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INTRODUCTION

The humanitarian Organization “Heart Doctors” accomplishes missions and offers relief to populations facing urgent needs due to diseases, famine, war conflicts, dislocations, and natural disasters. From 1998 till the end of 2010, many missions have been accomplished by “Heart Doctors” in 52 countries of Africa, Asia, America and Europe. This work consists mainly of offering medical services and medication to sick or wounded people, providing medicines, foodstuffs and various other basic items to needy populations; humanitarian relief is also carried out by various projects such as the financial support of the construction of buildings destined to house medical centers, hospitals and schools. Water supply projects are also very important in dry regions.

During the year 2010 “Heart Doctors” offered humanitarian assistance to 29 countries. Seven of those countries received relief for the first time (medicines and foodstuffs) - four were African countries (Ivory Coast, Gabon, Erithrea, Djibouti), two were American countries (Haiti and Chile) and one was European (Ukraine in the Black Sea).

In 2010, more frequent were the missions to Iraq and Afghanistan (medicines), to Pakistan (foodstuffs and medicines), to Burundi (medical services, medicines, foodstuffs, infrastructure), to Sudan (foodstuffs) and Somalia (foodstuffs). Less frequent were the missions to Georgia, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Erithrea, Zimbabwe, India, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Botswana and Djibouti etc. Most impressive and utterly destructive was the earthquake that demolished part of the capital of Haiti. “Heart Doctors” visited Haiti 3 times bringing to the victims medicines and blankets; less disastrous was the earthquake that shook Chile. “Heart Doctors” offered medicines to that distant country as well.

Various projects continue to be a main objective for “Heart Doctors” during 2010, particularly in Burundi (financing the construction of a school building and a block of buildings for the residence of nurses in the hospital of Gisuru); minor projects were those in Nigeria and Cameroon (construction of a medical center and opening a well for water supply, respectively).

Cows were purchased and offered to starving families in Burundi. This type of relief proved very successful indeed for needy families having many children.

Increasingly important becomes the distribution of clothing for babies and young children as well as for school children of all ages. In countries of very low income many children are naked or badly clothed while more are barefooted. Proper clothing and footwear are luxuries for so poor families.

In 2010 certain journalists from Greece participated in our missions, as in previous years. As a matter of fact, in addition to doing their own work, they assisted us with our job and proved very helpful.

School children, university students and the general public in Greece were informed about “Heart Doctors” activities mainly by local visits to schools and places of work and by contributing to seminars.

The activities of “Heart Doctors” are inspired by the power of love for the fellow human being, the enthusiasm of our members and all our friends and the general public of our country. They all contribute selflessly and anonymously offering medicines, foodstuffs, clothes, bedding etc. The victims of violence, illness, disaster and hunger receive the relief from our own hands in their countries and the places they live in where we visit them. Our offer is always free and without discrimination. Our members and friends are volunteers; they offer without remuneration or reward of any kind.

MISSIONS FOR MEDICAL CARE

During the year 2010 “Heart Doctors” accomplished 9 missions for medical services to 4 African countries as follows:

Country	Number of missions
1. Burundi	5
2. Cameroon	1
3. Nigeria	1
4. Sierra Leone	2
Total	9

During the missions for medical services offered to Burundi, foodstuffs were also distributed to starving people. In addition to that, in certain medical missions cows were purchased and distributed to poor big families having babies or very young children; in this way parents were able to feed their children and save them from kahexia and death. To many naked or half-naked children various kinds of clothing brought from Athens were also distributed in Burundi and Cameroon.

Medical missions are now briefly described following the chronological order of their accomplishment.

1. Cameroon 10th Mission (10.1.2010)

A team of 4 members of “Heart Doctors” visited Katrang in Northern Cameroon where it stayed for 6 days offering free medical services and medication to local populations. Many patients were examined and treated. Malaria is the more frequent and fatal disease in Katrang. Many children suffer from scabies. The members of the team spent the nights in huts (locally called “bukaru”). Clothing was distributed to young children.



