





# **Health and hope delivered in 2017**



Photo credit: Royon Chichester, Mully Children's Family Canada





800,000 people treated











Thanks to our partners and donors, HPIC increased access to medicine for children and adults in remote and rural regions, impoverished communities and for people traumatized by conflict and natural disaster.







Photos courtesy of: Direct Relief, HPIC's Catherine Sharouty, MMI

## **TOP DONORS OF MEDICINE**

Teva Canada Limited Methapharm

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Photo: PLAN Canada

Photo: Royon Chichester

## Kits at a glance

430 Primary care 69 Special Request 91 Mother-Child 24 Dental

## Midwives help mothers stay healthy with HPIC handbook

A project in partnership with GAiN (Global Aid Network) has helped mothers in Benin and Togo be better informed about pregnancy, childbirth and baby care.

"Knowledge is power," says Catherine Sharouty, HPIC's Program Development Manager. "We wanted to ensure that mothers will receive the basic information they need. And we wanted the frontline health workers to be better equipped."

The Maternal and Newborn Care Counselling Handbook was distributed in 2017 as the last deliverable of a maternal and child health project to train, equip and support midwives and nurses.

About 30 topics are covered on simple illustrated cards and the flip side features key messages for health workers. An English version is being tested in Ghana and Kenya.

## **Equipping the heroic doctors of Syria**

The Syrian conflict, which began in 2011, has created the worst humanitarian crisis of our time.

Thanks to our donors, HPIC has been helping since the beginning.

It is estimated that about 35,000 Syrians received care and treatment through HPIC and our partners in 2017. HPIC provided 140 Humanitarian Medical Kits to Direct Relief and 3 more to UOSSM.

We are happy to share three stories provided by UOSSM:

#### **Fatima**

"Fatima, 60, was suffering from hypertension and was treated thanks to HPIC's donated medicines. She arrived at the camp just after her town was bombed. She left behind all her belongings, including her medicine. Fatima was examined by the doctor at the UOSSM supported-centre and was found to have high blood pressure. The doctor prescribed blood pressure lowering medication and instructed her to change her lifestyle and diet. She was given medicine free of charge and after three days, she was already feeling better and her blood pressure was lowered."

#### **Ibrahim**

"Eight-year-old Ibrahim swam in contaminated water that caused an ear infection. He woke up at night with a lot of pain and in the morning, pus began to flow from his ear. His father took him to the nearby primary health centre where he was diagnosed and given an antibiotic and pain relief medication for free. He was re-examined after five days and he had no pus or pain."

### Dr. Ahmed, frontline health worker

"The health structures have been destroyed and the availability of medicines and medical consumables is very difficult, in addition to the high price...We appreciate how much this shipment has had an impact on the communities...The donated medicines added to my profession a sense of happiness and responsibility during the provision of healthcare services for patients in such difficult circumstances."

| Some of our major projects in 2017 |                             |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Country                            | Project partner             | Total skids delivered |
| Cameroon                           | CBM Canada                  | 61 skids              |
| Dominican Republic                 | HOPE                        | 90 skids              |
| Jamaica                            | Food For The Poor Canada    | 89 skids              |
| Kenya                              | HPIC's Pamoja Project (ADS) | 14 skids              |
| Malawi                             | K2 Foundation               | 3 skids               |
| Nicaragua                          | Plan Canada                 | 13 skids              |
| Swaziland                          | CBM Canada                  | 74 skids              |
| Yemen                              | HCI                         | 38 skids              |
| Zambia                             | WOW Mission                 | 9 skids               |
| Zimbabwe                           | The Salvation Army          | 16 skids              |



## "Humanitarian **Medical Kits save** lives": Ontario doctor

Dr. Dario Del Rizzo and the Dominican Republic Mission team once again brought 30 Humanitarian Medical Kits for primary care to the Dominican Republic. They serve communities where 50 per cent of children under two suffer from dysentery and 30 per cent of children under five are malnourished.

Photo: MMI "We bring Humanitarian

Medical Kits because they save lives. I asked the community about the impact of the project and the kits, and the reply was 'No child has died in eight years," Dr. Del Rizzo recounted.

While buying local is perhaps a good option for other types of supplies, the medicines one needs on mission are often not available or very expensive.

## Stocking clinics in Haiti encourages patients to seek care

Haitian women in the northeast of the country often hop over the border to get medical care in the Dominican Republic.

"Before the SHOW (Strengthening Health Outcomes for Women and Children) project began in this region," says Dr. Djo Mantangwa, Health Advisor at Plan Canada, "Doctors would sometimes give prescriptions that cannot get filled.

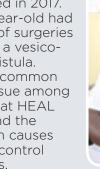
"Now with medical relief provided by Health Partners International of Canada, the clinics can follow through and give complete care because the patients will return knowing the clinics are equipped and the workers are trained."

On an assessment trip in 2016, access to medicine was identified as a major need. In 2017, when the project began to be implemented, HPIC worked with our network of product donors to source medicines on Plan Haiti's needs list.

## Support for life-transforming work at **HEAL Africa**

More women and children treated at HEAL Africa were transformed by the care they received through the holistic approach that guides the work of the staff at the regional hospital in Goma, D.R. Congo. "We have seen women and children rehabilitated and thriving," says Dr. Justin Paluku, CEO of the hospital.

Yvonne is one of the patients who benefitted in 2017. The 19-year-old had a series of surgeries to repair a vesicovaginal fistula. This is a common health issue among patients at HEAL Africa and the condition causes bladder control problems.



"The incontinence products help us a lot. Often, we women with fistula

problems are afraid to wet everything around us, and

that makes our lives very difficult," Yvonne said.

Yvonne wanted to share her thanks with HPIC's donors: "I am very grateful for this gift because these products significantly reduce our pain, and make our lives easier."

Yvonne is now living a normal life after successful treatment at HEAL Africa.

## Other highlights of 2017

- Hurricane relief project led to medical relief being mobilized for Dominican Republic and Nicaragua
- Assessment trip to Ghana to develop three new HPIC projects
- Audit trip to Dominican Republic to review HOPE project
- Stronger Together grant awarded to HPIC to create a Virtual Reality video to transport Canadians to the field in Haiti
- Partnership created with AWP to help donors make a legacy plan that reflects their values and wishes
- Reorganized volunteer program to create more opportunities to volunteer and for our partners to get more out of the experience
- Imagine Canada accreditation renewed, which means that HPIC demonstrates excellence in five areas of operations.



Photo: HPIC's Maricarmen Raudales

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Photo: Mully Children's Family Canada

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Health Partners International of Canada is the only charity in Canada licensed by Health Canada to handle donated medicines for vulnerable communities in the developing world. Since 1990 HPIC has led a madein-Canada movement to increase access to medicine and improve health in the developing world and



and builds local capacity. www.hpicanada.ca

