

ΓΙΑΤΡΟΙ ΚΑΡΔΙΑΣ

Αριθ. Απόφασης Πρωτοδικείου 4229/2001
Αριθ. Μητρώου Μ.Κ.Ο. της Υ.Α.Α.Σ. 131



HEART DOCTORS

Court decision N° 4229/2001
N.G.O. Serial N° 131

Heart Doctors
REPORT OF MISSIONS
DURING
2007



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1ST MISSION: 03.01.2007

A team of members of “Heart Doctors” travelled from Athens to Damascus by air on the 3rd of January. They first visited the refugees who live close to the city Al-Mayadin (Palestinians and Iraqis, 6.500 persons approximately); the team purchased from Al-Mayadin various foodstuffs and offered them to the refugees (oil, flour, milk, rice, pasta, sugar etc.).The visit to the Greek speaking people from Crete who live at Al-Hamidiyah city followed. The team distributed copybooks to the children.





7TH MISSION: 05.01.2007

A team of members of “Heart Doctors” arrived to Beirut and from there it initially travelled to the city of Tripoli and then to Sidon, Tyre, Kana and to other cities and villages of South Lebanon which had been bombarded during the summer of 2006. The families that had lost their homes were living together with those whose houses were not destroyed. The team purchased and distributed to interspersed families oil, bread, pasta, flour, rice, detergents and many other necessary goods.



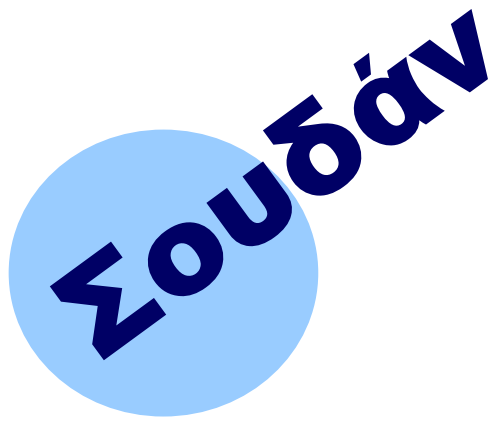
Sudan

13TH MISSION: 10.01.2007

Two members of “Heart Doctors” travelled by air to Sudan for a food supply mission to the refugees staying in camps a few kilometres off the city of Nyala, in Darfur. The team visited the wholesale markets and purchased 369 bags of wheaten flour, 344 bags of rice and 136 cartons of milk powder. These foods were transported by 16 cars and were distributed to the encampments next to Nyala.

This mission has been financed by YDAS (International Development Cooperation Service), of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





14TH MISSION: 17.01.2007

During the 13th food supply mission to Sudan, the Greeks who live in Khartoum asked “Heart Doctors” to send them drugs for the urgent needs thereof, since there are no good quality drugs there. “Heart Doctors” prepared 15 boxes with drugs, of 150 kilos total weight, and sent them by air to the Embassy of Greece in Khartoum, in order to be freely disposed to the Greeks of the community there.





3RD MISSION: 18.01.2007

A team of two members of “Heart Doctors” travelled to Nairobi, Kenya, and purchased from local wholesale markets 133 tons of flour (wheaten flour and corn flour) and distributed them to two areas: 60 tons of flour were distributed to the area of Massai (communities around the city Ei-washo) and 73 tons of flour were distributed to the area of the city Nakuru. The Ambassador of Greece in Nairobi Mr. Polydoros Kokonas was present during the distribution. The mission has been financed by YDAS (International Development Cooperation Service), of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Heart Doctors” express their thanks to the Ambassador of Greece in Nairobi Mr. Polydoros Kokonas for his assistance.



Burundi

2ND MISSION: 22.01.2007

On the 22nd of January, members of “Heart Doctors” travelled from Nairobi to Bujumbura, Burundi, in order to offer food to Burundians suffering from serious lack of foodstuffs and lay the foundation stone for the construction of a school building. The team purchased from local wholesale markets 80 tons of foodstuffs (20 tons of rice, 15 tons of beans, 30 tons of corn, 15 tons of cereals-children food), which they distributed to the populations of the areas Mbwanza and Gatumba. The President of Democracy of the country was present during the distribution and actively participated in carrying it out; he addressed the big gathering of people and expressed the gratitude of Burundi to Greece for the humanitarian assistance.

