

7- Mission, 15 March 2008: Congenital Heart Disease , Heamatological (Leukemia &Thalassemia Disease), Neurosurgery and Clinical Diagnostically Laboratory.

With an invitation from Heevie an Italian delegation from Med Child, SIA , IME and Bambini Cardiopatici nel Mondo A.I.C.I.,Italian organizations visit Kurdistan consists of (33) persons divided into (7) medical teams to treat the urgent cases of patients affected by main paediatric diseases and to develop training programs for local medical staff.

- (27) Congenital Heart Diseases patients have been operated in Hawler Cardiac Center.
- (80) Neurological have been examined and (1) have been operated.
- (138) Leukemia patients have been examined.
- (24) Thalassemia patients have been examined.
- (46) local Medical staff trained on the job in Kurdistan, 15 March 2008, 40 Cardiac Medical Staff, 20 Hematologist, and 6 Neurosurgery.



San Donato Hospital Cardiac Medical Team in Hawler Cardiac Center in Erbil

The delegation of 15 March 2008 consisted of the following person:

No.	Name	Profession& Institution	Gender	Nationality
Italian Delegation Team				
1	Iole Pinto	Solidarity Initiatives	F	Italy
2	Ilja Gardi	Medchild	M	Italy
3	Enrico Musso	Medchild	M	Italy
4	Marco Grazia	Medchild	M	Italy
5	Zena Badawe	Medchild	F	Italy
6	Jiyan Aziz	Physician – Emergency ASL7 -Local Health Centre of Siena	F	Italy
7	Alberto Saracco	Medchild	M	Italy
8	Marco Reale	Medical Communication	M	Italy
9	Franco Pepe	Journalist	M	Italy
10	Marco Di Terlizzi	Association "Bambini Cardiopatici Nel Mondo"	M	Italy
11	Renato Borocci	Photographer	M	Italy
12	Cortassa Duilio	Lawyer	M	Italy
Cardiac Catheterization Team				
1	Mario Carminati	Cardiologist	M	Italy
Open Heart Surgery Team				
1	Alessandro Frigiola	Heart surgeon	M	Italy
2	Maria Garcia	Anesthetist	F	Italy
3	Eduardo Consuegra	Anesthetist	M	Italy
4	Marco Meli	Anesthetist	M	Italy
5	Alessandro Giamberti	Heart surgeon	M	Italy
6	Alessandro Mora	Nurse	M	Italy
7	Pasquale Delprete	Nurse	M	Italy
8	Assunta Salatino	Nurse	F	Italy
9	Antonio Ditta	Heart-lung techn.	M	Italy
10	Mario Mazza	Nurse	M	Italy
11	Michele Sannino	Nurse	M	Italy
12	Norka Medina Esquivel	Nurse	F	Italy
13	Carmelo Arcidiacono	Cardiologist	M	Italy
14	Dorina Ionita	Nurse	F	Italy
Paediatric OncoHematology (LEUKEMIA, THALASSEMIA) Team				
1	Robert Chiesa	Onco Hematologist	M	Italy
2	Tito Roccia	Onco Hematologist	M	Italy
3	Marco Andreani	Biologist	M	Italy
4	Anna Testi	Onco Hematologist	F	Italy
5	Hawar Omar	Interpreter - Italy Team	M	Italy
Neurosurgery Team				
1	Stefania Aceerno	Pediatric Neurologist&Neurosurgeon-San Raffaele Hospital Milan	F	Italy

Program of each Team:

First Team: Med child and SIA NGO delegation which consists of (12) Person. The delegation first visit was meeting the president of the parliament Dr. Adnan Al Mufti, then the Minister of Health Dr. Abdulrahman Younis, in the meeting both sides agreed on the importance of continuing this cooperation. The Italian delegation visited Duhok city and met the Director General of Health Dr. Abdulla Saeed, also they visited Sulaymania City and met with the Director General of Health .

Second Team: Hematological Team which consists of (3) Italian doctors with the assistance of local doctors from all Northern Governorates. The main goal of their visit was training the local staff through a workshop which was divided into case discussion with local doctors and treatment methods, a common clinical data base of Hematological patients defined to make easier transfer data and communication with the Italian reference network and examine the children patients who suffer from Hematological diseases and check the patients who did bone marrow transplantation in Italy .

Third Team: Thalassemia Team which consists of (3) Italian doctors with the assistance of local doctors. This team examined children patients who suffer from Thalassemia diseases, besides; they examined the patients who made bone marrow transplantation in Italy.

Fourth & Fifth Team: Cardiac Team (Catheterization lab Intervention & Open Heart Surgery) Objectives: 27 operated cases.

