

Medical Missions

The ICDF currently has four medical missions, all in Africa. They are improving medical care in the partner nations by providing clinical instruction, management expertise, technical training and technology transfer. By traveling to remote areas of the country and offering free medical services, the missions are reducing pressure on rural care providers. In addition to easing the suffering of impoverished local residents, the medical visits of the mission staff offer an opportunity to disseminate health information, thus raising the standard of living in rural areas.

Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, the medical mission—staffed by specialists in internal medicine, anesthesiology, dentistry and acupuncture—is providing outpatient services and technical instruction to the Friendship Hospital in the Ougadougou area. The Friendship Hospital treated 12,238 patients in 2000.

Chad

The medical mission stationed in Chad has medical institution and medicine management capacity building programs under way. These projects will enable the country to upgrade equipment, improve management efficiency, and raise overall standards of medical care. The medical mission, whose specialists support outpatient diagnosis free of charge, is currently providing medical services in internal medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, gynecology and pediatrics at the Freedom Hospital in N'Djamena. The Freedom Hospital treated 11,936 patients in 2000.

Malawi

The Malawi medical mission, which was inaugurated in February 2000, is expected to continue until at least 2004. The project is providing medical services, assisting in the establishment of a hospital management system, and training Malawian medical personnel. This project is helping Malawi's Central Hospital to sustain operations and improve medical standards. Mission personnel are contributing to both inpatient and outpatient services and conducting examinations and surgical procedures in internal medicine, surgery, gynecology, orthopedics, pathology and dentistry. In the hope of creating a core staff that can assume full management of the Central Hospital, the mission has been selecting Malawian physicians for advanced training in Taiwan.

São Tomé and Príncipe

Medical institution and medicine management capacity building programs are also under way at the São Tomé and Príncipe medical mission. The specialists in the mission are trained in dentistry, pediatrics, gynecology and acupuncture. Their role consists chiefly of assisting diagnosis and treatment at the Central Hospital and Centro Policlínico de Aqua Grande outpatient center. During the past year the mission donated medicines and medical supplies to the Central Hospital, trained 67 medical personnel, and conducted highly popular free touring clinics.

Another important project in São Tomé and Príncipe is the Malaria Eradication Project, whose objective is to replicate in the African nation the successful elimination of the disease in Taiwan. In October 2000 the ICDF invited experts to conduct an initial evaluation of malaria distribution and disease types in São Tomé and Príncipe. During the year the mission treated 12,911 patients, renovated or reestablished 17 medical stations, and set up medical management systems and a medical network.

