

The Sixth Mission: 16-23 April, 2010

On the 16th of April, 2010, an Italian Medical team from San Vincenzo Hospital, in Taormina has visited Duhok city in a humanitarian intended mission to conduct Catheterization interventions, which will be the last mission in this project funded by U.S Embassy.

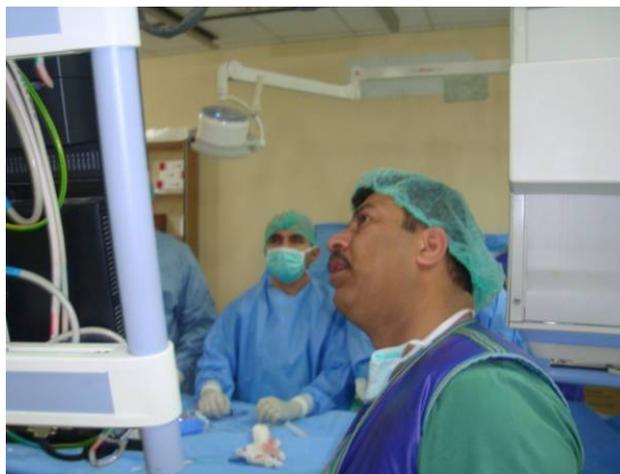
In this mission (32) intervention in Azadi Hospital in Duhok have been conducted, (52) Congenital Heart Diseases patients have been examined, in addition (21) of the local medical staff received training on the job.

In this mission, a several specific type of surgical interventions were conducted for the first time in Iraq.

The trainee Doctors, Dr. Eman Hesen (Kirkuk) and Dr.Aso Faiq (Sulaymania) were conducting Catheterizations under supervision of Italian cardiologists and they also followed up the patients after operations in the continuation of such a training program started in Italy in 2006.

The Medical team consisted of the following specialists:

No.	Name	Profession & Institution	Gender	Nationality
1	Iole Pinto	President of Solidarity Initiatives Association	F	Italian
2	Dr. Jiyen Aziz	Physician – Emergency ASL7 - Health Centre of Siena – Italy	F	Italian
3	Dr. Innocenzo Bianca	Cardiologist San Vincenzo Hospital, Taormina –Italy	M	Italian
4	Dr. Maria Gabriella Cicero	Cardiologist San Vincenzo Hospital, Taormina –Italy	F	Italian



Selected pictures for the team in Azadi General Hospital-Duhok



Selected pictures for the team in Azadi General Hospital – Duhok



Selected pictures for the team in Azadi General Hospital-Duhok



Selected pictures for the team in Azadi General Hospital - Duhok

The activities of the team:



Meeting with the Director General of Health of Duhok and 25 local Medical Staff

On 17th. of April, Dr.Abdulla Saeed, Director General of Health in Duhok Governorate, held a meeting in Azadi hospital with the delegation which had also been attended by several local doctors and hospital managers. Dr.Abdulla welcomed the guests and hoped the missions would achieve its objectives successfully and ensured that necessary efforts should be made at best ways for cooperation, in order to help patient people and to ascend with medical quality of service to better levels.

Dr.Abdulla also stressed on providing extra experience to medical staffs in Kurdistan in all specialties, which includes nursing too.

“This thing is not an easy job, but it requires great efforts” the Doctor said, he also mentioned that humanitarian employees do not look forward for any kind of financial benefits in their jobs, and they do a big work and try to help patients as many as they can do.

In his speech about the opening day of Open Heart surgery Center he said that it is expected to be in August, and the directorate of Health is waiting the allocated budget for the project "it will get finished within a year" he said, and he added that the plan entail bringing a foreign staff to work in this facility for a year, in cooperation with Erbil Heart surgery center.

Dr. Abdulla ended his speech by offering the foreign team a full time cooperation in all aspects.

Dr. Iole Pinto, Head of Solidarity Initiatives Association in Italy, thanked Dr. Abdulla Saeed and hoped to continue helping health sector in Duhok city, especially in Pediatric diseases.

“it is a hard work requiring job but all conditions are so encouraging” Dr.Iole said, she added that the objective is not only to help child patients but to bring more experience to this section, and to relatively improve laboratory work as well, through finding an agenda of work and training programs, Also added that SIA Organization will work in coordination with Heevie for more missions in future, they also offered to help in Open Heart surgery project in Kurdistan and they are waiting to know when they should get ready to contribute in this project.

Miss Bakshan Ali Aziz, Head of Heevie also stressed on the necessity of continuation of cooperation with the Italian organizations SIA, Med child, and with the General Directorate of Health in Duhok.

Miss Bakshan thanked the American Embassy for its big support to Heevie humanitarian Projects, and the volunteers medical staffs from Italy and Germany who participated in these 6 missions , also thanked Galala Group for its participation in this project.

Dr. Innocenzo Bianca, Cardiologist-San Vincenzo hospital, Taormina city in Italy, took part in the speech and expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped arranging and supporting this mission, he said that Open Heart surgery project is only the first step but not last, and he would be happy to offer help as much as he can do.



Meeting with the Director General of Health of Duhok and 25 local Medical Staff

Meanwhile, Mr. Stephen Barneby Duhok Governorate action office- Regional Construction Team RRT, and Mr. Madison Conoly, Public diplomacy officer, have visited Duhok and started a tour to Azadi Hospital accompanied with Dr. Abdulla Saeed, Director General of Health in Duhok, the guests have met Heevie manager and the Italian cardiologists and exchanged opinions with them. The 2 officials evaluated and appreciated the good work which has been done by all parties. The media was present to cover the event and made several interviews with the American government officials and the Italian team.



Duhok Governorate action office- Regional Construction Team RRT, Public diplomacy officer



Mr. Stephen Barneby, Mr. Madison Conoly, Dr. Abdulla Saeed, and Bakhshan Ali Aziz Heevie Manager.

Meeting conclusion:

On 22, 4 2010, at 10:00 A.M, Dr.Abdulla Saeed held a meeting with Italian doctors and several local doctors to give their final conclusions and suggestions to improve performing health services in Duhok city.

Dr. Innocenzo Bianca, cardiologist, gave his impression about the Catheterization interventions he conducted at Azadi Teaching Hospital and his recommendations about conducting catheter in future, especially on data storage of patient's information.

Dr. Maria Gabriella Ciecero, cardiologist, expressed their gratitude and reassured the importance of patient profile information which, as they said, is so important to proceeds in any patient case, at the end of meeting, the attendants expressed their happiness to visit Kurdistan and hoped there will be more cooperation in future and thanked everyone for the great hospitality received from the city people.



Dr. Abdulla Saeed, Director General of Health in Duhok meeting with the Italian doctors

Success at the end of the Project:

The project had come to an end with great achievements. The goals that were planned to reach were much more what had been expected. The Italian teams had become certain about the abilities of local medical staff in conducting such interventions in the future.

The main goal behind training local physician, surgeons and medical staff had been reached and proved by conducting Catheterization Interventions by local doctors who had been trained in Italy through Heevie .

Hundreds of smiles had been drawn on the lips of families whom their kids faced cardiac heart diseases, the burden of affording travel, treatment and medicine expenses had been removed. The patient children, who will of course need medical follow up for period of time, will continue their lives normally. They can attend schools, play and run with smiles over their faces.

Heevie feel that they had gained the biggest prize when at the end of project all the objectives have been reached successfully and at least a contribution had been made to rebuild Kurdistan Region Health infrastructure.