Catheterization lab Intervention team for children, this team consists of (3) persons, objectives Catheterization Intervention cases in Erbil and Duhok with training on the job of local staff and Open Heart Surgery Team this team consists of (14) persons, objectives operated cases which have been previously selected according to well define clinical criteria and training on the job of local staff.

Sixth Team: Biologist team consists of one person. He managed visits to the blood bank, Evaluation of state of advancing of blood bank and analysis of training needs on blood banks, evaluation state of the advance of cythofluorimetry lab. Leukemia, Thalassemia , organization of diagnostics techniques on biological samples to be sent to the Italian Lab cooperating in the health cooperation project.

Seventh Team: Neurosurgery Team which consists of one doctor specialized in Neurology for children. Objectives : Operations, Clinical evaluation for 200 patients , Discussion on clinical cases presented by local doctors, Analysis of pediatric neurosurgery structures , Analysis of training needs of local staff in neurology and neurosurgery and Definition of ad hoc training and intervention programs.

➤ Workshop in the Ministry of Health, March 2008:

The workshop included Heevie for children, SIA, MED CHILD, Bambini Cardiopatici nel Mondo A.I.C.I. ONLUS NGO and the Minister of Health; the objective of the presentation was the Congenital Heart Disease. Workshop had been attended by many local doctors and media outlets. The scope of work and plans of dealing with and handling congenital heart diseases were presented. The doors of discussions were opened to answer many questions raised by local attendants.



**Minister of Health Dr. Abdulrahman Younis , Prof. Ilja Gardi,
Iole Pinto, Alessandro Frigiola**



➤ Conference in Hawler Cardiac Center, March 2008:

The Conference was held in Hawler Cardiac Center in Erbil attended by Minister of Health Dr.Abdulrahman Younis , representative of the KRG Prime Minister Dr.Ali Sindi ,and all the medical staff of Hawler Cardiac Center plus the medical staff from Duhok ,Sulaymania Kirkuk and Baghdad Cities.The conference focused on congenital heart diseases issues and problem. Methods and potential opportunities of handling congenital heart diseases were discussed. Future work plans such as expanding health facilities and awareness for local inhabitants were among the proposed solutions.



Minister of Health Dr.Abdulrahman Younis ,Dr.Ali Sindy , Prof. Ilja Gardi, Iole Pinto, Dr.Alessandro Frigiola

8-Duhok Workshop on 17-9-2008: Heevie and Duhok “Directorate General of Health



Heevie and Directorate General of Health of Duhok arranged a meeting on (17.9.2008) in Duhok.

They discussed the means to upgrade the performance of the Mobile Medical Clinic Project for its big role and importance in identifying the medical problems and specify and discover new difficult cases. This project was able to decrease the pressure over main hospitals.

Different point of views and ideas of the Physicians and Administrative staff helped upgrading the performance of the Medical Mobile Clinic .

They all agreed on these main points for developing the offered services:

- Increase the number of physicians to cover more different fields.
- Add the mobile Operative Theatre and Radiological Unit to treat more cases in the field.
- Expand the operations of the Mobile Medical Clinic to cover school pupils .
- To begin Educational Programs for the schools and for the pregnant women's and to teach them how they can test Breast cancer for themselves, in addition doing examination to the cases in need.
- To support the health centers in the villages by Medical personals and Medicines .

9-Heevie, press Conference of 8th. October 2008 in Sheraton Hotel - Erbil

Heevie invited Minister of Health Dr.Abdulrahman Younis, representative of the Office of Provincial Affairs U.S Embassy Mr. Jim Heller, Med child & SIA Italian Organizations, Director of General Health Dr.Abdulla Saeed to clarify the scheme of work for the implementation Heart surgery Projects in Erbil and catheterization Project in Duhok. This has drawn the attention of local media and people for the great importance of both projects for people and health authorities in Kurdistan Region.



Minister of Health Dr.Abdulrahman Younis, Representative of the Office of Provincial Affairs U.S Embassy Mr. Jim Heller, Director of General Health Dr.Abdulla Saeed , Med child & SIA Italian Organizations and Heevie Manager Bakhshan Ali Aziz



Med Child delegation visited Erbil and Duhok in 8.10.2008; the team consisted of the following person:

No.	Name	Profession and Institution	Gender	Nationality
1	Ilja Gardi	Medchild Health Director – Medchild	M	Italy
2	Enrico Musso	Project Manager MC – Medchild	M	Italy
3	Sardar Ali Aziz	Secretary of the Kurdish-Italian Cultural Association	M	Italy
4	Mario Carminati	Cardiologist (San Donato Hospital)	M	Italy

Heevie started the conference by explaining the aims, necessities and the statistics of these two projects, and showed presentation on the activities of treating the patient's children since 2006.