This food supply mission was financed by a special humanitarian program of the Service of International Development Cooperation of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs (YDAS).

Further, in the presence of the country’s President of Democracy, the ceremony of foundation of a secondary education school building took place, in the area of Buramata; the school will be erected in a piece of land of 10 acres disposed by the State of Burundi. The construction cost shall be covered by “Heart Doctors” and friends (among them a private school in Athens). “Heart Doctors” thank very warmly the Ambassador of Greece in Nairobi Mr. Polydoros Kokonas and the Honorary Consul of Greece in Bujumbura Mr. Georgios Coucoulis for their valuable cooperation.



Nigeria

10TH MISSION: 27.01.2007

Five members of “Heart Doctors” arrived in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, on the 27th of January 2007; from there they went to the city Mina, which is the capital of Niger State. During the period from the 28th of January until the 3rd of February they visited 7 villages in the wide area of Mina and offered their medical services to 15.108 persons in total, of all ages, who were examined and given the proper medication for their diseases. These villages were the following: UWASA, ZAZZAGA, FUKA, UARATU, LAPAI, DIKO and BOYI. Frequent health problems encountered were malaria, infections, peptic ulcer, hypertension, helminthiases and problems of the eyes.

The team inspected the building works that commenced in January for the erection by “Hear Doctors” of a small medical centre at the village SHE of the same State. The medical centre is expected to be ready in April 2007.





6TH MISSION: 07.02.2007

A team of members of “Heart Doctors” traveled to Addis Ababa on Wednesday, the 7th of February, 2007 and from there to the city Dire Dawa where they purchased 70 tons of pasta and 80 tons of wheaten flour; they carried and delivered the items in question to the warehouses of the flood-stricken families encampments, which are administered by competent officials of the state agent “Disaster Prevention and Food Security Office”. The flood-stricken families who live at the encampments under tents are 5.000 persons.

The Charge d’ Affaires of the Greek Embassy in Addis Ababa Mr. Michael Karabalis accompanied the team of “Heart Doctors” and assisted considerably to the success of the mission, the cost of which was covered by the Service of International Development Cooperation of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs (YDAS).

Initially the food supply was scheduled for remote western poor areas of Ethiopia; due to the urgent needs in Dire Dawa caused by the floods there, the mission changed accordingly.



Central African Republic

2ND MISSION: 23.02.2007

On the 23rd of February 2007, a team of 5 members of “Heart Doctors” travelled to the Central African Republic through Cameroon. The purpose of the mission was medical examination and treatment of the population living in small villages in the forest of a large region close to the village of Nola. In the villages of the area usually live pigmies, most of whom may have never been attended by a doctor.

A formal invitation for this mission has been addressed to “Heart Doctors” by the Greekbusinessman Mr. Angelos Banos, who is the owner of the big wood-cutting firm SCAF and who has made all necessary arrangements with the local government health officials for “Heart Doctors” to provide free health care.

On the 26th of February the team arrived in Liboko and accommodated itself in the lodges of SCAF from where every day’s missions to the villages were to start.

From the 27th of February to the 4th of March the team visited the villages Mongolo, Wodo, Yombo, Ndelegue, Salamounyu, Yobe, Ngoulo, Bayanga, Skede and Beya and attended 13.102 people with various health problems, providing free medication. Frequent health problems were parasitic diseases, malaria, infection of the eyes and skin, gastroenteritis, arthralgias, and low back pains.

In the villages Wodo and Yobe most of the inhabitants of all ages suffered of very impressive skin lesions of the lower extremities, caused by the sand flea (Jigger flies, tunga penetrans). The flea apparently penetrates the skin between the toes, especially around the toenails, causing inflammation, ulceration and thus disability to children and adults. The larvae of the flea live in dusty and sandy soil and are permanently attached to hosts like pig, poultry, other animals as well as man. Unfortunately, there is no specific treatment except surgical removal of the lesion.

