

# Beyond Our Borders: HPIC Delivers Canadian Medicine to the Very Poor

A child in the mountains of Peru dehydrated from severe diarrhea. A victim of war rape in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. An elderly Cuban woman with chronic pain. A young father in Mozambique battling infections related to HIV/AIDS. What do these people have in common?

All of them are being treated with Canadian medicine, generously donated to Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) by the pharmaceutical industry for use in the developing world.

HPIC is a medical aid organization dedicated to improving access to medicine and healthcare in some of the poorest areas of the world. Over its 17-year history, HPIC has provided more than \$225 million in medical aid, in support of emergency relief, humanitarian assistance and sustainable development programs.

Canadian pharmaceutical companies make this work possible by donating top-quality, in-date medicines and vaccines. Product comes to HPIC in several ways, including annual planned donations, by response to special requests including emergency relief and through opportunities arising from excess inventory.

## *Good news for Afghanistan*

The news coming out of Afghanistan is dismal: violence, poverty, natural disasters, disease and despair. Women and children are the most vulnerable victims of a complex and heartbreaking situation. The good news is that Canadian teamwork is making a difference. HPIC has launched a two-year medical aid program to assist the CURE International Hospital in Kabul. Thirteen healthcare companies donated product worth \$1.5 million, specifically requested by CURE Kabul, for the first shipment in May 2007. Bridgeway Foundation, a Canadian philanthropic group, is supporting the project financially. Prime Minister Stephen Harper, surrounded by industry executives, officiated at the launch of the Afghanistan program at the HPIC Distribution Centre in Mississauga.

And now, Canadian medicine is in a hospital in Kabul, where landmine victims and at-risk mothers are among those who come seeking care.

## *The Physician Travel Pack*

Hundreds of Canadian healthcare professionals travel overseas on medical missions every year. And, they rely on the Physician Travel Pack (PTP) from HPIC for their medicines and supplies. The PTP contains a vast array of primary healthcare medicine—donated by 22 companies—for the treatment of hundreds of people who would otherwise not have access to medicine and care. The products are packed in two hand-carried boxes, weighing less than 23 kg, for easy transport.



Mothers and children in Afghanistan are being treated with Canadian medicine.



Dr. Fulvio Paolucci and his wife carried a PTP to Malawi in February of this year where they treated children in an AIDS orphanage. Dr. Paolucci discovered four-year-old Jonas, who, along with his twin brother, had lost both his parents to AIDS. Jonas was suffering from malaria and was deteriorating rapidly. Dr. Paolucci was able to treat Jonas with medicine from his PTP, saving his life and avoiding another tragedy in this family.

Thanks to planned product donations of Canadian medicine, these stories are repeated every day in clinics, in homes and in orphanages around the world.



People line up for treatment at a clinic in Uganda that has received medicine from Health Partners International of Canada.



Rx&D President Russ Williams packs a PTP with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

### *Why look beyond our borders?*

In the global village we inhabit, the goal of saving and enriching lives does not stop at our borders. HPIC's mission of providing health and hope is a natural fit for the corporate social responsibility strategies of Canadian healthcare companies, who donate \$25 to \$30 million worth of medicine and medical supplies annually.

"I am so encouraged about the growth in the volume of medical aid given to us," says John Kelsall, President of HPIC. "Our long-term relationship of trust and transparency with the industry has resulted in medical care for millions of people who desperately need it."

### *Why HPIC?*

In the 2007 federal budget, the Canadian government implemented a measure to encourage the donation of medicines for humanitarian purposes. Now companies receive a fiscal benefit when they donate product to HPIC.

HPIC's high standards of operation have been recognized by industry leaders, non-government organization partners, medical professionals and the government. It is the only charity of its kind to have been recognized with an Establishment License from Health Canada for its Distribution Centre in Mississauga. HPIC also carefully screens its partners who carry PTPs or receive shipments of medical aid for community health projects on the ground, relieving companies of the time-consuming responsibility of fielding donation requests.

Supporting HPIC—an organization that delivers medicine effectively and directly to suffering people in the developing world—is good for a company's image. Raising awareness about this partnership enhances the reputation of a company with all its stakeholders, including employees, customers, media and government.

There are many reasons to donate medicine to HPIC, but the best reasons are still the ones with names: Jonas, Ndungu, Margarita, Asef, Mwanzu, Khalid, Dominga, Amani, Jean-Aimé... **CPM**

*Health Partners International of Canada*  
[www.hpicanada.ca](http://www.hpicanada.ca)