

9-Italian Medical Delegation visits Duhok to Cure Congenital Heart Diseases children from 26 Oct. till 2 Nov., 2013



Invited by Heevie Org , the support of KRG Prime Minister His Excellency Nechirvan Barzani, in cooperation with the Italian Organizations (SIA & Bambini Cardiopatici nel Mondo, Children's Heart Organization – Italy) and Directorate General of Health / Duhok , an Italian medical team consists of (24) medical staff from San Donato Hospital - Milan arrived Duhok to conduct operations in Azadi Heart Center -Duhok for a group of children affiliated with Congenital Heart Diseases and contribute to promote health sector through training local medical staff and Doctors in Italy and on the job in Kurdistan for the period 26 Oct.-2 Nov. 2013. During the current visit the Italian team had conducted number of complex catheterization and open heart operations.

The team had used newly invented techniques and expertise to treat newly born children affiliated with heart diseases. The importance of such new techniques are for the benefit of local staff under training by such professional team which may after three years will run full operations of the heart center self-sufficiently.

In this mission (43) Operations has been conduct (30) Catheterization interventions (2) of them Diagnostic and (13) Open Heart Surgery, also (329) patients were been examined in this mission and (43) local medical Staff trained on the job.

The Italian team consists of (24) Italian medical staff and Doctors, as shown in the table below:

No.	Name	Profession	Gender	Nationality
1	Prof.Alessandro Frigiola	Heart surgeon	M	Italian
2	Dr.Alessandro Giamberti	Heart surgeon	M	Italian
3	Dr. Halkawt Ali Nuri	Heart surgeon	M	Iraqi
4	Dr.Carmelo Dominici	Heart surgeon	M	Italian
5	Dr. Marco Ranucci	Anesthetist	F	Italian
6	Dr.Tommaso Aloisio	Anesthetist/ Intensivist	M	Italian
7	Dr. Giuseppe Isgrò	Intensivist	M	Italian
8	Dr.Pasquale Piccinni	Anesthetist	M	Italian
9	Dr.Vincenzo Mancini	Anesthetist hemodynamic	M	Italian
10	Dr.Giuseppe Santoro	cath lab cardiologist	M	Italian
11	Dr.Rita Emanuela Calaciura	Cardiologist	F	Italian
12	Dr.Francesca Romana Pluchinotta	Cardiologist	F	Italian
13	Antonio Lorenzo Ditta	Heart lung technician	M	Italian
14	Carlo Ferrarini	Nurse	M	Italian
15	Daniela Damian	Nurse	F	Romania
16	Alessandro Flavio Crespi	Nurse	M	Italian
17	Claudio Mele	Nurse	M	Italian
18	Roseline Arlotto	Nurse	F	France
19	Francesca Romeo	Nurse	F	Italian
20	Giovanni Zaffino	Nurse	M	Italian
21	Giulia Bonavina	Nurse	F	Italian
22	Chloé Anna-Franca Hélène Larsay	Communication-San Donato	F	France
23	Lorenzo Maria Gangarossa	Filmmaker BCM	M	Italian
24	Carlodavid Mauri	Cameraman BCM	M	Italian

Activities of the Team:

1-Examination and evaluation team



Examination and evaluation team

The examination and evaluation team made to the patient children to find out about the type of the diseases they are affiliated with, then and evaluation was made for the possibility of conducting Catheterization or open-heart surgeries and some patients will be selected to be treated in Italy also to prepare next group of patient children to be operated when the next mission is prepared to conduct operations. In this mission (329) patient children are examined and evaluated, (2) Local medical Staff trained on the job by the Italian Medical Teams.



Examination and evaluation team

2-Catheterization Intervention Team



Catheterization Intervention Team

The second team was Catheterization intervention one, which had taken care of conducting Catheterization interventions to the patient children affiliated with heart diseases that can be treated through Catheterization. This team conduct (30) Catheterization interventions, (2) Diagnostics in Azadi Heart Center in Duhok and (18) Local medical Staff trained on the job by the Italian Medical Teams.



Catheterization Intervention Team

3-Open Heart Surgery Team



The team of the open heart surgeries conducted surgery for extremely difficult complex cases in Duhok; Supervised by Prof. Alessandro Frigiola the Italian team accompanied by local doctors conducted the open heart surgery. The open heart surgeries conducted (13) operations in Azadi Heart Center and (25) Local medical Staff trained on the job by the Italian Medical Teams.