Dispensary in the Multi Use Hall of Saint Apostles Church, North Cameroon



Children of Cameroon with the journalist Mr. G. Georgiades



Chronic injury



Mother with her sick child



Chronic injury

2. Nigeria 16th Mission (28.1.2010)

A four member team of “Heart Doctors” was invited by the Governor of Benue State in Nigeria to visit the State and offer free medical services to various distant places of the country. The team examined many patients living in small communities in Usar-Kwande, Nyihemba, Agu CHC and Chito.



Open-air dispensary in Nigeria



Open-air dispensary in Nigeria



Carrying the baby on her back



Open-air dispensary, Benue State, Nigeria



3. Burundi 24th Mission (13.3.2010)

Karuzi Province in Eastern Burundi was visited by a team of “Heart Doctors” which worked there in many villages in the communes of Shombo, Bugenyusi, Mutumba, Gihogazi and Nyabikere. The Governor of the province followed closely the mission attending its work and willingly offering his assistance. During this mission the inauguration of the school building in Nyabikere took place (the school was named “Alexander the Great”) and 20 cows were donated to poor families. Clothing was given to naked or half-naked children. In Buramata food-stuffs were distributed to starving families.



Milk for underfed babies



Kahexia



Parents with their children at the dispensary, Karuzi



With the Archbishop of Rwanda-Burundi, Karuzi

4. Sierra Leone 4th Mission (10.5.2010)

Medical services were offered to the distant area of Yelle; the team of “Heart Doctors” visited various small villages (Makonkorie, Mayepoh, Matamp and Mansumana) and examined thousands of patients. Heavy raining and high humidity are usual this time of the year. A widespread blindness in the area is due to a parasitic disease called onchocerciasis (river blindness). The parasite is transmitted to humans through the bite of a black fly living near rivers.



Parents with their sick children at the dispensary



Holding her sick child and the medicaments



Patients gather under the trees



Queues outside the dispensary



Dispensary in Sierra Leone

5. Burundi 25th Mission (29.5.2010)

A medical mission was organized and accomplished in the distant province of Kirundo, in Northern Burundi. Medical services were offered to thousands of patients living in various small communes (Busoni, Buga Bira, Gitobe and Vumbi). Clothing was distributed to young naked children.



Children at the dispensary



Special care for children



Patients taken to the dispensary



Clothing for children



Clothing for children



Child suffering from multiple abscess



Patients waiting to be examined



Dispensary in Kirundo



Carrying patients

6. Burundi 27th Mission (13.6.2010)

A team of “Heart Doctors” visited the province of Ruyigi, in Eastern Burundi, and offered medical services to sick people living in the wide area of Gisuru. This part of the province is a frontier area since Gisuru is located a few kilometers from the borders with Tanzania. “Heart Doctors” have financed a hospital complex at Gisuru and during this mission they offered beds and bedding to the clinics of the hospital. They also inaugurated a new wing of buildings which will be the residence of the nurses of the hospital. Clothing for children and foodstuffs were distributed.



Dispensary at Gisuru



Children of Burundi



With the Archbishop of Rwanda-Burundi at Gisuru

7. Burundi 29th Mission (23.10.2010)

In this mission medical services were offered to patients living in the provinces of Bubanza and Kirundo. In the province of Bubanza, North Western Burundi, the team visited the commune Gihanga and specifically the village of Buramata where “Heart Doctors” have built schools and a medical center and have supplied fresh water for the village. In Kirundo the team visited the communities Burara, Cumvo and Vumbi. Many patients were examined and given the proper medication. Foodstuffs were distributed to homeless people from Rwanda.



Patients at the dispensary



A queue of patients outside the dispensary



Dispensary at a village, Karuzi province, Burundi



Dispensary in Kirundo



Injecting a child suffering from malaria



Outside the dispensary



Outside the dispensary, waiting for the examination



8. Sierra Leone 5th Mission (7.11.2010)

A four member team of “Heart Doctors” visited the district Tonkolili, belonging to the North Province of Sierra Leone (its capital is Magburaka, 400 kilometers off Freetown). The team settled at the village Yelle and starting from there every morning it visited the communities Manovo, Yeben, Marak, Petifu Mayeroh and Mafay. Thousands of patients were examined. Milk for undernourished babies was offered to parents.