The members of the mission wish to express their sincere thanks to Mr. Banos and the staff of SCAF in Liboko for their arrangements which have made our mission successful.



Burundi

4TH MISSION: 17.03.2007

On the 17th of March 2007, a five-member team of “Heart Doctors” headed through Kenya to Bujumbura, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Burundi. The President of Democracy of the country Pierre Nguronziza received the team in his presidential residence – many members of the Government and other officials were present and a local choir sang various religious songs.

On the 19th of March the team moved by car to the north and was settled in the village of Ruyigi; in the afternoon a large number of patients were attended at the local dispensary. From the 20th to the 23rd of March, the team examined and treated approximately 12.500 patients at the villages Kirambi, Butaganzwa, Butezi and Gisuru. In all regions visited, a large number of people were suffering of a pyogenic infection of the lower extremities (pyoderma), which was accompanied by fever and severe pains resulting in disability. The widespread cases were known to the Ministry of Health and were considered as an epidemic; the Minister of Health was present during two days of patients’ attendance by the team and expressed the gratitude of the people as well as of the government for the lucky coincidence of the presence of the team at the time of the epidemic. In the cultures of the pus from the lesions a staphylococcus aureus was isolated with sensitivity to broad spectrum antibiotics. “Heart Doctors” promised to send medicines, local antiseptics, gauzes and bondages the soonest possible.

Except for pyoderma, frequent health problems encountered were malaria, helminthiases, infections of the respiratory and urogenital tracts, skin infections, traumas and leprosy.

On Saturday the 24th of March members of the team distributed 20 tons of foodstuffs to the inhabitants of Ngozi (beans, rice and corn). The President of Democracy attended the event.



Madagascar

1ST MISSION: 10.04.2007

Madagascar was recently severely hit by two cyclones. “Heart Doctors” decided to visit the country, attend medically the population and find out any needs of the people in the areas damaged.

A five-member team of “Heart Doctors” traveled to the capital of the country Antananarivo through Egypt and Kenya on 10th April 2007. The mission was organized by the Honorary Consul of Greece in collaboration with the Minister of Health of Madagascar. It is noted that the government of Madagascar has had previously addressed a formal request to the European Union and to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs for relief from the consequences caused by the cyclones. On the 12th of April, the team moved by air to the north-east of the island and settled at the village of Sambava. In a meeting with the local Health Authorities the places with the greatest needs were selected. On the 13th and 14th of April, the team visited the villages Farahalana, Ambodiampana, Lokoho and Lohanantsahabe (area of Sambava). On the 15th and 16th of April the villages Ambinanifaho, Ambodilalona, Ansahanoro and Ampahana were visited (area of Antalaha). A total of approximately 15.800 persons were attended and received appropriate treatment. Frequent diseases encountered, in addition to malaria and helminthiasis, were infections of the urogenital systems, gastroenteritis, epilepsy, anaemia, skin diseases, conjunctivitis, goiter, myalgia and severe lassitude. These last two symptoms were attributed by the local doctors to a recent epidemic of Dengue fever and other infections by arbor viruses in the past two to three months.



In the village Ambodiampana, the building of the medical centre has been completely destroyed by the cyclones and patients were attended in the local mayor’s office. The team promised to find financial support for the construction of a new building.

“Heart Doctors” wish to thank the Honorary Consul Mr. Panagiotis Taloumis for his contribution to the organization of the mission in collaboration with the authorities of the Ministry of Health. Thanks are also addressed to the district director Dr. Gervais Rasolonjatovo, who coordinated the daily program of the mission.

“Heart Doctors” wish to thank the Honorary Consul Mr. Panagiotis Taloumis for his contribution to the organization of the mission in collaboration with the authorities of the Ministry of Health. Thanks are also addressed to the district director Dr. Gervais Rasolonjatovo, who coordinated the daily program of the mission.

Burundi

5TH MISSION: 02.05.2007

On the 2nd of May 2007, a seven-member team of “Heart Doctors” left for Burundi, in order to continue and complete the treatment of patients at various areas, suffering of the epidemic of pyoderma of the lower extremities. On the 4th of May the team moved north-east and settled in the village of Ruyigi. On the way, the team stopped to visit an area in which patients suffering of the epidemic had been treated during the last visit one month ago. The inhabitants announced that no individual was at that time suffering of the epidemic, a fact that was confirmed by the local health personnel.