Then the Minister of Health Dr. Abdulrahman Younis who presented the Italian organization and praised their role in treating the patients since 2006 assured the importance role that they are playing in treating the patients and training the Doctors, also, he welcomed representative of the Office of Provincial Affairs U.S Embassy Mr. Jim Heller who became a partner in funding these projects.

Concerning Med Child, Dr. (Ilja Gardi, Cardiologist & Med Child CEO) welcomed U.S Embassy representative and their support for these projects and assured the urgent need to put solutions for the problems of Congenital Heart Diseases patients as soon as possible.

Outcomes:

- Because the number of the patients is more than 3000 in Kurdistan Region, in each governor, a hospital should be built as soon as possible .
- >Sending the expertise from Italy to train the doctors and the medical team in Kurdistan, In addition starting training courses for the doctors in Italy.
- Not only for the patients of Congenital Heart Diseases but for Hematological and Neurological children is that according to our statistics more than 10,000 child .
- Med Child presented a mobile medical hospital to Mobile Team Project in Duhok in order to increase the number of treated patients.

- Concerning U.S Embassy representative, he thanked all the participated sides, describing the effort that Professor Gardi as a heroic by saving the lives of those children from death.
- Finally, Duhok's Director General, Dr. Abdulla Sa'eed, Presented Mobile Team Project and the necessity of this project. Especially, Duhok Governor is a mountainous area; it lacks doctors and financial support for building clinics and medical centers .

The conference has been covered by the Iraqi press, in addition to the local media of Kurdistan Region (Kurdistan TV, Kurd Sat, Nawroz TV, Zagros TV, TurkmanTV), and other channels of Iraq (AL-Sumariya, Iraqiya, AL-Hurra, Al-Hurriya, Al-Sharqiya, Al- Faihaa) ,Radio media were (Nawa, AL-Qalaa, Yekgirto and all the local), also the local newspapers and magazines.

In the same day the Minister of Health Dr.Abdulrahman younis met with Med Child delegation, Heevie and (Dr.Ali Sindy, Dr.Abdulla Saeed) to discuss with.

- Dr.Ali Sindy: to organize the next heart surgery mission in Erbil.

- Dr.Abdulla Saeed: to start up Cath. Lab activities in Duhok and to organize the transference of MOPSET (mobile health unit of Med Child) to Kurdistan from Jordan to integrate the mobile health project carried out by Heevie -RRT-US Embassy.

On 9 October, Med child delegation meets with Galala Company in Erbil to order catheterization materials for November 2008 mission, then they visited the catheterization operation room in Duhok city and held a workshop with Dr.Abdulla Saeed in Directorate of Health for the doctors to start up training on the job of cath. lab.

10-Heevie invite Med Child delegation to visit Duhok city, 9th.- 10th. Oct. 2008



On 9 October, Heevie organized a meeting between Duhok's General Director of Health, Dr. Abdulla Sa'eed, and Italian delegation with local doctors and U.S Embassy representative in order to discuss the plan for catheterization project. Med Child delegation visited the catheterization operation room in Duhok, Professor Mario Carmenati, Cardiologist (San Donato Hospital), who came to visit catheterization operation room in Azadi Hospital. After the visit he assured the importance of open Heart surgery room as soon as possible in case of any complication during the catheterization surgery in order to treat the patients quickly.

During the meeting, Dr. Gardi mentioned that they will send Mobile Medical Hospital to Kurdistan in order to participate in treating the patients of rural areas that Heevie was conducting. Med Child discussed the way that the mobile medical hospital was going to work and the doctors need for the medical supplies. The Mobile Medical hospital will be connected by satellite with the Italian Hospital in case the doctors need any consultation. In these meetings all the sides agreed to the importance need to accelerate building hospitals in Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymania, training the doctors and the need for bigger support from all the participated sides. In addition to the big number of patients registered and the patients that we are losing every day, there are new born patients everyday usually the families of these patients are financially poor and cannot travel and afford the high cost of treatment because there are no good expertise in Iraq like those in the western developed countries.

This project is in need to the support of countries which have advanced health services on the basis of training the local medical team in order to save those kids lives. Accelerate plans for building specialized hospitals by KRG will help a lot in solving cardiac problems. The collected statistics clarified the need to build a special hospital in every governorate especially for those suffering from Heart diseases as soon as possible. Thus, the child who suffers from exhaustion and tiredness with any movement or activity cannot play or go to school and enjoy his childhood like other normal children must be treated. Such a kind of treatment should be free for those who suffer from complicated diseases and sloping from poor families.



