%. The rule of law no longer applies to normal people, and personal risks are now embedded in many actions of the day to day life. The use of torture and arbitrary arrests to suppress opposition are facts assessed by Human Rights Watch. The overall state of the country in the space of a few years has disintegrated.

In November last year we were treating some 1100 patients and planned to increase the number to some 1400.

The good news is that despite adverse and worsening conditions...we have succeeded in our aim!

For the first time the cost of additional basic items needed to survive is higher than the cost of medicines and medical treatment. For example food, fuel, generators in essential locations to cope with the increasing duration of blackouts and basic things like soap.

We are, of course, also bearing the cost of medical staff (when available) to help in the hospitals where our programme is running.

In such a dramatic situation we had to try and help these people to "go beyond AIDS" in a crumbling country.

This means helping them to create the basic conditions to go back to a "normal" life in a place where normality is a dream.

**THE ROBERTO BAZZONI ONLUS (UK)**  
**London Gala Dinner on 9 November 2006**



In addition to helping them recover their health and taking care of basic needs like food; “going beyond AIDS” is what is being done at our Centre in Harare. Here the professional school for Mothers with AIDS is now a reality, the first articles produced by the women are now available and we are trying to find channels to sell them in Italy, in order to achieve an income and make these women financially independent. Otherwise it would be almost useless recovering health and strength if a livelihood doesn't exist.

Life conditions for normal people are very harsh. Our programs for 2007 are to improve the quality of our holistic support and slightly increase the number of patients to 1500, developing all the initiatives which may result in a better and sustainable life for our Mothers.

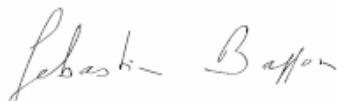
Of course, if external conditions make it possible, we will not refuse to further increase the number of patients. Unfortunately, this depends on availability of doctors, nurses, infrastructure etc.

We confirm that, also for 2006, we had no overheads, so that all what is received goes directly to our projects.

This is what you have helped to achieve:

(video)

Thank you



Sebastiano Bazzoni  
Chairman  
Roberto Bazzoni Onlus

9 November 2006