



# 2023 MID-YEAR REPORT

OCTOBER 2022 – APRIL 2023

## A NOTE FROM HPIC'S PRESIDENT



**Breakthrough. Adaptability. Resilience.** These are the words that best describe HPIC's local projects and emergency responses that have taken place in the past six months.

In Ghana, under our Women's and Children's Health Program, The H.O.P.E. Project has expanded to reach more women and children in new communities with essential medicines and healthcare. In Lebanon, the A Neo-life project is actively helping the tiniest of patients - premature babies - by giving them the neonatal care and medicines they need in a critical period in their growth.

In Kenya, our Solar Suitcase Initiative project is providing reliable electricity for obstetric and newborn care to over 40,000 community members in five healthcare facilities. According to the United Nations, 17.7 million people need humanitarian aid and protection because of the war in Ukraine.<sup>1</sup> Through our Emergency Response Program, HPIC has already delivered over \$25 million in essential medicines to Ukraine, and millions more are on the way.



In Turkey and Syria, the latest reports indicate that the death toll from the earthquakes has surpassed 50,000 people. In Malawi, the devastation of Tropical Cyclone Freddy left thousands of people in despair while damaging critical medical infrastructure, such as hospitals. Thanks to our partners, HPIC is responding to these medical needs one shipment at a time.

These are just a few examples of countries where HPIC is currently active. There are many more. Our small and agile team has been responding to the needs of our partners and remain committed to caring for the medical needs of people who need healthcare now.

I remain inspired by our partners, donors, volunteers, and staff who have shown resilience throughout the new challenges that come our way. HPIC could not continue our ongoing commitments, local programming, and emergency responses without their support. I am grateful for our various partnerships and want to acknowledge HPIC's pharmaceutical partners for their invaluable contributions in our efforts to restore health worldwide and our local partners who are our hands and feet on the ground.

We are dedicated to improving health in the 37 countries where medicines are delivered. Our team is guided by the principles of impartiality, independence, and neutrality. HPIC provides quality healthcare to those in need, no matter who they are or where they may be.

To attend to these medical needs, HPIC has launched "The Around the World Campaign". Every dollar raised will provide medical relief to countries that make our news headlines today and those still in critical need but have been overshadowed by new emergencies.

As you read this report regarding the important work that has taken place, I hope you are proud of what has been accomplished by all of us. We will continue to need the support of all our partners to make a difference and to give the best gift to people around the world – the gift of health. Thank you for your continued trust in our mission.



*Lois E Brown*

**Lois Brown**  
President

<sup>1</sup>World Vision, "How many people are affected by the war in Ukraine", April 13, 2023, <http://ow.ly/EAgp50OnVVj>.



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

# Timely, coordinated and effective responses to crises around the world

Since 2022, HPIC has been actively working to bring medicines, medical supplies, and other health services to victims of war, natural disaster, and crises. Crises in 2022 and 2023 in Ukraine, Pakistan, Turkey and Syria have led to unprecedented emergency responses for the organization.



### Turkey and Syria Earthquake

The death toll from February's earthquakes in Turkey and Syria has surpassed 50,000 people—including 45,968 confirmed deaths in Turkey and 7,259 in Syria. Millions of people across both countries have been forced into displacement camps and thousands remain in hospital because of injuries suffered. HPIC and its partners on the ground were able to quickly mobilize shipments of medicines, valued at \$350,000 CAD, to both countries impacted by the deadly earthquakes. These medicines will help provide over 25,000 treatments to those affected. HPIC continues to monitor the situation in both countries and will look for additional opportunities to support the recovery efforts if needed.



### Pakistan Floods

In late 2022, over 33 million people were affected by severe flooding throughout Pakistan. An estimated 18,000 people lost their lives, and more than 2.2 million houses have been damaged or destroyed. Another 8 million people have been displaced, with approximately 1.8 million persons still exposed or living extremely close to flooded areas. HPIC responded by mobilizing and shipping over \$4 million worth of medicines and medical supplies to our partners on the ground. The bulk of these medicines and medical supplies went to hospitals and health facilities in the Baluchistan and Sindh provinces of Pakistan, provinces that were among the hardest hit by flooding. We remain dedicated to assist those still devastated by the flood, as we continue to work with our partners to provide medical assistance and other basic needs to the people of Pakistan.



### Malawi's Tropical Cyclone Freddy

Tropical Cyclone Freddy has affected 500,000 people. An estimated 510 people have lost their lives, and over 363,000 people are now displaced. The devastation has caused health facilities to be destroyed or flooded, leaving communities without adequate access to health services. As well, the cyclone has exposed major health risks in Malawi and southern African countries. As this situation brought so much despair to many, HPIC officially responded by mobilizing the first 6000 treatments to treat approximately 3000 wounded and displaced victims. While providing medical aid to those affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy, HPIC is also developing an emergency response to Malawi's deadly Cholera outbreak by building a shipment of medicines to treat Cholera.