From the 5th to the 10th of May the members of the mission, with the assistance of local doctors and medical assistants, visited the areas Rugondo and Burenza and the villages Bweru, Rushwahunga, Mubira and Nyarurambi, in which approximately 12.500 persons suffering of the symptoms of the epidemic were attended. In these areas large amounts of medicines were donated for the treatment of any more patients in the future by the local health authorities.

On the way back to the capital, the members of the Organization were formally received by the minister of Health, who expressed the gratitude of the government and of the President of the State himself, for the successful effort to eradicate the epidemic from the country.

On the 11th of May the President of Burundi inaugurated in an official ceremony a new school building erected at Buramata; the construction costs was financed by “Heart Doctors” and friends. The Honorary Consul Mr. Georgios Coucoulis supervised the building works.

We wish to thank the Armed Forces of Greece, the pharmaceutical company Pfizer Hellas (donation of 10.000 boxes of the antibiotic vibramycin), the students of many schools in Greece and many Greek citizens for their donation of medicines to the relief of the Burundians from the epidemic.



Mozambique

2ND MISSION: 23.05.2007

On the 23rd of May, a team of “Heart Doctors” left by air to Mozambique, via Paris and South Africa (Johannesburg). The team arrived to the capital of Mozambique, Maputo, and from there it was transferred by car to the north, to an area of Safala district, approximately 2,5 hours by car from Beira (the capital of the district). At this area they distributed to the flood-stricken residents the foodstuffs that they purchased while moving from Maputo to Safala (rice, flour, oil). These foodstuffs were transferred by two large trucks and a smaller one.

The situation in the flood-stricken areas is tragic since the flood has destroyed the settlements and the inhabitants are left without foodstuffs, equipment and supplies.



Central African Republic

3RD MISSION: 06.06.2007

On the 6th of June, a team of members of “Heart Doctors” travelled by air to Bangui, the capital of the country, accompanying a cargo of 54 boxes containing drugs. The drugs were destined for the hospital of the remote city of Nola, which was in great need of medicines. A hospital car arrived in the airport of Bangui and the person responsible received the drugs.





15TH MISSION: 01.08.2007

On Wednesday, 1.8.07, a team of “Heart Doctors” arrived to Khartoum of Sudan, purchased quantities of basic foodstuffs (15 tons of wheaten flour and 10 tons of milk powder), transferred them to Nyala and distributed them to the populations who live at the nearby refugees encampments.





8TH MISSION: 20.08.2007

On the 20th of August, “Heart Doctors” visited Beirut, purchased various necessary goods, transferred and distributed them to many villages of Southern Lebanon. These goods were bread, flour, oil, pasta, milk, sugar, rice, bottled drinking water etc. The quantities distributed were sufficient to cover the needs of the families that received them for a period of two months.

The families visited by “Heart Doctors” were in bad condition. No one is taking care of them.





2ND MISSION: 21.08.2007

On the 21st of August, a team of members of “Heart Doctors” visited Syria. They purchased large quantities of milk and milk powder, flour, sugar, oil, bottled drinking water etc. and transferred them to the encampment located at Abu Kamal, at the east borders of Syria. These goods were shipped on 4 big trucks and transferred to the encampment. The members of the mission had to enter into the Iraqi territory to approach the camp.

The Iraqi people take refuge to the said encampment from fear due to violence and terrorism in Iraq today.



Greece Peloponnesus

1ST MISSION: 28.08.2007

Early in the second fortnight of August, big fires started destroying Peloponnesus. Many human beings lost their lives; forests, animals houses and properties were burnt down. “Heart Doctors” were present in the areas needing assistance.

On the 28th of August, a team of members of “Heart Doctors” together with friends arrived to areas of the prefecture of Ilia that were on fire; they purchased 73 tons of bottled drinking water, 50 tons of milk, bread, biscuits and other goods, transferred them by two trucks to the settlements of the fire-stricken villages and distributed them pursuant to the needs.

