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2 . HALVÅR 2020

- Værdien af doneret medicin og hospitalsudstyr over 238mio kr / The value of donated medicine and equipment over DKK 238million.
- Side 4, 5 og 6 er på engelsk/ Pages 4, 5, and 6 are in English

STÆRKT ØGEDE DONATIONER

VÆRDIFULD LAGERBEHOLDNING

ØKONOMISK REDNING

I alt doneret medicin og hospitalsudstyr for 238.351.428 kr siden stiftelsen i 2010.

MEDICIN OG Udstyr:

ØKONOMI:

GHANA:

Hospitalsudstyr og medicin til First Lady og religiøs organisation

På trods af den øgede aktivitet er det lykkedes at holde udgifterne i ave. Det skyldes dels, at modtagerlandene i større omfang betaler fragtudgifterne, og dels, at vi har haft færre rejser på grund af COVID-19. Ydermere fik GMA et meget stort beløb fra et medlem i Amerika samt økonomiske tilskud fra flere fonde, hvilket bevirkede, at økonomien nu balancerer. Men jo større aktivitet, dvs. jo mere medicin og udstyr vi donerer, jo større er udgifterne. Med det fortsat stigende aktivitetsniveau vil det stadig være nødvendigt at spare på udgifterne og fastholde, eller snarere øge indtægterne i 2021.

BURUNDI:

Hospitalsudstyr og medicin til Sundhedsministeriet og First Lady

AFGHANISTAN:

Hospitalsudstyr og medicin til Sundhedsministeriet

VÆSENTLIGE BEGIVENHEDER:

Værdien af GMA's donationer, både medicin og udstyr, var betragtelig over 24 mio. kr. til trods for COVID-19, i alt 13 forsendelser, heraf 10 containere.

Otte containere blev afsendt fra Sygehus Sønderjylland læsset med hver 50 senge og madrasser. Det er fjerde gang, at GMA er blevet bedt om at påtage sig en så stor opgave for et hospital, og hver gang er det lykkedes med et godt resultat til følge.

I 2. halvår 2020 er der ikke foretaget kontrolrejser.

Lagerbeholdningen er øget i henseende til mængde, men absolut også i forhold til værdi, idet mange hospitaler og private har foræret os værdifuldt udstyr.

Samarbejdet med Afghanistan er blevet genoptaget via den Afghanske ambassade, men aktiviteterne besværliggøres af de høje transportudgifter.



Tak til alle, der har støttet GMA.

Sidste nyt:

Flere containere med udstyr fra sygehus sendt afsted

Ingen kontrolrejser pga. covid-19

Se mere på vores hjemmeside
www.globalmedicalaid.com

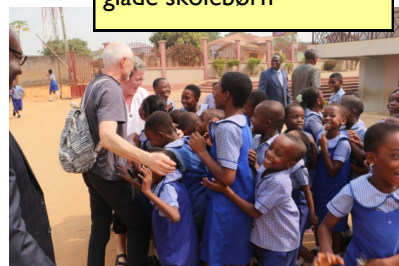
Tak til alle, der har ydet en indsats for Global Medical Aid.

Selv de bedste hospitaler mangler medicin og udstyr

- en **GMA-frivilligs personlige beretning fra Ghana**

Artiklens forfatter og hendes mand modtages af glade skolebørn

Susanne har arbejdet i GMA siden foråret 2019, og var i starten af 2020 med på hjælpeorganisationens kontrolrejse til Ghana. Formålet var at følge op på anvendelsen af den medicin og det udstyr, som tidligere var doneret.



"Jeg har aldrig været i Afrika før, og for mig var det rigtig interessant at se, hvad der kan bruges i et land som Ghana, der jo er relativt velfungerende", fortæller Susanne. "Det giver dig et helt andet perspektiv og en bedre fornemmelse af, hvad der har værdi, når du står på lageret i Danmark og sorterer de ting, vi får ind. Medicin - ikke mindst medicin af en god kvalitet – er der altid brug for. Ex paracetamol, som indkøbes via den ghanesiske stat, var af en ringe indisk kvalitet og havde ringe effekt. Når den ikke virker, tages der større doser med alvorlige bivirkninger til følge. Så det er utroligt vigtigt, at vi kan hjælpe dem med medicin, som er til at stole på, og som har den rette effekt. Det betyder meget for mig, at vi er i stand til at sende noget, som er af høj kvalitet.

Diverse, sygehussenge og andet medicinsk udstyr er der også et kæmpe behov for, mens vi nøje skal overveje, hvad vi sender af engangsudstyr i plastik, da det ikke er muligt for ghaneserne at skaffe sig af med det igen på en miljømæssigt forsvarlig måde."

