

MEDICAL AID FOR CHILDREN IN REGIONS OF CRISIS



ANNUAL REPORT 2012



**HAMMER
FORUM**

Medical Aid for Children in
Regions of Crisis

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BASIC MEDICAL CARE

In Uganda, Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, many people have no access to an adequate medical care. There is not only a lack of medical equipment and material, but also of well-trained medical staff. As a result, in all three countries the childhood mortality is very high and the children suffer from malaria, worm infections, diarrhea and malnutrition. Out of this reason the HAMMER FORUM has

invested into the construction of Health Centres and small ambulances as well as into the education of medical staff.

Thanks to the financial support of the "NAK Süddeutschland" Mission Works HAMMER FORUM has been enabled to continue the important school project in **Guinea**. In the course of the year 2012 20.000 children in the Guékédou region got appropriate medical examinations by the health team on-site and in the event of illness they were medicated and received a treatment free of charge. The majority of children suffer from diarrhea, worm infections as well as malaria and skin infections, which can lead untreated to serious, chronically diseases or even to death.

Another essential part of the project in Guinea is the teaching about health issues provided for pupils. The schedule deals with topics such as disease prevention, hygiene and HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, the scope of the



project addressing the quantity and quality of the drinking water supply was expanded. In 2012, ten schools could profit from building new drinking-water wells on the school grounds. The implementation of these measures has a preventive character since many pupils fall ill because of contaminated water. The project was concluded in December 2012. These activities, which were performed by the team on-site, were directed and coordinated by the head office in Hamm.

HAMMER FORUM supports the Health Centre in Labongali in **Uganda**. In 2012, between 500 and 1.200 patients were presenting themselves monthly in the Health Centre. About one third of them were under the age of five. The most common diseases in Uganda are also malaria, worm infections and diarrhea. With the completion of the construction works (see also page 24) 2000 pregnant women can be treated before, during and after birth per year.

The employee Doris Broadbent supervises the children's clinic as well as the nutrition program of the HAMMER FORUM in **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**. The children suffer from untreated abscesses, malaria, worm infections, diarrhoea, influenza, bronchitis, anaemia, dermatitis (skin diseases) and typhus followed by bowel ruptures. By now the support offered by the Hôpital Général in Kikwit is well known by the parents: In 2012, 7.853 children could be treated in the clinic.

Hunger makes people sick, too! Many families cannot feed their children. These children suffer from a calories and protein deficient diet. HAMMER FORUM supports undernourished children by providing enriched milk in the children's clinic. In 2012, all in all 383 children took part in the nutrition project in the clinic. Further, 37 children of the Sr. Albertines children's home received enriched milk provided by HAMMER FORUM.



Our achievements:

- Examination and if applicable treatment of 38.053 children in Guinea, Uganda and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Teaching about health issues provided for 40.000 children in Guinea
- Building drinking-water wells on ten school-grounds
- Feed of 425 undernourished children by providing enriched milk



SURGICAL MISSIONS

Each year, HAMMER FORUM sends its surgical team to examine, medicate and - if it is necessary and possible - operate children in crisis areas. In 2012, more than 500 children were operated by German specialists from a wide variety of fields.

In autumn 2012, following a two-year interval, a medical team of fourteen members travelled to **Yemen**. The last four surgical missions were affected by the unrest in the country and thus had to be cancelled. Dr. Emmanouilidis and 13 members of the medical team started a new attempt to operate in Yemen in September. Six vanguards travelled to the partner hospital Al-Thawra-Hospital in Taiz to clear up the camp and to prepare the operating rooms. The national media immediately announced the arrival of the rest of the team. Already on the first day, parents with their children from all over the country flocked in droves to the medical station in Taiz. The number of people who visited the medical station did not decrease within the next days. Despite difficulties like water and power interruption it was possible to examine almost 1.500 and to operate 175 children.

The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains also difficult. The medical infrastructure is increasingly obsolete. Further, the Hôpital Général de Kikwit, in which the HAMMER FORUM operates since 2007, lacks resources to carry out simple repair and maintenance work like fixing the roof of the hospital, the water supplies or the sanitary facilities. Children who desper-

ately need surgery often do not get the chance of survival since surgeries are charged with costs. Only during the presence and support of the HAMMER FORUM children can be operated in the Hôpital Général de Kikwit free of charge. Despite adverse circumstances it was possible to perform all in all 228 surgeries. Further, 485 children could be examined and treated ambulant during the surgical missions in May and November 2012. Two oral-maxillofacial surgeons were also members of the team. These specialists mainly treated children with congenital malformations.

Our achievements:

- 7 surgical missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Eritrea, and in Yemen
- 565 surgeries in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Eritrea, and in Yemen
- 1.985 ambulant examinations and treatments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Eritrea, and in Yemen



BURN INJURIES

In 2003 and respectively in 2008, the HAMMER FORUM installed a burns centre in Yemen and in Eritrea. People, and especially children, from all over the country find help in these places since this is the only offer for victims with burn injuries.

In February 2012, a medical team of seven members around Dr. Franz Jostkleigrewe travelled to Asmara (Eritrea). The Halibet-Hospital provides 17 beds for treatment and one modern surgical tract. Despite adverse circumstances the team managed to perform 55 surgeries: several power blackouts as well as a temporarily defective generator complicated these performances. Luckily, there was no power blackout during extensive skin transplantation since electrical hemostasis is especially important during this surgery.

Further support and medical care due the HAMMER FORUM took place in November in Eritrea. The medical team of five members around Dr. Karl-Adolf Brandt found so many patients in the burn centre that even the emergency room had to provide beds for patients. All together, 64 surgeries were performed.