The settlements of Ilia, which “Heart Doctors” visited and offered assistance are the following: Matesi, Robia, Theisoa, Kallithea, Mouzaki, Karatoulas, Karya, Agia Anna.



Greece Peloponnesus

2ND MISSION: 01.09.2007

On the 1st of September, a team of members and friends of “Heart Doctors” left from Athens and reached central Peloponnesus in order to offer help to settlements threatened by the large destructive fires. In Tripoli 26 tons of bottled drinking water were purchased and transferred by 3 trucks to the settlements which had requested it. Further they had been purchased sandwiches, refreshments, tinned food and baked chicken. These foods were distributed to the tired out soldiers and forest firemen who were working unceasingly at the fire fronts.

The settlements which “Heart Doctors” visited are: Rizospilia, Kotili, Vlachorraptis, Sarakini, Kourounios, Kyparissia.



Bangladesh

1ST MISSION: 02.09.2007

“Heart Doctors” responding to the enormous needs of Bangladesh in articles of basic importance, after the recent floods, organized and carried out their first mission to the capital of this country, Dacca.

On the 2nd of September, a team of members of “Heart Doctors” arrived to Dacca, purchased large quantities of basic foodstuffs (peas flour and rice) and clothing articles (doti for men and sari for women) and it took care of their delivery to the competent persons in order to be distributed to the flood-stricken families in accordance with their needs.





3RD MISSION: 10.09.2007

On the 10th of September, “Heart Doctors” visited Syria and with the cooperation of the competent officials of the Orthodox Christian Patriarchate purchased and transferred to the refugees’ encampment at Abu Kamal (close to the borders of Syria and Iraq) large quantities of milk, wheaten flour, sugar, drinking water etc. The transportation was made by big trucks.





7TH MISSION: 8.10.2007

A team of members of “Heart Doctors” travelled to Addis Ababa on Monday the 8th of October. The ambassador of Greece to Addis Ababa, Mr. Michael Dimatzikis, received the members of “Heart Doctors” and kindly assisted the team which moved northwards to a poor provincial area. The following foodstuffs were purchased from wholesale local markets: 1. 10 tons of teff

2. 10 tons of sugar
3. 10 tons of pasta
4. 10 tons of wheaten flour

Two big cars were used for two days to carry the quantities of the food items purchased to the places selected; there the members of the team distributed the material to the hungry inhabitants.



Sudan

16TH MISSION: 22.10.2007

On the 22nd of October, members of “Heart Doctors” travelled by air to Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, in order to offer food supplies to the refugees staying in Darfur; they bought from the local markets the following food items:

10 tons of milk powder suitable for children
20 tons of wheaten flour

They transported the foodstuffs bought to the refugee camps located near the city of Nyala where they delivered the loads.



Nigeria

11TH MISSION: 30.10.2007

On October 30th, a seven member team of “Heart Doctors” left Athens and next day reached the village Bauchi, capital of Bauchi State in northeastern Nigeria. They worked there in the afternoon of that day and during the next day. From the 2nd to the 5th of November the team attended the sick people in the villages Babba Gida and Ngelzerma of Yobe State and the villages Garin Bororo, Dogo Garasi and Gudumbali of Borno State. On the 3rd of November the team crossed the border and entered Niger Republic, as it had been planned. The local governor had cancelled the mission of work in the Republic of Niger because of unrest in that region. The team had to return to Nigeria and continue its work there.

During this mission, approximately 11.000 persons were attended and received medications. Most common health problems were malaria, helminthiases, hypertension, low back pain, arthralgias, gastritis, symptoms of gastric and duodenal ulcer, diarrhea, sexually transmitted diseases, unattended wounds, untreated fractures, a case of hermaphroditism, and one of vaginal atresia. It is noteworthy to mention that numerous children and young adults suffered of anal prolapse.

This mission was organized by Dr. Bubacar Hassane, a veterinarian who is secretary general of a local humanitarian organization called CORET; he is responsible for the Fulanis, a tribe of nomad cattle-breeders who move across Africa depending on weather conditions.