### Continued War in Ukraine

HPIC continues to work with Canadian and international partners to respond to the urgent medical needs of people in Ukraine and those IDP's that have left to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. What started off as a \$1.5 million in medicine goal to aid people in crisis by the war, quickly surpassed our expectation. The generosity of Canadians allowed HPIC to mobilize \$25 million in medicines and medical supplies, providing treatment to the 17.7 million people in urgent need, and the 8.2 million refugees<sup>2</sup> who are displaced. The efforts of many partners have been instrumental in helping people in Ukraine. Our financial campaign remains open so that we can mobilize millions more in medicines over the next few months.

<sup>2</sup>World Vision, "How many people are affected by the war in Ukraine", April 13, 2023, <http://ow.ly/EAgp50OnVVj>.



## FEATURED PHARMACEUTICAL PARTNER

# Pharmascience has supported emergency responses in 97 countries

Since HPIC's inception in 1990, when a devastating earthquake struck Iran, HPIC has provided medical aid to 130 countries. HPIC's humanitarian responses have only been possible thanks to the generosity of Canadian pharmaceutical companies that are committed to providing quality donated medicines and supplies.

Over the last three decades, Pharmascience Inc. has been one of HPIC's most responsive partners. Founded in 1983 in Montreal, Pharmascience has supported HPIC's emergency responses in 97 countries. For 33 years, Pharmascience has helped HPIC bring medical relief to victims of horrific crises throughout the world, proving its commitment to the health of patients worldwide.

"As a core driving value, Pharmascience is devoted to enhancing the health and well-being of patients, and to supporting our customers and our communities around the world. We strive to create a difference for the people around us through consistent and meaningful donations to educational institutions and charitable organizations" says David Goodman, PhD, President & Chief Executive Officer.

## PHARMACEUTICAL PARTNERS

In addition to Pharmascience, we are grateful for our other pharmaceutical partners who have made significant contributions to our emergency responses over the past six months including:

Apotex Inc.

Pfizer Canada Inc.

Natural Factors Canada

Nora Pharma Inc.

Verity Pharmaceuticals

## ACCESS TO MEDICINES PROGRAM

# Humanitarian Medical Kits (HMKs)

Going on a medical mission and want to increase access to medicine and improve health among vulnerable populations? Take a Humanitarian Medical Kit (HMK) for primary care and help a remote community stock up on essential medicines and medical supplies. HMKs for primary care include an assortment of sufficiently dated high quality primary care medicines and medical supplies donated by the Canadian healthcare industry worth approximately \$5,000+. Portable and convenient, these kits help medical mission teams create a functioning clinic anywhere from an urban centre to a remote mountain village. They are also used in emergency situations, where they are especially valued for their size and versatility. One kit provides up to 600 medical treatments.

### HMKs for primary care contain products from the following categories:

Antibiotics	Antimalarials	Asthma medications
Analgesics	Anti-inflammatories	Topical creams
Antifungals	Antidiarrheals	Eye/ear drops and ointments
Antihypertensives	Anti-ulcer medications	

### Getting Involved

The kits are designed for Canadian doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers providing care in vulnerable communities. Volunteers, NGOs, humanitarian organizations, churches, and faith-based organizations can obtain these kits according to the eligibility criteria. There are people who take these kits to use them, while others deliver these kits as a gift of health and hope.

### Obtaining an HMK

**For primary care,** fill out the application form and send it to [kits@hpicanada.ca](mailto:kits@hpicanada.ca) at least 6 weeks prior to the date of departure.

**For specialized care,** fill out the application form along with a needs list and send them to [kits@hpicanada.ca](mailto:kits@hpicanada.ca) at least 8 weeks prior to the date of departure.

- 1) Verify custom procedures for medicines in your destination country.
- 2) HPIC requests a tax-deductible donation of \$650 per primary care kit to cover part of the costs of running this program.



