

13- Mission, 17 November 2008: Congenital Heart Disease, Hematological (Leukemia & Thalassemia Disease), Neurosurgery, Pediatric Surgery 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 (36) 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.

The Italian team consisted of the following persons :

No.	Name	Profession & Institution	Gender	Nationality
1-Italian Delegation Team				
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	Iole Pinto	Solidarity Initiatives president	F	Italy
5	Alberto Saracco	Medchild- Health management/ San Raffaele Hospital	M	Italy
6	Marco Di Terlizzi	ASSOCIATION "BAMBINI CARDIOPATICI NEL MONDO"/ President	M	Italy
7	Isabella Mandelli	ASSOCIATION "BAMBINI CARDIOPATICI NEL MONDO"	F	Italy
2-Open Heart Surgery Team				
8	Alessandro Frigiola	Heart surgeon - San Donato	M	Italy
9	Alessandro Giamberti	Heart surgeon - San Donato	M	Italy
10	Nuri Halkawt Ali Nuri	Heart surgeon - San Donato	M	Iraqi
11	Matteo Reali	Heart surgeon - San Donato	M	Italy
12	Carmelo Arcidiacono	Cardiologist - San Donato	M	Italy
13	Marco Meli	Anesthetist - San Donato	M	Italy
14	Donatella De Benedetti	Anesthetist - San Donato	F	Italy
15	Walter Castracane	Anesthetist - San Donato	M	Italy
16	Assunta Salatino	Operating room nursery - San Donato	F	Italy

No.	Name	Profession & Institution	Gender	Nationality
17	Carlo Ferrarini	Operating room nursery - San Donato	M	Italy
18	Kandil Hassan	Operating room nursery - San Donato	M	Italy
19	Francesca Turrini	Nurse - San Donato	F	Italy
20	Suevia Cabezas	Nurse - San Donato	F	Italy
21	Cornelia Augustina Ghita	Nurse - San Donato	F	Italy
22	Marina Campion	Nurse - Hesperia-Modeana	F	Italy
23	Dorina Ionita	Nurse - San Donato	F	Italy
24	Cristina Grossi	Nurse - San Donato	F	Italy
25	Antonio Lorenzo Ditta	Heart lung technician - San Donato	M	Italy
26	Elisa Davolio	Heart lung technician - Hesperia-Modeana	F	Italy
		3-Catheterization Cardiologist Team		
27	Mario Carminati	Cardiologist - San Donato	M	Italy
28	Sandra Giusti	Cardiologist -Massa Carrara Hospital	F	Italy
		4-Paediatric Surgical Team		
29	Mario Messina	Pediatric Surgeon: Head of Pediatric Surgery Dpt. Teaching Hospital of Siena	M	Italy
30	Giovanni Di Maggio	Pediatric Surgeon: Pediatric Surgery Dpt. Teaching Hospital of Siena	M	Italy
31	Jiyan Ali Aziz	Physician – Emergency ASL7 -Local Health Centre of Siena	F	Italy
		5-Hematologist-Leukemia – Thalassaemia Team		
32	Annamaria Testi	Hematologist-Leukemia - Policlinico Umberto I Rome	F	Italy
33	Marco Fossati	Hematologist- Thalassaemia - San Raffaele Hospital Milan	M	Italy
34	Robert Chiesa	Hematologist- Thalassaemia - San Raffaele Hospital Milan	M	Italy
		6-Biologist Transplantation Lab. Team		
35	Marco Andreani	Biologist Transplantation Lab. - IME Policlinico Torvergata Rome	M	Italy
		7-Pediatric Neurologist and Neurosurgeon Team		
36	Stefania Acerno	Pediatric Neurologist and Neurosurgeon - San Raffaele Hospital Milan	F	Italy

Work Program of Each Team:

A- First Team: Medchild,IME and SIA NGOs delegation which consists of (7) Person.

- Meeting with the Minister of Health Dr.Abdulrahman Younis, in the meeting both sides agreed on the necessity of having a pediatric Cardiac Center in each governorate in Kurdistan and they ensured the importance of continuing this cooperation, after the meeting the Minister of Health visited the Cardiac surgery team from San Donato Hospital in Hawler Cardiac Center.



Med child NGO Meeting Minister of Health Dr.Abdulrahman Younis

➤ Meeting with the Governor of Duhok :

The Italian Team meet Mr. Tamar Ramadhan Kochar and Director General of Health Dr. Abdulla Saeed on 18th of November; all the Italian teams were present, Dr. Abdulla Saeed assured to the important role of these visits for their big role in developing the knowledge and experience of the local staff. The Italian side expressed their readiness to offer a full support to Kurdistan, in addition coming to Kurdistan as much as possible. Both sides praised Heevie to be the organization that made this successful cooperation.