2ND MISSION: 30.11.2007

On the 30th of November, a team of members of “Heart Doctors” travelled to Dacca, the capital of Bangladesh, and from there to the town Barisal located at the mouth of the rivers Canges and Brachmaputra. The team purchased from the local wholesale markets at Barisal the following items:

Rice	20 tons
Milk powder	20 tons
Sugar	10 tons
Water	1000 dozens of bottles
Blankets	3000 pieces

The provisions were then delivered to the authorities responsible to collect and distribute humanitarian assistance to the needy people. Red Cross and various other non governmental organizations were present there; their job was very good indeed.

The atmosphere was suffocating, humid and very unpleasant.



Burundi

13TH MISSION: 8.12.2007

On Saturday, the 8th of December, a team of 5 members of “Heart Doctors” travelled from Athens to Burundi by air via Egypt and Kenya. On Sunday the team reached Bujumbura and on Monday morning they visited the Burundian minister of Health. Then they left for the province of Ruyigi taking with them 150 boxes full of medicines that had been sent to Burundi by “Heart Doctors” from Athens during the last 10 months.

The medicines were delivered to the hospital of Ruyigi as humanitarian assistance. The team offered medical services to 1400 sick inhabitants in Ruyigi. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the team worked in the areas of Moriza, Gisuru and Kayongori respectively. Gisuru is a village “Heart Doctors” visited last March; this time they decided to repair and enlarge the hospital of the village in order to improve the quality of medical services offered and increase the number of sick people covered.

On Friday the team returned to Bujumbura. There they purchased and distributed foodstuffs (50 tons of maize flour, 5 tons of rice and 7,6 tons of beans) to mothers and children, victims of the last civil war, living in a camp in Bubanza-Ryange (Site 1).



In Buramata, where “Heart Doctors” and their friends have already constructed 2 school buildings, the foundation stone was laid for a library and a medical centre to serve the children and the teachers of the 2 schools and the population that has started gathering in the area.

In this mission approximately 13.000 sick people were examined and given the proper medication; they suffered of malaria, elminthiases, infections of the respiratory system, skin diseases, leprosy, epilepsy, elephantiasis etc.

Burundi

8 medicines missions

During the 2nd mission of “Heart Doctors” to Burundi (distribution of foodstuffs) it has been observed that in this country there is a considerable lack of drugs. Because of that, “Heart Doctors” decided to send regularly by air to the Honorary Consul of Greece in Bujumbura Mr Georgios Koukoulis quantities of drugs so that they are disposed, through the competent Services of the State, to the hospital and dispensaries of Ruyigi to meet the most urgent needs for medicines of that province. The medicines shall be given to the patients free of charge. During the year 2007 the following eight missions of this kind were organized and carried out by “Heart Doctors”:



05.02.2007 (3rd mission to Burundi)

250 kilos of various medicines were packed into 21 boxes and sent by air to Bujumbura.

22.05.2007 (6th mission to Burundi)

“Heart Doctors” sent to Burundi a load of 40 boxes containing drugs for the province of Ruyigi.

04.06.2007 (7th mission to Burundi)

Due to the increased needs for medicines a new load of 40 boxes was sent to Burundi.

26.06.2007 (8th mission to Burundi)

Antibiotics, pain killers and vitamins weighing in total 550 kilos packed in 50 boxes were sent to Bujumbura.

12.07.2007 (9th mission to Burundi)

A load of 52 boxes containing various drugs were sent to Burundi.

18.10.2007 (10th mission to Burundi)

65 boxes of various medicines were sent by air to Burundi; their total weight was 460 kilograms.

22.10.2007 (11th mission to Burundi)

A new load of 50 boxes full of various medicines was carried by air to Bujumbura; the total weight was 480 kilos.



9 medicines missions



“Heart Doctors” continue supporting the Al-Kindy hospital in Baghdad by sending regularly to it since last war the drugs needed for its functioning. During the year 2007 nine loads of medicines were transported from Greece to Amman by air and from Amman to Baghdad by car. A team of “Heart Doctors” members accompanied the loads and delivered them to the director of the hospital. There are warm letters signed by the director confirming the delivery and thanking Greece and “Heart Doctors”. The nine missions in question are the following:

21.02.2007 (28th mission to Iraq)

A cargo of 534 boxes with drugs was transferred from Athens to Baghdad. As it was again established, the needs in drugs of Al-Kindy hospital are great, since violence is intensified in Iraq.