**Between November 2022 and May 2023, 27 countries have benefitted from essential medicines and supplies in our Humanitarian Medical Kits.**

Bolivia	Liberia
Cuba	Malawi
Dominican Republic	Nicaragua
Ecuador	Nigeria
The Gambia	Philippines
Ghana	Senegal
Guatemala	South Sudan
Haiti	Turkey
Honduras	Ukraine
Jamaica	Zambia
Kenya	Zimbabwe
Lebanon	



## HMK CARRIER FEATURE

# Getting medicines to Cuba

Reverend Canon Brian McVitty and his wife, Mrs. Diane McVitty, were able to take over 100 pounds of medicines and medical supplies within four Humanitarian Medical Kits (HMKs) to their church partner in Cuba. The medicine and medical supplies were delivered to Dr. Lisandra Navarro, who was in tears of joy and disbelief upon seeing the donated medicines. She expressed that pharmacies' shelves have been emptied, with patients having to bring their own medical supplies (i.e., antibiotics, bandages, et al.) to be admitted at the hospital for surgery. She added, "Doctors at the hospital don't even have surgical gloves."

The work HPIC is doing in Cuba and in other countries is critical. Anyone can help! If you are going on a medical mission, you can take a Humanitarian Medical Kit (HMK) and stock a pharmacy with essential medicines and medical supplies – learn more about this story at [hpicanada.ca](http://hpicanada.ca)!



## WHAT'S NEW

# Women's and Children's Health Program: Neo-Life Project is saving lives in Lebanon

In Lebanon, 18,000 Lebanese and refugee infants are born prematurely every year (9.6% of total deliveries) and need to be admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). To support the healthcare needs and increase access to treatment for Lebanese and refugee infants who have been born prematurely, HPIC has collaborated with the non-governmental organization, American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), to launch the "A Neo-Life" project.

Through this project HPIC and local partner ANERA are working to improve preterm birth prevention and care by supplying essential medications such as IV nutrition, vitamins, inotropic, and anticholinergic agents among other medicines to the Tripoli Government Hospital and the Karantina Government Hospital. These donated medicines are helping recipient hospitals save the lives of premature infants and decrease their risk of developing long-term complications.

"We are very proud to work with ANERA and provide healthcare to the tiniest and most fragile citizens in Lebanon. Both the Tripoli Government Hospital and the Karantina Government Hospital specialize in the care of premature babies, and we are confident that this aid will benefit preterm babies and give renewed hope to their families," said Lois Brown, President of Health Partners International Canada. "We want to ensure that these babies have access to the medicines that they need, and we are grateful to all the partners in this project who are supporting this initiative."

The medical needs of the people in Lebanon continue to be a priority for our team – more financial support means more medicine out the door for the tiniest of patients.



PHOTO CREDITS: ANERA

## WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

# Pamoja Project in Kenya

With neonatal deaths remaining unacceptably high in Kenya, contributing to 40% of under-five mortality rates, it is also projected that 7,700 women die each year from pregnancy-related complications. This translates to 21 women dying each day or one woman every hour from preventable or treatable causes.

Several factors prevent women and children from receiving essential healthcare during pregnancy and childbirth. To address these challenges and in collaboration with Anglican Development Services (ADS) – Kenya, our local partner, HPIC has been implementing the Pamoja (which means "together" in Swahili) project in some of the low resource communities of Kenya. The project is strengthening the existing healthcare system by enabling the health workers to provide quality services to the communities. The project also supports the health facilities with primary medicines and supplies required for serving communities in need.

HPIC believes in providing sustainable healthcare solutions to improve the mother and child health services at the facility level. This year the project aims to improve the emergency and obstetric and newborn care in five health facilities in Kakamega and Kisumu Counties in western Kenya by installing solar suitcases in these facilities.

With reduced power interruptions, the health facilities will be equipped to provide efficient and effective consultations to the community members, especially mothers and children. By powering critical obstetric lighting, mobile phones, and fetal heart rate monitors, health workers will be better equipped to provide necessary obstetric and newborn care to hundreds of mothers and babies, reducing maternal and newborn deaths. This project is helping to ensure that more women in Kenya survive childbirth!



PHOTO CREDIT:  
WE CARE SOLAR



## DEDICATION BEYOND DECADES

# Robert's remarkable role as a CBA in Ghana's H.O.P.E Project

Robert Akurugu is one of the most experienced and oldest Community Based Agents (CBAs) working in our Health Outreach, Prevention and Education (H.O.P.E) Project in the Garu district of the Upper East Region of Ghana. He has been serving his community as a health volunteer since 1983. On the initiation of the project in 2019, Ghana's Health Services Officials nominated Robert to be the included CBA in the H.O.P.E Project. Through this project, Robert and 60 other CBAs have been trained and equipped to deliver quality healthcare services and health education to women, caregivers, and children in the community. Robert's experience and expertise have been invaluable in this regard.

Robert's efforts, along with those of other CBAs, have led to an improvement in the delivery of essential health services and an increase in the utilization of primary healthcare services for mothers, pregnant women, and children under 5. As a result, cases of childhood malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea have decreased, leading to an overall decrease in child mortality rates in the targeted communities. Moreover, Robert and other CBAs are addressing the challenges faced by people living in remote communities, such as high costs of treatment and transportation, long travel times to the nearest health facilities, and stigma associated with certain diseases. The H.O.P.E Project equips CBAs to carry out health promotion and education services during household visits.