Governor of Duhok & Duhok Director of General Health

➤ Meeting with Director General of Health:

A meeting was held to discuss a very primarily planned scheme for a project called Health Care City Project which was under supervision of DOH of Duhok .Dr.Gardi elaborated in explaining his presentation commencing to talk about the recent changes and achievements occurred in Kurdistan and its government will to create and strengthen international relationships especially in this field.



Dr.Abdulla Saeed and Dr. Ilja Gardi

The presentation included important points about decision making processes as a successful first steps for such a plan by calculating necessary statistics on pathologies and to define healthcare according to demographical and geographical distribution.He assured the priority of setting through defining programs of healthcare services offer and networks, also to allocate skills and resources to implement a plan.Dr.Gardi showed then an important statistics about the demographical growth until 2020 focusing on Middle East area; the statistic showed the numbers of beds rates relatively to the population growth. Dr. Ilja Gardi continued after that to offer proposals which were guideline in enhancing the existing primary healthcare and through reorganizing the present and new structures in healthcare . The proposals included investment in human resources: teaching and training. The doctor also showed a paradigm's evolution from advanced diseases to preventive health and a comparison between today model and future one. Then, some health cities schemes which have been built in some of Middle East countries were shown in the presentation.Those cities included hospital, university, biotechnology center and also a health techno parks. Finally, he talked about public and private sectors partnership and law system regulations, coming also across financial markets and establishment of model operation. At the end of the meeting, they agreed to exert enough efforts to carry out the health city project .For Mobile Medical Team Project (Dr.Gardi, Pinto, Saracco, Musso) defined modalities of transferring Mobile Medical Hospital to Kurdistan from Jordan to Duhok in order to participate in treating the patients of rural areas that Heevie is treating .

➤ Media Coverage :

On 17th November in a live interview with Kurdistan TV satellite, all the Italian teams together with Director General of Health Dr. Abdulla Saeed have been interviewed for an hour .

Dr. Abdulla Saeed started the interview by thanking the Italians for their coming to Kurdistan, their performance and cooperation in training the local staff, bringing modern instruments and laboratory equipments and developing the blood lab .He dedicated his thanks to Heevie for their continual efforts. In addition, he expressed his gratefulness to the US Embassy, RRT for their support to all Heevie humanitarian work .

The Italian team then started to explain period of the cooperation with Heevie and Kurdistan Regional Government which started since 2006 .

They briefly mentioned their achievements and plans for the future. Finally, the interviewer expressed his thanks and happiness to be with them and hoped them all the success.



Interview with Italian Team in Kurdistan TV satellite

- A visit to Burn and Plastic Surgery Hospital: The Italian team visited Burn and Plastic Surgery Hospital in Duhok on 20th of November with the director of the hospital and the local medical staff they checked on the patients.



Dr. Ilja Gardi , Dr.Ali Ameen Al Bazaz,Dr.Mohammed Salih

- Meeting with Minister of High Education:
On 22nd of November, the Minister of High Education Dr.Idrees Hadi held a meeting with the Italian administration team .In the meeting, both sides assured the significant of developing the relations and cooperation between both countries.



Minister of High Education Dr.Idrees Hadi

➤ A visit to Hawler Cardiac Center:

On 20th of November, the Italian team with Heevie administration paid a visit to Hawler Cardiac Center. In their visit, they met all the surgeons of Italian delegation and discussed with them the needs of the hospital.



Dr. Ilja Gardi with Bakhshan Ali Manger of Heevie in Hawler Cardiac Center

➤ A visit to Heevie Pediatric Hospital: On November 19th The Italian Delegation visited Heevie Hospital and met the manager, Dr. Muayed Mohammed.



Italian Delegation visited Heevie Hospital

➤ A visit to Duhok College of Medicine:

On 20th of November, the Italian team visited college of Medicine; the Dean of college Dr. Farhad Khorsheed warmly welcomed the guests then introduced himself to them .

The Dean expressed his happiness to see the visitors ensuring on the importance of creating mutual relationships to collaborate in different scientific fields especially in medicine and to be more specific in academic medicine.

Dr.Gardi thanked the Dean in return and talked about the prospects of future collaboration with the college .



Dean of College of Medicine

B-Second Team:

Pediatric Surgery Team: which consists of (3) Italian doctors, a Cystoscope Device has been delivered to Heevie Hospital in order to train (2) of the local doctors in Pediatric Surgery Center according to the program of (Training on the Job project) between Italy and Kurdistan.