27.02.2007 (29th mission to Iraq)

Medicines packed into 480 boxes were transported from Athens to Baghdad.

12.03.2007 (30th mission to Iraq)

Transfer of 836 boxes of drugs from Athens to Iraq and delivery thereof to the Al-Kindy hospital of Baghdad

29.05.2007 (31st mission to Iraq)

The drug reserves at Al-Kindy hospital had been exhausted since days and the Ambassador of Iraq in Athens called “Heart Doctors”, who were in a food supply mission in Mozambique and asked to urgently transfer drugs to the said hospital, which is unable to cover the enormous needs created by the continuing and exerted acts of violence. “Heart Doctors” sent a load of 564 boxes of drugs. The director received the drugs, warmly thanked and said to the members of the mission: “the drugs you brought us is like a rain drop in a country where it has not rain for years”.

19.06.2007 (32nd mission to Iraq)

Drugs were packed in 590 boxes and sent to Al-Kindy hospital in Baghdad.

31.07.2007 (33rd mission to Iraq)

A team of “Heart Doctors” accompanied a cargo of 502 boxes with drugs which were transferred to Baghdad and delivered to the Director of Al-Kindy Hospital.

22.09.2007 (34th mission to Iraq)

593 boxes of drugs were transferred to Baghdad. The Director of the hospital who received them thanked very warmly “Heart Doctors” and Greece for their assistance in drugs and hospital material that they continue offering unceasingly to the hospital since the outbreak of the last war.

21.11.2007 (35th mission to Iraq)

502 boxes of medicines destined for the hospital Al-Kindy in Baghdad were sent to Iraq.

29.11.2007 (36th mission to Iraq)

A team of members of “Heart Doctors” accompanied 537 boxes of medicines from Athens to the hospital Al-Kindy in Baghdad.



Kindergarten foundation stone

Last August when big fires gravely destroyed a part of Peloponnesus, “Heart Doctors” were present with drinking water, food and other supplies at the fire fronts. Then they decided to build a kindergarten at the village Koutsohera in support of the suffering population.

On Sunday, 11.11.2007, a 9 member team of “Heart Doctors” reached the municipality of Oleni (prefecture of Ilia, Peloponnesus) to participate in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone for the construction of the kindergarten.

The bishop of Ilia Mr. Germanos was present with priests and chanters for the ceremony. Constantinos Tzavaras MP, Ioannis Panagopoulos Mayor of Oleni, members of the municipal council and many inhabitants gathered at the place where the kindergarten will be erected.

The President of “Heart Doctors”, professor Xenophon Yataganas, laid symbolically the foundation stone. The Bishop spoke on the importance of solidarity to the victims of the disastrous fires and the initiative of “Heart Doctors” to build a kindergarten at Koutsohera, thus underlining the importance of educating children from their very early age. Mrs. Helen Sotiriou, vice president of “Heart Doctors”, followed the Mayor in addressing the gathering; she explained how “Heart Doctors” work, why they rushed with provisions to the fire-stricken villages when the flames were there and why they are now building the kindergarten at Koutsohera.

Koutsohera is a village on a hill, 340 meters above sea level; its population is 683 inhabitants (2001 census). The last big fires destroyed all the surrounding area and burnt down 20 of its houses.