Working with Robert and other CBAs has enabled the H.O.P.E project to reach those who are otherwise unable to access essential healthcare services, which has been crucial to saving lives and ensuring the success of the project. Robert's dedication and commitment to his community are a shining example of how CBAs can make a real difference in improving the health and well-being of pregnant women and children under the age of 5.

## COMING UP

# President's Table Gala & Awards Ceremony

On June 8th, our President's Table Gala and Awards Ceremony welcomes our valued partners, who have been with us in HPIC's mission to increase access to medicine and improve health in vulnerable communities. We are excited to join together in celebration of our work together to bring hope and healing around the world. The following partners will be recognized at the Gala.



**Access to Medicines Partner of the Year**  
Hope and Healing International

**Health & Hope Legacy Award**  
The Central Group

**Team Impact Award**  
AstraZeneca Canada

**Community Leader of Year Award**  
Union des Cedres

**Humanitarian Medical Missionary Award**  
Dr. Ndao (Sénégal Santé Mobile)

**Women & Children's Health Partner of the Year**  
Anglican Development Services (ADS)

**Emergency Response Partner of the Year**  
The tri-partite partnership between  
CCCF – Dignitas- CAM-Z

**President's Pharmaceutical Circle Award**  
GSK Canada  
Pharmascience  
Apotex Inc  
Pfizer Canada

**Volunteer of the Year Award**  
Stephen Hoo

**Foundation Leader of the Year Award**  
The Charis Foundation



## IN THE FIELD

# HPIC's recent visits to Kenya and Ghana

This April, our Director of Program (Interim), Raini Aquino, Program Development Manager, Linnet Damien, and HPIC's President, Lois Brown travelled to Ghana and Kenya for field visits. The visited project communities to assess the outcomes and effectiveness of the existing projects. The team interacted with community members and regional health officials to help build stronger relationships, foster trust, and establish a deeper understanding of their needs and challenges. Lastly, the team met with grassroots organisations to establish new partnerships to further the mission of HPIC.



## HPIC AT CONFERENCE IN PARIS

# Partnership for Quality Medical Donations's Global Health Policy Forum

Director of Healthcare Industry Relations, Heather Watts, added HPIC's voice to the 2023 Global Health Policy Forum hosted by Partnership for Quality Medical Donations. This week-long forum took place in Paris, France. The forum examined Europe's Global Health Policy Strategy and the pursuit to achieve better health for all. As a leader in increasing access to medicine and improving health in vulnerable communities in low-income countries, HPIC was well-positioned to contribute to the discussion on best practices for equitable access to healthcare. Ms. Watts was joined by representatives from the World Health Organization, the United Nations, and other global health organizations to discuss tactics for improving access to quality healthcare within vulnerable communities





## BE THE DIFFERENCE

# Get involved with our mission of delivering health and hope

We encourage you to make the decision to act and help bring humanitarian aid around the world. Here are ways you can make a significant difference:

### Support our Around the World Campaign

Help us to raise \$1.5 million to mobilize medical responses to 37 countries. Every \$1 donated will deliver \$10 of essential medicines.

### Connect with us on social media

This fall, members of the HPIC will be travelling to select provinces. Be sure to follow our journey on social media that aims to raise awareness and support to our many projects!

### Spread the word!

Run a fundraiser and tell your networks to join this life-saving mission!

Email [dgomez@hpicanada.ca](mailto:dgomez@hpicanada.ca) to get set up and equipped with everything you need to make your fundraiser a success.

### Join our Monthly Donor Program

Become a monthly donor and provide a steady and reliable source of funding to our programs around the world.

### Volunteer

From corporate teams to community groups to family and friends, HPIC's volunteers are the fuel that keeps our mission going. Join us at our Distribution Centre in Oakville. Email [volunteer@hpicanada.ca](mailto:volunteer@hpicanada.ca) for more information!



For more information on how you can partner with us, call 514-822-1112 visit [hpicanada.ca](http://hpicanada.ca) or email [dgomez@hpicanada.ca](mailto:dgomez@hpicanada.ca)!



#### HPIC HEADQUARTERS

3633 Sources Blvd, Suite 212  
Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC H9B 2K4  
514-822-1112

#### HPIC DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

2907 Portland Dr.  
Oakville, ON L6H 5S4  
905-670-1990

#### CHARITABLE REGISTRATION NUMBER

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[www.hpicanada.ca](http://www.hpicanada.ca)