Dispensary in Sierra Leone



Children of Sierra Leone



Waiting for the examination



Dispensary in Sierra Leone



Spot to settle the dispensary, Sierra Leone



Outside the dispensary in Sierra Leone



Giving medicine to a sick woman

9. Burundi 30th Mission (4.12.2010)

A team of three members of “Heart Doctors” offered medical services and medicines to the inhabitants of Karuzi province. They visited the communities of Masabo, Mugogo, Nyabikere and Gazera and examined the sick people in their localities. Many babies were sick and underfed. Four members of the Hellenic Rescue Team participated in this mission. Two of them were doctors; they brought from Greece clothing which they distributed to children. “Heart Doctors” offered milk for children suffering from malnutrition.



Giving milk to a child suffering from kahexia



Dispensary at a remote village, Burundi



Twins in Burundi



Kahexia



Open-air dispensary in Burundi



Paediatrician Dr. P. Kalpaktsoglou in a mission to Burundi



With the Archbishop of Rwanda-Burundi and the Hellenic Rescue Team



Organizing medical care missions

Proper preparation and coordination is needed in order to carry out successfully a mission for medical care in distant and difficult to approach rural regions. First, the required medicines have to be carefully selected from all points of view (expiration, perfect separate packing, quantity etc.) and packed safely in special big bags which the team will carry from Athens to the remote places to be visited. The quantity and kind of medicines depends on the needs of patients (estimated number of sick people and existing diseases) and the duration of the mission. In addition to medicines, dressing material, syringes etc. and milk for babies are also added; milk is used for undernourished children. "Heart Doctors" know such needs because of their long experience acquired through repeated visits of the same countries.

Medical care missions are organized for people living in remote or isolated regions where local health personnel usually do not go and patients never leave to visit health centers. Thus when we arrive at such places people gather quickly from all points of the surrounding areas even from very far away (when we visit frontier regions, patients come from neighboring countries). For medical examination a tree is selected to protect by its shade the improvised dispensary which is settled there; a school building, a church or any other existing construction may be used for this purpose. We always need local people to act as interpreters (into English or French). If a table is available, it is used to arrange the medicines on it; chairs, if available, are used for the patients, the interpreters and the doctors to sit.

A very serious problem is to keep the masses of people (and the children) at a certain distance from the working doctors and the improvised dispensary. Order is usually very difficult to secure. Women and young children gather separately from men. Queues are formed but it is not easy to keep them for long. Priority is given to emergencies, very old people, mothers with babies and to persons of authority (political or religious leaders).

It is not uncommon to see the masses moving or even rushing to the point where the doctors work. This happens under certain circumstances (too many patients flooding the area, the day is near its end and the patients believe they may not manage to reach the doctors and get the medicine or their baby will not be examined etc.). In such cases the doctors abandon the place to save very young children, mothers and old sick people from being trodden and crushed under the feet of rushing men and women. Sometimes soldiers are used to keep the masses in order.

The mission team is constituted in such a way that it can move quickly using one or two strong cars to carry the members of the team and their luggage, the medicines, the interpreters and local people for the coordination of the mission. Driving by car is inevitable because otherwise it is not possible to visit small communities dispersed in vast areas. Sometimes we have to drive at night and in places with no roads.

A local coordinator of the mission is usually appointed by the authorities of the country and is responsible to prepare the proper functioning of the mission (selecting remote communities to be visited and informing the population for the forthcoming visit, finding the interpreters and the cars etc.).

Illnesses

In tropical and subtropical regions including Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Americas, malaria is widespread. Most of the countries we visit in Africa are malaria-endemic countries. Malaria is the most frequent disease we meet in Africa; it is a very serious disease which in severe cases progresses to coma and death and attacks humans of all ages, male and female-more vulnerable are little children and pregnant women. After malaria, less frequent are the following diseases: parasites (worms) infections of the respiratory system, gastroenteritis, anemia, problems of the eyes, high blood pressure, arthralgias, gynecological diseases, old wounds, HIV/AIDS, skin diseases (including scabies). Young children suffer mainly from helminthiasis, lack of vitamins and kahexia.