THE TEAM OF MISSIONS

Dr. Xenofon Yataganas, Professor of Medicine

Dr. Paraskevi Kalpaktsoglou, assistant Professor in paediatrics,
Immunologist

Dr. John Sotiriou, general practitioner

Mrs. Helen Sotiriou

Mrs. Mary Ipsilanti

Mr. Pantelis Ipsilantis

Mrs. Eugenia Lyra

SUMMARY OF 2007 ACTIVITIES

In the year 2007 “Heart Doctors” accomplished 43 missions in 13 countries as follows:

Country	Number and kind of missions
Bangladesh	2, food, clothing, blankets
Burundi	1, medical care 1, medical care, food 1, medical care, food, foundation stone 1, food 8, medicines
Central African Republic	1, medical care 1, medicines
Ethiopia	2, food
Greece-Peloponnesus	2, water, food (Ilia, Arcadia)
Iraq	8, medicines
Kenya	1, food
Lebanon	2, food
Madagascar	1, medical care
Mozambique	1, food
Nigeria	2, medical care
Sudan	3, food 1, medicines
Syria	3, food

DISEASES

Thousands of sick Africans were medically examined and found to suffer mainly from anaemia, arthralgias, bronchitis, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, elephantiasis, epilepsy, gastritis, gastroenteritis, goitre, helminthiases, HIV/AIDS, hypertension, infections of the respiratory and urinary-reproductive systems, kachexia, lassitude, leprosy, low back pains, lumbago, malaria, myalgia, neglected wounds, shistosomiasis and skin diseases. It was observed that in a certain area of a country the parasite “tunga penetrans” attacks the lower limbs of the people and “staphylococcus aureus” causes a very serious problem to other people (pyoderma epidemic).

MEDICINES, FOODSTUFFS ETC

Medicines and hospital materials that have been used in the missions were purchased by “Heart Doctors” or offered to them in kind by friends, local government Organizations, temples, schools, pupils, students and private firms including pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies. External fixation sets were offered by a few hospitals. Foodstuffs, bottled drinking water, blankets, clothes, various items of primary importance etc. were purchased by “Heart Doctors”. Certain friends offered money to be expended for the acquisition of medicines or foodstuffs and prefer to be anonymous. The Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs covered the full cost to purchase, transport and deliver foodstuffs to four countries (refugees, very poor populations lacking food because of floods, drought etc.).

The expenses for school, kindergarten, health centres and other building construction has been covered by members of the Organization and friends. Some friends prefer anonymity.

INFRASTRUCTURE

During the year 2007 the following projects were completed:

1. Medical centre at the village SHE of Niger State, Nigeria. “Heart Doctors” members financed the project.
2. Primary education school building for 150 students. “Heart Doctors” and friends covered the cost.
3. Five drinking water wells were drilled in Cameroon under the supervision of Bishop Gregory of Cameroon; the cost was covered by friends.
4. Centre for the homeless blind people in Benin; the work was supervised by Bishop Alexander of Nigeria and financed by a member of “Heart Doctors”.

During the same year the following projects started (foundation stone has been laid):

1. Library and dispensary at Buramata, Burundi; the two buildings will serve students and teachers of the schools and the citizens that have started gathering around. “Heart Doctors” members will finance the project.
2. Kindergarten at Koutsohera, a semimountainous village in Ilia, Peloponnesus, Greece. “Heart Doctors” will finance the project. Furthermore, the construction of a small hospital at Gisuru, Burundi, and a hospital in northern Madagascar are now under consideration.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

All the mission expenses for traveling, hotel, meals etc are covered by the participants (members and friends). The administrative expenses of the Organization are covered by its members. “Heart Doctors” do not employ any person – all jobs are carried out free by members or friends. No member or friend is paid or rewarded in any way for the services offered.

THANKS

“Heart Doctors” thank very warmly all their friends, pupils, students and their teachers, businessmen and their employees, business executives, unemployed people and pensioners, temples and priests as well as many others who trusted their offerings to us. We wish to assure them that all their contributions have been used very carefully and exclusively for the urgent needs of people struck by floods, drought, war, sickness, hunger, other physical disaster etc. We are also thankful to hospital executives who offered external fixation sets, to staff members of the Ministry of National Defense and the administrators of the pharmaceutical company PFIZER who have donated to “Heart Doctors” quantities of medicines. We are grateful to all the bishops and priests of the Orthodox Church in Africa, to ambassadors and consuls of Greece, to distinguished members of the Greek Diaspora and enthusiastic foreigners for their continuous and kind assistance.

Finally, we thank the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, the deputy foreign ministers and the staff members of YDAS (Service for International Development Cooperation) for financing 4 of our food providing missions in 2007.