The burn centre is unique in Eritrea. Therefore, it is not surprising that it is respectively popular among the people. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Health is not nearly able to cover neither the high running costs for materials for dressings nor for the medications. Thanks to the sup-



port of the initiative “Bild hilft” the HAMMER FORUM has been able to offer the urgently needed medical care.

Our achievements:

- 119 surgeries of patients with brand injuries in Eritrea
- Supply of medical consumables and medications to the burn centres in Eritrea and Yemen

OBSTETRICS

The health of children is already affected during the pregnancy. Out of this reason, HAMMER FORUM supports obstetrics in almost all project countries in a variety of ways. The support is coordinated in order to fulfil the needs on-site of the country in question.

Each year 9.000 children get born in the maternity hospital in Asmara (**Eritrea**), which was founded by HAMMER FORUM. This equals 40 births per day, which is even for a huge hospital in Germany an unimaginable high number. Therefore, the practical and theoretical education is the main focus regarding the work of the obstetrics team. In February and in November 2012, 20 persons participated in the program for Eritrean doctors, nurses and midwives under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Helmut Kaulhausen: 43 teaching operations were executed, more than 40 lectures were held and many hours of seminars and practical workshops were executed. With success, because the work of the HAMMER FORUM has led to a premiere in the country in Eastern Africa: For the first time in Eritrean history, five doctors finished their education as gynaecologists in their own country. Due to the continuously education we want to achieve that the clinic can operate independently in the long term.

In Guinea on the other hand, traditional, home births are ingrained in the culture, even though this means a high risk for mother and child. At the end of 2012, the HAMMER FORUM selected four health centres, which are going to be renovated. The aim is to increase the amount of deliveries in the health centres accompanied with continuously related educational work.

Our achievements:

- 43 teaching operations, 40 lectures for nurses as well as numerous seminars for 45 midwives in Eritrea
- Completion of the mother-child-project with annual treatment capacity for 2.000 mothers and 10.000 children in Uganda
- Beginning of a new mother-child project in Guinea



MOTHER-CHILD-PROJECT

IN UGANDA



Thanks to the support of the Else-Kroener-Fresenius-Stiftung the HAMMER FORUM was able to set up a mother-child-project in the district of Amuru in Uganda and could successfully complete it in August 2012. The aim of the project was to improve the medical care for children and pregnant women and to reduce the rate of maternal and infant mortality. Therefore, infrastructure operations were made at the health centre Labongogali. The corporation between the health centre and the rural area Amuru were strengthened as well.

Pregnant women had to walk between 10 and 15 kilometres to give birth under medical advice before the HAMMER FORUM sprung into action in Labongogali. No wonder, that more than 60 percent of childbirth took place at home under bad hygienic circumstances. But now, there is the new health centre including a delivery room, a labour and a pharmacy. In two further rooms, children can be treated and immunization campaigns can be proceeded. The new rooms are also in use for education purpose of the local, medical staff. A solar plant has been installed, so medication can now been kept cool and all rooms are equipped with light. In August 2012, the new health centre of Labongogali has been inaugurated and committed to the District Ministry of Health.

To improve the situation of the mothers and children in the rural regions, the HAMMER FORUM has trained 30 traditional midwives and provided them with bicycles. The midwives take care of the women before, during and after childbirth and if necessary, they motive them to a birth in hospital.

Moreover, the HAMMER FORUM has educated thirteen "Village health team members", so-called local health consultants. They are in charge of the immunization of the children in their village.

MEDICAL SUPPLY

FOR SYRIA

Since March 2011, Syria has been embroiled in civil war. According to an UN report, more than 93.000 people have been killed until April 2013. More than 1 Million Syrian have left their country, more than 4 million refugees are registered within Syria.

The HAMMER FORUM supports a network of Syrian doctors and pharmacists in Aleppo with the supply of medication, dressing material und medical equipment. After target bombings many hospitals are out of service, therefore temporary emergencies were installed at secret

places, where the remained, medical staff offers treatment for injured and sick people. Among them are many children. But also the local doctors are hogtied without medical material. In October 2012, the HAMMER FORUM managed to transfer medical relief to Aleppo. Further transportation of humanitarian goods are provided.



NEW PROJECT

IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

In Munuki, a quarter of Southern Sudan capital Juba, several thousand children at the age from 3 till 15 are living without access to medical treatment. The HAMMER FORUM installed a new project for basic medical care, prevention of diseases and medical education. The project started in the end of 2012: In cooperation with the organization "NAK karitativ e.V.", the HAMMER FORUM is building a health center close to a primary and play-school. More than 1.000 pupils can be treated every month. The local staff is focusing on diagnostic and treatment of endemic diseases.



In cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Education and with deputies of the pupils parents, five till six schools will be chosen, where consultants and teacher will offer health and hygiene classes. 3.500 pupils will benefit from this offering. Moreover, 150 children will be trained to "peer educators" and learn how to undertake information performances and health campaigns.

The health center should become a prototype and driving force to improve the health situation in Munuki. The networking process with other schools and health institutions will be supported by the HAMMER FORUM.



TREATMENT IN GERMANY



Bringing children for treatment to Germany is only the second-best solution. It is thanks to the great voluntary commitment of our medical team that more and more children can be helped in their home country. However, there are some children, that cannot afford to wait until treatment is available locally.

In 2012 for instance, only 33 girls and boys came to Germany. Due to the great engagement of the hospitals, the HAMMER FORUM did not have to pay for any of this treatment. The main illnesses of those patients who cannot be treated at home include severe otitis (inflammation of bones), heart disease or congenital urological disorders.

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Medical Aid for Children in Regions of Crisis

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