Nogle patienter ligger på den bare jord

Researchrejsen forløb mellem 19. januar og 2. februar 2020, og i løbet af de 14 dage blev der foruden daglige besøg på hospitaler også afholdt en lang række møder med repræsentanter fra Ghanas regering og sundhedsvæsen. Selv om der viste sig at være store forskelle i standarden fra de bedste til de ringeste hospitaler, var det tydeligt, at der var et markant behov for GMA's donationer: "Selv på de bedste hospitaler var der ikke sengepladser nok - folk var flere steder stuvet sammen i gangene og på overbelagte stuer", forklarer Susanne. "På et hospital i det nordlige Ghana kom patienter også fra de omkringliggende lande for at blive behandlet. Da vi var der, var der ikke overbelagt, men vi fik fortalt, at i regntiden var der så fyldt op, at patienterne blev lagt på gulvet side om side i en stor sal. Her ville selv madrasser uden senge gøre en stor forskel, og da vi havde madrasser på lageret i Danmark, der ikke passede til hospitalssenge, blev de straks sendt afsted. Jeg

Deprimerende tilstande i psykiatrien

Et af Susannes stærkeste minder er fra et psykiatrisk hospital, hvor der stort set manglede alt. "Det var et utroligt deprimerende sted, hvor folk lå på små klude under et halvtag, og plejerne vaskede patienterne med engangshandsker, som blev rengjort og genbrugt, hvis de var så heldige at have nogen. Her var der ingen tvivl om, at de havde brug for næsten alt, hvad vi kunne fremskaffe.

Familierne kom og 'dumpede' deres pårørende uden for hospitalet. Mange er stadig af den opfattelse, at patienten er besat af en ond ånd. Man gjorde meget for at finde frem til pårørende, og hvis patienten kunne stabiliseres, kørte man simpelthen patienten hjem til familien igen".

Om bag facaden

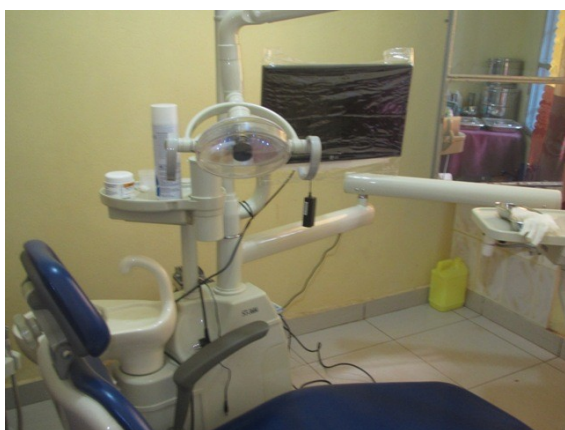
Besøgsprogrammet i Ghana var tilrettelagt i samarbejde med landets tidligere ambassadør i Danmark, Amerley Ollennu Awua-Asamoah. Foruden møder med sundhedsministeren og First Lady omfattede det besøg på en række hospitaler og behandlingssteder, men for at få det bredest mulige billede af forholdene, lavede GMA-holdet også selvstændige aftaler med hjælp fra kontakter på stedet: "Vi besøgte bl.a. en afdeling, hvor de behandlede patienter med HIV og AIDS. Men denne sygdom er tabu og patienterne bliver udstødt, hvis de får en sådan diagnose. Derfor var diagnosen officielt altid en anden", afslører Susanne.

Hjem med vigtig baggrundviden

Efter Susanne er vendt tilbage til det daglige arbejde i GMA, har hun haft god brug for de erfaringer, hun gjorde på researchturen til Ghana. Samarbejdet med frivillige læger og nogle danske sygeplejersker med ghanesisk baggrund har givet endnu mere system på sortering af donationerne af udstyr.

(Medlemsprofil af Susanne:)

Susanne Pedersen har det meste af sit arbejdsliv været direktionssekretær. Susannes indgang til GMA udsprang efter en ankeloperation, hvor hun fik en "walker" på. Da benet var lægt, fik hun den med hjem og tænkte, at der måtte være et sted, den kunne gøre nytte. Det gav anledning til at kontakte GMA - hvor hun og hendes mand siden har været frivillige.



HEAVILY INCREASED DONATIONS

VALUABLE INVENTORY

FINANCIAL SALVATION

Total donation of medicine and hospital equipment valued at DKK238,351,428.00 since foundation in 2010.

Medicine and equipment:

Burundi:

Hospital equipment and medicine for the Ministry of Health and First Lady

Afghanistan:

Hospital equipment and medicine for the Ministry of Health

Ghana:

Hospital equipment and medicine for First Lady and religious organization

Finance:

Despite the increased activities we have been successful in keeping the expenses down. This is in part due to the recipient countries, to a greater extent, paying the shipping costs, and in part because a fewer number of visits due to COVID-19. In addition, GMA received a very large amount from a member from America, and financial grants from multiple funds, which has made the financials more balanced. With greater activity, meaning more donated medicine and equipment, the more expenses. With the increasing activity level it will still be necessary to cut down on expenses, and to keep, or more so, increase the income in 2021.