MISSIONS FOR DELIVERY OF MEDICINES

Medicines were delivered to 7 countries during the year 2010 and 25 missions were accomplished for this purpose, as it is shown in the following table:

Country	Number of missions
1. Afghanistan	8
2. Burundi	3
3. Chile	1
4. Haiti	3
5. Iraq	8
6. Syria	1
7. Pakistan	1
Total	25

Needs for medicines are relatively high in countries involved in war or where violence conflicts continue ceaselessly (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq). The earthquakes which shook Haiti and Chile created serious and special needs for medicines.

In one mission out of 3 to Haiti (after the earthquake of 7.8 degrees of Richter magnitude scale), “Heart Doctors” brought medicines and blankets to the victims. That mission was organized by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with Cyprus and Greek NGOs. An airplane, offered by a private firm, carried to Haiti all the kinds of relief gathered. The Greek deputy minister of foreign affairs accompanied the mission.

“Heart Doctors” brought medicines to Chile, just after the great earthquake of 8.8 degrees of Richter magnitude scale; they accompanied the load of medicines from Athens to Buenos Aires. A Greek entrepreneur transported the medicines from Buenos Aires to the Concepcion city in Chile which suffered from the earthquake.



Medicines



Medicines for a medical mission

Aminoacids for intravenous use in case of operated patients, antibiotics, pain killers, antiseptics, bandages etc. for hospitals of the country were offered to Burundi.

Medicines were delivered to Syria for current needs; The Patriarchate of Antiochia Assisted in this mission.

MISSIONS FOR PROVISION OF FOODSTUFFS

“Heart Doctors”, in cooperation with friends, carried out in 2010 various missions for food relief; the recipient countries are shown in the following table:

Country	Number of missions
1. Bangladesh	1
2. Botswana	1
3. Burundi	1
4. Congo, Democratic Republic	3
5. Djibouti	4
6. Erithrea	4
7. Gabon	3
8. Guinea Bissau	4
9. India	4
10. Madagascar	1
11. Mozambique	4
12. Pakistan	6
13. Palestine	1
14. Somalia	8
15. Sudan	9
16. Zimbabwe	4
Total	58

Food aid was directed mainly to Sudan, Somalia and Pakistan. Sudan and Somalia face their long-lasting nutritional problem; Pakistan was struck in 2010 by tremendous flood disasters which affected 20 million people and left 1.700 dead.

The foodstuffs offered by our missions are the ones known as basic or staple food commodities. They are commodities of international trade bought and sold in big wholesale markets. The quantity bought is massively transported and easily preserved under normal environmental conditions. In 2010 the following foodstuffs were bought and donated: rice, corn (maize), wheaten flour, milk powder, sugar, beans and teff. Beans were distributed in Burundi and teff in Erithrea.

Big cars are used for the transportation of foodstuffs from wholesale markets to the location where the starving people stay.

Food relief is distributed to families. In case of delivering foodstuffs to refugee camps, the material is offered to the organized storehouses guarded by teams of refugees (Burundi, Darfur in Sudan, Congo). In other cases the tribe chiefs of starving communities are responsible for the distribution.

Shortages of foodstuffs are due to limited soil fertility, adverse weather conditions (prolonged periods of drought), natural disasters (floods, continuous raining), war and other conflicts, massive dislocation of populations (refugees and people forced to migrate within their country).

Lack of proper food leads to malnutrition (the gravest single threat of world's public health and the biggest contributor to child mortality); more sensitive are babies and young children.

In many medical missions, foodstuffs are distributed to starving populations. This happens often in Burundi. We observe that many babies and young children suffer from kahexia because their mothers have not enough or not at all milk to breastfeed them. When mothers come to our dispensary with their children dramatically weak we give them milk for babies to feed the children; we bring from Athens milk suitable for the case. That was the reason we introduced last year the program of giving the poor families with babies one cow; the sick children survived and very happily we recently saw that those cows have already their own small calves! Thus the situation is improving for the families in question.

In Burundi, foodstuffs were also distributed to homeless refugees from neighboring Rwanda.



Distributing foodstuffs in Burundi



Distributing foodstuffs in Burundi



Food preparation



Distribution of foodstuffs in Burundi



Children of Burundi



Neglected wound

MISSIONS FOR OTHER PURPOSES

During 2010, in cooperation with certain friends, additional missions were accomplished in 6 countries:

Country	Number of missions
1. Botswana	3
2. Georgia	3
3. Ivory Coast	1
4. Kenya	1
5. Moldavia	1
6. Ukraine	1
Total	10

These missions aimed at helping school children by giving them dresses and various kinds of clothing, footwear, school books, note books, pencils and school bags.



