

## **Damco sends much-needed hospital beds to Benin**

**Thanks to the efforts of Damco and Maersk Line, hospitals in Benin recently received a donation of 700 used hospital beds from Denmark. Rene Bergerling, Country Manager, Airfreight and Marketing, Damco Denmark has been involved in facilitating the contracts and agreements and is proud of Damco's contribution to this project.**

The recent shipments of 700 hospital beds filled over 14 containers and were sent from Denmark to Benin in May this year.

### **Bringing help where it's most needed**

"We provided warehousing and consolidation services in Denmark and then organised port-to-port transportation and documentation and customs clearance at no charge. When the shipment arrived in Benin, the local Damco team took over and organised the onward transport to the hospitals," says Rene Bergerling.

In a country with eight million inhabitants and only 9,000 hospital beds, donations of this kind make a real difference to the medical care offered by one of Africa's poorest countries.

"When we heard about this project we wanted to contribute. By offering our services, we can be a part of this valuable work in ensuring medical help reaches those who need it most," explains Rene Bergerling.

### **Equipment and medicine**

Global Medical Aid is a Danish NGO that collects and distributes hospital equipment and medicine close to its expiry date to hospitals in the world's poorest countries. They had been working with Maersk Line on transportation of shipments and reached out to Damco when they needed help with warehousing and forwarding of medical supplies.

"At Global Medical Aid, we're pleased to work with Damco on this shipment. The teams in Denmark and Benin are professionals and have been highly effective in handling all the challenges involved in this kind of transportation," says Hans Frederik Dydensborg, Chairman of Global Medical Aid.

### **Just the start**

"This project is ongoing as an agreement has been established between hospitals in the capital region of Denmark and Benin. From now on all outdated hospital equipment will be sent to Benin with the support of Damco and Maersk Line. When you consider that Danish hospitals replace their equipment every three to four years, this is a lot of equipment," he continues.

The pro bono work of Damco and Maersk Line means that Global Medical Aid only has to pay for the costs of third parties such as port authorities.