Duhok's General Director of Health, Dr. Abdulla Saeed, and Italian Delegation with local doctors and U.S Embassy Representative

On October 10th. The Italian Delegation visited Heevie Hospital and met the manager, Dr. Muayed Mohammed. They visited the Pediatric surgery room and discussed with the surgeon team, the medical supply they need and the plan of the coming mission on November .The final meeting was in Heevie office with the doctors of Mobile Medical Team.



Italian Team meeting with Director of Heevie Hospital Dr.Muayed Mohammed

11-Meeting in Erbil with American Minister of Health Mr. Secretary Michael Leavitt on 21st October 2008



American Minister of Health and Kurdistan Region's Minister of Health

U.S. Embassy -RRT held a meeting in Erbil on Tuesday 21st of November 2008. On the occasion of the presence of the American Minister of Health Mr. Secretary Michael Leavitt visiting Iraq who himself attended to meet only with Heevie and Kurdistan Region's Minister of health Dr. Abdul Rahman Yonis .

Kurdistan Region's Minister of Health Dr. Abdulrahman Younis who praised Heevie humanitarian work and explained the cooperation between KRG, ministry of health, Heevie, RRT that is funding these humanitarian projects and other Italian organizations (Med Child, SIA and IME).

Then he clarified more about Kurdistan health problems and children suffering because of the dangerous diseases that spread in the last period as a result of pollutions, wars and the chemical weapons.

Heevie invited couple of patient families and five of the doctors who have been trained in Italy. The meeting started with the speech by Heevie plaudit the attendants and briefed very shortly (as asked) an overview upon its accomplishments and the positive outcomes of the projects which were Mobile Medical Clinic had done in the rural areas of Duhok in which they have been treated 9536 patients since May 2008, Pediatric surgery in Erbil and catheterization intervention in Duhok.



Heevie staff with the American Minister of Health / The patients we send to Italy in 2007

The two families expressed their grateful to KRG in general and to Heevie specifically for saving their kids lives. Besides, explaining their experience in Italy and thanking God first and Heevie secondly that their kids now are normal and can do whatever other kids can do. They hoped that other patients get medication in the near future.

The doctors also had a side of conversation in the meeting by describing their training journey and how much they get benefit from this course. Hoping in the future will be other chances not just for them but also for all Kurdistan doctors and even the nurses in order to serve their country more and more .

Finally, the American Minister of Health, His Excellency Michael Leavitt concluded the meeting with short words expressing his happiness to join the Kurds in such a successful outcome and expressed his country's willingness to cooperate with Kurdistan region. In addition, he considered his first visit to Kurdistan as an acquaintance visit and next time will be a real cooperation and then presented gifts to some kids.

12- Rome workshop - 10th.October 2008

Heevie sent 9 Doctors from Kurdistan to participate in Rome at the University of "La Sapienza", in a workshop entitled "Diagnosis and Treatment of Blood Diseases Childhood".

Also another workshop that held at policlinico Umberto Hospital headed by Prof. Foa and President of the European Society of Hematology and Head of Hematology at the University of Rome.



Rome workshop

The workshop includes medical professionals Italians, Kurds and Iraqis done by professionals EMI. In fact it's a very beneficial workshop regarding the new protocols and recent advance in hematology/Oncology .

This workshop in Rome represents the completion of a journey that is allowing the development and improvement of the health system of Iraq, tried by the plight of the country for many years plagued by a bloody war .

In recent years several doctors and Iraqi Kurdish get benefit from training programs and training-on-the-job, inside country and outside country in Italy they exchange all different aspects in relation to our cooperation since 2006 and we discussed deeply all the advantages and the disadvantages and agreed on several points to solve all the complicated issues and praised on what have been achieved during that period, we ended up the meeting with overwhelming consensus from all groups to keep on our cooperation with IME in the future .

The table below shows the medical staff who participated in the workshop in Rome:

Rome workshop, 10 October 2008				
No.	Name	Specialization	Gender	City
1	Mohammed Dhahir Ali	Hematologist	M	Erbil
2	Raji Suleiman Dawood Markous	Hematologist- Thalassaemia	M	Duhok
3	Sami Ahmed Mohammed Salih	Hematologist	M	Erbil
4	Paiman Ali Ihsan Saber Al-Hakem	Hematologist	F	Erbil
5	Banaz Mubark Safar Al - Daloy	Hematologist	F	Sulaymania
6	Ahmad Mohammed Ahmad	Hematologist	M	Kirkuk
7	Nasir Abdulsalam Abdulrahman Al - Allawi	Hematologist	M	Duhok
8	Rezvan Faisal Abduljabbar	Hematologist	M	Duhok
9	Kamal Ali Mohammed	Pediatrician	M	Duhok