Mothers and children visiting the dispensary



Waiting for the examination, Burundi

INRASTRUCTURE

1. Accomplished projects

Primary education school building at Nyabikere, Burundi

The foundation stone of this building was laid on the 4th of December 2009. “Heart Doctors” managed to secure the funds required to finance the project; they visited Nyabikere to inspect and coordinate the building works. On the 13th of March 2010 the school building was inaugurated by “Heart Doctors” in the presence of many officials, the governor of Karuzi, local Authorities and crowds of inhabitants. The new school building was given the name “Alxander the Great” and a commemotating signboard was walled outside the new building to display information of the event.



Nyabikere. The old school building



Nyabikere. The old school building



Nyabikere. Inauguration of the new school building



Neyabikere. The new school building



Nyabikere. Interior of the new school building



New school building at Nyabikere. Fixing the commemorative plate



Inauguration of the new school building at Nyabikere



Inauguration ceremony of the new school building at Nyabikere



Nyabikere. Inauguration of the new school building

Block of buildings for the residence of nursing personnel at Gisuru

The hospital complex constructed by “Heart Doctors” at Gisuru, Ruiyi Province, Burundi, was recently completed by a wing of 3 buildings which will be used as the residence of the nurses employed in the hospital. The cost of this project was covered by friends of “Heart Doctors”. The wing was inaugurated on 26.6.2010.

Fifty metal beds, mattresses, blankets, sheets and other kinds of necessary items were purchased and allocated to the clinics of the hospital. The hospital is now complete and properly equipped.



Gisuru hospital. Nurses Residence Wing



Gisuru hospital. Beds and bedding

Medical center at Agagbe, Nigeria

“Heart Doctors” contributed to the total cost of the project for the construction of a new medical center building at Agagbe, Benue State, Nigeria. The old medical center was visited by a team of “Heart Doctors” on 30.10.2008; they worked there examining patients of the surrounding area (14th Mission to Nigeria). Because of the very poor condition of the building, “Heart Doctors” proposed to the Authorities to finance the repair of the building. Ultimately the Services to Benue State decided, instead of repairing, to demolish the building and reconstruct it. The operation of the new building started in 2010.

Construction of a water well at Doukoula, Cameroon

A water well was dug in the area of Doukoula, in the Extreme North province of Cameroon,

to access groundwater and draw it by a manual waterpump. The project was supervised by the Archbishop of Cameroon. The well is now finished and the poor villagers can now use clean water for their needs.

The funds for this project were offered in memory of the donor's mother.

2. Building works in progress

Buildings for the Paramedical School at Gisuru

The President of the Republic of Burundi asked "Heart Doctors" to raise the required funds and finance the project for creating a School at Gisuru to educate healthcare professionals responsible to assist in treating patients in hospitals. The construction works started in October 2010 and the buildings of the School are expected to be ready next Spring.

The Olympic Stadium of Burundi

"Heart Doctors" participate in financing the construction of a stadium 80 kilometers away from Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, near the lake Tanganyika. Construction works started in 2010.

ACQUISITION OF MEDICINES, FOODSTUFFS ETC.

Medicines are offered to “Heart Doctors”, to carry out their missions, by school children, employed and unemployed individuals, pensioners, various firms, associations, municipalities, utilities, hospitals etc. Medicines against malaria, not available or not produced in Greece, are bought from abroad.

Foodstuffs, drinking water, blankets and bedding, medical equipment, beds, desks, clothes, schoolbooks etc. are purchased from local markets which are as close as possible to the populations receiving the relief. It must be noted, however, that clothes for children and blankets are offered to the Organization by friends from Greece.

Friends from Greece buy the cows we distribute to very poor families in Burundi; in this way the families in question have a little milk to feed their starving children and save them from death. Last year a baby was dying because the mother had no milk to breast-feed it. This baby was saved by the milk of a cow. That was the starting point of introducing the program of donating cows to vulnerable families.