Open Heart Surgery Team

4 - Duhok Governor Mr. Tamar Ramadhan invites Italian team to dinner



Duhok Governor with Prof. Alessandro Frigiola

Duhok Governor received the Italian team headed by Prof. Alessandro Frigiola on a dinner party at the evening of 31\10\2013 as a respect to their nonstop efforts treating the patient children. The Governor conveyed thanks of Duhok governorate and Kurdistan Region to the Italian physicians. He praised their job quality and asked for further cooperation and assistance to upgrade and develop health sector in the governorate. Prof. Frigiola was pleased to be in Duhok and expressed thanks to all the parties which are participating in the project specifically Heevie and Directorate General of Health in Duhok.

5 - Italian Consul in Erbil paid a visit to Azadi Center for Heart Diseases



Mr. Carmelo Ficarra , Italian Consul in Erbil, paid a visit to on 1\11\2013 Duhok city to meet the Italian medical team and overview the kind of the operations they are conducting for heart patient children. He accompanied Dr. Bakhtiyar Ahmed acting Director General of Health and member of Heevie . Mr. Carmelo expressed his gratitude to the efforts paid by all the parties that are participating in the mission. Heevie highly appreciated the visit and the support of the Italian Consulate. In the evening the representative of the Directorate General of Health Dr. Bakhtiyar distributed certificate and appreciation letters for the Italian team.

6 - Press Conference



A press Conference was held in Azadi hospital hall on 02\11\2013 where many local and satellite TV channels and media outlets were covering. Heevie commenced the conference extending thanks to all the parties. Heevie presented some details about current visit and wished to receive more support for the health sector specifically children health. Dr. Bakhtiyar Ahmed acting Director General of Health conveyed thanks to the Italian medical delegation and presents some numbers on the current visit. Italian Consul General in Erbil was pleased for the mission reaching its goals and assured that Italian government is paying lots of attention to Kurdistan Region in all aspect not only the health one. He thanked the Italian team members and asked for continues cooperation among parties. Prof. Alessandro Frigiola talked about the results of the current visit and illustrated that by July 2015 a local medical team for Heart diseases will be ready to implement operations depending on their capabilities. He delivered special thanks to Heevie and considered it as the base and source of all such missions and visits in Kurdistan Region.

10-Italian Medical Delegation Visit Duhok to Cure Paediatric Surgical Diseases Patients, from 25 Nov., till 6 Dec., 2013



With an invitation from Heevie Org. and the cooperation of Directorate General of Health- Duhok Governorate, the Italian Organizations SIA, and the support of KRG Government Prime Minister His Excellency Nechirvan Barzani, an Italian medical team from Siena – Italy, arrived Duhok to conduct interventions for a group of children and contribute to promote health sector through training local medical staff and Doctors on the job in Kurdistan and Italy. These children has been selected by Italian doctors within the statistics of all the provinces that have been collected by the organization since 2005 and patients has been examined by Italians or local doctors trained with the Italian team in Kurdistan , worth to mention that this is the Seventh visit to Kurdistan. Since 2007 to 2012 this team conducted **198** surgeries in Kurdistan and **64** surgeries in Italy, examined **1228** patients, trained **38** local medical staff and **3** local medical Doctors trained in Italy.

The Medical team consisted of the following persons:

- 1-Prof.Mario Messina - Pediatric Surgeon: Head of Pediatric Surgery Dpt. Teaching Hospital of Siena (Italy)
- 2-Dr.Giovanni Di Maggio- Pediatric Surgeon: Pediatric Surgery Dpt. Teaching Hospital of Siena (Italy)
- 3-Dr.Elisa Cerchia -Pediatric Surgeon: Pediatric Surgery Dpt. Teaching Hospital of Siena (Italy)



In this mission (47) patient children affected with Paediatric Surgical and Urological Diseases have been operated in Heevie pediatric hospital in Duhok, those children have been chosen by Italian doctors previously among the statistics that collected since 2005 by Heevie Organization, this large number of patients had been examined by the Italian team and local doctors who were trained in Italy. Also (248) patients were been examined,(17)patients has been chosen for treatment in Italy, (29) local medical Staff trained on the job and (2) Doctors has been chosen to be study in Italy.