Notable events

The value of GMA's donations, both medicine and equipment, was well over DKK24mil despite COVID-19, total of 13 shipments, including 10 containers were sent.

Eight containers were sent from Hospital Southern Jutland, each with 50 beds and mattresses. This is the fourth time GMA has been asked to handle such a large assignment for a hospital, and every time it is a success with a good result.

In the second half of 2020 there have been no control visits made. The storage inventory has increased, not only in terms of quantity, but certainly also value, as many hospitals and private people have donated valuable equipment.

The cooperation with Afghanistan has been resumed through the Afghan embassy, but the activities are difficult because of the high transportation costs.

Thanks to all who have supported GMA.



Even the best hospitals are short of medicines and equipment.

- a personal report from Ghana by a GMA volunteer

The author of the article and her husband are greeted by happy children

Susanne has been working for GMA since spring 2019, and she was in the beginning of 2020 participating in the inspection journey of the organization to Ghana. The purpose was to follow up the application of previous donated medicines and equipment.



” I have never been to Africa before, and for me it was remarkably interesting to see, what is useful in a country like Ghana, which is relatively well functioning,” Susanne tells. “It gives you an entirely different perspective and a better feeling of what is of value, when you are in the warehouse in Denmark sorting incoming items. Medicines – especially medicines of good quality – are always needed. For example, paracetamol, bought by the Ghanaian State, was of a poor Indian quality and had a poor effect. By having poor effect, the medicine will be taken in larger doses resulting in serious adverse effects. Therefore, it is incredibly important that we can help with medicines, that are reliable and having the right effect. For me, it is of great importance being able to send items of high quality. There is an enormous need for various devices, hospital beds and other medical equipment. However, we must carefully consider, what we are sending of single use plastic devices, as it is impossible for Ghanaians to dispose of in a secure environmental manner.”

Some patients are lying on the bare ground

The inspection journey took place between January 19th and February 2nd, and in addition during the two weeks there were two daily visits to hospitals and numerous meetings were held with representatives from the Ghanaian government and health care service. Even though big differences seemed to appear in standard from the best, compared to the poorest hospitals, the need for the donations from GMA was evident: “Even in the best hospitals there was a shortage of beds – patients in many places were packed in corridors and crowded wards,” Susanne explains. “In a hospital in northern Ghana patients also came from surrounding countries to get treatment. During our stay it was not overcrowded, but we were told that during the rainy season, it was so crowded that patients were placed on the floor side by side in a big hall. In this case mattresses alone would have made a big difference. Therefore, as we had mattresses in the warehouse in Denmark not fitting for hospital beds, they were immediately sent off. I also experienced severely handicapped individuals pushing themselves forward on boards mounted with wheels. A wheelchair would have been a wonder in their situation.”

Depressing conditions in psychiatric sector

One of Susanne’s strongest memories is from a psychiatric hospital, where virtually everything was missing. “It was an incredibly depressing place, where people were lying on small cloths under an open shed and caretakers washed patients with single use gloves, which were cleaned and reused – if they were lucky to have any.

(Continued on page 6)

Without any doubt they could use almost everything, we might procure.

Families came and "dumped" their relatives outside the hospital. Many people still believe that patients are obsessed by evil spirits. Much effort was done to find relatives, and if it was possible to stabilize the patient, the patient simply was transported back home to the family."

Behind the facade

The program for the visit in Ghana was arranged in collaboration with the former ambassador to Denmark, Amerley Ollenu Awua-Asamoah. In addition to meetings with the minister of health and First Lady it included visit to several hospitals and places for treatment, but to get the most comprehensive impression of the conditions the GMA team also made independent appointments by the aid of contacts on site: "Among others we visited a department treating HIV and AIDS. But this disease is tabu and patients are being expelled if they get such a diagnosis. Officially the diagnosis was always something else", Susanne reveals.

Back home with important background knowledge

After returning to daily work with GMA, Susanne has made use of the experiences, she made during the inspection journey to Ghana. The cooperation with voluntary physicians and some Danish nurses with a Ghanaian background has contributed to a better understanding of how to systematize sorting of donations of equipment.

(Susanne's profile as a member:)

Susanne Pedersen has most of her working life been working as an executive secretary. Her access to GMA came after ankle surgery, after which she was equipped with a "walker". After recovery she had the "walker" at home, and then she thought that it in some place might be useful and it gave her occasion for contacting GMA, where she and her husband ever since have been volunteers.



Hans Frederik Dydensborg

President of Global Medical Aid

Latest news:

Multiple containers with equipment from Danish hospital shipped

No inspection trips due to covid-19