Sierra Leone, Outside the dispensary



Sierra Leone. A blind visits the dispensary

INFORMING THE PUBLIC

When offerings are received, “Heart Doctors” always communicate with all their friends to inform and thank them for their donations (medicines, blankets, clothes etc.). Similarly, as a rule, we inform the general public for the humanitarian activities of our Organization, particularly the young generation. Thus we visit kindergartens, schools and universities in order to meet young children and students and thank them for medicines or anything else they offer and show them how and where we use their donations. We also visit working people in the place of their employment or participate in other activities such as public meetings, seminars etc. the purpose being to inform the general public of our humanitarian work and the problems our fellow men face in their countries.

In such meetings, a member of our Organization addresses the gathering and shows pictures and videos of recent missions to the countries we visit. The public and particularly pupils and students get touched and are impressed because of the dramatic situation they realize humans are facing in distant places of the world. Usually they ask questions and are eager to know more about the victims of disease, violence, hunger and misery.

During the year 2010 the following visits took place:

27.1.2010. Hellenic–French School of Piraeus “Saint Paul”, Gymnasium. General Director: Mr. Marcos Varthalitis. Director: Mrs. Ekaterini Papadopoulou. The President of “Heart Doctors” was invited to visit the school and speak to the students about volunteering and the humanitarian work of “Heart Doctors”. He answered to questions asked by each of the students present in this meeting. Responsible for the meeting was the teacher of the school Mrs. Angela Georganja.

22.2.2010. Gymnasium-Lyceum “Polytropi Armonia”. Director: Mrs. Stavroula Mountanou, philologist. Owner: Spyros Daskalakis, teacher of chemistry. A team of Heart Doctors” visited the school and the Vice President talked to the students and had an interview with the students editing the newspaper of the school. Responsible for the visit: Mrs. Eleni Lagou, teacher.

23.2.2010. Hellenic Defence Systems. The Vice President of “Heart Doctors” spoke to the employees. Responsible for the meeting was Mr. Yannis Kapantaidakis.

2.3.2010. 3rd Gymnasium of Nea Philadelphia. Director: Mrs. Reveka Kekou. The Vice President of “Heart Doctors” spoke to the students and the teaching staff of the Gymnasium and the Vocational High School; discussion with members of the teaching staff of both schools followed.

8.3.2010. Hellenic Defence Systems. A team of “Heart Doctors” visited the central building after an invitation by the Director of personnel management Mrs. Lina Makri. The team attended the celebration which took place there of the International Women’s Day and the President of “Heart Doctors”, as one of the invited speakers, spoke about the role of women today in Africa and the Third World.

23.3.2010. Special Pedagogical Academy of Thessaloniki (ΕΠΑΘ). Director: Anastasios Molohidis. A team of “Heart Doctors” visited the Academy which prepares teachers for the minority schools in Thrace. The Vice President of “Heart Doctors” addressed the students and presented the humanitarian activities of the Organization.

23.3.2010. 82nd Primary School of Thessaloniki. Director : Mrs. Ifigenia Ouzouni. The Vice President of “Heart Doctors” spoke to the students. The children were touched by the situation prevailing in poor countries and asked many questions.

24.3.2010. Department of philosophy, University of Thessaloniki. The Vice President spoke to a large gathering of students and presented the humanitarian activities of “Heart Doctors”. Responsible for this meeting was Professor Hasan Badawi who also spoke to the students.

24.3.2010. General Hospital of Drama. Director: Mr. Anastasios Boglou. “Heart Doctors” were invited to speak about their humanitarian work. Members of the staff of the hospital, the Christian Church and local Officials were present. The Vice President of “Heart Doctors” spoke to the gathering and thanked the nursing staff and the citizens of Drama for the medicines they gathered twice and sent to the Organization for its missions to Haiti, the Gaza Strit and other places of the world. Responsible for this successful meeting were members of the nursing staff, particularly Mr. Nikos Eliadis and Kosmas Vasiliadis.

7.10.2010. General Hospital of Thessaloniki, “Saint Demetrius”. The Director of Administrative Services of the Hospital Mrs. Melpomeni Tsouga organized a one-day symposium on Volunteering and Health. Among the invited speakers was the Vice President of “Heart Doctors” who spoke on the subject “Needs and possibilities of volunteering today”.