Activities of the Team: 1-Examination and evaluation



The examination and evaluation team made to the patient children to find out about the type of the diseases they are affiliated with, then and evaluation was made for the possibility of conducting surgeries and some patients will be selected to be treated in Italy also to prepare next group of patient children to be operated when the next mission is prepared to conduct operations. In this mission (248) patient children are examined and evaluated, (17) were been chosen to be operated in Italy.

2-Surgeries



The team conducted surgeries for difficult complex cases in Duhok; the Italian team accompanied by local doctors conducted 2 surgeries done the first time in Iraq. The numbers of the surgeries conducted in this mission (47) operation in Heevie Hospital.

3- Press Conference in Heevie Organization office 26.11.2013



On November 26, a number of Media outlets such as (Waar TV and newspaper, Kurdistan TV, NRT TV, Rega TV, Sahar TV, Speda TV, KNN TV and Bahdian TV) during checking patient children by the Italian team at Heevie made a visit and met with Prof. Mario Messina who thanked all the parties for their efforts making this visit successful and explained to the media that some of the surgeries that would be conducted are very difficult and asked for further attention to the health sector specifically the pediatric one. The journalists also interviewed Dr. Qadir Mohammed Salih Head of Pediatric Surgery at Heevie Pediatric Hospital who thanked the visiting team, Heevie and all of other parties. Dr. Qadir requested further cooperation and among the parties to treat as much as possible of patient children and promote the health via training local medical personnel in Kurdistan and Italy.

4-Meeting with the President of Duhok University 2.11.2013



At the evening of December 2nd, Duhok University President Professor Dr. Mulsih Mohammed Saeed received Professor Mario Messina, Head of Pediatric Surgery at Siena Teaching hospital, Dr. Giovanni Di Maggio- Pediatric Surgeon: Pediatric Surgery Dpt. Teaching Hospital of Siena, Dr. Jiyan Ali Aziz Laparoscopy specialist at Siena Teaching hospital, Dr. Elisa Cerchia- Pediatric Surgeon: Pediatric Surgery Dpt. Teaching Hospital of Siena and Dr. Qadir Mohammed Salih, Head of Pediatric Surgery at Heevie Pediatric Hospital. During the meeting the visitors explained the nature of their visits and the cases they are handling, Duhok University president wished all the success to the team and thanked Heevie efforts and asked for holding an agreement between Duhok University and Siena Teaching hospital in the fields of education and health aspects through and in cooperation with Heevie . Professor Mario promised to his best helping Duhok University promoting teaching aspects and methods. He also pointed out the difficulty of the pediatric cases and lack of appropriate local expertise to handle it. Dr. Muslih thanked all the parties for the extraordinary efforts they are paying to help people of Duhok and promoting health sector of the city and asked for more cooperation in training local medical personnel through training in Kurdistan and Italy.

5-Press Conference in Heevie hospital hall 5.12.2013



A press conference was held for the medical team at Heevie Pediatric hospital hall to introduce the locals about the aims of such visits and their results. Dr. Bakhtiyar Ahmed , Acting Director General of Health in Duhok he extended thanks to Heevie for its efforts arranging such kinds of missions and the Italian team headed by Professor Mario Messina in the presence of number of local media outlets that were attracted by the mission. Dr. Bakhtiyar talked about the results of such a mission and left the floor for Dr. Messina to explain some details.

Prof. Messina stated that they have checked (248) patients and implemented (47) surgical operations some the mentioned were conducted in Iraq for the first time. He emphasized on the continuation of such mission and providing treatment for patient children at the same time the necessity of promoting health sector through training. Dr. Qadir Mohammed Salih extended thanks to Heevie and the Italian team for the massive efforts they are spending to help the patient children. He also asked for further cooperation and helps to treat children affiliated with some difficult cases that can't be treated in Kurdistan.

6-Meeting with the Italian Consul in Erbil 6.12.2013



Dr.Carmelo Ficarra the Italian Consul in Erbil

The visiting Italian team on their last day and during their return paid a visit to Italian Consulate in Erbil. They met with the new Consul who warmly welcomed the medical team. They have discussed the mechanism of their visits and the needs of local communities for such kind of help. The medical team illustrated a précised clarification on their recent activities and the kinds of cases they are dealing with. Dr.Carmelo Ficarra was impressed by the efforts of medical teams and Heevie , he expressed the readiness of the Consulate to offer all the possible kinds of help and support to help medical teams and their parteners offer better health assistance to local community and authorities.