



Health Partners International
of Canada
Partenaires Canadiens
pour la Santé Internationale

2008 Travel Pack Review

Making health happen

Millions of people around the world suffer and die unnecessarily from preventable and treatable diseases because there is no doctor, or there is no medicine.

A simple ear infection leads to deafness, a virus does debilitating damage, and people lose arms, legs and even their lives because an infected wound is not treated. Children are under-nourished, not for lack of food, but because of the intestinal parasites that compromise their digestion. Pregnant and nursing mothers cannot give their babies the building blocks of good health because they lack the vitamins they need.

HPIC can do something about it with your help.

Hundreds of caring Canadians travel to the developing world every year on medical and dental missions. And they take with them a Physician or a Dental Travel Pack from HPIC. PTPs and DTPs contain a broad assortment of basic medicine and supplies, donated by Canadian healthcare companies. They are specially designed as a comprehensive medical kit to use in rudimentary settings.

Healthcare professionals carry the travel packs with them directly to the people who are in need of care. Many return regularly to the same communities where they are investing in long-term change.

The impact of medical care for individuals is immediate. They are healed of diseases, wounds and infections. And the ripples of restored health continue into the community for a long time.

Fathers return to work to support their families. Infants are given a chance to thrive. People relieved of constant pain can now contribute to their families and society. Children are able to go to school and learn. People living in poverty begin to have the strength to work toward change.

It all begins with a couple of boxes of donated medicine, and humanitarians, doctors and donors who care enough to help make health happen.

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Dominican Republic

"I am extremely grateful for the medicine. How can I express the deep joy of saving babies' and children's lives? Without them, we couldn't do it. All of us need to find a way to share what we have with people in need."

Gail Perry, RN



The PTP delivers care to the door of disaster victims

The right treatment just in time can mean the difference between life and death for the victims of natural or man-made disasters. In 2008, the Physician Travel Pack enabled doctors to deliver emergency health care directly to people who had been affected by hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes and extreme poverty.

The year began with a humanitarian crisis in **Zimbabwe**. Political instability made things worse for people who were already living in poverty. HPIC provided PTPs to meet an urgent need.

In March, PTPs were used to deliver medical aid to victims of flooding in **Ecuador**.

Cyclone Nargis hit land in **Myanmar** in May. Then a major earthquake struck the Sichuan area of **China** less than two weeks later. HPIC, working with Canadian physicians, provided PTPs to both of these countries.

Where did they go?

Africa: 236

Central America: 175

Caribbean: 193

South America: 37

Asia: 132

Eastern Europe: 1

South Pacific: 1

In September, HPIC and its partners responded to the humanitarian disaster in the Caribbean by sending emergency medical relief to victims of the onslaught of hurricanes, especially in **Haiti**.

Then in November, PTPs were carried to **Somalia** in response to an emergency appeal from healthcare facilities following bombings in the area.

A total of 157 PTPs were used to provide emergency relief following disasters in six countries, making 2008 an exceptional year. The Hon. Raymond Chan, who carried PTPs to China following the earthquake, said, "I want to do something practical and meaningful for the victims of this disaster. I can't think of anything better than bringing health care to their doorstep."



For stories of healing, visit www.hpicanada.com.

Travel packs team up

Caring Canadians are working together to make the most of medical missions so that underprivileged communities come out as winners. Some of the ways that travel packs are part of the team:

- Canadian doctors, dentists and nurses travel with a group that may include skilled tradesmen, teachers and community development specialists to offer multi-faceted services to the community
- Groups of healthcare professionals from diverse disciplines team up to offer a wide range of care to remote populations
- Medical, nursing and dental students are heading off in teams to practice medicine in rudimentary settings, broaden their horizons and improve their education
- Medical mission groups often include an age and experience range from students to practicing professionals to retirees
- Doctors who include their older teens in medical missions are discovering it is a life-changing experience for the whole family, and a great help for the professionals on the team
- More and more groups are carrying several travel packs to equip them for the scope of their mission
- PTPs and DTPs are going together for medical / dental missions



Did you know?

- PTPs are carried by foot, bicycle, motorcycle, dug-out canoe and pack mule to some of the most remote communities in the world
- hand-knit "Izzy" dolls are used as packing material inside every PTP
- the requested contribution covers only part of the cost of the PTP – the remainder is funded by individuals and groups
- travel pack carriers often conduct clinics without electricity or running water
- many patients living in isolated communities are seeing a doctor or a dentist for the first time when teams reach them with travel packs

2008 travel pack quick facts

- 722 PTPs were carried to 57 countries
- 53 DTPs went to 16 countries
- a total of 775 packs were carried to 59 countries
- volunteers worked 1,802 hours to prepare the travel packs
- 45 Canadian healthcare companies donated medicines and medical supplies for the travel packs



13,000 Izzy dolls were packed into PTPs

Cambodia

"Would I use the travel pack for subsequent trips? The answer is definitely yes. I cannot even imagine going into the conditions that I encountered without such a valuable resource."

Dr. Calvin Stewart

Product donors

3M Health Care
Abbott Laboratories Ltd.
Allergan, Inc.
Ansell Healthcare
Apotex Inc, Canada
AstraZeneca Canada, Inc.
Bayer, Inc.
Bayer Consumer Care
Covidien
Dentsply Canada Ltd.
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
HANSAméd Ltd.
Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.
Hospira Healthcare Corp.
LEO Pharma Inc.
McNeil Consumer Healthcare
Médi-Sélect
Novartis Consumer Health
Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Novopharm Ltd.
Nycomed Canada Inc.
Odan Laboratories Ltd.
Omega Laboratories Ltd.
Organon Canada Ltd.
Patterson Dental Canada Inc.
Pfizer Canada Inc.
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of Canada Inc.
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Squire Pharmaceuticals
Sultan Healthcare Inc.
Superior Glove
Taro Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Virox Technologies Inc.
Vita Health Products, Inc.
Wyeth Canada
Wyeth Consumer Healthcare Inc.



A sickly young boy was brought to a mobile clinic in Honduras where he was diagnosed with asthma, intestinal parasites and malnutrition. With the help of the PTP, a Canadian team was able to treat all of his conditions, ensuring him a healthier start.



In the small village of Tivele, Mozambique, a bare one-room concrete building serves as a clinic. A Canadian doctor with a travel pack dispenses treatment to the many patients who sit on the floor to receive care.



When a team of 14 healthcare professionals conducted medical and dental clinics in Cambodia, they treated a group of young monks who were sorely in need of dental care.

Partnering with HPIC

Healthcare companies who wish to **donate product**, contact product@hpicanada.ca

If you wish to carry a PTP or a DTP on a medical mission, contact travelpacks@hpicanada.ca or visit www.hpicanada.ca/travelpack_applications.cfm

To contribute financially, visit www.hpicanada.ca/donateonline-donatenow.php or call: **1.800.627.1787**

Tonga

"I have come to rely on the DTP as my primary resource in addressing and treating dental disease. I hope you continue to do this great work and support dentists willing to do dentistry in the less developed world."

Dr. Asif Tejani

Health Partners International of Canada is a medical aid organization dedicated to improving access to health care and medicine in the developing world.

Health Partners International of Canada is registered as a charity with the Canada Revenue Agency. HPIC issues tax receipts for donations – CRA #119031524RR0001



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