4.11.2010. 3rd Primary School of Amfissa. A team of “Heat Doctors” visited the school and the Vice President of the Organization spoke to the students and answered their questions. Responsible for the meeting was Mr. Demetrius Kanavouras.

13.12.2010. 1st Primary School of Ialysos, Rhodes. The pupils organized various activities for the rights of the children. Main invited speaker was the Vice President of “Heart Doctors”.

17.12.2010. The two Vice Presidents of “Heart Doctors” visited 2 schools of the Hellenic Community in New York: one in the parish of Zoodohos Pigi and one in the parish of Saint Demetrius. The students organized a special celebration of this event and, among other things, they collected clothes for the naked children of Burundi. Responsible were Mrs. Anne Prokof, Mr. Costas Zahariades and Mr. Nicolaos Andriotis.

20.12.2010. Greek-German Primary School, Vrilissia. The Vice President of “Heart Doctors” visited the school and spoke to the pupils. Responsible for the meeting was Mrs. Argyro Hyta.



Visiting the primary school of Amfissa



Visit to the President of the Republic of Burundi. Ngozi-Burundi

TEAM OF MISSIONS

Dr. Xenophon Yataganas, Professor of Medicine
Dr. Paraskevi Kalpaktsoglou, Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, Immunologist
Dr. John Sotiriou, General practitioner
Mrs. Helen Sotiriou
Mrs. Mary Ypsilanti
Mr. Pantelis Ypsilantis

Ad hoc participations

Mr. Andreas Yataganas
Mrs. Varvara Mammou
Mr. Kostas Zachariadis
Mrs. Despina Karagouni, mid-wife
Mr. George Georgiadis, journalist
Mrs. Eleni Varvitsiotis, journalist
Mr. Stefanos Bertakis, cameraman

Hellenic Rescue Team, Cyclades Branch - Paros
(cooperation in one parallel Mission to Burundi)
Mr. Nicos Dimakis, General practitioner
Mr. Vasilis Panaritis, Actinologist
Mr. John Davios
Mr. George Barbarigos

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our warmest thanks to all our compatriots of all ages who kindly offer to us medicaments and other items we use in our missions. Most of them are poor people, some are pensioners or unemployed and nearly all offer from what is absolutely necessary for their own survival. Certain friends send to our Organization their contribution regularly and independently of the occurrence of natural disasters; they know that violence, sickness, hunger and distress ceaselessly create their victims which urgently need our love and actual care.

We congratulate our generous friends who participate in many of the missions for the provision of food and other necessary items (bedding, clothing etc.); they prefer to remain anonymous.

We thank young children, pupils and students of kindergartens, schools and universities of Greece who do not forget the children of poor countries and help them to overcome pain, agony, hunger and frustration. We also thank parents and teachers who guide and encourage the young generation to participate in humanitarian activities.

We thank all the students, parents and teachers of the Hellenic Community parishes of Zoodohos Pigi and Saint Demetrius in New York for their offering of clothing for children in Africa; we mention Mrs. Anne Prokof, Mr. Costas Zahariades and Mr. Nikolaos Andriotis for their initiative in this respect.

Medicines, blankets, clothing etc. are sometimes transported from the islands and remote cities of Greece to main cities and from there to our offices or our storehouse in Athens by private transport agencies or buses of public transport, free of charge. We thank them all. We also thank Mr. Christos Konstantopoulos from Chile who transported free of charge from Buenos Aires to the city of Concepcion in Chile a big load of medicines (relief to the victims of the earthquake in Chile). We thank our friend Mr. Christos Anastasiades who has always been very helpful with respect to our missions abroad.

We express our warmest thanks to the “Ecole Européenne de Luxembourg” for their contribution to the cost for the construction of a school building at the village Nyabikere, Karuzi province, Burundi.

We thank and congratulate our dedicated member Mrs. Paraskevi Kalpaktoglou for financing the project of the Paramedical School (for training nurses) at Gisuru, Burundi; the work is still in progress.

We thank our friends who continue to buy and donate cows to very poor families in Burundi to support babies whose mothers have not enough milk.

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