Cystoscope device is going to treat and solve the problems of Vesico Uretric Reflux by injecting a material in bladder through cystoscope which is a new and modern technology as a replacement for the traditional surgery. Such a treatment is not available in Kurdistan.

(139) patients have been examined, (46) patients have made surgery in Heevie Hospital in Duhok, (30) children have been chosen to be treated in Italy because of their complex cases which is not possible to be treated in Kurdistan for the coming year.

- (11) Local Medical staff participated in the training according to their specialties, November 2008



C-Third Team: Paediatric OncoHematology (Leukemia Disease): which consists of (3) Italian doctors with the assistance of local doctors from all Northern Governorates.

The main aim of their visit was training the local staff through a work shop which was divided into case discussion with local doctors and treatment methods, a common clinical data base of Heamatological patients defined to make easier transfer data and communication with the Italian reference network.



All the meetings were in Directorate of Health in Duhok with the presence of (17) of the local staff from (Duhok, Erbil, Sulaymania, and Mosul). All the attendance had discussed among them the problems they are facing in treating such a dangerous disease. Some of the mentioned problems are dimension of medicine, lack of financial support, ignorance of people.

Dr. Gardi, head of the mission, confirmed the exchange of knowledge and experience between Kurdish people and Italy. In addition, he is convinced that Duhok will be the point of contact because of its strong medical administration and support indicating that this mission will benefit Kurdistan and probably the whole Iraq.

- (61) Leukemia patients have been evaluated with patients treated in Italy.
- (17) Local Medical staff participated in the training according to their specialties, November 2008.

D- Fourth Team: Paediatric OncoHematology (Thalassemia Disease): which consists of (3) Italian doctors with the assistance of local doctors from all Northern Governorates.

Another part of their mission was meeting with Thalassemia association of all Kurdistan (Duhok, Erbil, Sulaymania, Kirkuk, Mosul and Khanqin) who were (15).



In the meeting, Thalassemia association representatives welcomed the Italian delegation of being with them, and then they clarified the problems they are facing. Some of these problems are non continual patient to the treatment, lack of some important medicine and equipment. Also, they produced their requirements. Apart of their demands are; trying to open a developed Thalassemia center in Kurdistan and take more patients to Italy for treatment.

The Italian side clarified that even in Italy the treatment of such a dangerous disease is not that easy issue beside its very expensive cost. In addition, they assured to the importance of medical awareness.

- (23) Thalassaemia patients treated in Italy have been examined with a training program for the local staff.
- (20) Local Medical staff participated in the training according to their specialties, November 2008.

Also, a meeting has been arranged between the Italian team and all Thalassemia Association from all Kurdistan Governorates. During the meeting, many points and problems have been discussed.



Zagros Radio made an interview with Dr. Anna Testi, in the interview Anna declared to the importance of exchanging knowledge and also clarified that Cancer disease has no specific reason but there are assistant factors help to increase this dangerous disease such as lack of knowledge and medicine and pollution.

E-Fifth Team: Neurosurgery Team which consists of one doctor specialized in Neurology for children.

The program consisted of daily meeting in emergency hospital by attending post call meeting with all the staff of the emergency hospital discussing the cases then the team started the operation of one case daily & then major tour in the neurosurgery word .

The afternoon period they examined neurosurgery cases in the organization with the help of local staff.

- (211) Patients have been examined with (3) patients have made surgery, beside (6) Local medical staff participated in the training according to their specialties, November 2008.



Neurosurgery Team, Dr.Stefania Acerno

F-Sixth Team: Open Heart Surgery Team

The team consisted of (18) persons and the objectives achieved by the team were operating (17) cases in Hawler Cardiac Center selected from all Kurdistan Region Governorates besides training local staff on the job.

- (272) patients have been examined and 17 operation have been conducted.



G-Seventh Team:

Catheterization Cardiologist Team for children team, this team consists of (2) persons.

- (13) Catheterization intervention has been conducted in Hawler Cardiac Surgery in Erbil.
- (11) Catheterization intervention has been made in Duhok –Azadi Hospital with implementing the program of training on the job of local staff.
- (6) Local medical staff participated in the training according to their specialties, in November 2008.



H-Eighth Team:

Biologist team Marco Andreani managed visits to the Blood Bank in Duhok to implement training program, below are the points agreed about:

- Training one person to use Flowcytrometer machine for Leukemia diagnosis in Italy for 3 months.
 - Training one person for Blood Transfusion in Italy for 1 month.
 - Definition of a project to start up a HLA lab in Kurdistan to find compatible donors for patient's candidate to bone marrow transplant and creation of a regional register of bone marrow donors for Thalassemia and Leukemia patients.
- (11) Local Medical staff participated in the training according to their specialties in November 2008.

